

STEVEN LEONARD

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SUMMARY

Dedicated strategist, educator, and writer with nearly 40 years of leadership experience in national security, military operations, and higher education. A proven executive and mentor passionate about developing leaders, advancing strategic thought, and shaping the future of conflict and leadership. Recognized for blending deep military expertise with public intellectualism, strategic communication, and education innovation.

DEDICATION

- Assistant Area Director & Professor of the Practice, University of Kansas School of Business (2015–Present)
 - Led program management, curricular planning, and assurance of learning efforts.
 - Advanced leadership development and mentorship within academic and military communities.
- Director, Commander's Planning Group, U.S. Army Combined Arms Center (2014–2015)
 - Explored emerging threats and optimized education and training.
- Senior Advisor, U.S. Embassy-Baghdad (2012–2013)
 - Directed a 120-person team supporting Iraq's national security education and development.
- Weekly columnist: *Point of Departure*, focusing on national security, leadership, and strategy.

DRIVE

- Author, co-author, or editor of over several books, including *Professionals Talk Logistics*, *To Boldly Go*, *Power Up*, *Strategy Strikes Back*, and *Winning Westeros*.
- Frequent speaker and panelist on leadership, strategy, mentorship, and the intersection of culture and conflict.
- Creator of *Doctrine Man!!*, a leading online military and leadership commentary platform.
- Frequent podcast guest and contributor to national security discourse.

DEPTH

- Extensive teaching, writing, and public speaking experience across academic, military, and public sectors.
- Led Army-wide initiatives in cyber operations education and multi-agency cooperation doctrine.
- Former Director of Strategic Communication and Strategic Planning, U.S. Army Combined Arms Center.
- Recognized expertise in national security, strategy, and leadership.

DIFFERENCE

- Unique ability to bridge military doctrine, pop culture, and leadership in accessible, impactful ways.

- Recognized leader in combining science fiction and popular narratives with strategic thought.
- Multiple editorial board memberships and senior fellow positions advancing public and military discourse.
- Media commentator featured in *BBC*, *NPR*, *Foreign Policy*, *The New York Times*, and *The Washington Post*.
- Awards include the Bubb-Hibbs Award for Teaching Excellence (2021, 2025), Fitch Award for Faculty Service (2019), MBA Outstanding Faculty Award (2024), and numerous military and leadership honors.

PROFESSIONAL

The University of Kansas School of Business, Lawrence, KS

Assistant Area Director / Professor of the Practice

Senior Assistant Dean

Director of Assessments

Graduate Programs Director

2015-Present

Serves as the assistant area director for the Management and Entrepreneurship area; responsible for course and faculty scheduling, academic program management, and curricular planning. Leads the Business School's program for Assurance of Learning. Chairs Program Assessment Committee for the School of Business and serves on the University's Faculty Advisory Committee for assessments. Serves as the area representative on the school's Figure Sense Committee.

U.S. Army Combined Arms Center, Fort Leavenworth, KS

Director, Commander's Planning Group

Special Assistant to Commanding General

2014-2015

Led research and analysis group for the U.S. Army's education and training hub, exploring changes in warfare and implications for national security. Personal research on new security threats, improving human performance, and optimizing education and training programs to gain increased cognition and resilience.

Chief of Operations / Assistant Chief of Staff

2013-2014

Directed operations, integration, and synchronization center for 40,000-person organization operating from 17 locations nationwide, orchestrating all aspects of training, education, and leader development for the U.S. Army. Led Army-wide effort to create institutional/educational foundation for Cyber Operations.

Department of State, U.S. Embassy-Baghdad, Baghdad, Iraq

Senior Advisor / Chief of Educational Programs

2012-2013

Led 120-person advisory team and served as the senior advisor to the Deputy National Security Advisor for the Government of Iraq; President, National Defense University; President, Army War College; and President, Ministerial Training Institute.

U.S. Army Combined Arms Center, Fort Leavenworth, KS

Director of Strategic Communication

2011-2012

Served as communication director for executive-level headquarters, charged with planning and implementing

comprehensive strategy for communication, marketing, and engagement, combining traditional public affairs, outreach, online and social media, and community relations.

Director of Strategic Planning

2008-2011

Served as executive-level advisor for strategic engagements with government, business, and academia. Developed and implemented strategies for education, training, and leader development. Provided professional writing support for executive-level leaders.

Chief, Operational Doctrine

2004-2008

Led Army effort to redefine and write new central organizing concepts and doctrine in response to new national security threats. Led diverse interagency team to write first doctrine for US Government cooperative operations with other nations and organizations.

