



**CATHERINE DALE**

**Specialist in International Security  
Congressional Research Service**

Dr. Dale is a practitioner and scholar of U.S. national and international security issues.

Since late 2007, as Specialist in International Security at the Congressional Research Service (CRS) – the Congress’s “in-house think tank” – Dr. Dale has provided analytical support to Members and staff to help frame critical national security debates. She is the lead CRS analyst on strategy and military operations in Afghanistan, and on defense strategy writ large. She also spearheads CRS’s analytical focus on national security reform.

From 2009 to 2010, on leave from CRS, as the Senior Civilian Advisor to Lieutenant General Rodriguez, then the Commander of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) Joint Command (IJC), the operational-level NATO headquarters in Afghanistan, she helped to shape and communicate strategy and policy for the force; and to integrate tactical, operational and strategic-level efforts. In 2009 she served as a member of ISAF Commander General McChrystal’s “60-day Initial Assessment Team”; in 2010 she served as a “Directed Telescope” for then-ISAF Commander General Petraeus for two months; in 2011 she conducted a month-long assessment the ISAF Commander General Allen; and in 2012 she conducted another month-long campaign assessment for IJC Commander Lieutenant General Terry. Also in 2011, she conducted the “initial strategic assessment” at U.S. Africa Command for General Ham.

Prior to CRS, as a Special Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of Defense, Dr. Dale helped to shape and communicate the broad strategic vision of the Department of Defense. She came to Washington from Iraq, where she served as the Political Advisor to the Commanding General of the Combined Joint Task Force-7 (and later, the Multi-National Force-Iraq). As POLAD in Iraq, she helped to integrate international civilian and military efforts. Earlier, serving for four years as the Special Assistant to the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Georgia, she helped craft a UN shuttle diplomacy effort aimed at achieving the political settlement of the conflict in Georgia’s break-away region, Abkhazia.

As an academic, Dr. Dale’s work has focused on politics and security issues in the former Soviet Union and on the problems of long-term internal displacement. She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. She holds a Ph.D. and an M.A. in Political Science from the University of California, Berkeley; an M.S. in National Security Strategy from the National War College; and a B.A. in Slavic Studies from Harvard University.