



**United States Special Operations Command
Warrior Care Program | Care Coalition**

WCP Conference 2026



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Win - People - Transform



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Agenda

WCP Conference Agenda		
Time	Tuesday, August 4	Speaker Moderator
1800-2100	Conference Welcome Reception	Mr. Kelly Ammerman, SOCOM Warrior Care Program Director
Time	Wednesday, August 5	Speaker Moderator
0730-0900	Registration Breakfast	
0900-0905	Administrative Remarks	LTC Vince Enriquez, USA, SOCOM
0905-0915	Welcome	Mr. Kelly Ammerman, SOCOM Warrior Care Program Director
0915-0945	Opening Remarks and Patriot Award	Lt Gen Sean Farrell, SOCOM Deputy Commander CSM A. J. Krogman Command SEL, SOCOM
0945-1045	Exhibit Hall Walk-Through, Networking & Discussion	
1045-1145	Warrior Care Programs: A Joint Perspective	Warrior Care Program Directors
1145-1300	Lunch and Networking	
1300-1400	The Holistic Nature of Warrior Care	Dr. Susan Orsega, Deputy Assistant Secretary of War
1400-1500	The Gold Star Strategic Summit: From Findings to the Future	Gold Star Working Group Representatives
1500-1515	Administrative Break/Networking	
1515-1600	Cancer in SOF Study: Updates	Dr. Shauna Stahlman, Defense Health Affairs (DHA)
1730-1735	Administrative/End of Day Remarks	Mr. Kelly Ammerman, SOCOM Warrior Care Program Director
Time	Thursday, August 6	Speaker Moderator
0800-0900	Exhibit Hall Breakfast	
0900-0905	Administrative Remarks	Mr. Kelly Ammerman, SOCOM Warrior Care Program Director
0905-1000	Moral Injury Mitigation Measures	CSM Brandon Ames, Dr. Kari Thyne, Mr. John Labuz, Dr. JE Caterson
1000-1015	Administrative Break/Networking	
1015-1130	Moral Injury Mitigation Measures	CSM Brandon Ames, Dr. Kari Thyne, Mr. John Labuz, Dr. JE Caterson
1130-1300	Lunch and Networking	
1300-1400	DOW Behavioral Health Treatment Modalities	COL Chris Wilson, SOCOM Command Psychologist
1400-1415	Administrative Break/Networking	
1415-1600	DOW Psychedelics Assisted Therapy Research Update	Ms. Heather Honstein, Ms. Katelyn Jones
1600-1615	Administrative/End of Day Remarks	Mr. Kelly Ammerman, SOCOM Warrior Care Program Director



Slido Q&A Platform

Questions & Answers Platform:

- Slido will be used for Q&A at the 2026 U.S. SOCOM Warrior Care Program-Care Coalition Conference.
- Visit slido.com and enter code **#2771662** to access the event page.
- You can submit questions anonymously or with your name, upvote others' questions, and view answers from moderators and the audience.
- WCP-CC staff will relay Slido questions to speakers during sessions. Use the Ideas tab to create topics and collaborate with attendees.

Visit slido.com OR Scan the QR Code:



Code **#2771662**



Expo Booths

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101	Operation Healing Forces
102	Special Operations Warrior Foundation
103	Special Forces Trust
104	Special Forces Foundation
105	Operation Second Chance
106	Willing Warriors
107	Operation Heal Our Patriots
108	Luke's Wings
109	SOF Missions
110	Military Warriors Support Foundation
111	Project R3con
112	Warhorses for Veterans
113	The Mac Parkman Foundation
114	The Barry Robinson Center
115	UNC THRIVE Program - Chapel Hill, NC
116	Army Ranger Lead the Way Fund
117	Task Force Dagger Special Operations Foundation
118	Semper Fi & America's Fund
119	EXOS
120	Operation One Voice
121	Office of VA/DoD Health Affairs
122	PACER San Antonio, VA
122	Polytrauma Rehabilitation Programs – PTRP / IETP
123	Department of Veterans Affairs
123	Minneapolis VA
124	STAR Richmond, VA
125	James A. Haley VA-PREP
126	James A. Haley Veterans Hospital
127	The Strong Humans Foundation
128	DoW / USU Brain Tissue Repository
129	Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)
130	Operator Relief Fund

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131

Eagle Rock Camp

132

Emory Healthcare Veterans Program

133

Tactical Mind Research Coalition

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Tactical Mind Solutions

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Veterans Bridge Home (VBH)

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United Health inc.

