

## 2018 WRP Principals' Meeting Bios

*For your reference, in this document are the following bios of formal presenters at the meeting*

- WRP Co-Chairs:
  - Mr. Mike Mower, Deputy Chief of Staff, Utah Governor's Office (for the Honorable Gary Herbert, Governor of Utah)
  - Ms. Allison Sands, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Infrastructure (representing Mr. Robert McMahon, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Sustainment)
  - Mr. John F. Ruhs, Assistant Director, Fire and Aviation, Bureau of Land Management (for Assistant Secretary for Lands and Minerals Management, U.S. Department of Interior)
- Mr. Keith Gardner, Chief of Staff to New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez
- Brigadier General USAF (Ret) Hanson Scott, Kirtland Partnership Committee (Former Chair of WRP Steering Committee and Interim Steering Committee)
- Ms. Amy Lueders, Regional Director, Southwest Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Mr. Paul Enriquez, Acquisition, Real Estate, and Environmental Director, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, DHS
- Bios for the Plenary Session Panel Members

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## 2018 WRP Principals' Meeting Co-Chair Bios

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### **Mr. Mike Mower, Deputy Chief of Staff, Utah Governor's Office**

*Serving as Acting Co-Chair for the Honorable Gary Herbert, Governor of Utah*



Mike Mower serves as Deputy Chief of Staff to Utah Governor Gary R. Herbert. Focuses on community outreach and the optimization of state government. Also oversees constituent services, boards and commissions, and local government issues. Served as the Deputy Chief of Staff and Communications Director for Governor Jon Huntsman. Graduate of Brigham Young University and the University Of Utah College of Law. Attended Utah Valley University, and served there as a member of the Board of Trustees. Former aide to Provo Mayor Lewis Billings, Utah Governor Mike Leavitt and Congressmen Howard Nielson and Chris Cannon.

Raised in Ferron, Utah where he worked for several years milking cows. Married to Liz, they are the parents of a combined seven children and reside in Salt Lake City, Utah.

### **Ms. Allison Sands, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Infrastructure**

*Serving as Acting Co-Chair for Mr. Robert McMahon,  
Assistant Secretary of Defense for Sustainment*



Ms. Sands is the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Infrastructure. Responsible for U.S. and overseas basing issues, joint basing program oversight, Base Realignment and Closure activities, contingency basing oversight, and real estate policy.

Began her civilian career in 1997 with the U.S. Army's Morale, Welfare, and Recreation command. Served as Chief of Plans and Policy for the Army Lodging program-developed and institutionalized a performance measurement program and a hospitality management education program in partnership with The Pennsylvania State University. Selected in 2004 as the first Director for the Army's lodging privatization program under the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Privatization and Partnerships. Later became Deputy for the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army, Energy and Partnerships, responsible for oversight of privatization and partnership programs and was the organization's certified Lean Six Sigma practitioner.

Following the Army, transitioned to the Office of the Secretary of Defense's Basing Directorate as an Assistant Director. Had primary responsibility for installation issues associated with global defense posture management and served as the organization's

primary representative on the Department's Global Posture Executive Council. Also assumed responsibility for managing the Contingency Basing Executive Council, developing policy and management guidance for DoD's temporary overseas posture.

Spent twelve years on active duty as an Air Defense officer after being commissioned in 1985 as a Distinguished Military Graduate through the Reserve Officer Training Corps. Graduate of Airborne School, the Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, and the Combined Arms Services Staff School. During active duty career, commanded two Air Defense Artillery Batteries in addition to positions as Platoon Leader, Battery Executive Officer, Battalion Adjutant, Office Basic Course Instructor, Brigade Adjutant, and Secretary of the General Staff for the Army's Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Command.

Bachelor's Degree in Political Science, Santa Clara University, California. Resides in Alexandria, Virginia.

**Mr. John F. Ruhs, Assistant Director, Fire and Aviation, Bureau of Land Management**

*Serving as Acting Co-Chair for Assistant Secretary for Lands and Minerals Management,  
U.S. Department of Interior*



John F. Ruhs, BLM Assistant Director, Fire and Aviation, began as BLM Assistant Director, Fire and Aviation at the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) in Boise, Idaho April 30, 2018. NIFC is the nation's support and management center for the nation's wildland fire but also provides support and coordination for a variety of national disasters, including hurricanes, floods, the Columbia Shuttle recovery and terrorist attacks. Partner agencies at NIFC represent all federal fire agencies, the states and local fire departments.

Holds the top spot in the BLM Fire and Aviation program, a large and complex organization representing 61 percent of the Department of the Interior fire agencies' workforce and approximately 36 percent of the total BLM appropriation.

