**USSOCOM J5 Speaker Biographies**

## **COL Monte Erfourth**

Over 20 years of professional military and civilian experience in the areas of leadership, planning, strategy, research, transportation, supply chain management, marketing, budget, and financial management. Worked closely with U.S. Ambassadors, highest level of military leadership, and policy makers. Performed duties in over 20 countries, including a combat tour in Iraq. Employed over 20 people in private business and enjoying a new found entrepreneurial interest in publishing books and articles on political philosophy.

## **Mr. Robert Jones**

Bobby Jones is a retired U.S. Army Special Forces Colonel; a former Deputy District Attorney; and the Senior Strategist at U.S. Special Operations Command. Currently serving as a member of the SOCOM J5 Donovan Group, Mr. Jones is responsible for leading innovative thinking on the strategic environment and understanding how it impacts factors critical to national security, such as competition, the character of conflict, deterrence and societal stability.

Mr. Jones’s principle focus is on the fundamental human aspects of political conflict. In a rapidly evolving strategic environment, good strategy is rooted in understanding what remains constant and why; while good tactics demands a realistic appreciation for what is different or changed. Successful campaigning demands a fusion of the two. He enjoys “wire brushing” concepts by routinely standing in front of tough audiences. None of these is tougher than those he faces in his role as a fixture in the Joint Special Operations University’s Enlisted Academy, applying a commonsense perspective to bring our most experienced Special Operators strategic insights they can actually use. This is also the third consecutive year that Mr. Jones has addressed the Air War College class during the Operational Design phase of their curriculum, sharing practical insights gleaned from his experiences.

He has been a featured speaker at Universities as storied as Oxford, St Andrews, Stanford and Harvard; and has led professional development events with operational units across the SOCOM enterprise. Mr. Jones is also a Fellow with the Center for Advanced Defense Studies (C4ADS).

*“****If war is the final argument of Kings, then revolution is the final vote of the people.”*** RCJ

## **Mr. Ryan Oliver**

Ryan Oliver is a contractor in the USSOCOM J5 Strategy, Plans, and Policy directorate, where he works on strategic concepts and issues related to competition short of armed conflict. He initially joined the USSOCOM J5 as a member of the China Transregional Support Team. Prior to USSOCOM, he worked in strategic and defense consulting at The Asia Group and Avascent. He is a graduate of Georgetown University, the George Washington University, and the Defense Language Institute. He currently serves as a military intelligence officer in the Florida Army National Guard.

## **Dr. Aaron Bazin**

Aaron Bazin is a contractor in the USSOCOM J5 Strategy, Plans, and Policy directorate. Dr. Bazin adds value to organizations by helping them explore the possibilities of the future and develop unique, visionary strategies. He is a skilled researcher, facilitator, presenter, and writer. Aaron has an established reputation as a creative, friendly, and hardworking professional with a positive attitude and the entrepreneurial drive needed to lead teams to success. He is the author of over 30 articles and the book, "Think: Tools to Build Your Mind."