ACADEMIC

School of Advanced Military Studies, M.A.

2001

Focus: Strategic Planning, Military History and Theory

Murray State University, M.S.

1991

Focus: Systems Management

University of Idaho, B.S.

1987

Focus: Civil/Mechanical Engineering

ACTIVITIES, MEMBERSHIPS, AND HONORS

Association of the United States Army, Lifetime Member

Disabled American Veterans, Lifetime Member

Military Officer Association of America, Lifetime Member

Military Strategists Association, Lifetime Member

Ordnance Corps Association, Lifetime Member

United States Space Force Association, Lifetime Member

Veterans of Foreign Wars, Lifetime Member

101st Airborne Division Association, Lifetime Member

Editorial Review Board, *Interagency Journal*, Arthur D. Simons Center for Interagency Cooperation, 2018-present

Editorial Advisory Panel, *Military Strategy Magazine*, 2023-present

Editorial Board, *Divergent Options*, 2017-present

Senior Fellow, the Modern War Institute at West Point, 2019-2023

Non-Resident Fellow, the Modern War Institute at West Point 2017-2019

Board of Directors, Military Writers Guild, 2017-2021

Bubb-Hibbs Award for Teaching Excellence, University of Kansas School of Business, 2025

MBA Outstanding Faculty Award, University of Kansas School of Business, 2024

Henry A. Bubb Award for Teaching Excellence, University of Kansas School of Business, 2021
Gordon Fitch Award for Distinguished Faculty Service, University of Kansas School of Business, 2019
The Order of the Archangel Gabriel, Distinguished Military Strategist (United States Military Strategists Association), 2015
Keith L. Ware Award, Best U.S. Army Website (U.S. Army, Office of Chief of Public Affairs), 2011
The Ordnance Order of Samuel Sharpe, Distinguished Member of Ordnance Corps (Ordnance Corps Association), 1997
Herbert W. Alden Award, Distinguished Leadership (U.S. Army Ordnance Center and School), 1993
Joseph M. Heiser Award, Academic Excellence (U.S. Army Ordnance Center and School), 1993
Society of the Crimson Pen, Superior Literary Contributions (Ordnance Corps Association), 1991
Gold Medal Award, Freedom's Foundation at Valley Forge, 1990
Firefighter of the Year (Moscow Fire Department | Moscow, Idaho), 1986

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

Professionals Talk Logistics (editor, contributing author), Howgate Publishing, London, 2025
Power Up: Leadership, Character, and Conflict Beyond the Multiverse (editor, contributing author), Casemate Books, London, 2023
To Boldly Go: Leadership, Strategy, and Conflict in the 21st Century and Beyond (editor, contributing author), Casemate Books, London, 2021
Why We Write (editor, contributing author), Middle West Press, Ames, Iowa, 2019
Winning Westeros: How Game of Thrones Explains Future Conflict (contributing author), Potomac Books, Washington, DC, 2019
Legends of Strategy: How Star Wars Explains Future Conflict (contributing author), Potomac Books, Washington, DC, 2017
Atlantic Council Strategy Papers, Vol. 3 (contributing author), Atlantic Council, 2017
Coloring with Clausewitz, Amazon Kindle Direct Publishing, 2017.
Up in Smoke (The Further Adventures of Doctrine Man!!, Volume 4), Amazon Kindle Direct Publishing, 2015.
Fifty Shades of Multicam (The Further Adventures of Doctrine Man!!, Volume 3), Amazon Kindle Direct Publishing, 2014.
The Further Adventures of Doctrine Man!!, Volume 2, Amazon Kindle Direct Publishing, 2013.
The Further Adventures of Doctrine Man!!, Volume 1, Amazon Kindle Direct Publishing, 2012.
Interagency Handbook for Transitions, Arthur D. Simons Center for Interagency Cooperation, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, 2011.
U.S. Army Field Manual 3-07: Stability Operations, University of Michigan Press, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 2009.

A Century of Service: The History of the Moscow Fire Department, Idaho State Historical Society, Moscow, Idaho, 1988.