Previously served as the Director of BLM Nevada from 2015 until 2018 and also served as acting BLM Deputy Director of Operations for the BLM National headquarters from April 2017 until December 2017. Prior to coming to Nevada, served as BLM's Eastern States Director. Extensive experience in land management in the west, including previous assignments as the Ely District Manager and Winnemucca Fire Management Officer in Nevada, District Manager of the High Desert District in Wyoming and other work for the BLM in Colorado, Idaho and Oregon.

A native of Iowa and served in the U.S. Marine Corps. Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science from the University of Idaho. With his wife, Amy, have seven daughters and enjoys outdoor activities including riding horses, camping and playing golf.

**Mr. Keith Gardner, Chief of Staff to New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez**



Keith Gardner was appointed to serve as Governor Susana Martinez's chief of staff after serving in the New Mexico state House for six years, serving as the body's minority whip.

Hails from Reserve Lived in Roswell for seventeen years. Small business owner and managing partner of a sports rehabilitation clinic.

Bachelor's Degree, Athletic Training Education, New Mexico State University. Married to Stephanie, the couple has four children and three grandchildren.

**Brigadier General USAF (Ret) Hanson Scott, Kirtland Partnership Committee (Former Chair of WRP Steering Committee and Interim Steering Committee)**



Hanson Scott is the former Director of the New Mexico Office of Military Base Planning and Support, supporting the Governor, working with local community advocacy groups in support of New Mexico's military installations and supporting the New Mexico Military Base Planning Commission. Previously, Executive Director of the New Mexico Spaceport Program; Director of Aviation for the City of Albuquerque, New Mexico,

responsible for operations of the Albuquerque International Sunport and Double Eagle II airport.

Originally from Reserve, New Mexico. Attended New Mexico A & M (now New Mexico State University) for one year prior to appointment to the United States Air Force Academy. In the Air Force, had various operational and staff assignments, including HQ USAF, Deputy Commander of Operations and Vice Commander of the 314<sup>th</sup> Tactical Airlift Wing, Commander of the 463<sup>rd</sup> Tactical Airlift Wing; Commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> Special Operations Wing; Vice Commander of the Air Force Special Operations Command; and Commander, Special Operations Command Pacific. During this assignment, he was designated the primary contingency commander in the Pacific Theater by the Commander, United States Pacific Command.

**Ms. Amy Lueders, Regional Director, Southwest Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**



Amy graduated from Duke University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics. She began her BLM career in 1984 at the Washington Office as a mineral economist. She later held a number of budget development and program analysis positions. Amy then served as the Field Manager in Las Cruces, NM, before moving to Nevada to serve as the BLM Nevada Associate State Director and advancing to the State Director position.

Recently, Amy was assigned to be the Southwest Regional Director, USFWS, in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

**Mr. Paul Enriquez, Acquisition, Real Estate, and Environmental Director, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, DHS**

Mr. Enriquez is the Acquisitions, Real Estate, and Environmental Director for the U.S. Border Patrol's Border Wall Program Management Office. In this capacity, Mr. Enriquez manages and oversees all contract acquisitions and real estate and Environmental planning requirements for the Border Wall Program.

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## *Plenary Session #1: National Defense Strategy (NDS)*

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November 14, 2018 • 1:30-2:50 pm Mountain

*DoD Secretary Mattis released the NDS in January 2018. Its focus is Sharpening the American Military's Competitive Edge and it articulates DoD's strategy to compete, deter and win in the current complex security environment of rapid technological change, challenges in every operating domain, and readiness impacted by the longest armed conflict in our Nation's history on readiness. Presenters will provide an overview of the NDS and the impacts/implementation within the WRP Region along with their thoughts on how best to collaborate with DoD.*

### **Panel Moderator:**

- Ms. Allison Sands, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Infrastructure

### **Plenary Session Leads:**

- Mr. Fred Drummond, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Force Education and Training
- Colonel Jeff Holt, Deputy Commander, Marine Corps Installations West-MCB Camp Pendleton
- Mr. Jeff Jennings, Deputy to the Commanding General, U.S. Army Intelligence Center of Excellence, Fort Huachuca
- Rear Admiral Lindsey, Commander, Navy Region Southwest
- Dr. David Smith, 412 TW Installation Support Director, Edwards Air Force Base

### **Bios:**

#### **Ms. Allison Sands, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Infrastructure**



Ms. Sands is the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Infrastructure. Responsible for U.S. and overseas basing issues, joint basing program oversight, Base Realignment and Closure activities, contingency basing oversight, and real estate policy.

