

# Colonel Sam Cook, USMC

Assistant Professor  
National War College

**National War College**  
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## Summary

A military professional of over thirty years' practical experience in combat and policy development and implementation with an extensive record of service as a leader, mentor, teacher, and scholar. Over two decades of service at high-level command and staff positions similar to those in which SAIS military graduates will serve after graduation. Broad knowledge in education and training US military, interagency, as well as US allies and partners. Contributes to all aspects of national security strategy curriculum development and delivery to senior joint, interagency, and international students at National War College. Creates a positive learning environment that engages all students and is open to diverse views and opinions. Dedicated to service that makes a positive and enduring impact on the development of future leaders in the realm of national security.

## Education

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|--|---------------|
| <b>M.A., University of Birmingham, UK, Military History</b>      | December 2022 |
| – Stanford History Prize for Outstanding Performance at MA Level |               |
| <b>M.A., US Army War College, Strategic Studies</b>              | June 2011     |
| <b>B.S., United States Naval Academy, Mechanical Engineering</b> | May 1992      |

## Professional Experience

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|---|-----------------------|
| <b>Assistant Professor, National War College, Washington DC</b>   | <b>2021 – Present</b> |
| – Assistant Professor of National Security Strategy   |                       |
| – Deputy Course Director for core curriculum course 'Global Strategic Context'  |                       |
| – Taught all core courses for college's accredited M.A. National Security Strategy  |                       |
| – Developed and taught two elective courses supporting college's War Studies Concentration ( <i>Eisenhower as a Strategic Leader, Essential Theories and Strategies of War</i> ). |                       |
| – Facilitated and led military staff rides to American Revolutionary and Civil War battlefields to augment classroom seminars.  |                       |

- Provided lectures on national strategy development and execution for multiple electives and War Studies events on relevant historical case studies.

**Deputy Commander, US Marine Forces Korea, Republic of Korea** **2020 – 2021**

- Second in command of Marine Component Headquarters led by a Marine Major General (2-star) that supported United States joint and US – Korean combined commands' mission to defend the Republic of Korea.

**Branch Head, Enlisted Assignments, Headquarters Marine Corps** **2018 – 2020**

- Led diverse staff of subject matter experts from every Marine occupational field in the retention and assignment of all 165,000 active-duty enlisted Marines.

**Division Headquarters Battalion Commander, 2d Marine Division** **2017 – 2018**

- Commanded over 1,000 Marines comprising three functional units and Division staff postured to optimally support Division-level warfighting.
- Developed and led professional military education case study program for officers and noncommissioned officers studying the Southern Campaign of the Revolutionary War. The course incorporated lectures, seminar discussions, student presentations, and staff rides to three Revolutionary War battlefields.
- Established new infantry training support company to provide division infantry units a thinking opposing force to improve combat training in Division.

**Commanding Officer, Task Force Al Taqaddum, Iraq** **2015 – 2016**

- Commanded joint task force in isolated environment supporting an Iraqi Army Corps in combat operations against ISIS in Al Anbar Province, Iraq, resulting in return of entire province to Iraqi government control.
- Led an Advise-Assist Team that mentored a corps commander and two division commanders and their staffs in execution of combat operations against ISIS.
- Led joint task force that provided intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance as well as lethal aviation and ground delivered (artillery) fires in direct support of Iraqi ground combat operations.
- Served as expeditionary base commander that supported US and allied conventional and special force units.
- Enhanced professional growth and development of unit through monthly professional military educational programs centered on analysis of military history.

**Division Operations Officer, 2d Marine Division** **2014 – 2015**

- Led planning, coordination, and execution for the division's participation with the US Army 82 Airborne Division in the Joint Operational Access Exercise (JOAX), a complex forcible entry exercise that blended USS Kearsarge based amphibious forces, airborne units, and other live and simulated forces at both Ft Bragg and Camp Lejeune.
- Provided guidance and coordinated the planning for support of the Special Marine Air Ground Task Force for Contingency Response to US Africa Command.

