

Colonel (retired) Mark Gunzinger Senior Fellow, Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments

Mark Gunzinger is a Senior Fellow at the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments. Mr. Gunzinger has served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Forces Transformation and Resources. He is the principal author or co-author of multiple Defense Planning Guidance directives, key strategic planning documents that shaped DoD's future force planning.



A retired Air Force Colonel and Command Pilot, Mark joined the Office of the Secretary of Defense in 2004. He was appointed to the Senior Executive Service and served as Principal Director of the Department's central staff for the 2006 Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR). Following the QDR, he served as the Director for Defense Transformation, Force Planning and Resources on the National Security Council staff. During his Air Force career, Mark was an aircraft commander/instructor pilot with over 3,000 hours in the B-52, served as a strategic planner on the Air Staff, and helped lead multiple assessments of future capability requirements.

Mr. Gunzinger holds a Master of Science in National Security Strategy degree from the National War College (Distinguished Graduate), a Master of Airpower Art and Science degree from the School of Advanced Air and Space Studies, a Master of Public Administration from Central Michigan University, and a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from the United States Air Force Academy (Class of 1977). He is the recipient of the Department of Defense Distinguished Civilian Service Medal, the Secretary of Defense Medal for Outstanding Public Service, the Defense Superior Service Medal, and the Legion of Merit Medal.