Began her civilian career in 1997 with the U.S. Army's Morale, Welfare, and Recreation command. Served as Chief of Plans and Policy for the Army Lodging program-developed and institutionalized a performance measurement program and a hospitality management education program in partnership with The Pennsylvania State University. Selected in 2004 as the first Director for the Army's lodging privatization program under the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Privatization and Partnerships. Later became Deputy for the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army, Energy and Partnerships, responsible for oversight of privatization and partnership programs and was the organization's certified Lean Six Sigma practitioner.

Following the Army, transitioned to the Office of the Secretary of Defense's Basing

Directorate as an Assistant Director. Had primary responsibility for installation issues associated with global defense posture management and served as the organization's primary representative on the Department's Global Posture Executive Council. Also assumed responsibility for managing the Contingency Basing Executive Council, developing policy and management guidance for DoD's temporary overseas posture.

Spent twelve years on active duty as an Air Defense officer after being commissioned in 1985 as a Distinguished Military Graduate through the Reserve Officer Training Corps. Graduate of Airborne School, the Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, and the Combined Arms Services Staff School. During active duty career, commanded two Air Defense Artillery Batteries in addition to positions as Platoon Leader, Battery Executive Officer, Battalion Adjutant, Office Basic Course Instructor, Brigade Adjutant, and Secretary of the General Staff for the Army's Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Command.

Bachelor's Degree in Political Science, Santa Clara University, California. Resides in Alexandria, Virginia.

#### **Mr. Fred Drummond, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Force Education and Training**



Mr. Charles (Fred) Drummond serves as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Force Education and Training in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Readiness. Oversees the development of policies and plans for military training and education. Responsibilities include Service and joint training policy, cyber training policy, joint professional military education, training capability modernization, and enabling access to the land, air, and sea live training domains. Leads several voluntary education programs to include Troops to Teachers and the Tuition Assistance program. Responsible for policy and oversight of financial readiness and educating the force on the new Blended Retirement System. Leads the Defense Language and National Security Education Office to recruit, train, sustain, and enhance language and culture capabilities to ensure national security and readiness. Oversees the Advanced Distributed Learning Initiative to encourage collaboration among federal agencies, facilitate interoperability, and promote best practices for using distributed learning to provide the highest-quality, cost effective education and training programs. Also oversees DoD's Licensing and Credentialing policies to assist Service members in effectively translating their military skills and experience into the civilian workforce.

Previously, was responsible for Navy's strategy, policy, resource allocation and execution oversight for all officer, graduate, and voluntary education programs on behalf of the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Manpower, Personnel, Training and Education) A career Naval Officer. As a Naval Flight Officer flying in the EA-6B and in the USAF EF-111A, deployed across the globe conducting combat and peacetime operations. Non-operational



tours included assignments in education, training and manpower.

Military awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, and the Air Medal (1 individual and 7 Strike/Flight). Graduate of Virginia Tech and received a Master of Political Science from Auburn University of Montgomery.

**Colonel Jeff Holt, Deputy Commander, Marine Corps Installations West-MCB Camp Pendleton**

Colonel Jeff Holt is the Deputy Commander, Marine Corps Installations West-Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton.



Command tours include: Rifle Platoon Commander with Company L, 3d Battalion, 7th Marines and TOW Platoon Commander, 4th and 7th Marines in 29 Palms, CA; Company Commander, Companies G and Weapons, 2d Battalion, 2d Marines in Camp Lejeune, NC; Battalion Commander, 3d Battalion, 3d Marines (in Kaneohe Bay, HI; and Regimental Commander, School of Infantry-West in Camp Pendleton, CA.

Principal staff assignments include: Series Officer, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, CA; Assistant Operations Officer, 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit, Camp Lejeune, NC; Expeditionary Planner, U.S. Navy Sixth Fleet, Naples, Italy; Executive Officer, 1st Battalion, 3d Marines, Kaneohe Bay, HI; Operations Officer, 3d Marine; Operations Officer, Joint Staff J-3; Deputy Commander of Futures Directorate and Director Experimentation, Marine Corps Warfighting Lab aboard Marine Corps Base Quantico, VA.

Hails from Dallas, Texas. Received a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Arkansas in Finance. Master's Degree in Science from Kansas State University in Adult and Continuing Education and a Master of Military of Science in National Resource Strategy from National Defense University. Military education includes U.S. Marine Corps Basic School and Infantry Officer Course, U.S. Army Advanced Artillery School, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

Personal decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal with two gold stars, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with one gold star, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with one gold star, and the Combat Action Ribbon.

He is married to Staci and they reside in Oceanside, CA with their children, Jacob and Sydnee.



