

# Mark Asuncion, Military Professor

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## PROFILE

Accomplished military officer and diplomat with a broad spectrum of geopolitical experience. Positively and significantly impacted all levels of policy and decision making, from the tactical, operational, and strategic, and across the U.S. military, U.S. interagency, and the international community. Possesses high-level expertise in regional and global issues, ranging from civil-military coordination and humanitarian response, to countering transnational organized crime and terrorism, to nation building and conflict resolution. Proven adaptive leadership in complex, high-stress, high-impact, and high-risk environments. Unique ability to build, lead and stitch together networks of international military actors, political entities, and civil-society organizations to advance humanitarian goals and human rights in accordance with international laws and norms.

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## EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Jan 2025 — Present

### Military Professor, U.S. Naval War College

Newport, Rhode Island

- Faculty Member of International Programs Department and the Department of National Security Affairs.
- Teaches the international strategy curricula for U.S. and international senior-mid grade military officers.

Jun 2023 — Aug 2024

### Senior U.S. Official in Vanuatu, Department of State

Port-Vila

- As the lead U.S. Official, led the establishment of the first U.S. Embassy in Vanuatu.
- Built diplomatic channels with Government of Vanuatu and like-minded Embassies/High Commissions to collaboratively address global challenges, such as climate change; illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing; and illicit trafficking.
- Negotiated return of the U.S. Peace Corps Volunteers to Vanuatu to re-start health and education programs in remote ni-Vanuatu communities.

Sep 2021 — Jun 2023

### Senior Military Advisor - East Asian and Pacific Affairs Bureau, Department of State

Washington, D.C.

- Provided bespoke military advice to Department of State to ensure greater inter-agency coordination in the development of national strategic documents, to include the National Defense Strategy, Indo-Pacific Strategy, and the Department of State-U.S. Agency of International Development's Joint Regional Strategy.
- Developed the framework for the Indo-Pacific Quad's maritime security working group to align the Indian, Australian, Japanese, and U.S. inter-agency efforts to strengthen civil-military cooperation in establishing a rules-based maritime order.
- Coordinated with the European Union to strengthen maritime security coordination in the Indo-Pacific to align respective Indo-Pacific strategies.
- State's primary lead on implementing maritime security initiatives in the Pacific Islands through cooperation and resources management among the Partners in the Blue Pacific.

Oct 2019 — Sep 2021

### Assistant Chief of Staff for International Strategy, Policy, and Engagement, U.S. SEVENTH Fleet

Yokosuka, Japan, forward  
deployed aboard USS Blue  
Ridge

- Developed the SEVENTH Fleet's first campaign plan to align its tactical operations in support of strategic objectives of aligning with allies and partners to deter adversarial aggression.
- Conceptualized and implemented U.S. Navy's first operational approach to partner with regional navies and civil-society organizations in the Indo-Pacific to enhance civil-military coordination for greater adherence and enforcement of international rules and norms.
- Conceived and led a multi-national initiative to synchronize maritime security assistance to build recipient countries' capability to collectively secure the maritime commons through compliance with the United Nations Convention for the Law of the Sea.
- Organized the first-ever Women, Peace, and Security Course for U.S. military planners to integrate a gender perspective in all of SEVENTH Fleet's unilateral, bilateral, and multilateral exercises and operations.
- Led SEVENTH Fleet's planning and execution of Pacific Partnership, a naval humanitarian operation to medical, dental, and engineering assistance to nations of the Pacific.
- Overhauled legacy bi/multi-lateral military training by including international humanitarian organizations in exercise planning to design scenarios to teach the role of the military in upholding international law and norms when faced with issues such as violations of exclusive economic zones, refugee protection, human trafficking, and people smuggling.

Jun 2018 — Oct 2019

## Chief of European, NATO, EU, and Turkey Policy, U.S. Joint Staff

Washington D.C.