137

Three Rangers Foundation

138

Elizabeth Dole Foundation

139

Aurelius (Brain Health & Human Performance)

140

Extivita and HBOT4Heroes

141

Tree House Recovery

142

The Bison Group

143

The Hero Protocol

144

Operation War Fighter (OWF)

145

Wounded Warrior Family Support

146

Home Base Florida

147

Gallant Few

148

Defense Intelligence Memorial Foundation

149

Aetheris Human Systems and US. Trager Association

150

Wounded Warrior Project

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Shepherd Center SHARE Military Initiative

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Road Home Program

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Strong Hope

154

Windmoor Healthcare

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Tactical Recovery

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Wave Neuroscience

157

TBICoE

158

Telemetrynd

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UHS-Kid Link

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NVLSP (National Veterans Legal Services Program)

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Expo Booth #

161

Laurel Ridge Treatment Center

162

Maxim Healthcare

163

Rebuilding Warriors

164

Readiness for SOF Transition (R4ST)

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Readiness for SOF Transition (R4ST)

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Patriot Support Programs of UHS

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Magellan Federal

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LS Adaptive

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eTMS Florida

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Emerald Coast Behavioral Health Hospital

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Allied Forces Foundation

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Brain Treatment Center Ashburn

172

Acadia Healthcare

173

Electromedical Products International, Inc.
(EPII)

174

Mind Spa Inc.

175

NESTRE Health & Performance

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NEUCOA

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Red Star Foundation

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The Headstrong Project

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Road Home Program

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Center for Brain Health at UT Dallas



Biographies



Lieutenant General Sean M. Farrell



Lt. Gen. Sean M. Farrell is Deputy Commanding General for U.S. Special Operations Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Florida. He ensures the readiness of joint special operations forces and, as directed, conducts operations worldwide.

Lt. Gen. Farrell was commissioned through the Reserve Officer Training Corps at Florida State University. He is a command pilot with over 3,500 flight hours in the AC-130H Spectre, AC-130W Stinger, AC-130U Spooky and C-130E Hercules aircraft and has flown combat missions in Bosnia and Afghanistan. He has commanded at the wing, group, and squadron levels. Prior to this assignment, he served as the Deputy Commanding General, Joint Special Operations Command, Fort Liberty, North Carolina.

Lt. Gen. Sean M. Farrell completed a Bachelor's degree in Political Science in 1990 at Florida State University. They went on to earn a Master's degree in Applied Behavioral Science with a focus on Communications Systems Technology in 1993 from Wright State University. Their professional military education includes Squadron Officer School (1998), Air Command and Staff College by correspondence (2004), and Air War College by correspondence (2009). In 2012, they earned a second Master's degree in National Resource Strategy from the National Defense University in Washington, D.C.

Lt. Gen. Sean M. Farrell has held a series of senior operational and leadership roles across the Department of Defense and U.S. Special Operations Command. From 2004 to 2006, served as Operations Officer in the Joint Staff's Readiness Division. Later became a Senior Analyst in the Office of the Secretary of Defense from 2012 to 2013. From 2019 to 2021, directed Force Structure, Requirements, Resources, and Strategic Assessments at U.S. Special Operations Command. Served as Deputy Commanding General of Joint Special Operations Command from 2021 to 2024. Since March 2024, he has been the Deputy Commanding General of U.S. Special Operations Command.



Command Sergeant Major Andrew J. Krogman **Command Senior Enlisted Leader, USSOCOM**



