COL (RET.) FRANK KENNETH SOBCHAK

CHAIR, IRREGULAR WARFARE STUDIES, MODERN WAR INSTITUTE, U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY, WEST POINT

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EDUCATION

- 2022 PhD, International Relations, The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Medford, MA
 - Awarded the 2022 Peter Ackerman Doctoral Dissertation Award for the year's most outstanding doctoral dissertation, demonstrating scholarly merit, originality, and contribution to the field and to society.
- 2002 MA, Arab Studies, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.
- 1992 BS, Military History, United States Military Academy, West Point, NY
 - Superintendent's Award (top 5% in physical, academic, and military performance) and Dean's List

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

- Training for Victory: U.S. Special Forces Advisory Missions from El Salvador to Afghanistan, (Annapolis, MD: U.S. Naval Institute Press, 2024): 2024 War on the Rocks Holiday Reading List
- The U.S. Army in the Iraq War, Invasion, Insurgency, Civil War: 2003-2006, Vol. 1 of 2, with Joel Rayburn, editor, and Jeanne Godfroy-Hull, James Powell, and Mathew Morton; (Carlisle, PA.: Strategic Studies Institute, 2019). Co-editor, also author of ten chapters and co-author of two.
- The U.S. Army in the Iraq War, Surge and Withdrawal: 2007-2011, Vol. 2 of 2, with Joel Rayburn, editor, and Jeanne Godfroy-Hull, James Powell, and Mathew Morton; (Carlisle, PA.: Strategic Studies Institute, 2019). Coeditor, also co-author of six chapters.

Chapters in a Book:

- "The Tortured Path to Strategic Failure: U.S. Landpower in Iraq 2003-2011," in *Landpower in the Long War: Projecting Force After 9/11*, (Lexington, KY: University Press of Kentucky, 2019).
- "Accidentally Accelerating Sectarianism: The U.S. Role in the Iraqi Civil War," in *Contextualizing Sectarianism* in the Middle East and South Asia, (New York, NY: Routledge, 2023).

Articles:

- "Civil Military Relations in the United States," Small Wars Journal, March 5, 2025.
- "The Paths Not Chosen, the Ways that Remain," *Telem* (in Hebrew), June 26, 2024.
- "Why Hamas Should Not Be Allowed to Stay in Power," Jerusalem Post, June 19, 2024.
- "How to Win the War without Losing the Peace," *Telem* (in Hebrew), March 19, 2024. Translation of "Remaking Mistakes in Gaza."
- "Security Planning for Postwar Gaza," The Jerusalem Strategic Tribune, March 14, 2024.
- "How Should the United States Respond to Iran after the Tower 22 Attack? Lessons from Operation Praying Mantis," *The Modern War Institute*, February 2, 2024.
- "Why Hamas Must be Destroyed: The Race to the Bottom for Terror Groups," with Iris Sobchak, *Jerusalem Post*, January 10, 2024
- "Remaking Mistakes in Gaza," War on the Rocks, January 8, 2024.
- "How Iran Won the Iraq War," with Matthew Zais, Time Magazine, March 22, 2023.
- "U.S. Deterrence Failed in Ukraine," Foreign Policy, with Liam Collins, February 20, 2022. (Yahoo Editor's Pick)
- "How Much Do Language Skills Matter for Security Force Assistance? Not as Much as We Think," *Modern War Institute*, November 30, 2022.
- "A Nuclear Iran Could Create a Middle East Nightmare," The Hill, May 11, 2022.
- "The Afghans that Fought," Small Wars Journal, September 23, 2021.

- "Afghanistan is Our Generation's MS St. Louis Moment," *Time Magazine*, with Mark Jacobson, September 10, 2021.
- "The Army Needs to Understand the Afghanistan Disaster," with Matthew Zais, *The Wall Street Journal*, September 8, 2021.
- "How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Afghanistan Withdrawal Plan," Newsweek, June 11, 2021.
- "Teaching with Games and Simulations in International Relations," with Zoltan Feher, *H-Diplo*, February 19, 2021.
- "Israel's Shift to CENTCOM: Big Things Come in Little Packages," with Iris Sobchak *The Miryam Institute*, February 9, 2021.
- "The Revolution Behind the Attempted Revolution," Small Wars Journal, January 11, 2021.
- "Who is Responsible for the Abraham Accords?" The Jerusalem Post, November 4, 2020.
- "Six Days and the Forever War," Newsweek, June 2, 2020
- "Hidden Opportunities in Coalition Negotiations," with Ambassador Pinhas Avivi, *The Miryam Institute*, March 2, 2020.
- "Iran's Real Lesson from the Killing of Qassem Soleimani," Jewish News Syndicate, January 23, 2020.
- "What the Iraq War tells us about Iran," with Bradley Bowman, The Hill, May 5, 2019.
- "The US Army Is Trying to Bury the Lessons of the Iraq War," *Defense One*, March 8, 2019. (Named by the Aspen Institute as one of the five best ideas of the day)
- "Clausewitz: On Afghanistan." for Military Review Magazine (July-August 2005).
- "Raid on St. Nazaire: Special Operations Planning." for Infantry Magazine (September-December 1998).
- "Ground Surveillance Radar Operations in Heavy Units." for Armor Magazine (September/October 1997).
- "Ah Harey Follow Me Origins of the Israeli Junior Leadership Doctrine." for *Military Intelligence Professional Bulletin* (October-December 1993).

PhD Dissertation:

• "Lost in Translation? Assessing the Importance of Language Skills and Cultural Awareness in Special Forces Advisory Efforts" May 2022.

