# Melanie Sission and James Siebens Biographies

**Melanie W. Sisson**is Vice President of Analysis at Govini, and a non-resident Senior Fellow with the Stimson Center in Washington, D.C. Her work focuses on the relationship between defense strategic planning processes and the likelihood of achieving foreign policy and national security objectives. Prior to joining Stimson, Dr. Sisson was a Senior Associate with the RAND Corporation, where she conducted research on force planning, strategic approaches to countering domestic and international terrorism, covert operations, and enhancing planning and management processes within the Department of Defense. She is a former member of the U.S. Intelligence Community, and holds a PhD in Political Science from the University of Colorado at Boulder, and an M.A. from the Columbia University School of International Affairs.

**James A. Siebens** is a Fellow with the Defense Strategy and Planning program at the Stimson Center, and an editor of Military Coercion and U.S. Foreign Policy: The Use of Force Short of War (Routledge 2020), a book on U.S. strategy and military operations since the end of the Cold War. Siebens’ research focuses on grand strategy, foreign military intervention, and gray zone conflict. He is currently leading a project on China’s uses of armed force short of war. Siebens previously served as a Research Associate, and as Special Assistant to the President and CEO at the Stimson Center. Prior to joining Stimson, Siebens worked as a Data Analyst at the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START) at the University of Maryland, where he contributed to a Defense Department project on Gray Zone conflict. Siebens is a Term Member at the Council on Foreign Relations and holds an M.A. in International Affairs with a concentration in Global Security from American University’s School of International Service.