Command Sergeant Major Andrew J. "A.J." Krogman was born November 14, 1977, and raised in Northern California. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1995 as a combat engineer and attended One Station Unit Training (OSUT) at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri. He was assigned to A Company, 14th Engineer Battalion at Fort Lewis, Washington, for two years before completing Special Forces Assessment and Selection with a follow-on assignment to the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School. He graduated from the Special Forces Qualification Course in 1999, as a Special Forces Engineer and returned to Fort Lewis with an assignment to Operational Detachment Alpha (ODA) 165, 2nd Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne). After serving as both a junior and senior engineer sergeant for ODA 165, he was reassigned to 1st Battalion, 1st SFG (A) in Okinawa, Japan, in 2003. There he served as the senior engineer sergeant and intelligence sergeant for ODA 114. Additionally, he served as the Alpha Company Operations Sergeant for Operational Detachment Bravo 110 and concluded his time in Okinawa as the Team Sergeant for ODA 111. In 2007, CSM Krogman was assigned to the Military District of Washington area where he served as a Team Sergeant, Troop Sergeant Major, Squadron Command Sergeant Major, and Joint Task Force Senior Enlisted Leader. CSM Krogman then served as the Group Command Sergeant Major for the Joint Cyber Operations Group; the Command Sergeant Major for the Strategic Reconnaissance and Enabling Command; and the Command Senior Enlisted Leader at the Joint Special Operations Command. CSM Krogman has completed a variety of specialized military and interagency training during his career. He is a graduate of Joint Special Operations University Summit Course, Joint Special Operations Forces Senior Enlisted Academy, the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy, Keystone, Nominative Leaders Course, and Norwich University. CSM Krogman is married to his high school sweetheart and together they have two children.



**Mr. Howard Kelly Ammerman Director, Warrior Care
Program (Care Coalition) U.S. Special Operations
Command**



Mr. H. Kelly Ammerman was born in Honolulu, Hawaii and raised in upstate New York. Mr. Ammerman previously served in the U.S. Army and retired in November of 2017 with over 27 years of military service, 23 of which were spent in the Special Operations community as a Special Forces Non-Commissioned Officer. Mr. Ammerman entered the U.S. Army in February of 1990. He completed basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. His military service included deployments from Operation Desert Shield/Storm to multiple tours in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Theater Security Cooperation Plans. He served in numerous positions, to include Special Forces Operational Detachment-Alpha (SFODA) Medical NCOIC, Assault Stack Leader, Company Assault Sergeant, SFODA Team Sergeant, Special Forces Group Current Operations NCOIC, First Sergeant, Senior Military Science Instructor, and culminated in his role as the Senior Enlisted Advisor for the USSOCOM Warrior Care Program (Care Coalition). He assumed the role of Deputy in 2017 and has served as the Director since December 2020. His significant military education includes: Military Legal Specialist Course; Basic Airborne Course; Air Assault Course; Special Forces Qualification Course; Special Operations Target Interdiction Course (SOTIC); Jumpmaster Course; Special Forces Advanced Reconnaissance, Target Analysis and Exploitation Techniques Course (SFARTAETC); Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape (SERE) Level-C; Primary Leadership Development Course (PLDC); Basic Non-Commissioned Officer Course (BNCOC); Advanced Non-Commissioned Officer Course (ANCOC); First Sergeants Course; and the U.S. Army Sergeant Majors Academy (USASMA). Mr. Ammerman is married, has two sons, and is a proud grandfather of two.



Susan Orsega, Deputy Assistant Secretary of War, Health Services Policy and Oversight Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs



Susan Orsega serves as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of War for Health Services Policy and Oversight. She leads policy development and oversight for clinical programs across the Military Health System, covering areas such as human capital, mental health, disease prevention, medical standards, patient advocacy, quality assurance, ethics, and data analytics. Her office provides senior Defense officials and Congress with medical guidance supporting more than 9.5 million beneficiaries worldwide.

She previously retired as a Rear Admiral in the U.S. Public Health Service after 34 years, holding leadership roles focused on solving complex healthcare challenges. Notably, she served as Acting Surgeon General in 2021 and directed the largest deployment of the Public Health Service Commissioned Corps during the COVID-19 pandemic. Her earlier work at NIH improved infectious disease response efforts in Africa, contributing to saving thousands of lives. She also deployed to major crises including 9/11, the Anthrax attacks, Hurricane Katrina, and numerous global health emergencies.

Orsega has received extensive recognition, including military and professional awards, more than 50 keynote speaking invitations, media appearances, and over 30 peer-reviewed publications. She holds degrees from Towson University and the Uniformed Services University, along with honorary doctorates, and is a fellow of major national nursing associations.

She graduated with a Bachelor of Science from Towson University, Baltimore, Maryland in 1990. In 2001, she graduated with a Master of Science from the Nurse Practitioner Program, Uniformed Services University (USU), Bethesda, Maryland. She later received honorary doctorates from USU and Georgetown University. She is a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing and in the American Association of Nurse Practitioners.



