

Title: Everything You Wanted to Know About Guantanamo But Were Afraid to Ask: A Report on NWC Engagement with Guantanamo Bay
Speaker: Darren McClurg, Ken Sandler, Steven “Scuba” Shinkel, David Stone, Mary Thompson-Jones, Craig Wonson
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POC: Dr. David Stone, William E. Odom Professor of Russian Studies, Strategy and Policy Department

SYNOPSIS:

NWC faculty have made two recent trips to Naval Station Guantanamo Bay to provide educational opportunities to the US servicemen and servicewomen stationed there. The faculty involved in those efforts will talk about their experiences in Cuba and prospects for the program’s future developments.

BIOS:

Darren McClurg - As a career U.S. Navy surface warfare officer, Professor McClurg served on warships deploying to the Indo-Pacific and Middle Eastern theaters where he gained experience in a wide variety of joint maritime missions. He also participated in extensive multilateral crisis response and contingency planning efforts while assigned to carrier strike group and fleet staff duty. Professor McClurg is a U.S. Naval Academy alumnus and a distinguished graduate of the U.S. Naval War College. He currently teaches joint military operations in the College of Distance Education.

Lt. Col. Ken Sandler - Lt. Col. Ken Sandler joined the National Security Affairs Department in 2018 and currently teaches policy analysis. Previously, he has taught decision-making and leadership concepts, co-taught the chemical-biological warfare elective and was a member of the spring 2020 International Maritime Staff Operators Course faculty. Lt. Col. Sandler is a communications officer who has served across the Marine Air Ground Task Force in the U.S., Asia-Pacific, Europe and Africa. He has also completed a joint tour with Joint Task Force-Global Network Operations, U.S. Strategic Command. His deployments include with the 26 Marine Expeditionary Unit, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Col. Steven Shinkel - Col. Steve “Scuba” Shinkel is the George C. Kenney professor of air and space warfare and senior Air and Space Force advisor to the president of the U.S. Naval War College. He is a master navigator with 3,200 hours in the KC-135 and has numerous operational flying deployments supporting operations across the Middle East, Europe and the Pacific regions. He served in several key staff billets at U.S. Transportation Command, Headquarters Air Force and several air operations centers. He is a distinguished graduate of the U.S. Air Force Weapon’s School, and Air Command and Staff College. He graduated from the University of Arizona in 1990.

David Stone - Professor David R. Stone, the William E. Odom Professor of Russian Studies, joined the Strategy and Policy Department in 2015. He received a B.A. from Wabash College and a Ph.D. in history from Yale. He previously taught at Kansas State University. His book “Hammer and Rifle: The Militarization of the Soviet Union” (2000) won the Shulman Prize of ASEES and the Best First Book Prize of the Historical Society. He has also published “A Military History of Russia” (2006) and “The Russian Army in the Great War: The Eastern Front, 1914-1917” (2015). He edited “The Soviet Union at War, 1941-1945” (2010). He is the author of several dozen articles on Russian military history and foreign policy.

Mary Thompson-Jones - Career diplomat, professor, and published author on U.S. foreign policy and the practice of diplomacy. Her book, “To the Secretary: Leaked Embassy Cables and America’s Foreign Policy Disconnect” (Norton 2016), was praised by Joseph Nye as “a fascinating account of how diplomacy really works from the bottom up.” Her diplomatic experience spans a 23-year career as a foreign service officer in leadership roles in the Czech Republic, Canada, Guatemala, Spain, and Washington, D.C. She retired with the rank of Minister-Counselor and is the recipient of several Superior and Meritorious Honor awards. Before coming to the USNWC, she directed a master’s program at Northeastern University.

Col. Craig Wonson - Col. Wonson is a military professor at the Maritime Advanced Warfighting School and senior service representative to the Commandant of the Marine Corps. A career infantry officer, joint qualified officer, and certified strategic-operational planner, he is a combat veteran with nearly thirty years of service, seven overseas deployments and more than a decade of command experience. He is a graduate of Marine Corps Command and Staff College and School of Advanced Warfighting, and was a Marine Corps Fellow in Yale University’s International Security Studies Program/Brady-Johnson Program in Grand Strategy. He most recently served as commanding officer, Marine Corps Tactics and Operations Group.