**Mr. Jeffrey Jennings, Deputy to the Commanding General, US Army Intelligence Center of Excellence, Fort Huachuca**



Selected for Senior Executive Service and appointed Deputy to the Commanding General, US Army Intelligence Center of Excellence and Fort Huachuca, effective 15 June 2015. Develops and implements a cohesive and synchronized strategy for the planning, execution and oversight of the formal Training, Leader Development and Education of the Army's Military Intelligence personnel. Responsible for the Command's community and tenant relations, coordination of local, state, and federal legislative affairs, and development and implementation of the command and Fort Huachuca strategic communications programs. Previously, Chief of Staff, US Army Intelligence Center of Excellence and Deputy Commander Training, US Army Intelligence Center of Excellence, Fort Huachuca AZ; G2, US Army Africa, Vicenza, Italy; CDR, 309<sup>th</sup> MI BN, 111<sup>th</sup> MI BDE, and Deputy CDR, 111<sup>th</sup> MI BDE Fort Huachuca AZ; and Deputy G2, 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division, Fort Drum NY. BA, Religion, Grand Canyon College and MA, Strategic Studies, US Naval War College, 2011.

**Rear Admiral Lindsey, Commander, Navy Region Southwest**



Rear Adm. Yancy B. Lindsey commissioned through Aviation Officer Candidate School in October 1986 and designated a naval aviator in December 1987.

Lindsey's sea duty assignments have included Antarctic Development Squadron 6 and twice with Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron (VAW) 113. During these tours of duty, he completed three deployments to Antarctica and two deployments to the Arabian Gulf aboard USS Carl Vinson and USS Abraham Lincoln.

Served on the Joint Staff; at Commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet; with the U.S. European Command staff in Stuttgart, Germany; as chief of staff to the Commander, Navy Region Southwest; and as executive assistant to the assistant secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations and Environment.

Commanded the VAW-117 Wallbangers, earning the Battle Efficiency Award and completing an Arabian Gulf deployment aboard USS Nimitz in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Also commanded Naval Base Coronado. 89th commandant of Naval District Washington. Assumed command of Navy Region Southwest in September 2016.

A native of Phoenix, Arizona. Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering, University of California at Berkeley Master of Military Science from Marine Corps University and a Master of Science in Global Leadership from the University of San Diego. Completed a Federal

Executive Fellowship at Tufts University's Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy.

Decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legions of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal (four awards), Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal (four awards), Joint Service Achievement Medal and Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal (three awards).

**Dr. David Smith, 412 TW Installation Support Director, Edwards Air Force Base**



Dr. David G. Smith is 412 TW Installation Support Director for Edwards AFB, champions essential infrastructure and support capabilities directly influencing the flight test mission.

Entered the Air Force in 1982. Received flight training at Mather Air Force Base, California. First formal tour at Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota as a Navigator and Instructor Navigator then to Fairchild Air Force Base, Washington, as a Navigator, Instructor Navigator, Radar Navigator, Instructor Radar Navigator, Flying Safety Officer, and Assistant Flight Commander. Moved to Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, as an Instructor, Flight Examiner and Standardization and Evaluation branch chief. Returned to Castle Air Force Base as a Combat Crew Training School Instructor Radar Navigator, Flight Examiner, Branch Chief, and Executive Officer. Transferred to Beale Air Force Base as the Assistant Chief Wing Planning Staff, Chief Wing Inspections and Chief Wing Command Post. Served as a Regimental Air Liaison Officer attached to the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, instructing and evaluating the close air support mission in joint operations with the United States Army. Selected to support the experimental B-52 mission at Edwards Air Force Base, and then became the Deputy Director of the 412th Test Management Group with oversight over all of Edwards' flight test and evaluation efforts. Retired from active duty as the Edwards Inspector General. Transitioning to Civilian Service he became the Edwards AFB Government Flight Representative overseeing all contractor flight and ground operations at Edwards assuming present position.

Master navigator with over 3000 flying hours and a private pilot. Recently returned from Baghdad supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. Serves as the Title-32 Air Support Command Commander for California. Born a military dependent in Camp Zama, Japan, and calls Hawaii home. Married to Denise, and they share six children, a son Damien, and daughters, Daira, Darcie, Avalon, Bailee, and Madyson.

Educational background includes: Bachelor's degree, General Studies/Chemistry, Chaminade University of Hawaii; Masters of Aeronautical Science, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University; Doctor of Business Administration specializing in Aviation, Northcentral University, Arizona; and numerous military and professional accreditations.