Jodi Burns, Chief Executive Officer, Special Forces Trust



Jodi Burns serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the Special Forces Trust, a national nonprofit dedicated to supporting U.S. Army Green Berets and their families through programs that strengthen mental health, resilience, family stability, and long-term wellbeing. With nearly three decades of lived experience as a Special Operations spouse and a proven record of nonprofit leadership, Jodi brings a deep understanding of the unique challenges faced by military families and the communities that support them. Under her leadership, the Trust has expanded its flagship initiatives — including Beyond the Battlefield, Mettle & Moxie, and mission-driven transition and wellness efforts — while advancing a culture of compassion, accountability, and measurable impact.

Throughout her career, Jodi has built strategic partnerships across the public, private, and philanthropic sectors to accelerate opportunities for service members, veterans, and their loved ones. She is known for her collaborative leadership style, her ability to unite donors and mission stakeholders around a shared purpose, and her commitment to innovation in nonprofit program delivery and fundraising. Jodi has led national-level fundraising campaigns, high-visibility initiatives, and large-scale community programs that not only meet immediate needs but also invest in long-term sustainability for the Special Forces community.

Jodi's leadership is grounded in organizational strategy, mission alignment, and building meaningful relationships that advance lasting impact. Guided by the values of integrity, empathy, and stewardship, she believes that investing in those who serve extends far beyond the individual. Her work is driven by a simple principle: when we strengthen Green Berets and their families, we strengthen the Regiment, the communities they serve, and the nation they protect.



Tyler Nathon Bennett US Army Civilian

Dr. Bennett is a certified program management professional with 20 years of experience in research, development, and program management. He currently serves as the Director of the Army Recovery Care Program (ARCP) within the US Army Medical Command. ARCP manages the recovery of wounded, ill, and injured Soldiers requiring medical care.

CAREER CHRONOLOGY:

- Director, Army Recovery Care Program
- Program Manager, HQDA, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-9
- Project Manager for Deployed Medical Systems, Army Futures Command
- Deputy for Acquisitions, USAMMA, Army Materiel Command
- Deputy for Acquisitions, USAMMA, Army Medical Command
- Product Manager for Diagnostics, Joint Program Executive Office - Chemical and Biological Defense (JPEO-CBD)
- Deputy Product Manager for Emerging Infectious Disease, JPEO-CBD

EDUCATION:

- M.S. National Resource Strategy, National Defense University, Eisenhower School
- M.B.A., University of Maryland
- Ph.D., Chemistry, Georgetown University, Washington, DC
- B.S., Chemistry (Biochemistry), University of Portland, Portland, OR

AWARDS AND HONORS:

- OSD Award for Excellence
- Army Meritorious Service Medal
- Commander's Award for Civilian Service



Dr. Shauna Stahlman is a Senior Epidemiologist and Deputy Chief of the Epidemiology & Analysis

Dr. Shauna Stahlman is a Senior Epidemiologist and Deputy Chief of the Epidemiology & Analysis (E&A) Branch within the Armed Forces Health Surveillance Division (AFHSD). In this role, she is a leading expert in epidemiology and public health surveillance for the U.S. military, responsible for analyzing and reporting on a wide range of health trends and emerging threats affecting service members. Her work is critical to informing military health policy and ensuring force health protection.

Dr. Stahlman began her career in public health as an HIV test counselor and later as a SAS Programmer for the Veterans Health Administration in Los Angeles, CA. Her doctoral dissertation projects focused on risk factors for sexually transmitted infections in military service women. Following her doctoral studies, Dr. Stahlman served as a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Epidemiology at the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health from 2014 to 2016. Her postdoctoral work focused on behavioral and structural factors affecting key populations at high risk for HIV infection. She joined AFHSD in 2016.

Dr. Stahlman's expertise is widely recognized. She has received the Best Preceptor Award from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (2023) for her excellence in mentoring preventive medicine residents, and an employee recognition award for exceptional performance from GDIT while contracted as a senior managing epidemiologist (2017). She was also the recipient of several during her doctoral studies, including the Ursula Mandel and UCLA Affiliates Scholarships.

Dr. Stahlman received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Integrative Biology from the University of California, Berkeley. She went on to earn both a Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) and a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Epidemiology from the University of California, Los Angeles.