Winner of the Peter Ackerman award at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy for the best doctoral dissertation of the year. Research included 109 original interviews of American and host nation participants that amounted to a total of 121 recorded hours. Approximately two thirds of the interviews were of individuals who had served or were serving in Special Forces assignments, a group that usually loathe to talk to anyone about their experiences except with those who are both trusted and have the appropriate bona fides. In addition, many of the interviewees provided a fair amount of unclassified and declassified primary source documents, little of which currently exists in the public record. The dissertation spans eight chapters, five case studies, and 142,000 words. "Lost in Translation" challenges core orthodoxies and conventional wisdom within the academic community and military. U.S. defense department doctrine holds the importance of language training as sacrosanct to advisory missions, but in most of the case studies advisors did not speak the language of their partners but were still successful in producing effective partners. Academically, principal agent theory dominates the pedagogy of military assistance and advising, positing that the agent, through information asymmetry, can control the outcome of the mission. Yet in each case study, advisors were able to produce anomalies or outliers: units that were effective despite the resistance of the host nation.

M.A. Thesis:

• "Swords into Plowshares into Swords: The Evolution and Failure of U.S. Policy in Somalia, 1992-1994." May 2002.

Book Reviews:

- *M*ates and Muchachos: Unit Cohesion in the Falklands/Malvinas War by Nora Kinzer Stewart for Military Intelligence Professional Bulletin (1993).
- Six Days in June: How Israel Won the 1967 Arab-Israeli War by Eric Hammel for Military Intelligence Professional Bulletin (April-June 1993).
- The Battle for Hunger Hill by COL Daniel P. Bolger for Armor Magazine (November/December 1997).
- From the Fulda Gap to Kuwait: U.S. Army Europe and the Gulf War by Stephen P. Gehring for Armor Magazine (January/February 1999).
- Terrorism and Counterterrorism: Understanding the New Security Environment by COL Russ Howard and MAJ Reid Sawyer for Assembly Magazine (May/June 2003).
- Martial Culture, Silver Screen: War Movies and the Construction of American Identity by Matthew C. Hulbert and Matthew E. Stanley for H-Net Reviews (H-War) (November 2022).

• George Jellicoe: SAS and SBS Commander by Nicholas Jellicoe for International Journal of Naval History (February 2023).

ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP

- Chair, Irregular Warfare Studies, The Modern Warfare Institute, U.S. Military Academy: 2023-present
- Member, Joint Special Operations University Press Editorial Board: 2023- present

FELLOWSHIPS

- Fellow, Future Security, New America, 2025-Present
- Senior Fellow, Global and National Security Institute, University of South Florida, 2023-Present
- Miryam Visiting Scholar, Reichman University, Herzliya, Israel, Spring 2024
- Strategy and Policy Fellow (\$65,000), Smith Richardson Foundation: 2022-2023
- Scaife Foundation Fellow in International Security Studies, The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy: 2020-21
- Contributor (Fellow), Miryam Institute, New York, New York and Tel Aviv, Israel: 2019-Present
- Robyn Gittleman Graduate Teaching Fellow, Tufts University: 2019
- Provost Fellow, Tufts University (Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation): 2017-2020 (Awarded twice)
- Senior Fellow, Chief of Staff of the Army's Operation Iraqi Freedom Study Group: 2013-2017
- Omar N. Bradley Historical Research Fellowship (U.S. Military Academy Department of History): 2003-2004 (Awarded twice)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Visiting Adjunct Professor, Reichman University, Herzliya, Israel

May-June 2024

• Course director and instructor, Technology and Intelligence. Self-designed graduate level elective that examines the changing impact of technology on Intelligence operations and espionage.

Adjunct Professor, Joint Special Operations University, Tampa, FL

October 2021-Present

• Course director and instructor, Technology and Intelligence. Self-designed graduate level elective that examines the changing impact of technology on Intelligence operations and espionage.

Visiting Adjunct Lecturer, Tufts University, Medford, MA

January 2019-December 2020

- Course director and instructor, EX 14 War, Film, and Politics Self designed elective that explores the linkages between culture, society, conflict, and politics using a carefully selected series of war films as a medium.
- Course director and instructor, EX 25 SEALs, Special Forces, and Air Commandos: The Secret History of U.S. Special Operations Forces Self designed elective that explores the history and development of U.S. special operations forces from World War II to the current day.
- Course director and instructor, EX 31 War, Film, and Politics Self designed elective that explores the linkages between culture, society, conflict, and politics using a carefully selected series of war films as a medium.

Adjunct Lecturer, Political Science Department, Tufts University, Medford, MA September-December 2019

• Course director and instructor, PS 188 – War, Film, and Politics – Self designed elective that explores the linkages between culture, society, conflict, and politics using a carefully selected series of war films as a medium.

Instructor and Assistant Professor, USMA, West Point, NY

June 2002-June 2004

- Course director and instructor, HI 157 Advanced World History to 1700 honors level survey of world civilizations, cultures and societies from 5000 BCE to 1700 CE.
- Course director and instructor, HI 108 World History, 1700 to the Present survey of world civilizations, cultures and societies from 1700 CE to the present.
- HI 498–Colloquium in History: History of Peacekeeping, Peace Enforcement, and Low Intensity Conflict in the Twentieth Century senior thesis colloquium studying the historiography, politics and military strategy and tactics of major peace operations in the 20th Century.
- HI 499-Senior Thesis: Islamic Revolutionary Movements supervision of independent study for select history majors including completion and defense of the thesis. One of my students placed 3rd in the nation with the Phi Alpha Theta National History Honors Society.
- HI 499 Senior Thesis: History of Peacekeeping, Peace Enforcement, and Low Intensity Conflict in the

Twentieth Century – supervision of independent study for select history majors including completion and defense of the thesis.

Teaching Assistant, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA September 2018-May 2019

- 17.40 American Foreign Policy: Past, Present, Future Undergraduate elective course surveying American foreign policy and military interventions since the nation's inception.
- 17.41 Introduction to International Relations Undergraduate elective course covering international relations theory and its practical application.

Teaching Assistant, The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Medford, MA September 2018-May 2019

- P 240 The Role of Force in International Politics Graduate level course for international security studies that examines the role of force as an instrument of statecraft.
- **Tavitian Scholars Program** The Changing Nature of Security in the 21st Century Graduate level course for an executive education program that focuses on the evolution of the international security environment and the role of force as an instrument of statecraft.

OTHER ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Director, Writing Center, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Medford, MA July 2019-July 2021

• Director of graduate level writing assistance center responsible for hiring and supervising twelve writing mentors for the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy as well as marketing and advertising the program. Also responsible for teaching initial writing and reading strategies workshops to all students during orientation.