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## *Plenary Session #2: Airspace Challenges and Opportunities*

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November 14, 2018 • 3:10 - 4:30 pm Mountain

*Highlighting airspace management for multiple users in light of competing interests. There are numerous aviation platforms with ever increasing new technology being deployed.*

### **Panel Moderator:**

- Ms. Tamara Swann, Regional Administrator (Acting) FAA Western-Pacific Region

### **Plenary Session Leads:**

- Mr. Mike Cirillo, Managing Director of Air Traffic Management, Airlines for America
- Colonel James "Flash" Frickel, Commander, HQ Utah Test and Training Range
- Mr. John F. Ruhs, Assistant Director, Fire and Aviation, Bureau of Land Management
- Mr. Randy Willis, Manager, Emerging Technologies Team, FAA Headquarters

### **Bios:**

#### **Ms. Tamara Swann, Regional Administrator (Acting) FAA Western-Pacific Region**

Tamara A. Swann became the Western-Pacific Region (AWP) Deputy Regional Administrator in February 2015. The Western-Pacific Region encompasses four states (Arizona, California, Hawaii and Nevada) and three U.S. territories (Guam, American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.) The Western-Pacific Region includes four of the nation's ten busiest airports; Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Phoenix, and San Francisco.



As Deputy Regional Administrator, provides FAA leadership in cross-organizational matters, representing the FAA with industry, the public, in addition to regional oversight, and for daily operations and regional aviation activities including emergency planning, runway safety governance, Air Tour Management Program, and the Los Angeles Helicopter Noise Initiative.

Previously was with the Flight Standards Division for 16 years, including Safety Analysis and Evaluation Branch Manager for the Western-Pacific Region. Began with the FAA in 1998 at the Louisville Flight Standards District Office as an Aviation Safety Inspector. 2002 Graduate of the USDA Executive Potential Program. Prior to the FAA, attended Pennsylvania State University. Also served in management positions with a national airline for five years. Proud veteran of the United States Air Force.



#### **Mr. Mike Cirillo, Managing Director of Air Traffic Management, Airlines for America**

Michael Cirillo joined A4A in March of 2014 as Managing Director, Air Traffic Management. A4A advocates on behalf of its member airlines to

shape crucial policies and measures that promote safety, security and a healthy U.S. airline industry.

Retired from FAA in January of 2013 from the position of Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regions and Center Operations. In this capacity, provided leadership and guidance for operations at the nine FAA regional headquarters and Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center, including the FAA Academy and Logistics Center. Previously served as Regional Administrator for FAA's Alaskan Region; Air Traffic Organization's Vice President of System Operations Services at FAA Headquarters (2004-2007); served a detail in the FAA Office of Commercial Space Transportation; held executive positions responsible for Air Traffic System Development and Air Traffic Planning and Procedures; and served a 1-year detail as FAA Liaison to the German Air Navigation Services in Offenbach, Germany. Began his career as an air traffic controller in 1977 in the United States Air Force and began his FAA career in 1981 at the Burbank, CA Tower/TRACON as an air traffic controller. Spent 7 years at the Phoenix, AZ TRACON as an air traffic controller, hub quality assurance specialist, and area supervisor.

Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology and holds an MBA.

**Colonel James "Flash" Frickel, Commander, HQ Utah Test and Training Range**

Colonel Surya James "Flash" Frickel is the Commander, HQ Utah Test and Training Range, 388th Fighter Wing, Air Combat Command, Hill Air Force Base, Utah.

Previously served as the Commander of the 466th Fighter Squadron, Hill Air Force Base; Director of Operations combined 419th Operations Support Flight and 388th Operations Support Squadron and for the 466th Fighter Squadron. Has served as both an Air Reserve Technician and as a Traditional Reservist. Served on Active Duty in the 13th Fighter Squadron, the 49th Fighter Training Squadron, the 36th Fighter Squadron; and the 421st Fighter Squadron,

A command pilot with more than 3,500 hours in the F-16C/D and the A/T-38B/C. More than 700 combat hours and has served in Operations Southern Watch, Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, Resolute Support, Freedom Sentinel and Noble Eagle. Currently employed with a major U.S. airline and flies the Boeing 737NG.

Bachelor of Science, History, United States Air Force Academy; Master's Degree, Business Administration, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Also, Squadron Officer School, USAF Adversary Threat Tactics Course, USAF Flight Safety Officer Course, Air Command and Staff College, Forward Air Controller (Airborne) Joint Firepower Course, Air War College, Reserve Component National Security Course, National Defense University.

Major Awards and Decorations: Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters; Air Medal with seven oak leaf clusters; Aerial Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster; Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster; Air Force Achievement Medal; Combat Readiness Medal with five oak leaf clusters; Afghanistan Campaign Medal with one device; Iraqi Campaign Medal with one device; Korean Defense Service Medal; Air Force Overseas Ribbon Short; Air Force Overseas Ribbon Long and NATO Medal with one device.

