



Bio of Gretchen S. Peters

Gretchen S. Peters is **Executive Director** of [CINTOC](#), a strategic intelligence organization that finds hidden criminal networks. She supports governments, communities and foundations to understand and counter transnational threats, ranging from rogue states to wildlife traffickers. Ms. Peters has served as a subject matter expert (SME) to the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Counter-Narcotics and Global Threats, USCENTCOM's AfPak Center (J2) and supported USSOCOM's Counternarcotics and Transnational Threats (J36) team to identify, research and counter tier one security threats. She also co-chaired an OECD Task Force on Wildlife and Environmental Crime, and supported major conservation foundations, including the Elephant Crisis Fund, to map illicit supply chains moving ivory from Africa to Asia. Ms. Peters is considered a leading authority on the intersection of crime and terrorism, trade-based money laundering, the illegal wildlife trade and transnational organized crime.

Ms. Peters is the author of [Seeds of Terror](#), a groundbreaking, international bestseller about the Afghan heroin trade that changed U.S. policy towards Afghanistan and the fight against terror. She spent five years researching the book, which *Barrons* called "a well-written, well-documented and exemplary work of journalism." She also authored a policy report on the AfPak opium trade for the U.S. Institute of Peace, and a monograph about the Haqqani network for West Point's CTC. Peters has authored chapters in leading academic books about Pakistan's D-Company, the Pakistani Taliban, and how crime syndicates impacted peace-building efforts in Afghanistan. In 2017, she published "[The Curse of the Shiny Object](#)."

Ms. Peters has testified before the U.S. Congress about the Haqqani network and is a frequent commentator to the media including *CNN*, *BBC*, *NPR*, *Fox*, *Reuters*, and *New York Times* among others. She appeared on *the Daily Show*, and has delivered presentations on her work at the Pentagon, the State Department, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Defense Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency, Special Operations Command, for the Navy Seals, and for thousands of NATO servicemen and women deploying to Afghanistan.

She holds a Master's Degree in International Relations from the Josef Korbel School of International Studies, where she was awarded the Sié Chéou-Kang security and diplomacy fellowship and the Association of Former Intelligence Officers Life's Choices Foundation Scholarship to examine illicit networks and transnational organized crime. A former research faculty member at George Mason University, she lectures regularly at universities and think tanks about the intersection of crime and conflict, and how to understand and disrupt illicit networks.

In a past life, Ms. Peters worked as a foreign correspondent and investigative reporter, covering Pakistan and Afghanistan for more than a decade, first for *The Associated Press* and later for *ABC News*. She was part of an Emmy-award winning team covering Afghanistan in the weeks after 9/11, and was later nominated for an Emmy herself for her coverage of the 2007 assassination of Benazir Bhutto. She won the 2006 SAJA Journalism Award for a *Nightline* story on the former Pakistani military ruler Pervez Musharraf. She has published editorials in the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post* and *Foreign Policy*, and has reported from Mexico, Cambodia, China, Taiwan, Burma, Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, Kosovo, Pakistan, Afghanistan, India and Egypt.

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