



RUMSFELD FOUNDATION

LEADERSHIP - SERVICE - FREE SYSTEMS

2022 Annual Report

Message from our Leadership

We are pleased to provide this report on the Rumsfeld Foundation's activities and developments throughout 2022. On behalf of the Foundation's leadership and staff, please know that we are grateful for your ongoing interest in our efforts, particularly in our first year of operations since the passing of Secretary Rumsfeld. Our programs benefit greatly from your engagement and support, and it has been our team's privilege to continue advancing the initiatives that Secretary Rumsfeld so thoughtfully established now almost 15 years ago.

In the last year of chairing the Foundation's Board, I have been fortunate to have had many opportunities to spend time with the recipients of our Fellowships – both our Graduate Fellows and CAMCA Fellows. I am delighted to share that these interactions have been truly heartening and have given me a great deal of hope for the future of our country as well as the future of the CAMCA region. 2022 was a year marked by geopolitical turmoil and uncertainty. When you look at the serious challenges facing our global community today, it is easy to become discouraged. Yet, because of my time with our Fellows – witnessing their energy, their dedication to public service and their commitment to making a difference – I enter this new year with hope and optimism. This is the spark and vibrancy that Secretary Rumsfeld always noted he felt when he spent time with the Fellows and what continued to inspire his belief in the impact of the individual, and hence the impact of our work. He cared deeply about advancing free systems and knew that tapping into these young leaders, getting them engaged and motivated, was what could really keep those essential values at the forefront here at home and around the world.

In my time with these rising leaders, I have heard firsthand about all the knowledge and lessons that they are gaining from their time as Fellows and through our alumni programming, and then putting into practice in their own lives. There is no question that the contributions these individuals will be making throughout their careers will have significant impacts all across the globe.

Among Rumsfeld's Rules is the saying, "The world is run by those who show up." Here at the Foundation, we feel fortunate to play a small role in supporting the bright, young professionals who have dedicated themselves to showing up for their communities, their country and the world.

- Victoria Clarke, Board President

IMPACT SINCE 2007

\$17.8+

million
in Total Grants

191

Graduate
Fellows

253

CAMCA
Fellows

19

Alumni
Conferences



Graduate Fellows



CAMCA Fellows



GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

2022-23 ACADEMIC YEAR

14 Fellows

\$241,280 Awarded in Fellowships

22 Program Advisers

IMPACT SINCE 2009

191 Fellows

10 Alumni Conferences

50+ Network Events

2022-23 FELLOWSHIP CLASS



Our program Advisers teaching at universities across the country nominated our [2022-23 Graduate Fellows](#) for their demonstrated **leadership potential as well as their commitment to public service, outstanding intellectual ability, moral character, and academic and civic achievements.**

14 scholars comprised the 2022-23 Fellowship cohort, with areas of focus including **security studies, political science, public policy, defense and strategic studies, international relations** and more.

ALUMNI NETWORK

Following their graduation, Fellowship recipients are now posted in important public service roles benefitting our nation like:

Foreign Service Officers stationed around the globe; a U.S. Supreme Court and Court of Appeals clerk; a Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary and Director at the Department of Defense; advisors to the U.S. Senate and Joint Staff; Professors at military colleges; and more including...



- **Jennifer Bradley**, Senior Deterrence Analyst, U.S. Strategic Command – We supported Jennifer in 2021-22 in pursuing her Doctor of Defense and Strategic Studies from Missouri State University.
- **John Drennan**, Senior Program Officer, U.S. Institute of Peace – We supported John in 2016-17 in pursuing his Master's in International Affairs from Johns Hopkins University – School of Advanced International Studies.
- **Jonathan Roberts**, Congressional Fellow, U.S.-China Commission – We supported Jonathan in 2020-21 in pursuing his Master's in International Affairs from The University of Texas at Austin.

Alumni have been published in notable outlets like: *The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, Providence Magazine, ForeignPolicy.com, Townhall, War on the Rocks, Washington Examiner, National Defense Magazine, DefenseOne.com, The Atlantic, The American Interest, American Purpose, The National Review, The Bulwark, The Hill, Strategy & Tactics* and more...

The Graduate Fellowship Alumni Leadership Council was established in early 2022.

The Council is a leadership body comprised of engaged leaders who have been selected to assist with shaping the future development of the Graduate Fellowship Network. The Council works with Foundation staff and network members to:

- Develop initiatives and programming relevant to the evolving needs of both current Fellows and alumni
- Identify opportunities for innovation, improvement and collaboration within the network

The Council consists of a talented group of professionals across sectors currently serving in the below roles. We are grateful for their dedicated efforts and contributions throughout 2022!

