

Brent Droste Sadler, Captain U.S. Navy (retired)



Brent is a 26 year Navy veteran with numerous operational tours on nuclear powered submarines in the Pacific, personal staffs of senior Defense Department leaders, and as a military diplomat in Asia. Since retiring from the Navy in 2020, he has been a prolific writer and media commentator focusing on maritime security and the technologies shaping future maritime forces and commercial shipping. In 2023, he authored a book detailing a new naval statecraft in ***U.S. Naval Power in the 21st Century*** which was followed in 2025 with the book ***Naval Power in Action***.

A native of Springfield, Virginia, he graduated with honors from the United States Naval Academy in 1994 with a degree in Systems Engineering (robotics) and a minor in Japanese. As an Olmsted Scholar in Tokyo, Japan from 2004 to 2007, he studied at Keio University, Jochi University and the United Nations

University. He has a M.A. from Jochi University and M.S. from National War College where he graduated with distinction in 2011 receiving several writing and research awards.

In 2011, he helped establish the Navy Asia Pacific Advisory Group (NAPAG), providing regionally informed comprehensive advice directly to Chief of Naval Operations' (CNO). He again served on the CNO's personal staff in 2015-2016, advising on the Asia-Pacific and as the CNO's representative to the Deputy Secretary of Defense in developing the Defense Department's Third Offset.

At Pacific Command from 2012-2015, he held numerous key positions. As lead for Maritime Strategy and Policy, he incorporated all 10 Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) into the first regional maritime domain awareness forum; and, was instrumental in developing the \$500 million dollar Maritime Security Initiative. As Special Advisor on Japan, and a Council of Foreign Relations International Affairs Fellow in Tokyo, he played a key role in revising the U.S. and Japan Defense Guidelines. As Deputy Director Strategic Synchronization Group, he oversaw a think-tank like body of over 30 advisors and analysts. Lastly, he was the Commander's representative to the Deputy Secretary of Defense responsible for developing and coordinating execution of the President's Defense Strategic Guidance—Rebalance to the Asia-Pacific resulting in over \$12 billion USD of additional monies budgeted in fiscal years 2013 through 2015 during a time of fiscal austerity.

Following his final tour on CNO's staff, Brent returned to Asia as Senior Defense Official, Defense and Naval Attaché in Malaysia. During his tenure he played a key role in coordinating responses to the USS McCain collision in August 2017, opened several politically sensitive ports and airfields to U.S. forces, oversaw unprecedented expansion of U.S. military relations, and steadied relations during the historic May 2018 national elections ushering in an opposition party for the first time since independence.

He is married to the former Yulia Polyakova and has two daughters: Sophia and Vivienne.