Mrs. Michelle Ekoniak SOF Civilian Leadership Development Program

Mrs. Ekoniak serves as the Regional Operations Officer and Recovery Care Coordinator for USSOCOM Warrior Care Program-Care Coalition North Region in Va Beach, VA. She provides strategic-level advice and recommendations to USSOCOM and component leadership on care and medical evacuation for wounded, ill and injured Recovering Service Members and Veterans. She serves on the Disability Advisory Council, Disability Evaluation System Improvement Working Group, Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Committee, NSW Brain Health Working Group, Elite Forces Pilot Team and in support of the USSOCOM Warfighter Brain Health Initiative, several USSOCOM and NSW Brain Health studies.

Mrs. Ekoniak was born in Texas, and grew up in Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Massachusetts and Kansas. She previously served in the U.S. Army and retired in 2008 with over 10 years of military service. She joined the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) as the United States Joint Forces Command J2 Operations Officer and served as the Empire Challenge Deputy Program Manager. She served at the Pentagon as the Joint Staff J26 Warfighter Support and Integration Operations Officer and Assessment Lead, Joint Staff J28 Operations Officer, and Joint Staff J25 INDOPACOM Planner. After eight years of service to DIA, Mrs. Ekoniak worked as a Recovery Care Coordinator for USSOCOM's Warrior Care Program-Care Coalition for three years before assuming the role of the Regional Operations Officer for WCP-Care Coalition North in 2019.

Her education includes Bachelor of Arts Degree in political science from Kansas State University; USJFCOM Senior Leadership Development Program, Eastern Carolina University; Master of Science Degree in Joint Campaign Planning and Strategy from Joint Advanced Warfighting School (JAWS), Joint Forces Staff College, National Defense University; and Women in Leadership Program, Darden School of Business, University of Virginia Darden School Foundation. Her publications include Wounded Warrior Care and Integration Requires a Public-Private Partnership, Defense Technical Information Center. She is a Board-Certified Patient Advocate.



Col. Seth T. Cottrell, PhD U.S. Army Special Forces / Functional Area 52: Nuclear and Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Officer

COL Seth Cottrell was raised in Arkansas and commissioned into the Infantry through Army ROTC at the University of Central Arkansas in 2001.

His previous assignments include Airborne Infantry Platoon Leader, Heavy Weapons Platoon Leader, Infantry Company XO, Battalion Adjutant (S1), Special Forces Team Leader, Special Forces Company XO, USMA Assistant Professor, Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) Director's Senior Representative at Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC), Joint Staff Division Chief.

In 2016, He was assigned as the Defense Threat Reduction Agency Director's Senior Representative at Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC).

In 2025 COL Cottrell was assigned as the Chief, Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Division in the Joint Staff Directorate for Strategy, Plans, and Policy (J5-Strategic Stability). He continues to serve on the Joint Staff.

COL Cottrell's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal (2nd award), Army Commendation Medal (with V device), Presidential Unit Citation, Valorous Unit Award (3rd award), Special Forces Tab, Ranger Tab, Combat Infantryman's Badge, Expert Infantryman's Badge, Senior Parachutist Badge, and Military Freefall Parachutist Badge.

COL Cottrell holds a Bachelor of Science double major in Physics and Mathematics from the University of Central Arkansas, a Master of Science in Physics from Auburn University, a Master of Science in National Security Strategy from National War College, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Physics from Colorado School of Mines.

COL Cottrell is married to the former Liesel Whisenant of Pine Bluff, Arkansas. They have three sons: Caleb Thomas (18), Joshua Aaron (15), and Nathan Luke (7).

COL Christopher Wilson



COL Christopher Wilson, Ph.D. currently serves as the Command Psychologist for the United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida.

As special staff officer to the Commander and Staff, he provides subject matter expertise on all psychological matters related to current operations, assessment and selection, brain health, research, and behavioral health coordination.

A native of St. Louis, Missouri, he received his Army commission in 2006. He completed his Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology at Indiana State University and holds a master's degree in counseling and Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Missouri State University.



