



It's Not Just Rocket Science: Careers in Space Policy

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Alexia D'Arco currently serves as President of Young Professionals in Foreign Policy, a nonpartisan global community of 20,000 dynamic, diverse leaders from all sectors who work together to solve critical global challenges. From 2013-2015, Ms. D'Arco worked as a Program Development Consultant for the TOMODACHI Initiative, a public-private partnership created by U.S. Embassy Tokyo and the U.S.-Japan Council that develops bilateral youth programs between the United States and Japan. From 2011-2013, she served on State Department political-military affairs teams at Embassy Tokyo and the office of the Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, where her portfolios included security assistance, defense cooperation, and counterterrorism.

While pursuing her MA, Ms. D'Arco worked at The Scowcroft Group, the National War College, and as a teaching assistant for former Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel. She previously served as Executive Assistant to Fred Kempe, President and CEO of the Atlantic Council and as a Program Assistant at the Berlin-based think tank Atlantik-Brücke. Ms. D'Arco is a former Fulbright Scholar, Presidential Management Fellow, and U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation "Hiring our Heroes" Fellow. She has previously served as an Adjunct Lecturer at Temple University (Japan) and Rhodes College. Ms. D'Arco is currently a Security Fellow at the Truman National Security Project and an Adjunct at the University of Memphis. She holds an MA in Security Studies from Georgetown University and is a graduate of Dartmouth College.

Sandra Erwin leads national security coverage for *SpaceNews*. Ms. Erwin has covered the military, the Pentagon, Congress and the defense industry for nearly two decades as editor of NDIA's National Defense Magazine and Pentagon correspondent for Real Clear Defense.

In addition to writing for *SpaceNews* about military space programs, policy, technology and the industry that supports the milspace sector, Ms. Erwin writes the column "On National Security" for *SpaceNews Magazine* and edits *SN Military.Space*, a news-and-insights newsletter.

Sara M. Langston, Esq., JD, LL.M., PhD, is an aerospace lawyer, ethicist, educator and Army veteran with a technical military aviation background. As a legal consultant she provides strategic advice to government agencies and private industry in the United States and Europe on new and forward-looking science/technologies, applications for space exploration and commercial human spaceflight. Dr. Langston holds a Ph.D. in the History and Philosophy of Science; J.D. with specialization in Public

International Law; LL.M. (Adv.) in Air and Space Law; B.S. in Politics and History; and a Space Studies Certificate in Physical Sciences from the International Space University. She is a member of the International Institute of Space Law, Royal Aeronautical Society, and is an active member of the New York and District of Columbia Bars.

Sarah Mineiro is Staff Lead for Strategic Forces on the House Armed Services Committee. Prior to that, she was Director for Brazil and Paraguay, Office of the Secretary of Defense, and worked on Missile Defense Policy, also for the Office of the Secretary of Defense. Ms. Mineiro was the Director of Republic of Korea Team, Department of Defense and worked on International Space Policy for the Department of Defense. She worked on International Space Policy for the Undersecretary of Air Force for International Affairs and served as an Intelligence Analyst for the U.S. Air Force. She has an MPIA in Security and Intelligence and a BA in Political Science, both from the University of Pittsburgh.

Victoria Samson is the Washington Office Director for the Secure World Foundation and has twenty years of experience in military space and security issues. Before joining SWF, Ms. Samson served as a Senior Analyst for the Center for Defense Information (CDI), where she leveraged her expertise in missile defense, nuclear reductions, and space security issues to conduct in-depth analysis and media commentary. Prior to her time at CDI, Ms. Samson was the Senior Policy Associate at the Coalition to Reduce Nuclear Dangers, a consortium of arms control groups in the Washington, D.C. area, where she worked with Congressional staffers, members of the media, embassy officials, citizens, and think-tanks on issues surrounding dealing with national missile defense and nuclear weapons reductions. Before that, she was a researcher at Riverside Research Institute, where she worked on war-gaming scenarios for the Missile Defense Agency's Directorate of Intelligence.

Ms. Samson holds a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree in political science with a specialization in international relations from UCLA and a Master of Arts (M.A.) in international relations from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies.

Audrey M. Schaffer is currently the Director for Space Strategy and Plans in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy in the U.S. Department of Defense. In that role, she manages a team of military officers and civil servants responsible for policy and strategy initiatives to enhance space security. Her team develops DoD policy guidance; represents the DoD in U.S. Government interagency policy deliberations; negotiates multilateral diplomatic space security agreements; manages bilateral relationships with strategic international partners; and oversees strategic communications initiatives.

Ms. Schaffer has been with the Office of the Secretary of Defense since 2010. She has served in a variety of capacities within the Space Policy office, including as the Deputy Director of Space Policy Engagement, where she was involved in a variety of international military and government space cooperation initiatives. Ms. Schaffer was also detailed to the Bureau of Arms Control, Verification and Compliance within the Department of State, where she established and led the Bureau's first cyber strategic stability policy team and cross-Bureau cyber working group. Prior, Ms. Schaffer was an Air Force Presidential Management Fellow (PMF), working in Washington, D.C. and Los Angeles, California. As a PMF, she rotated through assignments related to space policy, strategy, acquisition, and engagement, including the Policy and Plans Division of the Air Force Directorate of Space Acquisition, the Commander's Action Group of Air Force Space Command's Space and Missile Systems Center, and the Commercial Policy and Strategy Branch of the National Security Space Office. Ms. Schaffer holds a B.S. in Aerospace Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a M.A. in International Science and Technology Policy from the George Washington University.

Krystal Wilson is a **Director of Space Applications Programs** at the Secure World Foundation and has over 10 years of international and domestic space, public policy, and management experience. Prior to joining SWF, Ms. Wilson was a consultant at Access Partnership, where she worked with international satellite service providers and other leading technology companies on policy issues related to spectrum management, emergency communications, telecommunications standards, orbital debris, and multilateral processes including representing industry at the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission. She has also served as a project manager at the Tauri Group, a leading aerospace analytics firm, providing research, analysis, strategic planning, and regulatory assessment to government and commercial clients. She led and supported production of NASA's strategic plans, audits, performance plans, budgets, and annual reports. Her work exposed to the full range of NASA's Earth observation, human exploration, and aviation programs. In that role, she was also recognized as a key member of a data management team that received the NASA Group Achievement Award.

Previously, Ms. Wilson was in the field of international development as a Monitoring and Evaluation Manager at Development Alternatives, Inc in Afghanistan working on US military and local government initiatives and as Senior Program Assistant at the National Democratic Institute in Africa and Washington, DC working on sustainable governance projects. In those roles, she worked closely with the United Nations, the World Bank, the Department of State, the Department of Defense, US and international nonprofits, and others. Ms. Wilson holds a BSFS in International Politics from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service in Washington, DC and completed the Programme Internationale at Sciences-Po in Paris, France.