



*The Under Secretary of Defense  
for Personnel and Readiness  
and  
The Historical Office of the Office of the Secretary of Defense  
Present*

A detailed illustration of a battle scene, likely from the Napoleonic Wars. It shows soldiers in various uniforms engaged in combat, with smoke rising from the battlefield. In the foreground, a white horse is visible, and soldiers are on foot and on horseback. The scene is set in a hazy, overcast environment.

# *Clausewitz on War*

11 December 2015  
10:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.  
Joint Staff Flag Room • Room 2D852



## Program

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- 1030–1035    Introductory Remarks  
*Dr. Erin Mahan*
- The Relevance of Clausewitz
- 1035–1045    *Dr. Antulio Echevarria II*
- 1045–1055    *Dr. Chris Bassford*
- 1055–1105    *Dr. Jon Sumida*
- 1105–1115    *Dr. Jennie Kiesling*
- 1115–1125    *Dr. Alan Beyerchen*
- 1125–1135    *Dr. Peter Paret*
- 1135–1140    Break
- 1140–1240    Panel Discussion  
*Under Secretary Brad Carson*  
*Moderator*
- 1240–1300    Questions

*Over the past quarter, Mr. Brad Carson, Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, hosted a professional development series consisting of 10 seminars for approximately 40 company and field grade officers centering around Clausewitz's On War. Each panelist served as a guest lecturer for one seminar. Additionally, participants received a copy of the text, completed reading milestones, and dialogued with one another on the merits of Clausewitz's strategy. Today's panel serves as the capstone event for this series.*

**Christopher Bassford** is Professor of Strategy at National Defense University's College of International Security Affairs Master of Arts program. Dr. Bassford served as a concepts and doctrine analyst for Marine Corps Combat Development Command. He is the author of *Clausewitz in English* (Oxford, 1994) and *MCDP 1-1: Strategy* (USMC, 1997), an editor of the business-oriented *Clausewitz on Strategy: Inspiration and Insight from a Master Strategist* (from the Boston Consulting Group), and webmaster of The Clausewitz Homepage.

**Alan Beyerchen** is Emeritus Associate Professor at The Ohio State University. He earned his B.A. in German and Ph.D. in History at the University of California at Santa Barbara. He has won major fellowships from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, the National Humanities Center, and the National Science Foundation. For six years, he served on the Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). He is an elected Fellow of the AAAS. He has received awards for outstanding teaching at the department, college, and university levels.

**Brad Carson** is the Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness as of 2 April 2015. He holds a J.D. from the University of Oklahoma. During the Clinton administration, Mr. Carson was selected as a White House Fellow and served as Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense. He practiced commercial law at Crowe & Dunlevy, P.C., before entering politics. In 2000, Mr. Carson was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, serving from 2001 to 2005, where he represented the 2nd Congressional District of Oklahoma. Upon leaving office, he was appointed as a fellow at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government and later served as CEO of Cherokee Nation Businesses in Oklahoma.

**Antulio J. Echevarria II** is the editor of the U.S. Army War College Quarterly *Parameters*. He is a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and the U.S. Army War College. He holds a Ph.D. in Modern History from Princeton University and is the author of several articles and four books—*After Clausewitz* (Kansas, 2001), *Imagining Future War* (Praeger, 2007), *Clausewitz and Contemporary War* (Oxford, 2007), and *Reconsidering the American Way of War* (Georgetown, 2014). He completed a NATO Fulbright Fellowship in 2000–2001 and was Visiting Research Fellow at Oxford University in 2011–2012; he holds the U.S. Army War College Elihu Root Chair of Military Studies.

**Jennie Kiesling** is the first civilian to attain the rank of Professor of History at the U.S. Military Academy. She was educated at Yale, Oxford, and Stanford Universities and holds a Ph.D. in Modern European Military History from Stanford. She was a

Ford Fellow at Harvard University and taught at the University of Alabama before moving to West Point in 1995. She has been a visiting professor at the University of Southampton in the United Kingdom and served in 2000–2001 as the Harold K. Johnson Professor of Military History at the U.S. Army War College. She has published widely on military history, military theory, and ancient history.

**Erin Mahan** is the Chief Historian of the Office of the Secretary of Defense and Director of the History and Library Directorate. She holds a Ph.D. in History from the University of Virginia. She previously held positions in the Center for the Studies of Weapons of Mass Destruction at the National Defense University and in the Office of the Historian at the Department of State, where she edited numerous volumes in the *Foreign Relations of the United States* series. She has published widely on a variety of topics, including U.S.-French relations, the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks, biological and chemical weapons, World War I, and civil-military relations. She is the author of *Kennedy, De Gaulle, and Western Europe* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2003).

**Peter Paret** is the Andrew W. Mellon Professor in the Humanities, Emeritus, at the Institute for Advanced Study, and the Raymond A. Spruance Professor of International History, Emeritus, Stanford University. He has won several prizes, including the Moncado Prize (1970), the Samuel Eliot Morison Prize (1993), the Thomas Jefferson Prize of the American Philosophical Society (1993), and the Federal Republic of Germany, Cross, Order of Merit (2000). His most recent work, *Clausewitz and His Time* (Berghahn Books, 2014), features essays in the cultural and intellectual history of thinking about war.

**Jon Sumida** is Professor of History at the University of Maryland, College Park. He is the author of three monographs, including *Decoding Clausewitz: A New Approach to On War* (Kansas, 2008). He served as chair of the Department of the Army Historical Advisory Committee (2003–2006) and as Major General Matthew C. Horner Chair of Military Theory at the U.S. Marine Corps University (2004–2006). In April 2007, the U.S. Army awarded Dr. Sumida the Outstanding Civilian Service medal. He is at work on a monograph, *The Quest for Reach: The Development of British Long-Range Gunnery and the Battle of Jutland*.