



### **CATHERINE DALE**

Dr. Dale is a practitioner and scholar of U.S. national and international security issues. As Specialist in International Security at the Congressional Research Service (CRS) – the Congress’s “in-house think tank” – Dr. Dale provides 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.

Dr. Dale has a long and robust history as a strategic advisor to senior military leaders. From 2009 to 2010, on leave from CRS, as the Senior Civilian Advisor to 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 ISAF Commander General Petraeus for two months; in 2011 she conducted a month-long assessment for ISAF Commander General Allen; in 2012 she conducted another month-long campaign assessment for IJC Commander Lieutenant General Terry; in 2013 she spent two and a half months in Afghanistan as an advisor to COMISAF General Dunford; and in 2014 she spent another month conducting a campaign assessment for IJC Commander Lieutenant General Anderson. Also in 2011, she conducted the “initial strategic assessment” at U.S. Africa Command for General Ham. She is serving now as an outside Senior Advisor for Supreme Allied Commander Europe, General Breedlove, and continues to play adjunct strategic advisory roles – “helping us see ourselves” – for many other senior military leaders.

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 Board of Directors of the Initiative to Educate Afghan Women, a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and an active participant in the Team Red White and Blue community. 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.