**Mr. John F. Ruhs, Assistant Director, Fire and Aviation, Bureau of Land Management**



John F. Ruhs, BLM Assistant Director, Fire and Aviation, began as BLM Assistant Director, Fire and Aviation at the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) in Boise, Idaho April 30, 2018. NIFC is the nation's support and management center for the nation's wildland fire but also provides support and coordination for a variety of national disasters, including hurricanes, floods, the Columbia Shuttle recovery and terrorist attacks. Partner agencies at NIFC represent all federal fire agencies, the states and local fire departments.

Holds the top spot in the BLM Fire and Aviation program, a large and complex organization representing 61 percent of the Department of the Interior fire agencies' workforce and approximately 36 percent of the total BLM appropriation.

Previously served as the Director of BLM Nevada from 2015 until 2018 and also served as acting BLM Deputy Director of Operations for the BLM National headquarters from April 2017 until December 2017. Prior to coming to Nevada, served as BLM's Eastern States Director. Extensive experience in land management in the west, including previous assignments as the Ely District Manager and Winnemucca Fire Management Officer in Nevada, District Manager of the High Desert District in Wyoming and other work for the BLM in Colorado, Idaho and Oregon.

A native of Iowa and served in the U.S. Marine Corps. Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science from the University of Idaho. With his wife, Amy, have seven daughters and enjoys outdoor activities including riding horses, camping and playing golf.

**Mr. Randy Willis, Manager, Emerging Technologies Team, FAA Headquarters**



Randy Willis is the FAA's Air Traffic Organization Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Integration Manager. Primary responsibility for UAS policy and strategic planning in the FAA's Air Traffic Organization. Also the United States Member and Chairman of the International Civil Aviation Organization Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems Panel and participates on several other domestic and international working groups dedicated to the safe integration of UAS.

Prior to coming to work for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in September 2009, served as a Federal Contractor supporting the FAA UAS Office and also served in the United States Navy as an Air Traffic Controller. During Naval career, held many positions with varying levels of responsibility before retiring from the United States Navy in June 2007 after 23 years of service. Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from the University of Maryland University College and Project Management Certificate from St. Mary's College of Maryland. Resides in Hollywood, Maryland with his wife, Echo.

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### *Plenary Session #3: Public Lands, Species, Energy and Water*

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November 15, 2018 • 8:00-9:30 am Mountain

*Presenters will share their perspectives on current policies to streamline planning processes, efforts to ensure collaborative engagement practices and areas for improvement.*

#### **Panel Moderator:**

- Mr. John F. Ruhs, Assistant Director, Fire and Aviation, Bureau of Land Management

#### **Plenary Session Leads:**

- The Honorable Russell Begaye, President, Navajo Nation
- Mr. Lee Forsgren, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Water, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Mr. Timothy Hess, Associate Administrator for Federal Lands, Federal Highway Administration
- Mr. Paul Souza, Regional Director, Pacific Southwest Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

#### **Bios:**

##### **Mr. John F. Ruhs, Assistant Director, Fire and Aviation, Bureau of Land Management**



John F. Ruhs, BLM Assistant Director, Fire and Aviation, began as BLM Assistant Director, Fire and Aviation at the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) in Boise, Idaho April 30, 2018. NIFC is the nation's support and management center for the nation's wildland fire but also provides support and coordination for a variety of national disasters, including hurricanes, floods, the Columbia Shuttle recovery and

terrorist attacks. Partner agencies at NIFC represent all federal fire agencies, the states and local fire departments.

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A native of Iowa and served in the U.S. Marine Corps. Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science from the University of Idaho. With his wife, Amy, have seven daughters and enjoys outdoor activities including riding horses, camping and playing golf.

### **The Honorable Russell Begaye, President, Navajo Nation**



Russell Begaye has been Navajo Nation President since 2015. Prior to being President, was a council delegate on the Navajo Nation Council, representing his hometown of Shiprock, New Mexico. Has been a member of the Law and Order Committee of the Navajo Nation Council and worked to establish a training program for Navajo Nation law enforcement officers. Works to strengthen relationships with Congress, the federal government and the Navajo people. Previously taught in the University of California, Los Angeles Department of Linguistics. Bachelor's degree, University of California Los Angeles.