Executive Director, Alexander Hamilton Society; Vice President, Exiger; Senior Financial Analyst, State of Utah Legislature; Director, Homeland Defense and Resiliency, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Policy; Assistant Professor, Arizona State University; and Research Fellow, National Defense University's Institute for National Strategic Studies

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 2022 Conference marked a notable milestone as the 10th anniversary of this flagship gathering held annually in Washington, D.C. Over the past decade, this convening has served as an opportunity for network members to come together from across the country to build fruitful relationships, discuss important issues of the day, seek mentorship and guidance, and to feel connected to the call to service.

The conference has grown over the past decade to include:

100+ Conference Speakers **600+** Conference Attendees **60+** Conference Sessions



10th ANNUAL CONFERENCE - Sept. 22nd-23rd, 2022

Conference Speakers: Major General Spider Marks (USA ret.) (pictured right), top experts and seasoned professionals from the think tank and intelligence communities, as well as many Fellowship Alumni and professors from our Adviser Network

Session Topics: Effectively Engaging Fragile States; Navigating a Career in Congress; How to Get Published; America's Long-term Strategic Posture; Career and Leadership Insights; Disinformation Wars; U.S. Intelligence Considering the Current National Security Landscape; The Future of American Defense; and The Future of China



Among the 2022 Conference activities was the start of an exciting new tradition, the presentation of our inaugural Alumni of the Year Award, which will be presented at each annual conference moving forward.



We were delighted to present the 2022 Alumni of the Year Award to Stephanie Koeshall! *Stephanie is Director of Homeland Defense and Resiliency in the Office of the Secretary of Defense for Policy. She also serves on the Graduate Fellowship's Alumni Leadership Council. Stephanie was a member of the Foundation's first Fellowship cohort during the 2009-2010 academic year, during which she pursued a Master's degree in Defense and Strategic Studies at Missouri State University. Stephanie was nominated as the 2022 Alumni of the Year for her leadership, public service and outstanding contributions to Operation Allies Welcome (OAW), assisting Afghan refugees entering the United States. (Read more about Stephanie's tremendous accomplishments in this [featured blog post](#).)*

The Foundation is pleased to have an opportunity to annually recognize awardees who:

- Demonstrate an ethos of service and exemplify the quality of individuals the program aims to support.
- Have translated the knowledge gained from their graduate education into professional contributions for the benefit of the American people.
- Have continued to steadfastly demonstrate the qualities for which they were nominated for their original Fellowship: outstanding intellectual ability, integrity, moral character and leadership potential.

2022 NETWORK EVENTS

The **2022 Spring Retreat** was held in **Annapolis, Maryland**. Throughout Saturday, May 21st participants heard from several accomplished public servants and networked with other Fellows, alumni and program Advisers – as well as enjoyed the historic setting of downtown Annapolis and a tour of the U.S. Naval Academy.



Sessions & Topics: Interest-specific networking; career guidance; U.S. foreign policy and national security strategy; and ethical leadership

In addition to our conference and retreat, we hosted **4** additional events throughout 2022 on topics ranging from publishing advice to future foreign policy challenges, featuring experienced public servants like **Secretary Condoleezza Rice** and **Dr. Kori Schake**, as well as our own talented Fellows and Advisers.

NETWORK ACTIVITY

Current Fellows, alumni and Advisers collaborate year-round in numerous ways like co-authoring articles, featuring one another in events as speakers, and sharing jobs, professional opportunities and other resources, in addition to keeping their colleagues up to date on career advancements through our monthly updates and bi-annual newsletter.

Among the year's network activity was the launch of a new program initiative, called Network Connect. Network Connect facilitates targeted Fellow-to-Fellow professional mentorship relationships among our alumni. We were delighted to make **20+** successful matches in the inaugural year and were encouraged by the positive feedback received from participants (like the below.) We are grateful to our network members who have volunteered their expertise and leadership in this mentorship capacity to support others.