- Served as the principal military representative to U.S. inter-agency to develop NATO and EU political-military policies.
- Developed U.S. strategic guidance for NATO's Military Strategy to address challenges in a dynamic security environment.
- Created first-ever framework to connect NATO's strategic political concepts to the effectively employ, develop, and design its military forces.
- Strengthened cooperative networks among military, diplomatic, and humanitarian representatives to improve NATO's ability to project stability.
- Partnered with NATO and EU military and civilian staffs to improve civilian-military cooperation and achieve mutual objectives.

Sep 2016 — Jun 2018

## Director of Multi-National Cooperation Center and Director of Strategic Outreach, United States Africa Command

Stuttgart, Germany

- Conceptualized and executed two peacekeeping colloquia, in partnership with the United Nations (UN) Department of Peace Operations, to implement UN Military Unit Manuals baseline standards within African Troop Contributing Countries for improved integration in peace keeping missions.
- Developed innovative architecture to synchronize multi-national security assistance activities in Africa to achieve greater stability through a more efficient management of collective resources.
- As the U.S. Government's lead delegate for the first two G5 Sahel Joint Force Workshops, provided a "clearing house" model to the European Union for its coordination of international donor security assistance to strengthen the G5 Sahel's capacity to secure its borders, counter terrorism, and enable a safe and more secure environment.
- Expanded U.S. Africa Command's strategic outreach to key International and Non-Government Organizations (including ICRC, UNHCR, IOM) to establish greater humanitarian-military coordination, build greater trust, increase transparency, and improve mutual understanding of the operational environment for more effective decision-making.
- As the command's focal point on humanitarian issues, curated first-ever strategic panels with humanitarian NGO/IO experts on mixed-migration, anti-piracy, and International Humanitarian Law to develop command guidance on humanitarian actions.
- Assembled and led a Crisis Action Team following the fatal ambush of U.S. soldiers in Niger to determine causal factors and improve in-extremis response for U.S. personnel and partners in the Sahel and North Africa.
- Implemented the Women, Peace, and Security Strategy to integrate gender mainstreaming within the U.S. military and African Peacekeeping Troops to improve civil-military relationships and trust.

Nov 2013 — Sep 2016

## Senior Defense Official/Defense Attaché, U.S. Embassy, Tripoli

Tripoli, Libya; Valletta, Malta; Tunis, Tunisia

- Led first U.S. Government meeting with Libyan National Army Commander Khalifa Haftar to reduce levels for conflict and stress adherence to International Humanitarian Law.
- Partnered with the United Nations Support Mission to Libya (UNSMIL), and key international diplomatic missions to develop security initiatives to support the UN-led political reconciliation.
- Conducted deep shuttle diplomacy with Libyan Prime Minister, Government of National Accord with rival government officials to resolve security issues and decrease levels of internal conflict.
- Engaged with the Libyan Prime Minister to enable U.S. military support for Libyan Armed Forces in the elimination of the ISIS-stronghold in Sirte.
- Convened and moderated first summit between rival Libyan military factions to reduce growing tensions and open channels of communication.
- Provided key insights to the UN Panel of Experts on Libya to hone accuracy of reports and develop grounded recommendations.
- Led the evacuation of the U.S. Embassy from Libya. Coordinated U.S. emergency response support for the evacuation of other international diplomatic missions.
- Negotiated with Libyan Government officials, militia leaders, and third-party diplomats to assure the release of NGO hostages in Tripoli.

Jul 2011 — Jul 2012

## U.S. Naval Attaché, U.S. Embassy, Mexico City

Mexico City, Mexico

- Negotiated intelligence sharing agreements with the Mexican security forces to improve coordinated civil-military efforts against transnational organized criminal networks.
- Expanded the North-American Maritime Security Initiative to enhance maritime security through increased intelligence sharing and tri-national drug interdiction operations.
- Restructured the U.S. Department of Defense organizations in Mexico for greater support to Mexican security agencies.