Capstone Coordinator, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Medford, MA October 2019-August 2021

• Director of thesis program for Global Master of the Arts distance education program for mid-career professionals.

Papers Presented or Panel Discussions:

- Participant in book manuscript workshop for *The Cult of the Persuasive: Why the United States Struggles to Build Better Militaries in Partner States*. George Washington University, May 2025.
- "The Outliers: Successful Military Advisory Efforts in an Era of Disasters," part of The Afghanistan and Iraq Wars Considered paper panel to The Society for Military History, March 2025
- "The Best Laid Plans of Mice and Men: The Grand Strategy of Trump 2.0," part of U.S. Grand Strategy and World Order in the Late 2020s roundtable panel to International Studies Association Annual Conference, March 2025
- "Irregular Warfare in Great Power Competition," part of Grand Strategy, Great Power
 Competition, and Alliances paper panel to International Studies Association Annual Conference, March 2025
- "Case Studies of Special Forces in Security Force Assistance," part of the West Point Social Sciences Seminar, February 2025
- "Accidentally Accelerating Sectarianism" part of the International Studies Association virtual book talk on Contextualizing Sectarianism in the Middle East and South Asia: Identity, Competition, and Conflict, January 2024
- "Why Iraq Still Matters: Twentieth Anniversary of the Iraq War" part of the San Diego State University Center for War and Society Speaker Series, November 2023
- "The Impact of Elections in Iraq" part of Contextualizing Sectarianism book talk, the Department of History at Tufts University and the Center for the Humanities at Tufts (CHAT), September 2023
- "Security Force Assistance as a Part of Grand Strategy: Getting the Bang for the Buck" part of Great Powers and Grand Strategy: Illusions, Failures, and Opportunities panel to International Studies Association Annual Conference, March 2023
- "The Critical Nexus Between Intelligence and Policy Decision Making: Chasm Between Intelligence and Policy Decisions" to Canadian International Council, November 2022
- "Twenty Years of Conflict in Iraq: An Armchair Conversation with Dr. Frank Sobchak" to Canadian International Council, September 2022
- "Special Forces Advisory Efforts: Lost in Translation?" to The Society for Military History, April 2022.

- "Afghanistan: Is This the End or Just the New Beginning of a War?" to the Global Master of Arts Program at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, October 2021.
- "Inflection Points in the Iraq War," to The Society for Military History, May 2021.
- "Choosing the Harder Right: Facing Authority on Publication of the Iraq War Study," to The U.S. Army The Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School, February 2021.
- Moderator, The MirYam Institute Virtual Debate, "Which Presidential Ticket is best for the Israel-US Relationship?" October 2020
- The Center for Security Studies, Georgetown University, Washington, DC, "Consequential Decisions in the Iraq War," November 2019
- Keynote Speaker, Crisis & Conflict in Historical Perspective Series, Washington University, St. Louis, MO, October 2019.
- Center for Strategic Studies, Military Intervention Project, The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Medford, MA, "Non-Traditional Interventions." October 2019.
- Boston Consortium Leadership Conference, Cambridge, MA, "U.S. Special Operations Forces," October 2019.
- Center for Strategic and International Studies (co-sponsored by New America Foundation), Washington, DC, "The Iraq War Study," May 2019.
- Foundation for the Defense of Democracies, Washington DC, "Lessons of the Iraq War," April 2019.
- Center for Strategic and International Studies, Washington, DC, Presentation to Congressional Staff, "Iran's Role during the Iraq War," March 2019.
- Modern War Institute, U.S. Military Academy, West Point NY, "The Iraq War Study," March 2019.
- U.S. Naval War College, Newport, RI, Maritime History: Victory at Sea during World War I, "Unlearned Lessons from World War I on the U.S. War against Iraq" March 2019.
- "Accidentally Accelerating Sectarianism: The U.S. Role in the Iraqi Civil War" presented during Tufts University conference: Explaining Sectarianism: Community, Competition and Conflict, October 2018
- The Fares Center for Eastern Mediterranean Studies, The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Medford, MA, "Perspectives on the U.S. Intervention in Iraq, 2003-2011," November 2017.
- "Lessons of the Iraq War," The Defense Entrepreneurs Forum, Newport, Rhode Island, November 10, 2015.
- "Thoughts on the Iraq War's Lessons for Building Partner Capacity," at Unified Quest 2015 Historical Lessons Learned Workshop, Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab, July 8–9, 2015. Coauthor with Col. Joel Rayburn.
- "Swords into Plowshares into Swords: The Evolution and Failure of U.S. Policy in Somalia, 1992-1994." presented to the New York Military Affairs Symposium in New York City, November 2003.
- "Military Considerations of the War on Terrorism." Presented as part of the Center for Contemporary Arab Studies (Georgetown University) series on the War on Terrorism, November 2001.

Congressional Interactions:

- Panelist for Opening Roundtable of U.S. Senate's Afghanistan War Commission, "When Governments Write History," Ongoing Advisor to Commission, 2023.
- Discussion on Irregular Warfare and Special Operations Forces' role in great power competition. With professional staff members of the Intelligence and Special Operations Subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee (30 January 2023)
- Two engagements with 157th IMA (Individual Mobilization Augmentation Unit), which is unit for Congressional Staff who serve in Guard and Reserve Units (2020, 2024)
- Multiple engagements with U.S. Senate personal and committee staff to provide recommendations on how the U.S. Government should study failures during the 2001-2021 War in Afghanistan. My recommendations resulted in the creation of the U.S. Senate's Afghanistan War Commission. (October 2021)
- Liaison between U.S. Special Operations Command and Congress, 2007-2011. Interacted with members and staff (committee and personal) of Armed Services, Appropriations, and Intelligence Committees. Conducted briefings, escorted Congressional delegations (CODELs) and Staff delegations (STAFFDELs), and served as spokesperson for USSOCOM.