"The opportunity to be a part of the Rumsfeld Network was instrumental through the support and assistance it provided and through the mentorship of two older network members. In our discussions, they provided honest feedback and insight, helpful advice in moving forward, and connected me with a number of their contacts within their network." – 2020-21 Fellow



2022 FELLOWSHIP STATS

2 Fellowship Sessions
22 New Fellows
3 Cities Visited
110+ Meetings

IMPACT SINCE 2008

253 Fellows
25 Fellowship Sessions
9 Alumni Conferences
15 Years of Partnership with CACI

We were delighted to be able to resume our in-person Fellowship sessions in D.C. this year, welcoming two impressive cohorts of 2022 Spring and Fall CAMCA Fellows. With the addition of these new Fellows, we have now hosted **25** Fellowship sessions and supported over **250** Fellows in partnership with the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute – a program milestone!

2022 FELLOW PROFILES

Fellows represent some of the best and brightest of a new generation across the **CAMCA (Central Asia-Mongolia-Caucasus-Afghanistan) region**. They are current and future leaders within their communities and industries and represent the nations of Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. **2022 Fellows held positions such as:**

Member of the Parliament of Georgia; Board Chairman of the Development Bank of the Kyrgyz Republic; Founder & CEO of Trigma.AI, a tech start-up innovating an AI-driven commercial optimization platform; Editor of the Central Asian Bureau for Analytical Reporting; Economic Adviser to the Prime Minister of Mongolia; Chairwoman of the Georgian Farmers' Association; Founder and CEO of "The Steppe" media company; Director of the National Erasmus+ Office in Azerbaijan; Member of the Afghan Adjustment Act Coalition; and Head of the Secretariat of the Investors Council of Georgia



"Of all of the programs that I have had the opportunity to participate in across the world, the CAMCA Fellowship definitely stands out as the most life-changing." – Spring 2022 Fellow

FELLOWSHIP MEETINGS

2022 Fellows met with top leaders and experts including: **Joshua Bolten**, CEO of Business Roundtable; **Amb. John Bolton**, former U.S. National Security Advisor; **Doug Conant**, former CEO of Campbell Soup Company; **Lisa Curtis**, former Deputy Assistant to the President and NSC Senior Director for South and Central Asia; **Francis Finelli**, Managing Director at the Carlyle Group; **Sec. Carlos Gutierrez**, former U.S. Secretary of Commerce; **Gen. Richard Myers**, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs; **Damon Wilson**, President and CEO, National Endowment for Democracy; **William Winkenwerder Jr.**, former CEO of Highmark and Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs; and many more.

The groups also traveled to **Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**; **Chicago, Illinois**; and **Detroit, Michigan** to experience local governance and American democracy outside of the nation's capital.

Thank you to all of our friends and partners who took the time to meet with the 2022 Fellows!



CAMCA NETWORK

The CAMCA Fellowship's alumni group, the [CAMCA Network](#), works closely together year-round to coordinate network events and activities as well as to share ideas and opportunities - all with the mission of furthering regional cooperation across their countries.

Our alumni serve in notable positions across sectors from academia, government and think tanks to non-profits and business in leadership roles as CEOs, Founders, Executive Directors, Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Ambassadors, Chairpersons, Parliament members and beyond...



The network also has a leadership body that was established in 2019, the [CAMCA Network Board](#), comprised of representatives from each of the 10 countries, that works to spearhead initiatives on behalf of the entire network.

2022 NETWORK ACTIVITY

In addition to alumni working together on joint projects and business ventures, interviewing one another for podcasts, collaborating on cross-border initiatives and beyond, a sample of network activity in 2022 included:

- A new Chair of the CAMCA Network Board was elected.
- The Board met **14** times to discuss initiatives and to help plan the 2022 CAMCA Regional Forum.
- In advance of the CAMCA Forum's official events in D.C., the Board organized and led an afternoon of productive networking activities for all alumni attending the Forum. (Pictured at right)
- The Board issued a network-wide survey to collect feedback in order to develop an updated strategy for the network's growth and activities in 2023.
- The network's **6** sector-based Working Groups met many times to work on specific initiatives.



2022 CAMCA REGIONAL FORUM



As a part of our efforts to promote regional cooperation across the CAMCA region and to support our Fellowship's alumni network, the Foundation annually hosts the CAMCA Regional Forum in partnership with the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute and the CAMCA Network.

Over June 15th-16th we held the **2022 CAMCA Regional Forum** convening over **200 attendees** from **17 countries** including **60+ speakers** to discuss key regional issues and developments surrounding this year's Forum theme, **"New Geopolitics and Geoeconomics in CAMCA."** While typically held in the CAMCA region, due to the ongoing complications with the pandemic, the 2022 Forum was held in Washington, D.C.