Articles:

- “Back to the Future: Rediscovering Operational Art in an Era of Great Power Competition” (co-authored with Rebecca Jensen), **Modern War Institute**, (Sep 2021).
- “War Books: The Art of the Decision,” **Modern War Institute**, (Jul 2020).
- “You Really Think I’m Irrelevant?” **Modern War Institute**, (May 2020).
- “That Clausewitz-is-Irrelevant ‘Hot Take’ Isn’t Blasphemous. It’s Just Wrong,” **Modern War Institute**, (Mar 2019).
- “The Game,” **Military.com**, (Dec 2019).
- “How Social Media Will Drastically Change the Ways Wars Are Fought. Unless it Doesn’t,” **Modern War Institute**, (Oct 2018).
- “Broken and Unreadable: Our Unbearable Aversion to Doctrine,” **Modern War Institute**, (May 2017).
- “We have met the enemy and he is us: A possible 4-step recovery program for Professional Military Education,” **Foreign Policy** (March 2014)
- “Beyond the Horizon: Defining Army Core Competencies for the 21st Century” (co-authored with LTG Robert Caslen), **Army Magazine** (Jul 2011).
- “Unleashing Design: Planning and the Art of Battle Command” (co-authored with MG Edward Cardon), **Military Review** (Mar/Apr 2010).
- “Upshifting the Engine of Change” (co-authored with LTG William B. Caldwell, IV), **Military Review** (Jul/Aug 2008).
- “Resetting the Capstone of Army Doctrine” (co-authored with GEN William Wallace), **Army Magazine** (Mar 2008).
- “Forward Support in the Ia Drang Valley,” **Army Logistician** (Mar/Apr 2006).
- “Custer’s Nemesis,” **Wild West** (Jun 2001).
- “Supporting the Fight: The Forward Support Battalion,” **Army Logistician** (Jul/Aug 2004).
- “One Man’s Vision: The Evolution of Airmobile Artillery,” **Fires Magazine** (Jul/Aug 1999).
- “Steel Curtain: The Guns on the Ia Drang,” **Fires Magazine** (Jul/Aug 1998).
- “Power Projection Logistics on the Northern Frontier,” **Army Logistician** (Jan/Feb 1998).
- “Falling in on War Reserves,” **Army Logistician** (Jan/Feb 1997).
- “The Change of Command Inventory,” **Ordnance Magazine** (Nov/Dec 1991).

Monographs:

- “Clausewitz, Complexity, and Custer: An Analysis of Decision Making in a Nonlinear System,” **School of Advanced Military Studies**, 2000.
- “Inevitable Evolutions: Punctuated Equilibrium and the Revolution in Military Affairs,” **School of Advanced Military Studies**, 2001.

Editorial/Opinion:

- “We Have Met the Enemy and He Is Us,” **Foreign Policy / Best Defense**, March 11, 2014
- “Doctrine Man Speaks,” **Foreign Policy / Best Defense**, November 10, 2014

Point of Departure (weekly op-ed column), DHI, Inc, 2018-present

Lectures, Presentations, Panels, and Podcasts:

- "The 'Doctrine Man' Story," Defense Entrepreneurs Forum, April 24, 2015.
- "The Leader Brand," U.S. Army Strategic Broadening Seminar, July 29, 2016
- "Leading through Social Media," U.S. Army Strategic Broadening Seminar, July 29, 2016
- "The Leader Brand," National Guard Association of the United States Annual Conference, September 10, 2016
- "Leading Change in a Complex World," Kansas City District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, October 5, 2016
- "Leading Change in a Complex World," Unites States Air National Guard, January 9, 2017
- "The Mentorship Challenge," Kansas National Guard Annual Conference, April 29, 2017
- "The Leadership Legacy," National Guard Association of the United States Annual Conference, September 9, 2017.
- "The Seven Deadly Sins of Mentoring," American Medical Women's Association, September 16, 2017.
- "Leadership and Communication," U.S. Army Korea, May 30, 2018
- "Leading in the Digital Age," New York National Guard, June 27, 2018
- "Leading Change," National Guard Association of the United States Annual Conference, August 23-26, 2018
- "Leadership and Mentoring," Connecticut National Guard, November 2, 2018
- "Hollywood and the Military," War on the Rocks Bombshell Podcast, Kansas City, December 4, 2018
- "Values-Based Leadership," Hill's Pet Food, Topeka, Jun 27, 2019
- "Setting the Strategic Framework of the Future," National Guard Association of the United States Annual Conference, September 1, 2019
- "Risky Business," Association of the United States Army Annual Symposium, October 4, 2019
- "Leading By Example," Kansas Air National Guard, January 2, 2020
- "Military Education and National Security," U.S. Army School of Advanced Military Studies, February 10, 2020
- "The Third Rail," U.S. Army School of Advanced Military Studies, February 10, 2020
- "Leadership and Storytelling," Army-Navy Club, May 29, 2020
- "What it Means to Be an Ally," National Security Roundtable, December 3, 2020
- "Education, Innovation, and the Military," Krulak Center for Innovation, December 16, 2020
- "Science Fiction as a Learning Tool," Joint Geeks of Staff Podcase, March 10, 2021
- "Strategy Strikes Back," Essence of Wonder Podcast, May 1, 2021
- "Science Fiction and Strategy," NavyCon Annual Conference, June 4, 2021
- "The Dark Side of Leadership," Kansas Air National Guard, June 18, 2021
- "Leadership, Risk, and Opportunity," Always in Pursuit Podcast, July 13, 2021
- "To Boldly Go: Science Fiction as Premortem," CIMSEC Podcast, September 7, 2021
- "To Boldly Go," Essence of Wonder Podcast," September 11, 2021
- "To Boldly Go," From the Green Notebook Podcast, September 28, 2021

