

McNerney, Sharpe, and Demus Biographies

Mr. Michael McNerney is a senior researcher at the RAND Corporation and an affiliate faculty member at the Pardee RAND Graduate School. His research focuses on political-military strategy, defense planning, civil–military coordination, and international relations. He has published over two dozen reports analyzing human behavior and decision making in conflict, U.S. security cooperation, military roles in disaster response, civilian casualties, and other topics. Until April 2011, Mr. McNerney was principal director for plans in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy. He and his staff supported the Secretary of Defense in providing strategic guidance on U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) and interagency plans, force management, and overseas basing. He was a civil servant in the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) for 17 years and a member of the Senior Executive Service. His earlier assignments in the Office of the Secretary of Defense included policy support for security cooperation programs worldwide, U.S. military operations in Afghanistan, humanitarian assistance and disaster response, international environmental issues, nuclear arms control, and defense budgeting. He spent the 2004–05 academic year on the faculty of the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies. Prior to working in OSD, Mr. McNerney worked at Los Alamos National Laboratory. He received his M.A. in international relations from the University of Maryland and B.A. in government and German from the University of Notre Dame.

Maj Gen (Rtd) Andrew Sharpe, during 34 years of military service and nine operational tours, commanded on operations in all ranks from second-lieutenant to brigadier. He left the British Army as a Major General, completing his military career as the Director of the UK MoD’s independent think-tank: the DCDC. For three years he ran the UK Chief of Defence Staff’s Strategic Advisory Panel. Doctor Sharpe is the Director of the Centre for Historical Analysis and Conflict Research. In addition, as an independent consultant, he partners with governments, international organisations and businesses to provide strategic, operational and leadership advice, support and mentoring. He is a senior mentor on the Army’s Generalship programme; a Visiting Senior Research Fellow of King’s College London; an Honorary Fellow of the Strategic Studies Institute of the University of Exeter; a Founding Associate Fellow of the Cambridge Security Analysis Institute; an Expert Panel member of the Cambridge Governance Labs; and he lectures and advises widely and internationally on strategy, leadership, risk and operational art. He is the Chairman of The Poppy Factory and has an MA in International Studies from King’s College London, and a PhD in the Strategic Leadership of International Intervention from Trinity College Cambridge.

Ms. Alyssa Demus is an associate international/defense researcher at the RAND Corporation. Her research examines Eurasian political and security issues; information warfare and influence campaigns; efforts to counter adversary influence efforts; and perceptions and decision making. Ms. Demus is fluent in Ukrainian—a skill she has employed in her research to include interviewing key government, military, security service, and civil society sector interlocutors. She earned an M.A. in foreign policy and national security from American University’s School of International Service, and a B.A. in international relations with a concentration in Russian and Eurasian affairs and B.A. in political science from the University of Southern California.