

Mr. Mark Stokes
Executive Director
The Project 2049 Institute

Lieutenant Colonel (retired) **Mark A. Stokes** is Executive Director of the Project 2049 Institute. The Project 2049 Institute, established in January 2008, seeks to guide decision makers toward a more secure Asia by the century's mid-point. The organization fills a gap in the public policy realm through forward-looking, region-specific research on alternative security and policy solutions. In addition to Taiwan issues, Mark's primary research focus includes Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) strategic missile forces, PLA Strategic Support Force, aerospace and defense industry, PLA leadership, Chinese signals intelligence and cyber reconnaissance, Chinese Communist Party (CCP) political leadership and foreign security policymaking, and cross-Strait relations.

Mark has served in a variety of military and private sector positions. A 20 year U.S. Air Force veteran, he was assigned to electronic warfare, intelligence, planning, and policy positions. He began his career as a signals intelligence officer. From 1984-1986, he was assigned to the 6922nd Electronic Security Squadron, Clark AB, Philippines. From 1986-1989, he served as a signals intelligence and electronic warfare officer in the 6912th Electronic Security Wing, Berlin, West Germany. After graduate school and Chinese language training, Mark served as assistant air attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing from 1992 to 1995. His primary responsibility was monitoring and reporting on PLA space and missile developments. He was a recipient of the Director of Central Intelligence's Collector of the Year Award in 1995.

From 1995 to May 1997, he was assigned as a strategic planner within the U.S. Air Force Plans and Operations Directorate. Between 1997 and 2004, he served as team chief and senior country director for the People's Republic of China (PRC), Taiwan, and in Mongolia in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. In this position, he was responsible for developing, coordinating, and managing U.S. defense policy with respect to the PRC, Taiwan, and Mongolia.

After retiring from military service as a lieutenant colonel, he worked in the private sector on Taiwan for more than three years. He served as executive vice president of Laifu Trading Company and subsequently as Taiwan country manager for Raytheon International. Mark also was a member of the Board of Governors of the American Chamber of Commerce in Taiwan.

Mark joined Project 2049 in 2008. He holds a BA from Texas A&M University and graduate degrees in international relations and Asian studies from Boston University and the Naval Postgraduate School. He has working proficiency in Mandarin Chinese.