### **Mr. D. Lee Forsgren, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Water, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**



Lee Forsgren is the Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Water at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Focuses on a wide range of water issues including the review of the Waters of the United States rule, water infrastructure funding, and drinking water quality. Prior to joining EPA in June 2017, worked as an attorney for HBW Resources and Nossaman LLC in the areas of environmental policy, natural resources, transportation, and federal appropriations. Also assisted corporations, industry associations and tribal organizations in their relations with Congress, the Executive Branch, and state governments. Previously served as Assistant Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in the George W. Bush Administration, majority counsel for the Water Resources Subcommittee of the House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and Counsel on the Coast Guard and Maritime Subcommittee of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, a staffer to the House Committee on Natural Resources, counsel to the Subcommittee on Lands and Forestry, assistant to Congressman Don Young of Alaska and staff assistant to Utah Senator Orrin Hatch. Advised the 2016 Trump campaign and the 2000 Bush-Cheney Transition team. J.D., George Mason University Law School. Bachelor of Science, United States Merchant Marine Academy. Retired Navy Reserve Commander. Grew up in Ogden, Utah and currently resides in Alexandria, Virginia.

### **Mr. Timothy Hess, Associate Administrator for Federal Lands, Federal Highway Administration**



Mr. Timothy Hess is the Associate Administrator for Federal Lands in the Federal Highway Administration. Provides senior executive level leadership for over 700 employees in providing transportation solutions for Federal Land Management Agencies and other interagency partners.

Prior to joining FHWA in July 2015, served as the Chief of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers European Missile Defense Program. Provided executive level leadership of an office responsible for the program and project management of the infrastructure portion of the European Missile Defense Program.

Previously served as the Acting Director of the Army Corps of Engineers Interagency and International Services Office; as the Deputy Director of the Joint Programs Integration Office, Kabul, Afghanistan; as the Congressional Affairs Officer for the US Army Corps of Engineers, Directorate of Military and International Programs; as a Senior Program Officer with the Transportation Research Board of the National Academies of Sciences and Engineering; as the American Society of Civil Engineer's 1997-1998 Congressional Fellow; worked for U.S. Senator Bob Graham as a senior policy advisor in the areas of transportation, innovative financing, and water resources development; served as a Civil Works Engineer and Project Manager for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. and as a U.S. Army Engineer Officer for five years.

Mr. Hess holds a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Penn State University, a M.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a M.S. in National Security Strategy from the National War College. Is a registered professional engineer in Illinois. He resides in Fairfax, Virginia with his wife, Anne, and their three children.

**Mr. Paul Souza, Regional Director, Pacific Southwest Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

Paul Souza is the Regional Director for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the Pacific Southwest Region, which includes California, Nevada, and the Klamath Basin. The Region manages 48 National Wildlife Refuges, three Wildlife Management Areas in California, three National Fish Hatcheries, Fish Health Center, and 11 Fish and Wildlife Offices.



Previously served as the Assistant Director for Science Applications and as the Deputy Assistant Director for the Service's Ecological Services Program in headquarters. Before coming to headquarters, was the Field Supervisor for the South Florida Ecological Services Office in Vero Beach, Florida. Joined the Fish and Wildlife Service as a Presidential Management Fellow.

Bachelor's degree, environmental studies with an emphasis in ecology, University of California at Santa Barbara. Master's degree in urban and regional planning with an emphasis in environmental planning and natural resources management, Florida State University. With his wife Dana have two children.

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## *Plenary Session #4: Effective Partnerships and Best Practices for Coordinated Planning*

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November 15, 2018 • 9:50 – 11:30 am Mountain

*Presenters will discuss their cross-collaborative efforts with state, federal and Tribal entities, highlighting best practices, opportunities to institutionalize engagement and coordination and other areas for potential improvement.*

### **Panel Moderator:**

- Mr. Astor Boozer, Regional Conservationist West, USDA-NRCS

### **Plenary Session Leads:**

- Mr. Lee dePalo, Regional Administrator, FEMA Region VIII
- Mr. Edgar E. Ruiz, Executive Director, Council of State Governments West
- Mr. Gareth Smythe, Associate Policy Advisor and Military Land Use Planner, Governor's Office of Planning and Research, Governor's Military Council, Office of Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.

### **Bios:**

#### **Mr. Astor Boozer, Regional Conservationist for the West Region, NRCS**

Returned to National Headquarters after being the State Conservationist for New York and took on the position of Regional Conservationist for the West Region, overseeing the conservation programs and activities of the 13 West Region States. Has strengthened NRCS's partnership activities and relations within the region and nationally. Worked to improve private and public lands conservation and partnerships with State and Federal Agencies, to address national resource concerns throughout the nation and to leverage partner dollars for boots on the ground to deliver conservation.



