Biography

Dr. Van Jackson
Visiting Fellow, Center for a New American Security

Dr. Van Jackson is a Visiting Fellow at the Center for a New American Security, where he researches the intersection of Asian security, strategy, and technology. He is also a Council on Foreign Relations International Affairs Fellow and a senior editor at the e-news daily War on the Rocks. From 2009 to 2014, Dr. Jackson held positions in the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) as a strategist and policy adviser for the Asia-Pacific, senior country director for Korea, and working group chair of the U.S.–Republic of Korea Extended Deterrence Policy Committee. During his time in OSD, Dr. Jackson’s responsibilities ranged from strategic planning, military innovation studies, and assessments of the security implications of emerging technologies to crisis management and direct negotiations with numerous Asian government ministries. He is the recipient of multiple awards in OSD, including the Exceptional Civilian Service Medal.

Complementing his work in strategy and foreign policy, Dr. Jackson teaches courses on Asian security and grand strategy at Georgetown University and the Catholic University of America, and is a rotating lecturer in the Naval Postgraduate School’s Regional Security Education Program. He has additionally delivered guest lectures at a number of schools nationally, including the U.S. National War College, U.S. Naval War College, and Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies. Formerly a nonresident James A. Kelly Fellow in Korean Studies with Pacific Forum at the Center for Strategic & International Studies, Dr. Jackson is the author of the forthcoming Rival Reputations: Coercion and Credibility in North Korea-U.S. Relations (Cambridge University Press). He has published widely in academic and policy journals, as well as in popular media, and speaks regularly on contemporary Asian affairs, defense strategy, and foreign policy. Dr. Jackson holds a PhD in world politics from the Catholic University of America. He started his career in the U.S. Air Force as a Korean linguist and intelligence analyst.