

Seth G. Jones



Director, International Security and Defense Policy Center
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Education

Ph.D. and M.A. in political science, University of Chicago; A.B., Bowdoin College

Biography

Seth G. Jones is director of the International Security and Defense Policy Center at the RAND Corporation, as well as an adjunct professor at Johns Hopkins University's School for Advanced International Studies (SAIS). He served as the representative for the commander, U.S. Special Operations Command, to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations. Before that, he served as a plans officer and advisor to the commanding general, U.S. Special Operations Forces, in Afghanistan (Combined Forces Special Operations Component Command–Afghanistan).

Jones specializes in counterinsurgency and counterterrorism, including a focus on Afghanistan, Pakistan, and al Qa'ida. He is the author of *Hunting in the Shadows: The Pursuit of al Qa'ida after 9/11* (W.W. Norton, 2012) and *In the Graveyard of Empires: America's War in Afghanistan* (W. W. Norton), which won the 2010 Council on Foreign Relations Silver Medal for Best Book of the Year. He is also the author of *The Rise of European Security Cooperation* (Cambridge University Press, 2007). Jones has published articles in a range of journals, such as *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, and *International Security*, as well as in such newspapers and magazines as the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and *Wall Street Journal*.

Among his many RAND publications are *Afghanistan's Local War* (2010), *Counterinsurgency in Pakistan* (2010), *How Terrorist Groups End: Lessons for Countering Al Qa'ida* (2009), and *Counterinsurgency in Afghanistan* (2008). Jones is also coauthor of RAND's series of reports on nation-building.

Jones received his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Chicago.

Previous Positions

Representative for the commander, U.S. Special Operations Command, to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations; Plans officer and advisor to the commanding general, U.S. Special Operations Forces, in Afghanistan

Recent Projects

- Counterterrorism efforts against al Qaeda
- How terrorist groups end
- Counterinsurgency operations in Afghanistan and Pakistan
- Best practices in nation-building

Selected Publications

Seth G. Jones "Al Qaeda in Afghanistan," in Bruce Hoffman and Fernando Reinares, *Leader-Led Jihad*, Columbia University Press (forthcoming)

Seth G. Jones, "The False Promise of the Arab Uprisings," *Foreign Affairs*, 92(1), 2013

Seth G. Jones, *Hunting in the Shadows: The Pursuit of al Qaeda after 9/11*, W.W. Norton, 2012

Seth G. Jones, "Think Again: Al Qaeda," *Foreign Policy*, (193), 2012

Seth G. Jones, *Afghanistan's Local War: Building Local Defense Forces*, RAND (MG-1002-MCIA), 2010

Seth G. Jones, *In the Graveyard of Empires: America's War in Afghanistan*, W.W. Norton, 2010

Seth G. Jones and Martin Libicki, *How Terrorist Groups End: Lessons for Countering al Qaeda*, RAND (MG-741-1-RC), 2008

Seth G. Jones, "The Rise of Afghanistan's Insurgency," *International Security*, 32, 2008