LTC Justin August, U.S. Army Special Forces



LTC Justin August currently serves as Executive Officer to the Commander Allied Special Operations Forces Command (SOFCOM) and Special Operations Command – Europe (SOCEUR) in Mons, Belgium. As Executive Officer to the Commander, he is responsible for leading, managing, and coordinating the activities of the Command Group at SOFCOM/SOCEUR, and assists in the management and coordination of combined Command Group product finalization, executes SOFCOM/SOCEUR specific actions, and provides oversight of all organization, planning, preparation, calendars, and execution of Command Group engagements. His next assignment will be as Deputy Director of Operations (DJ3) for Allied SOFCOM in Mons, Belgium. Justin grew up in Texas and later attended the United States Military Academy at West Point, earning a B.S. in Engineering Management. He commissioned as an Infantry Officer in 2009 and served with 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment in Hohenfels, Germany as a Platoon Leader, Company Executive Officer, and Assistant S3. Justin entered Special Operations through the Special Forces Qualification Course (2013–2015) before joining 10th SFG(A) at Fort Carson. He served as Battalion AS3, SFOD-A 0313 Detachment Commander, and later as Jedburgh Troop Commander, deploying six times to Africa and Ukraine. He then attended the German General Staff College (2019–2021), earning a Master of Arts in Leadership and International Security Politics. From 2021 to 2024, he held multiple leadership roles in 1st Battalion, 10th SFG(A) in Stuttgart, including Bravo Company Commander, Battalion S3, and Battalion XO. He next served as Operations Branch Chief for Sensitive Activities at SOCEUR (2024–2025) before assuming his current role as Executive Officer at SOFCOM/SOCEUR in Mons. Justin's education and schooling include a Bachelor of Science Degree in Engineering Management from the United States Military Academy at West Point; Airborne School, Ranger School, the Special Forces Qualification Course, and a Master of Arts in Leadership and International Security Politics from Helmut Schmidt University in Hamburg, Germany. Justin is fluent in German and French. Justin lives with his wife, children, and dog (Watson) in Mons, Belgium.



James A. Baum Sergeant Major (Ret.)



James Baum enlisted into the Marine Corps and reported to Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, South Carolina in 1998 for recruit training. Upon completion of the School of Infantry in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina and Basic Security Guard School in Chesapeake, Virginia, he earned the MOSs of 0311 and 8152. He was then assigned to Marine Corps Security Force Company Bangor, Washington. In 2000 he was promoted to the rank of Corporal.

In November 2000 he reported to the 1st Marine Division Joint Reception Center, where he served as a Troop Handler. In February 2002, he reported to 2d Battalion 4th Marines, where he served as a Squad Leader, Platoon Sergeant, and Platoon Commander. In June 2002 he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and deployed to Okinawa, Japan and attached to the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit. In August 2003, he deployed in support of the Coalition Military Assistance Training Team where he participated in Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. In June 2004, he deployed in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM.

Mr. Baum's personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal (with gold star in lieu of 3rd award), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (with gold star in lieu of 2nd award), Joint Service Achievement Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (gold star in lieu of 2nd award), Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, and the Combat Action Ribbon.

Mr. Baum has an associate's degree in early childhood education and a bachelor's degree in special education. He is currently working towards his master's in human services counseling with a focus on Incidence Response and Trauma.

Mr. Baum is married to his best friend, Kimberley Baum and together they have four children Katelyn, Roxy, Samuel, and Titan. Now retired, James works for SOCOM's Warrior Care Program as a Recovery Care Coordinator.



CSM Brandon Ames, USA



CSM Brandon Ames, USA, is Commandant of the Joint Special Operations University-Enlisted Academy. He directs the strategy and execution of SOF-peculiar enlisted joint professional military education across the Enlisted Academy.

He has previously served as a Battalion Command Sergeant Major, SOCAF J3 Senior Enlisted Leader, and Company Sergeant Major in 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne).

CSM Ames is a graduate of the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy (Class 68) and has earned a masters of global business management from University of Alabama (2023), a masters of leadership studies from the University of Texas – El Paso (2018), and a bachelors of business administration from Campbell University (2016).



DR. Kari A. Thyne



DR. Kari A. Thyne is an associate professor and Chief Learning Officer for the Joint Special Operations University-Enlisted Academy. She served in the U.S. Air Force for 20 years as an aircraft maintenance and munitions officer with Pentagon tours on the Air Staff, the Joint Staff, and in the immediate office of the 16th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. She worked in the RAND Corporation's Washington office supporting Project AIR FORCE's Strategy and Doctrine Program.

She holds a doctorate of liberal studies from Georgetown University, a master of arts in philosophy from The Ohio State University, a master of science in educational leadership from Troy State University, and a bachelor of science from the U.S. Air Force Academy.



MR. Wojciech (John) Labuz



MR. Wojciech (John) Labuz is Chief of Academics for the Joint Special Operations University-Enlisted Academy. He retired from active duty as a command sergeant major with 23 years of experience in psychological operations. He is a certified master instructor and recognized subject matter expert in individual and organizational leadership.