Media Interactions:

- Al Qahira (Cairo) TV Channel interview on U.S. national election.
- Al Arabi TV Channel Documentary on 2003 Iraq War (2023)
- NPR All Things Considered, Lessons of the Iraq War
- NPR KPCC (Los Angeles), Iran and the Iraq War
- WJLA TV Government Matters, Lessons of the Iraq War
- WJLA TV Government Matters, The Iranian Threat

- WJLA TV Government Matters, The War on Terror and Wars of Ideology
- CSPAN: Panel Discussion on Iraq War by Center for Strategic and International Studies
- PolitiFact: Consulted as scholar/expert on role of Qassem Soleimani in U.S./Iraq War
- Indus News (Scope) with Wagar Rizvi: Panel Discussion on U.S. 2020 Presidential Election
- Indus News (Scope) with Waqar Rizvi: Panel Discussion on U.S. Georgia 2020 Runoff Election
- Indus News (Scope) with Waqar Rizvi: Panel Discussion on U.S. Strikes on Pro-Iranian Militia in Syria
- Indus News (Scope) with Wagar Rizvi: Panel Discussion on U.S. End of Combat Mission in Iraq (2021)
- Indus News (Scope) with Ejaz Haider: Panel Discussion on U.S.- Iran Tensions
- Al Taghier TV (Jordan): Extended interview on Iranian Drone Attacks on U.S. Forces in Iraq
- Al Taghier TV (Jordan): Extended interview on Restarting Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action Negotiations with Iran.
- Interviews with Politico, Washington Post, The Telegraph, The Atlantic, Al Monitor, CNN, The Army Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Minneapolis Star Tribune, and The National (UAE)

Podcasts:

- The War Room (Army War College Podcast), "Training for Victory: Special Forces and Security Force Assistance."
- Revolution in Military Affairs, "Civil Military Relations."
- The Team House, "Inside the Iraq War."
- Irregular Warfare Initiative, "Training for Victory: Lessons for Security Force Assistance."
- Squaring the Circle, "Discussion on the Iraq War Study, Security Force Assistance and Force Management."
- Joint Special Operations University Fireside Chat, "Insights on Special Operations and Security Assistance."
- U.S. Naval Institute, "Training Allied Forces."
- Global and National Security Institute Podcast, At The Boundary, "Aftermath of October 7: Israel's Survival Mindset"
- The Miryam Institute, The Benjamin Anthony Show, "Hamas's Use of Open-Source Intelligence."
- Interview with the West Point Center for Oral History, "An Insurgent Non-Conformist In Special Forces"
- The World Upfront, "Twenty Years Later: The Causes, Consequences, and Lessons of the Iraq War"
- Modern War Institute, U.S. Military Academy, "The Army's Iraq War Self-Reflection"
- A Better Peace, U.S. Army War College, "How to Tell the Story of a War: The OIF Study"
- The Fletcher Forum of World Affairs, The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, "Lessons from the Iraq War"
- Defense and Aerospace: with Wall Street Journal correspondent Michael Gordon, "The Iraq War Study"
- The Blank Podcast with Jonathan Kahn "Military Service, War, and Violence."
- The Art of Self Reliance with Dr. Rodney King, "Risk, Self-Reliance, and Contingency Planning."
- One Civil Affairs with Assad Raza, "Language Training and Cultural Awareness in Advisory Missions."
- Think JSOU Interview of Michael Gordon on "Degrade and Destroy."

Other Media Interactions and Links:

- The War Room (Army War College Podcast), "Training for Victory: Special Forces and Security Force Assistance," 29 July 2025. <u>TRAINING FOR VICTORY: SPECIAL FORCES AND SECURITY FORCE ASSISTANCE - War Room - U.S. Army War College</u>
- Revolution in Military Affairs, "Civil Military Relations," 2 June 2025, <u>Civil-Military Relations with Frank Sobchak</u>
 <u>- Revolution in Military Affairs | Acast</u>
- The Team House, "Inside the Iraq War," 16 April 2025. Inside the Iraq War | Frank Sobchak | Ep. 341
- The Modern War Institute War Council Guest Speaker Series, "Training for Victory: U.S. Special Forces Advisory Missions from El Salvador to Afghanistan," 29 January 2025.
- Irregular Warfare Initiative, "Training for Victory: Lessons for Security Force Assistance," 28 January 2025.

 <u>Training for Victory: Lessons for Security Force Assistance</u>
- Squaring the Circle, "Discussion on the Iraq War Study, Security Force Assistance and Force Management,"
 19 January 2025. <u>Discussion on the Iraq War Study, Security Force Assistance and Force Management with Frank Sobchak Squaring the Circle | Acast
 </u>