Keynote Speakers: Ambassador John Bolton, Former National Security Adviser to the U.S. President; Secretary Carlos Gutierrez, Former U.S. Secretary of Commerce; and Dr. S. Frederick Starr, Chairman of the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute

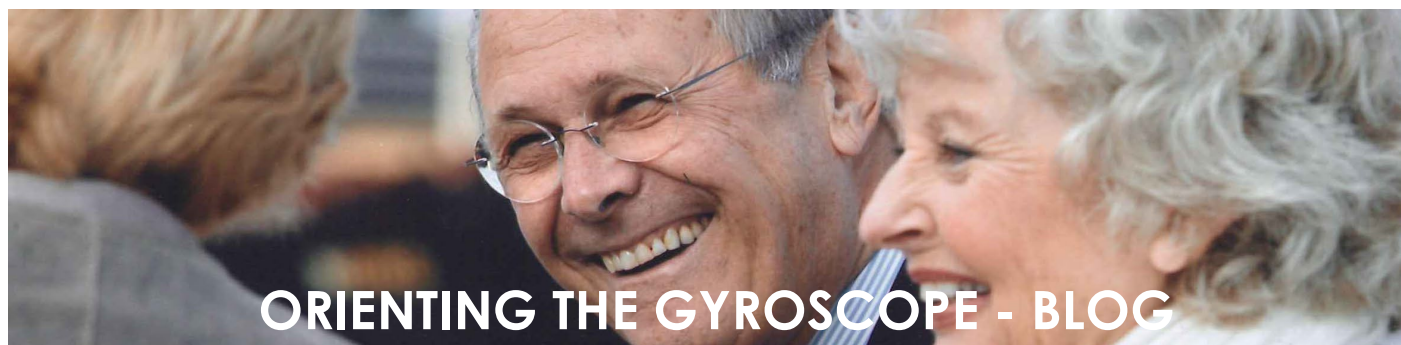
Session Topics: CAMCA Geopolitics After Ukraine; How to Deal with Echo-Sanctions; Trade and Transport; What's Next in Afghanistan?; Boosting CAMCA's Private Sector through Investments; Building Modern Skills; Securing CAMCA's Digital Future in an Era of U.S.-China Geo-tech Rivalry; Women Taking Power in CAMCA; Geopolitics of Cryptocurrency; Food Security and Building Agritech; Entrepreneurs of CAMCA; and Accelerating Regional Cooperation in Policy Analysis

Find session recordings at the Forum's [YouTube page](#).

Join us in Almaty, Kazakhstan this June 15th-16th for the 2023 CAMCA Regional Forum! Learn more at camcaforum.org.



camca
Regional Forum



The Foundation's blog, "Orienting the Gyroscope," is inspired by the meaning behind our logo – the gyroscope – chosen by our founders to reflect the power and responsibility of individuals and the "inner gyroscopes" that guide them along their paths. Since its launch, our blog has featured more than **40** posts, providing a platform to showcase some of the more unique elements of our programs and to highlight the voices of individuals that help shape the Foundation's efforts, including program participants, event speakers, our partners and more. Visit www.rumsfeldfoundation.org/blog for access to some of 2022's posts like:



- [Milestones in the Making: Our 25th CAMCA Fellowship Session](#)
- [Public Service in Action: Graduate Fellowship Alumni of the Year](#)
- [An Interview with our Executive Director: Reflecting on Rumsfeld's Vision and What's Next](#)
- [A Friend of Georgia: Rumsfeld's Lasting Legacy](#)
- [Founder Reflections: Finding Inspiration Across CAMCA](#)



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CONTRIBUTIONS

For those interested in helping us carry forward the Rumsfeld Foundation's mission to encourage leadership, public service and free political and economic systems at home and abroad, tax-deductible contributions can be made on our website at www.rumsfeldfoundation.org/contribute/overview or by check mailed to: 1100 17th Street NW, Suite 402, Washington, D.C. 20036.

THANK YOU

More than 140 donors have been a part of advancing our work since 2007. Your generous contributions have helped make possible valuable opportunities for rising leaders and promoted public service and free systems at home and abroad.

RUMSFELD'S PROJECTS SUPPORTING OUR WORK

Profits from Don Rumsfeld's projects - his memoir, [*Known and Unknown*](#), the [*Churchill Solitaire*](#) app and his last book, [*When the Center Held*](#) - continue to benefit the programs of the Rumsfeld Foundation. The Foundation has been fortunate to receive over **\$1.1 million** from these projects to date.

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