His scholarly work focuses on analyzing the impact of ethical, socio-cultural, geopolitical, economic, and religious variables on SOF operations and SOF operators. He is a nationally certified postsecondary instructor.

He earned a bachelor of arts in organizational leadership and a master of science in management with a concentration in ethics from Excelsior University in Albany, New York. He completed certificates in diversity, equity, and inclusion in the workplace; online education; executive coaching; and resiliency.



REV. DR. JE Caterson



REV. DR. JE Caterson is the executive subject matter expert for the USSOCOM Chaplain Directorate and the Program Director for the Special Operations Chaplains Advanced Courses Program at the Joint Special Operations University. He is a certified master instructor and teaches courses on SOF ethical leadership advisement, spiritual and moral resiliency, and Special Operations crisis, care, and counseling. He was the faculty advisor and co-author for JSOU Report 23-2 on moral injury.

He holds a doctor of ministry degree from Asbury Theological Seminary with concentrations in story integration, narrative theology, leadership and ethics, and psychology. He was a supervised post-graduate fellow at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, and earned a master of divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary with a concentration in medical ethics.



Mr. Jeff Resko Office of the Assistant Secretary of War for Special Operations & Low-Intensity Conflict (SO/LIC)

Mr. Jeff Resko serves within the Office of the Assistant Secretary of War for Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict (SO/LIC), where he works to align special-operations survivor-care initiatives with Department-level policy.

He brings the OSD perspective to the Summit — bridging SOCOM's Gold Star efforts with current Department priorities, including the Secretary of War's direction to modernize the survivor-care workforce, the work of the Gold Star Advisory Council and its task force, and the fielding of the DCIPS Future case-management system and Survivor Portal.

At the Summit, Mr. Resko delivers the strategic mission framing, serves as arbiter during the action-plan synthesis, and carries the working group's findings to the broader community on the Day 2 Warrior Care panel.



Ms. Krista Simpson Anderson
Co-Founder, The Unquiet Professional, Founder,
Brave Group, LLC

Krista Simpson Anderson is the Gold Star spouse of Green Beret SSG Michael H. Simpson, who died in 2013 of wounds sustained in Afghanistan, and the wife of retired MSG Gus Anderson. She co-founded The Unquiet Professional and founded Brave Group, LLC — organizations dedicated to supporting military families, survivors, and readiness through planning for the unexpected.

She has served on Army and Department of Defense working groups on casualty reform and military family quality of life and holds advisory roles with Newrez and The Grateful Nation Project. Her recognitions include the 2018 Armed Forces Insurance Military Spouse of the Year, the 2019 Green Beret Foundation Keeper of the Brave Award, and the Army Superior Public Service Medal.



Heather Honstein, MSN, PMHNP-BC



Heather Honstein, MSN, PMHNP-BC, is a psychiatric nurse practitioner, research therapist, and sub-investigator with the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center Advanced Therapeutics Program and the Henry M. Jackson Foundation, where she supports the Department of Defense's MDMA-Assisted Therapy Clinical Trial (MDMA-ACT) for service members with PTSD.

From 2020 to 2023, Heather worked as a research nurse at Sunstone Therapies, a psychedelic research organization, on the Expanded Access Program for MDMA-assisted therapy. In collaboration with DoD consultant Maj. Aaron Wolfgang and multidisciplinary treatment teams, she helped provide MDMA-assisted therapy to active-duty service members and veterans with severe PTSD. She later served as a research psychotherapist on clinical trials investigating psilocybin-assisted therapy for treatment-resistant depression and depression in individuals with cancer. Heather joined the Walter Reed MDMA-ACT team in 2026, bringing wide-ranging clinical and research experience in trauma-focused and psychedelic-assisted therapies.

Her work focuses on the implementation of novel treatments for PTSD within military populations and the integration of emerging therapies, including MDMA and ketamine, into operationally relevant models of care.



Katelyn Jones, MSN, APRN, PMHNP-BC



Katelyn Jones, MSN, APRN, PMHNP-BC is a psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner at The Henry Jackson Foundation in support of the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) Directorate of Behavioral Health, Advanced Therapeutics Program. She is a study therapist and sub-investigator on the MDMA-Assisted Therapy (MDMA-ACT) trial for service members with PTSD. She joined the MDMA-ACT research team earlier this year and brings a variety of mental health and research experience.