- Joint Special Operations University Fireside Chat, "Insights on Special Operations and Security Assistance,"
 10 December 2024. (1026) Fireside Chat with Dr. Frank Sobchak: Insights on Special Operations and Security Assistance YouTube
- U.S. Naval Institute, "Training Allied Forces," 9 January 2025. <u>EP. 426: Training For Victory</u>.
- Global and National Security Institute, "Can Trust Win Wars? Frank Sobchak Breaks Down Key Lessons from Global Conflicts," 26 November 2024, <u>Can Trust Win Wars? Frank Sobchak Breaks Down Key Lessons from Global</u> Conflicts
- National Museum of the U.S. Navy. "Book Talk: Training for Victory," 21 November 2024. <u>Training for Victory</u>
- New America Webinar: "Training for Victory: U.S. Special Forces Advisory Operations from El Salvador to Afghanistan," host Peter Bergen, 19 November 2024. Link: https://youtu.be/Sg_mAlT3IGU
- Al Qahira (Cairo) TV Channel interview on U.S. national election. 3 November 2024. عوامل تساعد في فوز ترامب Al Qahira (Cairo) عوامل تساعد في فوز ترامب الله على عساب هاريس ..دفر انك سوبتشاك يوضح
- Extensively quoted in article for The National (UAE) "Israel's Entebbe Option: Could Israeli Commandos Raid Iran?" Israel's 'Entebbe Option': Could Israeli commandos raid Iran?
- Extensively quoted in article for The National (UAE) "Masyaf attack: Did Israeli special forces raid key Syrian research site?" Masyaf attack: Did Israeli special forces raid key Syrian research site?
- GNSI podcast, At The Boundary, "Aftermath of October 7: Israel's Survival Mindset." https://www.buzzsprout.com/2231197/15442234
- Extensively quoted in article for The National (UAE) "The Rise and Fall of ISIS, Ten Years On." How Iraq's nightmare struggle with ISIS changed the country forever (thenationalnews.com)
- International Studies Association, "Contextualizing Sectarianism in the Middle East and South Asia: Identity, Competition, and Conflict." <u>Contextualizing Sectarianism in the Middle East and South Asia: Identity, Competition, and Conflict (voutube.com)</u>
- Extensively quoted in article for The Insider, "Lessons Unlearned: Drawing Parallels between the Ukraine War and Historical Military Campaigns," <u>Lessons unlearned: Drawing parallels between the Ukraine war and historical</u> <u>military campaigns (theins.press)</u>
- Interview with the West Point Center for Oral History, "An Insurgent Non-Conformist In Special Forces."
 OralHistory (westpointcoh.org)
- The World Upfront Podcast on Spotify: <u>20 Years Later: The Causes, Consequences, and Lessons of the Iraq War-The World Upfront | Podcast on Spotify</u>
- Al Araby TV Channel Documentary on 2003 Iraq War: (410) مام (410) العزو الأمير كي. واليس صدام حسين يسقوط حتمي يكيف انهار الجيش العراقي أمام (410)
 ٢٠٥٠ الغزو الأمير كي؟
- One CA Podcast interview on language training research: (27) 113 Frank Sobchak on advising and training partner nation forces - YouTube
- Think JSOU Interview of Michael Gordon on "Degrade and Destroy." (251) ThinkJSOU with Michael R. Gordon: <u>Degrade and Destroy - YouTube</u>
- Canadian International Council talk on Intelligence and Policy: (167) Critical Nexus Between Intelligence and Policy Decision Making YouTube
- Canadian International Council talk on Iraq: <u>Twenty Years of Conflict in Iraq</u>: <u>An Armchair Conversation with Dr. Frank Sobchak Zoom</u>
- MWI Talk on Iraq: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q3qPBoGQW5s&t=47s
- Al Taghier TV Interview on Iran and JCPOA: الكونغرس يضغط لمباغتة ايران و ميليشياتها إرأس السطر YouTube
- Al Taghier TV Interview on Iraq: بالمسيرات الانتحارية . فصائل العراق تهاجم واشنطن إرأس السطر YouTube
- WJLA TV Interview on Iraq: https://govmatters.tv/major-lessons-from-the-iraq-war/
- WJLA TV Interview on Iran: https://govmatters.tv/findings-on-iran-and-how-they-view-the-us-as-a-military-opponent/
- MWI Podcast on Iraq: https://mwi.usma.edu/mwi-video-inside-armys-study-iraq-war-retired-col-frank-sobchak/
- CSPAN on Iraq: https://www.c-span.org/video/?460647-1/us-army-iraq-war
- CSIS on Iraq: https://www.csis.org/events/us-army-history-iraq-war
- KPCC NPR Interview: https://www.scpr.org/programs/airtalk/2019/01/25/64117/new-study-shares-a-deep-dive-into-u-s-army-s-criti/
- NPR All Things Considered Interview: https://www.npr.org/2019/01/22/687527749/u-s-army-war-college-says-iran-was-the-only-winner-in-study-of-iraq-war
- Fletcher School Book Talk: https://www.facebook.com/fletcherschool/videos/2062231510479567/

- Fletcher Forum Podcast: http://www.fletcherforum.org/home/2019/3/6/lessons-from-the-iraq-war-a-conversation-with-colonel-frank-sobchak
- Foundation for the Defense of Democracies Panel Discussion: https://www.fdd.org/events/2019/04/08/lessons-learned-from-the-iraq-war/
- Defense and Aerospace Podcast: https://defaeroreport.com/2019/01/24/defense-aerospace-podcast-friday-roundtable-jan-25-2019/
- A Better Peace Podcast (US Army War College): https://warroom.armywarcollege.edu/podcasts/how-to-tell-the-story-of-a-war-the-oif-study/
- Interview with Tufts Now, "How Iran Won Our Iraq War," https://now.tufts.edu/articles/how-iran-won-our-iraq-war
- Georgetown University Center for Security Studies Talk, "Consequential Decisions in the Iraq War," https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-yjSp3io_v4
- Indus News TV Interview on US 2020 Presidential Election: https://youtu.be/zpoQ3evtFXq
- Indus News TV Interview on U.S. Strikes on Pro-Iranian Militia in Syria https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V2PFpeKhmug
- Indus News Panel Discussion on U.S. Georgia 2020 Runoff Election: https://youtu.be/DSFMfYFyYVk?t=910
- Indus News Panel Discussion on U.S.- Iran Tensions:
 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vzM9E_HIZWI&list=PL75uzXP3OUv0kX_KdFTmHTLgWqmZPZC1_&index=3
- Indus News Panel Discussion on U.S. End of Combat Mission in Iraq (2021): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jzx0iIbPbNM
- WJLA TV Interview on The War on Terror and Wars of Ideology: https://govmatters.tv/the-war-on-terror-and-wars-about-ideology/
- Self Reliance and Contingency Planning with Dr. Rodney King: https://player.captivate.fm/episode/3703c939- 5d45-471c-a580-a3429cf4726d

