EVENTS CALENDAR

Mershon Center Event
THE FUTURE OF THE ALL-VOLUNTEER FORCE

Monday, March 24, 2014, 12:00PM - 1:30PM
Mershon Center for International Security Studies
1507 Neil Ave. Columbus, OH 43220

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Overview

The United States has maintained an All-Volunteer Force (AVF) for its armed services for nearly 41 years. However, changes in demographics, military costs, and the national security environment raise the issue of whether the AVF can adapt to and overcome its current challenges. The goal of this event is to create dialogue on the subject of AVF, a topic critical to our nation's future.

This panel will highlight key aspects of the current discussion about the United States' All-Volunteer Force in the context of fairness, efficacy, and sustainability by addressing differing points of view regarding this topic. This event will feature speakers from The Ohio State University who specialize in topics of national security and the U.S. military. In the discussion, Col. Peter Mansoor will advocate for the retention of the current all-volunteer military force, John Mueller will propose reducing the Armed Forces, and Maj. Gen. Dennis Laich will propose an alternative to the AVF concept.

Panelists

Maj. Gen. Dennis Laich retired from the U.S. Army in 2006 after more than 35 years of service. His last assignment was Commander of the 94th Regional Readiness Command at Fort Devens, Mass., where he commanded all Army Reserve forces in the six New England states.

For the last 14 consecutive years of his career he served in command positions. He has served in Iraq, Kuwait, the Netherlands, Germany, and Honduras. He is a graduate of the U.S. Army War College, the Command and General Staff College, and the National Security Management Program. His military awards include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, and the Meritorious Service Medal.

In his civilian career, Laich has served several large and mid-cap public and private companies in manufacturing and finance functions as president, chief operating officer, and plant manager. He holds a bachelor’s degree from Lafayette College and two master’s degrees (MBA and MA) and has completed post graduate studies at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He is the author of Skin in the Game...Poor Kids and Patriots in which he reviews the All-Volunteer Force.

He currently serves as director of the Patriots Program at Ohio Dominican University. Laich and his wife, Colleen, reside in Powell, Ohio and have two grown children.

Col. Peter Mansoor, U.S. Army (Ret.), is the Gen. Raymond E. Mason Jr. Chair in Military History at The Ohio State University, a joint appointment between the Department of History and the Mershon Center. He assumed this position in September 2008 after a 26-year career in the
U.S. Army that culminated in his service in Iraq as the executive officer to Gen. David Petraeus, the commanding general of Multi-National Force-Iraq, during the period of the surge in 2007-08. See his full bio on his faculty web page.