Jun 2009 — Jun 2011	U.S. Naval Attaché, U.S. Embassy, Bogota	Bogotá, Colombia
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthened maritime cooperation between U.S. and Colombia to significantly reduce cocaine trafficking to the U.S., Africa, and Europe.</li> <li>• Planned and piloted C-12 air sorties in support of humanitarian operations, <i>inter alia</i>, to enable the hospital ship USNS Comfort to provide services to impoverished coastal communities, and improve situational awareness of the scope of devastation in flood-stricken areas in Colombia and earthquake-damaged areas in Haiti.</li> <li>• Supported the U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, following the devastating earthquake. Forged relationships with the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti and other UN agencies to support a cluster system to deliver humanitarian assistance.</li> </ul>	
Apr 2005 — Jan 2007	Department Head and Senior Pilot, Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron (VAW) 117	Point Mugu, California
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Qualified over 30 flight crew personnel to operate in the high-risk aircraft carrier environment.</li> <li>• Led and managed over 120 aircraft maintenance personnel during a six-month deployment aboard the USS Nimitz.</li> </ul>	
Jul 2002 — Nov 2004	Assistant Air Operations Officer, U.S. Sixth Fleet	Gaeta, Italy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Negotiated with Italian and Greek authorities for the use of air and ground ranges in Sardinia and the Aegean Sea to improve interoperability between U.S., Italian, and Greek pilots.</li> <li>• Coordinated with U.S. Embassy in Cairo to obtain short-notice flight clearances for naval aircraft over the Sinai to execute the opening stages of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM.</li> <li>• Deployed to the U.S. Embassy in Athens for the 2004 Olympic Games to develop inter-agency contingency plans with the host nation to prevent and respond to potential security threats.</li> </ul>	
Nov 1999 — Jul 2002	Flight Check Officer and Deputy Project Manager for E2-C Hawkeye, Naval Aviation Depot-North Island	San Diego, California
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flew test and evaluation flights in four types of naval aircraft to return mission-capable aircraft to the fleet for tactical operations.</li> <li>• Supervised the civilian aircraft maintenance work force the E2-C Hawkeye to meet military safety-of-flight standards and weapons system functionality.</li> </ul>	
Jan 1997 — Nov 1999	Division Officer, VAW-113	San Diego and Point Mugu, California
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Led airborne command and control missions to enforce the southern no-fly zone over Iraq and provide sea control in the Persian Gulf.</li> </ul>	

EDUCATION		
Oct 2013 — Nov 2017	Post-Graduate Diploma in Sustainable Urban Development, University of Oxford	Oxford, England
Jul 2012 — May 2013	Master in Public Administration, Harvard University	Cambridge, Massachusetts
Aug 1988 — Dec 1992	Bachelor of Arts in Economics, University of California, Berkeley	Berkeley, California

SKILLS	Humanitarian Assistance / Disaster Response	Organizational Leadership
	Civil-Military Cooperation	Conflict Management
	Multi-National Leadership	Military Operational Planning
	International Diplomacy and Relations	Aviation
	Inter-agency Coordination	

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COURSES

Jul 2013 — Aug 2013	Security Cooperation Management, Defense Institute of Security Cooperation Studies
Jul 2008 — Nov 2008	Joint Military Attaché School, Defense Intelligence Agency
Jun 2007 — May 2008	U.S. Army Command and General Staff Officer Course , Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation
Feb 2007 — Apr 2007	Basic Spanish Course, Defense Language Institute
Feb 2005 — Mar 2005	Aviation Safety Officer Course, Naval School of Aviation Safety

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EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Mar 2019 — Mar 2020	Undergraduate Mentor, University of California, D.C. Campus	Washington, D.C.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Professionally mentors and builds employment networks for interning students from nine University of California campuses.</li></ul>	
Sep 2022 — Jun 2023	Community and Culture Chair, Asian American Foreign Affairs Association	Washington, D.C.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Leads community and cultural outreach to promote understanding and inclusion of Asian-American / Pacific Islands in the broader community.</li></ul>	
Jan 2023 — Present	Board Member, Pilipinx American Alumni Chapter	Berkeley
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Promotes professional networking and social opportunities through campus and community volunteer service as well as sponsorship of student mentorship and scholarship programs for UC Berkeley students and alumni.</li></ul>	

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LANGUAGES	English	Native speaker	Spanish	Very good command
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REFERENCES	References available upon request
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