**Training and Exercise Branch Chief, US Africa Command, Germany** **2011 – 2014**

- Led eleven planners that coordinated and synchronized the Combatant Command's Joint Exercise Program, which produced eleven African continent exercises that incorporated 47 African nations, 19 non-African partner nations, three Regional Economic Communities, the African Union (AU), and the United Nations (UN).
- Developed exercises that were nested within the command's operations, security cooperation, and other engagement activities to advance American political aims, force readiness, access, and crisis response options while increasing African partner capability, capacity, and willingness to provide stability and security across the continent.
- Led and supervised collaboration and teaming with agencies and organizations such as the UN, African Union, USAID, Department of Justice, Non-Government Organizations, and Africa Center for Strategic Studies.

**Inspector-Instructor, 4<sup>th</sup> Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company (ANGLICO)** **2008 - 2010**

- Led cadre of active duty subject matter experts in the support, training, and evaluation of a Marine Corps reserve unit in West Palm Beach, FL.
- Supervised, coordinated, field training in the unit's primary mission to provide aviation and indirect fire support to joint, allied and coalition forces.
- Supervised the training, support, and deployment of two consecutive ANGLICO combat detachments in support of Marine units in Iraq.

**Assistant Operations Officer, Multi-National Forces-West, Iraq** **2007 - 2008**

- Managed training, implementation, and facilitation of three Embedded Provincial Reconstruction Teams (EPRT) for Fallujah, Ramadi, and Western Euphrates River municipalities.
- EPRT were Departments of State and Defense teams, embedded in two US Marine Regiments and an Army Brigade, who partnered with Iraqi Provincial and Municipal governments to restore rule of law, economy, agriculture, and infrastructure in Anbar Province.
- Supported Provincial Development Strategy between US forces, EPRTs and Iraqi Provincial Government to increase governance capacity.
- Supported and conducted missions to transport Iraqi security forces payroll from Baghdad to provincial municipalities.

**Education and Training Experience**

**National War College, Washington DC** **2021 – Present**

- See professional experience.

**Tactical Training Exercise Control Group, Twenty-nine Palms, CA** **1999 – 2001**

- Assistant Artillery Representative for eighteen live-fire Combined Arms Exercises

- Taught company, battalion, and regimental staffs the safe and effective tactics, techniques, and procedures to integrate all Marine weapon systems (direct, indirect, aviation) with maneuver forces in classroom and field environment.
- In all field exercises served as artillery, mortar, and aviation fire support coordinator to provide safety oversight to exercise units.
- Provided detailed after-action evaluation and recommendations to exercise units.

**Field Artillery Officers Basics Course, Ft Sill Ok**

**1996- 1998**

- Gunnery Instructor for all newly commissioned Army and Marine Artillery officers.
- Taught the science and mathematics for accurate artillery ballistic computations.
- Taught students in classroom and field environment the tactics, techniques, and procedures to effectively employ artillery units.

**US Marine Enlisted Cannon-Crewman Course, Ft Sill, OK**

**1996 - 1998**

- Led Military Occupational Specialty School of eighteen senior non-commissioned officer instructors that taught students in classroom and field environment the tactics, techniques, and procedures to effectively employ cannon sections.
- Commanded on average over 245 enlisted artillery Marines daily undergoing training.

**Additional Education**

- Seniors Planners Course, US Marine Corps 2014
- **Naval War College, Republic of Korea 2005**
- **Korean Basic, Defense Language Institute 2004**
- Command & Staff, US Marine Corps (non-resident) 2002
- Amphibious Warfare School, US Marine Corps 1999

**Awards**

Legion of Merit (x3)	Bronze Star (x2)	Defense Meritorious Service Medal (X2)
Meritorious Service Medal (X2)	Navy- Marine Corps Commendation Medal	Army Commendation Medal
Navy Achievement Medal	Army Achievement Medal	Combat Action Ribbon