Presentations and Lectures: "Security Force Assistance," keynote speaker for Brookings Institution Irregular Warfare Round Table, April 2025. "Special Forces Successes in Security Force Assistance," The Fox Conner Society of the Washington DC Army Navy Club, April 2025. "Doing Security Force Assistance Right," to the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict, April 2025. "Special Forces Security Force Assistance Case Studies from El Salvador to Afghanistan," to the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy International Security Studies Program, February 2025. "The Outliers: Security Force Assistance Successes in an Era of Disasters," to The Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab Colloquium, February 2025. Two lectures on "Principles of Irregular Warfare and Security Force Assistance," to DS360 Irregular Warfare: Theory & Practice at U.S. Military Academy, West Point, January 2025. "Training for Victory Book Talk," to the U.S. National Defense University, Washington, DC, December 2024. "Lessons from Advising Allied Militaries," Leader Professional Development to the U.S. Army G2 Staff, December 2024. "The Outliers: Five Cases of Successful U.S. Security Force Assistance" to Congressional Staff of the 157th Individual Mobilization Augmentee Detachment (IMAD) in Washington, DC, December 2024. "Special Forces during the Post 9/11 Wars," to Special Forces Association Chapter 78 (Southern California). November 2024. "Security Force Assistance in Insurgency and Counterinsurgency" to George Washington University Insurgency/Counterinsurgency Class, November 2024. "Military Bureaucracy in the Iraq War" to GOVT 1521: Bureaucratic Politics, Harvard University; February 2024. "Security Force Assistance in Insurgency and Counterinsurgency" to George Washington University Insurgency/Counterinsurgency Class, November 2023. "How to Remember a War: The Iraq War Study" to Boston University War and Memory Class, November 2023. "Civil-Military Relations" Guest Lecture to Fletcher School DHP 240 Class, The Role of Force, November 2018-2024 (7 lectures). "Military Bureaucracy in the Iraq War" to GOVT 1521: Bureaucratic Politics, Harvard University; February 2022. "Lessons of the Iraq and Afghan Wars," Discussion with the West Point Society of New England, 21 October 2021. "The Revolution Behind the Attempted Revolution" Discussion with Palantir Technologies Learning at Lunch Series, January 2021. "Lessons for Post-Conflict Operations" Guest lecture to Joint and Combined Warfighting School (JPME II) Class, August 2020. "Civil-Military Relations" Guest Lecture to International Security Class of Fletcher School Global Business Administration MA Program, February 2020. "Lessons of the Iraq War" to Congressional Staff of the 157th Individual Mobilization Augmentee Detachment (IMAD) in Washington, DC, March 2020. "Strategy in the Iraq War" Guest Lecture to Tufts University PS 160: Force, Strategy, and Arms Control, March 2020. "The Benefits of Choosing Service" to Pine Crest School, Fort Lauderdale, FL, Veterans' Day, November 2019. "Innovation, or Lack Thereof, During the Iraq

War," to Military Innovation elective at The Joint Advanced Warfighting School, September 2019. "Major Operational Lessons of the Iraq War" to The Strategy Bridge, Cambridge Defense Innovation Unit, Cambridge, MA, April 2019. "The Iraq War Study" Fletcher School Book Talk (broadcast internationally on Facebook), February 2019. "The Five Most Important Operational Mistakes of the Iraq War" to Fletcher Students in Security, January 2019. "An Overview and Timeline of the Iraq War" to Fletcher Students in Security, March 2018. "Military Bureaucracy in the Iraq War" to GOVT 1521: Bureaucratic Politics, Harvard University; 2017. "The Legislative Process and Legislative Affairs Officers" to Industrial College of the Armed Forces. "The Ba'ath Party and Saddam's Iraq" to Cadet Company D-4, U.S. Military Academy. "Resistance Techniques for Captured Personnel" to Cadet Company F-2, U.S. Military Academy. "Islamism" to HI 390: History of World Religions. "Islamic Fundamentalism" to HI 497: The Afghan Soviet Conflict. "The Indian Wars" to HI 301: History of the Military Art. "Post-revolutionary Iraq" to HI 380: A History of the Middle East. "The Iraqi and Iranian Military Systems," to MS 455: Comparative Military Systems. "Leader Member Exchange Theory" to PL 300: Leadership; "The Counseling Lab" to PL 300: Leadership. "The Role of the Detachment Commander" to MS 360: Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict. "The Ba'ath Party and Saddam's Iraq" to the Fall 2004 banquet for the West Point Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta. and "Iraqi Demographics and Implications for Reconstruction" to the 411th Civil Affairs Battalion.

MILITARY EXPERIENCE (1992-2018)

US ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF'S IRAQI FREEDOM STUDY GROUP, WASHINGTON DC DIRECTOR/PRINCIPAL EDITOR

2017 - 2018

- Personally responsible for the print and copy-editing process for a two volume, 1,700 page manuscript. Completed the collection of all archival resources during scope of project (written, electronic, recorded, photographic) for inclusion in U.S. Army archives and for release to the public.
- Oversaw sensitive political efforts to obtain approval for publishing manuscript through new senior leadership in the U.S. Army. Managed national level press interest during publication of manuscript.

US ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF'S IRAQI FREEDOM STUDY GROUP, WASHINGTON DC 2013 - 2017 SENIOR FELLOW/PRINCIPAL WRITER

- Handpicked by the Army Chief of Staff to be an author of the U.S. Army's official history of the Iraq War. Individually authored ten chapters and co-authored six chapters in a two-volume, forty-chapter work. Solely responsible for the inclusion and editing of the Special Operations narrative across all chapters. Conducted extensive research of primary source documents and completed oral history interviews of over 60 senior leaders to include a former President, a Secretary of Defense, a National Security Advisor, and two chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.
- Managed the complex declassification and political review of information through Army, joint, and interagency processes, obtaining approval for declassification of over 1,000 documents and publication clearance for 1,700 page two-volume work.

US ARMY NATICK SOLDIER SYSTEMS CENTER, NATICK, MA

2011 - 2013

- GARRISON COMMANDER/CITY MANAGER
- City Manager/Mayor of a 2,000-person Army Installation. Led a 300-person organization which included police force, emergency services, logistics, public housing, social services, public works, parks and recreation, human resources, operations and training, and financial management with an annual operating budget of \$32M. Commanded the organization during challenging fiscal times which included a 10% reduction in budget and a 15% reduction in personnel. Senior leader responsible for hire/fire decisions and operating and planning guidance for organization. Member of the board of directors for the installation. Led a top to bottom financial review that resulted in net increase in funds of \$1.1M in one year by reducing contract costs by \$600K, reducing outlays by \$300K, and increasing accounts receivable by \$200K.
- Oversaw diverse installation functions to include public works, social services, morale, welfare, and recreation, emergency services, logistics, human resources, internal affairs, EEO, and public affairs. Unified commander for emergency management events including hurricanes, fires, and ice storms that resulted in installation closure, evacuations, and consequence management. Served as face of the Army in New England for dozens of media and public relations events including print, internet, and television interviews from the local to national level.

