



**Mark R. Jacobson, Ph.D.**  
Senior Advisor – Truman National Security Project

Dr. Mark R. Jacobson is an internationally recognized expert on defense and foreign policy issues and is currently a Senior Advisor to the Truman National Security Project and an adjunct professor at The George Washington University's Elliot School of International Affairs. From 2012-2014, Jacobson was a Senior Transatlantic Fellow at The German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF) and from 2009 – 2011 he served at the NATO International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) Headquarters in Kabul, Afghanistan, including as a Strategic Advisor to General Stanley McChrystal and as the Deputy NATO Senior Civilian Representative (SCR). In this capacity Jacobson was a principal foreign policy advisor to General David Petraeus. During his two years in Afghanistan, Jacobson worked closely with the international community to find solutions to diplomatic crises that could derail the comprehensive campaign in support of the Government of Afghanistan.

Jacobson previously served in various roles at the Department of Defense from 1998-2003 before leaving government to serve as the Visiting Scholar for International Security and Public Policy at The Merghon Center. During this time he completed his Ph.D. dissertation, "Minds then Hearts" a study of psychological warfare campaigns during the Korean War. After his return to government work, Jacobson was a national security fellow in the office of Senator John Kerry and later he served on the staff of the Senate Armed Services Committee where he was part of the Chairman Carl Levin's oversight and investigations team. Among his various honors and awards, in 2002 Jacobson was a finalist for the first Service to America Award sponsored by the Partnership for Public Service and in 2011 he became a life-Member at the Council on Foreign Relations. Jacobson's 20 years of military service includes eight years enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserve as a Psychological Operations Specialist and he currently holds a commission as an intelligence officer in the U.S. Navy Reserve. He is trained as a Defense attaché and strategic debriefer and has mobilized in support of NATO and U.S. military missions including tours in Bosnia (1996) and in Afghanistan (2006) where he supported a variety of Special Operations missions.

Jacobson is a frequent speaker and lecturer on national security issues and provides expert on-air commentary on a number of international news programs. Jacobson received his B.A. in history from the University of Michigan, an M.A. in War Studies, from King's College, University of London and in 2005 he was awarded his Ph.D. in Military History and Strategic Studies from The Ohio State University.