A native Texan, grew up on a farm and ranch cow-calf operation where he learned all about wildlife, agriculture, beef production, and caring for the land. Has been with the NRCS for 30 years, starting in Texas, and worked in 8 states in a variety of positions. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture from Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, Texas. He loves and played many sports, still claims to be a weekend warrior, appreciates outdoor activities but also keeps up with trends in agriculture, and environmental and climatic issues facing the nation and the world. When home on the ranch he loves to ride horses, still tries to hunt and fish a little while enjoying life. An avid Dallas Cowboys Fan!

**Mr. Lee dePalo, Regional Administrator, FEMA Region VIII**

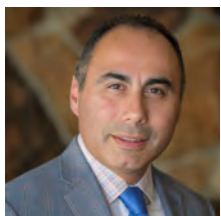
Lee dePalo is the Regional Administrator for FEMA Region VIII. Oversees and coordinates FEMA's all-hazards preparedness and emergency management efforts within the region's tribal nations and states of Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming. These efforts include executing FEMA's preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation programs in concert with partners from all levels of government, volunteer and faith-based groups, and the private sector.



Began his career at FEMA in January 2014 as part of the Federal Coordinating Officer cadre, leading disaster operations for the agency. Then became the Response Division Director for FEMA Region VIII in January 2015. As the Response Division Director, led a region-wide effort to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of Region VIII's ability to respond to a catastrophic disaster. Served in a detail capacity as the Acting Deputy Regional Administrator in Denver for the six-state region from June-November in 2017.

U.S. Air Force veteran whose career spanned 26 years, 14 different locations, and multiple combat deployments to Afghanistan, Iraq, Haiti, Pakistan, Uzbekistan and Turkey. He was a career special operations and combat rescue helicopter pilot with over 3,800 hours. Military career culminated with a command of the 563rd Rescue Group at Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona, after which served as the Vice Wing Commander of the 11th Wing at Andrews AFB, Maryland. Led a 1,600-person organization responsible for installation security, services, emergency management and airfield management to support the President, Vice President, other U.S. senior leaders as well as more than 50 organizations and federal agencies. After transitioning from the military, served as a senior program manager for Jacobs Technology contracted to develop a leadership development program for the U.S. Special Operations Command.

Bachelor of Science, Management, U.S. Air Force Academy. Master of Strategic Studies, Air War College. Master of Arts, Management, Webster University. Graduate of the Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Alabama. Graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Graduate of the Armed Forces Staff College, NAS Norfolk, Virginia. Graduate of the Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Alabama.



**Mr. Edgar E. Ruiz, Executive Director, Council of State Governments West**

Edgar Ruiz has been the Executive Director of the Council of State Governments – WEST (CSG-WEST) since November 2011. Oversees the strategic development, direction and implementation of the organization's programs and services for legislators and legislatures of 13 Western states, which provide a platform for regional cooperation,

exchange of information and professional development opportunities. Supervises the organization's international programs and activities with Canada and Mexico, including the United States – Mexico State Alliance Partnership.

Previously held key positions within the organization, including deputy director and program manager of the Border Legislative Conference. Prior to joining CSG served as Management Analyst in the Community Development Department of the City of Lake Forest, California, and as legislative staff in the California State Legislature.

Juris Doctor, Lincoln Law School of Sacramento. Master's, Public Administration and Bachelor's, Political Science, San Diego State University.

**Mr. Gareth Smythe, Associate Policy Advisor and Military Land Use Planner, Governor's Office of Planning and Research, Governor's Military Council, Office of Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.**



Served in this capacity since 2017. Areas of work include: military-community land use compatibility, veterans' affairs, renewable energy, sustainable water use, national security policy, DoD grant management, economic development, defense supply chain resiliency and military support organizations.

The bipartisan California Governor's Military Council is comprised of retired flag officers, civic leaders, state legislators and senior policymakers. The Council identifies important policy issues and advises the Governor and State Legislature on national security and military affairs. The Council also serves to protect and enhance U.S. military and national security operations in California, as well as support California's service members, veterans and their families. The Council also coordinates the state's diverse advocacy efforts to underscore the unique national security value of California's military bases, national security activities, defense technology companies, and workforce to policymakers and the public, ensuring California speaks with a unified voice.

The Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) serves the Governor and his Cabinet as staff for long-range planning and research and constitutes the comprehensive state planning agency. In addition, OPR formulates long-range land use goals and policies, coordinates statewide environmental monitoring and administers the landmark California Environmental Quality Act, coordinates the state's environmental justice activities and works closely with the US military for land use and other issues in the state.

Graduate Certificate, Applied Policy and Government, California State University, Sacramento. Bachelor's degrees in Political Science and History, University of California, Davis.