- Principal Army Special Forces liaison to the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives for US Special
 Operations Command. Defended the organization's \$11 billion annual budget and unique authorities, obtaining
 additional funds every fiscal year. Personal representative of the USSOCOM Commander to Appropriations, Armed
 Services, and Intelligence committees. Responsible for creating legislative strategy and overseeing
 implementation. Personal escort to members of Congress and their staff on overseas and stateside visits to Special
 Operations Forces.
- Participant in every phase of the legislative process. Successfully organized joint effort against a bill which would have limited defense department training options.

5TH SPECIAL FORCES GROUP, FT CAMPBELL, KY

2005 - 2007

COMPANY COMMANDER/BATTALION OPERATIONS OFFICER

- Led 150 personnel in combat during a deployment to Iraq. Trained and advised Iraqi Army units, conducted raids against insurgent networks and managed human intelligence networks. Successfully partnered with and mentored Iraqi Army units resulting in the first area to be turned over from American responsibility to the Iraqi Army.
- Designed and initiated a unit exchange program with Israeli Defense Forces special operations units.

 Oversaw the planning and execution of the return of American security force assistance program to Lebanon after a twenty year absence.

COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF COLLEGE, FT Leavenworth, KS

Student 2004 – 2005

US MILITARY ACADEMY, WEST POINT, NY

2002 - 2004

INSTRUCTOR/ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

• Instructor and Course Director of freshman World History survey course; taught 160 freshmen per semester for two years. Author and instructor of two senior elective courses: The History of Islamic Revolutionary Movements and the History of Peacekeeping, Peace Enforcement, and Low Intensity Conflict in the 20th Century.

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY, Washington, DC

Student 2001 – 2002

SPECIAL FORCES TEAM LEADER AND MILITARY INTELLIGENCE OFFICER

1992 - 2000

ASSISTANT INTELLIGENCE OFFICER/PLATOON LEADER/DETACHMENT COMMANDER

- Led 12 person Special Forces Team in training and peacekeeping operations. Senior American advisor for joint UAE/Jordanian peacekeeping contingent in Kosovo during KFOR peacekeeping mission. Organized and led several Joint Task Force Six counterdrug missions that trained and advised law enforcement organizations.
- Led intelligence analysis cell during training and deployment to Kuwait. Commanded Ground Surveillance Radar platoon of 36 personnel and 13 vehicles- a unique asset that was directly managed by a one star general.

Military Education:

Special Forces Qualification Course
Military Intelligence Officer Basic Course
Defense Support to Civil Authorities Course
Contracting Officer Representative Level II Course
Senior Officer Legal Orientation Course
Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape Course

Ranger School Airborne School Jumpmaster School Air Assault School Armor Officer Advanced Course

Major Deployments:

- Kuwait, 1993: (2 months) Military Intelligence officer for an Armor battalion serving as deterrent force.
- U.S. Southwest border: several deployments from 1998-1999 as part of counter-narcotics task force.
- Kosovo, 2000: (4 months) Special Forces Detachment (ODA) Commander and senior American advisor to combined contingent from the United Arab Emirates and Jordan during peace enforcement mission.
- Iraq, 2005: (8 months) Commanded Special Forces Company (ODB) in Ninewah Province. Trained and advised an Iraqi Army Brigade and conducted other collateral activities during combat operations.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Clear Path for Veterans New England is a 501(c)3 that works to build a safe, supportive, and respectful place for Veterans to seek the help and resources they need in order to successfully integrate into their communities. Volunteer work involved promoting the organization in person and through unpaid radio advertisements.

Member, Board of Directors, Clear Path for Veterans New England. May 2020-December 2021 Selected to be a non-compensated member of governing board responsible for oversight and direction of Clear Path for Veterans New England.

Assistant Scoutmaster, Boy Scout Troop 14, Holliston, Massachusetts

August 2022- September 2023

FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Arabic (Advanced to Advanced plus skill level)

Defense Language Proficiency Test Score 2/2 (December 2016)
Annual Sustainment Training USSOCOM Online Course (2007-2015)
Georgetown University Arabic Exam-similar to Foreign Service Exams (2002)
Summer Immersion Program, Yarmouk University, Irbid, Jordan (2000)
5th Special Forces Group Language Sustainment Program (1998-2000, 2006-2007)
Special Operations Forces Basic Military Language Course (1998)

Spanish (Advanced plus to Superior skill level)

Defense Language Proficiency Test Score 2+/3 (December 2017) Annual Sustainment Training SOFTS Online Course (2008, 2010)

Memberships: International Studies Association, Society for Military History, Phi Alpha Theta (History Honor Society), Special Forces Association, Office of Strategic Services Society.

Reviews, Articles, and Media Appearances for The U.S. Army in the Iraq War:

Reviews:

International Institute for Strategic Studies:

https://www.iiss.org/publications/survival/2019/survival-global-politics-and-strategy-augustseptember-2019/614-12-book-reviews

U.S. Naval War College Review:

Vol I: https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=8074&context=nwc-review

Vol II: https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=8097&context=nwc-review

Small Wars and Insurgencies:

https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/09592318.2019.1601873?journalCode=fswi20

British Army Review (MoD scholarly journal):

17544 (mod.uk) (pp 107-109)

The Best Books on Middle East Military History (Dr. Kenneth Pollack):

https://shepherd.com/best-books/middle-east-military-history

Television and Radio:

NPR (All Things Considered):

https://www.npr.org/2019/01/22/687527749/u-s-army-war-college-says-iran-was-the-only-winner-in-study-of-iraq-war

