

## Steve Coonen

In addition to working as a freelance national security consultant, Steve Coonen renovates investment properties with a particular interest on properties near undervalued ski resorts. Prior to this Steve dedicated nearly 40 years in the defense of the United States both in uniform with the United States Army and as a Department of Defense civil servant.

Steve voluntarily resigned from the Department of Defense, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Defense Technology Security Administration (DTSA) while serving as the Senior Foreign Affairs Advisor on China because he had exhausted his ability to positively influence DTSA leadership to be more aggressive in denying the transfer of American technologies to China. Steve earned the Award for Excellence from the Office of the Secretary of Defense in July 2020 for his work on China.

While at DTSA, Steve was nominated and selected for the Defense Senior Leader Development Program (DSLDP), a DoD program to groom future senior civilian leaders. Steve also volunteered and served back-to-back tours in Afghanistan as Senior Security Assistance Ministry of Defense Advisor (MoDA) with the NATO Training Mission–Afghanistan and as a Senior Strategic Advisor on the Commander's Action Group for the Commander, International Security Assistance Force. Steve was awarded two Superior Civilian Service Awards for his service in Afghanistan.

Prior to joining DTSA, Steve served as the Acting Director, Management, Operations, and Administration at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies. Steve served for over 22 years in the U.S. Army as a Foreign Area Officer and Field Artillery Officer.

Steve earned a Bachelor of Arts from Saint Norbert College, De Pere, Wisconsin, a Master of Arts in West European Studies from Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, and a Master of Science in National Security Studies from the National War College in Washington DC. Steve was also the US representative at the International Security and Arms Control course at the Geneva Center for Security Policy (GCSP) in Geneva, Switzerland. Steve speaks French and German.

Steve is from Seymour, Wisconsin. He is married to Brigitte with whom he has two children, Anthony and Sonia. Steve enjoys skiing and bicycling.