

Mara Karlin, Ph.D, recently joined Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies (JHU-SAIS) as Associate Professor of Practice and Associate Director of Strategic Studies. She has served in national security roles for five Secretaries of Defense, advising on policies spanning strategic planning, defense budgeting, future wars and the evolving security environment, and regional affairs involving the Middle East, Europe, and Asia.

Most recently, she served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Strategy & Force Development. In that role, her office assessed the future of international security and crafted the Department's strategies for navigating that future—including through the analysis of future wars— as a means to guiding the development of a prepared, capable, and effective U.S. military. She oversaw and implemented the overarching policy and strategy guidance that shapes the Department's \$550B+ budget. She was a key architect of several mission-critical strategies, including the 2014 Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR), the President's 2015 National Security Strategy, the counter-ISIL strategy, two classified Secretary of Defense-signed strategies on long-term global challenges, and three Defense Planning Guidances, including the earliest one in the Department's history. She led three Departmental reviews on strategic portfolios focused on power projection which guided more than \$20B in investments and directed a groundbreaking study assessing the current policy and implications of lethal autonomous weapons. She inaugurated the first three Departmental initiatives to shape close allies' defense strategies and budgets, and oversaw the first formal efforts to actively assess the defense strategy with key offices from the Department, outside scholars, and Asian and European allies.

Previously, she served in a variety of policy positions in the Defense Department, including Principal Director of the Strategy office, Special Assistant to the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, Levant Director, and South Asia Country Director. As Special Assistant, she facilitated the Under Secretary's efforts on hundreds of national security-related actions with an emphasis on Middle East security affairs. As Levant Director, she formulated U.S. policy on Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and Israel-Palestinian affairs. This included inaugurating a program to build the Lebanese Armed Forces, coordinating nascent defense relations between the United States and Lebanon, deepening U.S.-Jordanian defense cooperation, expanding security sector reform in the Palestinian arena, and a wide range of efforts involving Syria and Iran. As South Asia Country Director, she formulated U.S. policy on India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Bangladesh, focusing on terrorism, governability, security sector reform, and nonproliferation. For this work, she has been awarded Department of Defense Medals for Distinguished Civilian Service and Meritorious Service, among others.

Her first book, *Building Militaries in Fragile States: Challenges for the United States*, will be published University of Pennsylvania Press in 2017.

She received her B.A. *summa cum laude* in Political Science from Newcomb College, Tulane University; M.A. *with distinction* in Strategic Studies, Middle East Studies, and Economics from JHU-SAIS; and, Ph.D. in International Relations from JHU-SAIS.