

Mark R. Jacobson

Dr. Mark Jacobson has over twenty years of experience in the U.S. government, international organizations, and academia working on some of the most complex and politically sensitive national security issues facing the United States. He has served as a policymaker, diplomat and academic in addition to being a combat veteran. He is a recognized expert on U.S. foreign policy and national security and can explain in clear terms how the U.S. develops foreign and defense policy, the role of Congress in these decisions, and how it all plays out in the international arena. He is currently an Associate Teaching Professor at Georgetown University's Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service as well as a non-resident Senior Fellow at Salve Regina University's Pell Center for International Relations and Public Policy and a Senior Policy Advisor in the Government Affairs and Strategic Counsel Group at Kasowitz Benson Torres LLP.

Previously Jacobson held appointments as a Senior Advisor to the Secretary of Defense and Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Navy. Previously he served in Kabul, Afghanistan as the Deputy NATO Representative and Director of International Affairs at the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and in these roles advised Generals David Petraeus and Stanley McChrystal on the international political dynamics of the mission. Earlier in his career Jacobson served at the Pentagon in multiple roles and was in his office on September 11, 2001 when American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the wing where he worked. On Capitol Hill, Jacobson worked for Senator Carl Levin on the staff of the Senate Armed Services Committee where he participated in the inquiry into the treatment and interrogation of detainees in U.S. custody. A combat veteran, his military service includes time as both an Army and Navy reservist including mobilizations to Bosnia in 1996 and to Afghanistan in 2006. As an academic Jacobson focuses on military history, the use of propaganda, as well as the politics of U.S. national security policy. He is currently drafting two books, one on the use of propaganda during the Korean War and the other on perceptions of the Carter Presidency, 1977-1981.

Jacobson grew up in the suburbs of Detroit, Michigan and holds degrees from the University of Michigan, the King's College, University of London and a PhD in Military History from The Ohio State University. He is a life member of the Council on Foreign Relations and a Senior Advisor to the Truman National Security Project. He lives with his wife and son in Washington DC and remains a rabid Michigan Wolverines fan.