"To Boldly Go," Center for the Study of the Presidency and Congress, September 29, 2021

"To Boldly Go," Always in Pursuit Podcast, October 3, 2021

"The Goal-Driven Self," Got Your Six Podcast, October 10, 2021

"Thought Leaders," Association of the United States Army Podcast, November 4, 2021

"Sci-Fi and Strategy: A Match Made Among the Stars," U.S. Army War College War Room Podcast, February 18, 2022

"To Boldly Go," The Convergence Podcast, March 4, 2022

"To Boldly Go: Applying the Lessons of Classic Science Fiction to the World of Today," Army-Navy Club, May 3, 2022

"Gray Rhinos, Black Swans, and Dragon Kings," University of Kansas Global Economics Seminar, October 28, 2022

"Developing the Next Generation," Veteran TV, November 7, 2022

"To Boldly Go: Science Fiction and Strategy," War Room podcast, February 2023

Interview with U.S. Space Force Magazine, June 2023

Interview with The Military Leader podcast, October 2023

Featured guest interview with VetTV, October 2023

["Ka-Pow Boom! Understanding the Soldier Experience through Comic and Illustrative Art,"](#) Army Heritage and Education Center, April 1, 2023

[Okta](#) professional development forum on leadership, May 8, 2023

University of Idaho Army ROTC leadership forum, May 10, 2023

Keynote speaker, KU Integrated Marketing and Communication Conference, August 18, 2023

Guest on [Meikles & Dimes podcast](#), October 9, 2023

Guest on [Sea Control podcast](#), October 22, 2023

Guest on [Georgetown Walsh School of Foreign Service podcast](#), October 27, 2023

"War and Memory," Boston University, October 30, 2023

"Gray Rhinos, Black Swans, and Dragon Kings," University of Kansas Global Economics Seminar, November 2, 2023

Guest on [Foreign Policy Research Institute podcast](#), November 7, 2023

Guest on Revolution in Military Affairs podcast, December 18, 2023

"The Draft," Clearance Jobs podcast, July 1, 2024

["The Usefulness of Anger,"](#) Cohort W podcast, July 4, 2024

["Training Strategy without Doctrine,"](#) Pandas Playing Cello podcast, August 22, 2024

"Gray Rhinos, Black Swans, and Dragon Kings," University of Kansas Global Economics Seminar, October 31, 2024

["The Counselors,"](#) panelist on Dole Institute debate series, The Counselors, November 15, 2024

Keynote speaker at the annual KU ROTC Dining In, December 6, 2024

Guest on [Command and Control podcast](#), February 4, 2025

Guest on PowersLead podcast, March 18, 2025

Moderator, Global Competition Panel, 2025 University of Kansas Security Conference, "Understanding China's Strategic Mindset", May 1, 2025

Guest on [Revolution in Military Affairs podcast](#), May 27, 2025

Guest speaker at KU School of Business MBA Summit, "Leading with Resilience," June 6, 2025

Keynote speaker for the Helen Alberston Leadership Luncheon with the Army Management Staff College, June 6, 2025

Guest speaker at the GMAC Conference, "Leading with Resilience," June 24, 2025

Guest on [Squaring the Circle podcast](#), August 16, 2025.
“Gray Rhinos, Black Swans, and Dragon Kings,” University of Kansas Global Economics Seminar, October 31, 2025.

Press Appearances and Quotes:

*TV/Radio: BBC, Al-Jazeera, Defense News, NPR, Federal News Radio, C-SPAN
Newspapers: New York Times, Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, USA Today, Christian Science Monitor, US News and World Report, Boston Globe, Detroit Free Press, Kansas City Star, Army Times, Military Times, Defense News, War on the Rocks, Washington Times, Small Wars Journal, Veteran TV*

Magazines: Foreign Policy, Newsweek, US News and World Report, Newsweek, History, Parameters, Military Review, Joint Force Quarterly, Fires Magazine, Sustainment Magazine, Ordnance Magazine