NPR (Air Talk on KPCC Los Angeles):

https://www.scpr.org/programs/airtalk/2019/01/25/64117/new-study-shares-a-deep-dive-into-u-s-army-s-criti/

Interview by Government Matters Media WJLA TV May 1, 2019:

https://govmatters.tv/major-lessons-from-the-iraq-war/

Interviewed by Government Matters Media WJLA TV May 14, 2019:

https://govmatters.tv/findings-on-iran-and-how-they-view-the-us-as-a-military-opponent/

<u>Conferences, Podcasts, and Presentations: (only activities with a link are included, other engagements are listed on CV)</u>

CSPAN video of CSIS/New America Foundation Book Talk:

https://www.c-span.org/video/?460647-1/us-army-iraq-war

https://www.c-span.org/video/?460647-3/us-army-irag-war-panel-1

https://www.c-span.org/video/?460647-2/us-army-iraq-war-panel-2

Modern War Institute (U.S. Military Academy at West Point) Book Talk:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q3qPBoGQW5s

https://mwi.usma.edu/mwi-video-inside-armys-study-iraq-war-retired-col-frank-sobchak/

Foundation for the Defense of Democracies Book Talk:

https://www.fdd.org/events/2019/04/08/lessons-learned-from-the-iraq-war/

Army War College, War Room/A Better Peace Book Talk:

https://warroom.armywarcollege.edu/podcasts/how-to-tell-the-story-of-a-war-the-oif-study/

Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy (Tufts University) Book talk:

https://www.facebook.com/fletcherschool/videos/2062231510479567/

Modern War Institute (U.S. Military Academy at West Point) Podcast on the writing of the Iraq War Study:

https://mwi.usma.edu/mwi-podcast-armys-irag-war-self-reflection/

Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy (Tufts University) Forum Podcast on Lessons from Iraq War:

http://www.fletcherforum.org/home/2019/3/6/lessons-from-the-iraq-war-a-conversation-with-colonel-frank-sobchak

https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/the-fletcher-forum-podcast/id1372172089?mt=2

New America Foundation/CSIS Book Talk Panel:

https://www.csis.org/events/us-army-history-iraq-war

Defense and Aerospace Book Talk:

https://defaeroreport.com/2019/01/24/defense-aerospace-podcast-friday-roundtable-jan-25-2019/

Articles:

The Wall Street Journal:

https://www.wsj.com/articles/army-releases-a-critical-history-of-the-war-in-iraq-11547768863

The Wall Street Journal:

https://www.wsj.com/articles/the-army-ordered-an-unvarnished-iraq-war-historythen-let-it-languish-1540220153

CNN:

https://www.cnn.com/2019/01/17/opinions/expensive-lesson-in-hubris-for-the-united-states-bergen/index.html

Small Wars Journal:

https://smallwarsjournal.com/blog/armys-long-awaited-iraq-war-study-finds-iran-was-only-winner-conflict-holds-many-lessons

World Politics Review:

https://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/articles/27437/the-army-s-iraq-war-study-shows-truth-telling-is-still-possible-in-washington

Tufts Now:

https://now.tufts.edu/articles/how-iran-won-our-iraq-war

Middle East Eye:

https://middleeasteye.net/opinion/us-military-has-written-book-iraq-war-its-too-late

Newsweek:

https://www.newsweek.com/army-not-win-iraq-iran-victor-1301050

Quartz:

https://qz.com/1530248/us-army-says-iran-won-the-iraq-war/

Global Security:

https://www.globalsecurity.org/wmd/library/news/iraq/2019/iraq-190120-presstv01.htm

Breitbart:

https://www.breitbart.com/national-security/2019/01/19/army-iraq-war-study-emboldened-expansionist-iran-appears-only-victor/

Stars and Stripes Article:

https://www.stripes.com/news/army-history-highlights-failures-in-iraq-war-1.565009

Task and Purpose:

The Hubris Of The Pentagon's Disastrous Invasion Of Iraq - Task & Purpose (taskandpurpose.com)

Arab Weekly:

https://thearabweekly.com/after-4-year-study-us-military-study-concludes-iran-was-only-victor-iraq-war

Army Times:

https://www.armytimes.com/news/your-army/2019/01/18/armys-long-awaited-iraq-war-study-finds-iran-was-the-only-winner-in-a-conflict-that-holds-many-lessons-for-future-wars/

Defense One:

https://www.defenseone.com/ideas/2019/03/us-army-trying-bury-lessons-iraq-war/155403/?oref=d-skybox

Lima Charlie:

https://limacharlienews.com/foreign-policy/vietnam-to-iraq/

SOFREP:

https://thenewsrep.com/113317/army-finally-releases-official-history-of-the-iraq-war-and-the-conclusions-are-damning/

Army Times:

 $\frac{https://www.armytimes.com/news/your-military/2019/04/10/keep-those-iraq-war-notes-handy-small-wars-not-great-power-battles-still-the-most-likely-future-fight/$

Army Times:

https://www.armytimes.com/news/your-army/2018/10/25/armys-detailed-iraq-war-study-remains-unpublished-years-after-completion/

Stars and Stripes:

https://www.stripes.com/news/lawmakers-call-for-army-s-irag-war-study-to-be-published-1.553661

Other Mentions (not directly about books, but references them):

Cited in Poltifact article:

https://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/article/2020/jan/15/iran-iraq-soleimani-deadly-fight-against/

Cited again in Politifact article:

https://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/statements/2020/jan/16/donald-trump/fact-checking-trumps-claim-obama-designated-irans-/

Mentioned in Terry Gross Fresh Air:

https://www.npr.org/transcripts/796978484

War College study cited in Minneapolis Star Tribune:

http://www.startribune.com/tensions-with-iran-add-to-strain-for-army-man-and-his-family/566818252/

Haaretz (mentioned):

https://www.haaretz.com/middle-east-news/.premium-trump-terror-and-tomatoes-as-u-s-eyes-iraq-buildup-iran-may-stand-to-gain-1.6873271

Mentioned by 2020 Presidential Candidate Michael Bennett in Meet the Press:

https://www.nbcnews.com/meet-the-press/meet-press-january-12-2020-n1113091