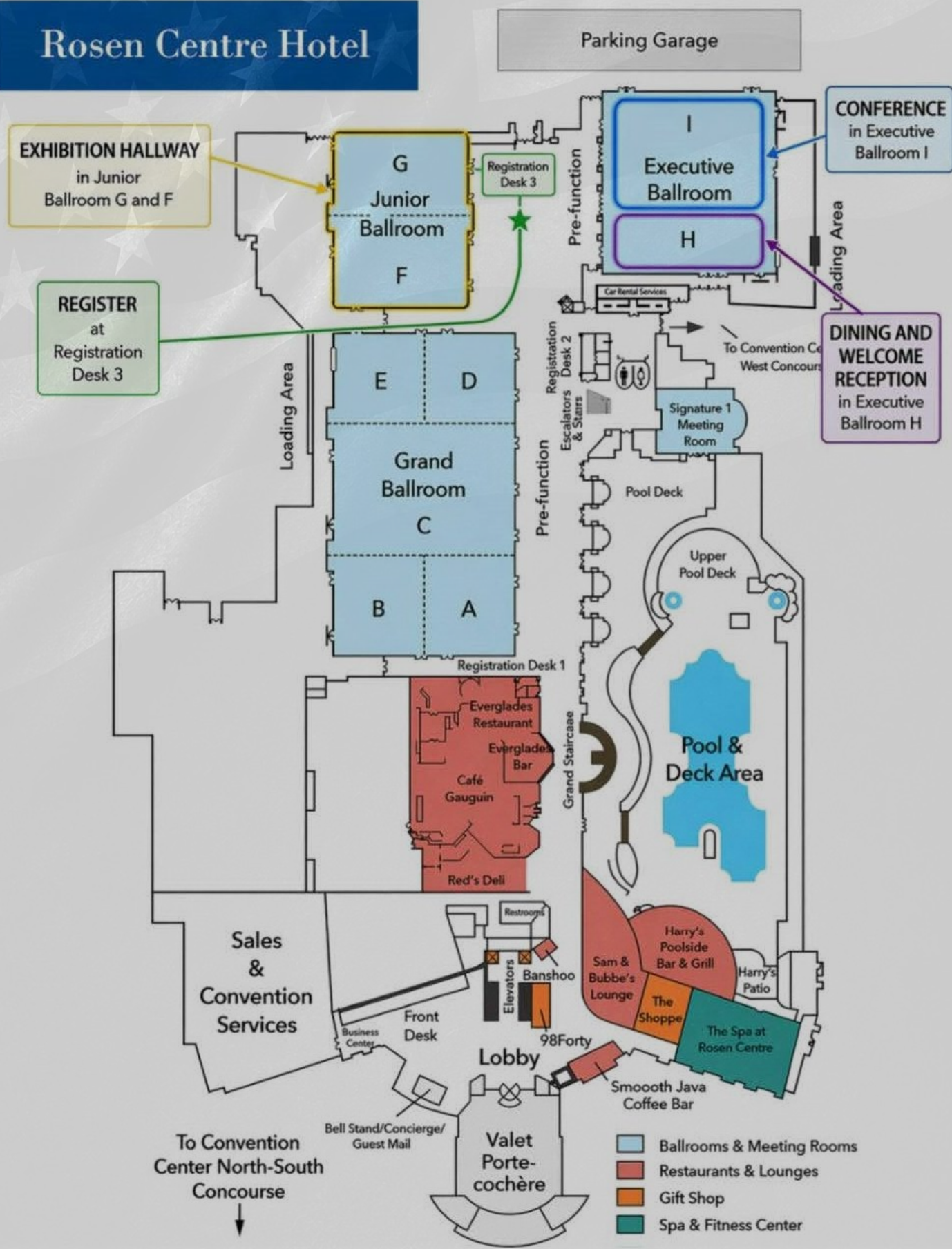
Her nursing background includes work in both inpatient and outpatient mental health settings. Most recently, she worked as a research nurse and psychometric rater at Sunstone Therapies conducting clinical trials for a variety of psychedelic compounds and treatment indications.

She practices with a trauma-informed and patient-centered approach. She is driven by wanting to bring new treatment options to service members who have struggled to find adequate treatments for PTSD.



Conference Map

Rosen Centre Hotel





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