

# **PRESS NOTICE: Retired Generals and Admirals Speak Out Why They Trust Hillary Clinton as the Next Commander in Chief**

A number of retired generals and admirals, coming from each of the service branches, are at the Democratic National Convention, expressing their support for Hillary Clinton as the next Commander in Chief and their concern about the ability of Donald Trump to fulfill that role without endangering our Nation and our Allies. This group is not affiliated with the Hillary for America campaign and is here showing support independently. They do not serve as official surrogates.

These retired senior military leaders have over 200 years of combined experience in national security, some of it gained in the world's most dangerous places. They know that Secretary Clinton's record of accomplishments will make her a great Commander in Chief, including her leading the world to impose crippling sanctions on Iran to bring the Iranians to the negotiating table, working to gain a cease fire in Gaza to protect Israel, and rebuilding the relationship with U.S. allies that had been so damaged during the George Bush Administration.

- Secretary Clinton has an actual, real, comprehensive plan to defeat ISIS across the Middle East, disrupt and defeat global terrorist networks and infrastructure and protect America and its allies.
- Secretary Clinton understands the use of smart power, using all of the elements of national power to achieve our national goals, not just defaulting to the use of military force.
- Secretary Clinton has a record of action and accomplishment for veterans and military families, from the time that she was First Lady, from getting Gulf War Syndrome recognized to her time on the Senate Armed Services Committee, working with Senators Lindsey Graham and John McCain to improve benefits for our veterans.

Donald Trump has stated that he will pull back from NATO, which is crucial to our ability to fight terrorism. He has insulted our Allies while praising dictators and adversaries. He has said that more countries should have nuclear weapons and in some of the most combustible areas of the world. Mr. Trump's demonizing of Muslims is alienating the very countries we need to help us in the fight against terrorism.

**To Schedule Interviews:** Please contact Rear Admiral Jamie Barnett, (703) 203-0003 // [jamiembarnett2016@gmail.com](mailto:jamiembarnett2016@gmail.com) and/or Margaret Mullins, (404) 281-6230 // [mmmullins66@gmail.com](mailto:mmmullins66@gmail.com).

Major General Donna Barbisch, USA  
Rear Admiral Jamie Barnett, USN  
Major General George Buskirk, USA-National Guard  
Lieutenant General John Castellaw, USMC  
Lieutenant General Dan Christman, USA  
Brigadier General John Douglass, USAF  
Lieutenant General Walter Gaskin, USMC  
Brigadier General Larry Gillespie, USA  
Vice Admiral Kevin Green, USN  
Rear Admiral John Hutson, USN

Lieutenant General Arlen "Dirk" Jameson, USAF  
Rear Admiral David Oliver, USN  
Rear Admiral Harold Robinson, USN  
Rear Admiral Michael Smith, USN  
Brigadier General Loree Sutton, USA  
Brigadier General Dan Woodward, USAF  
Major General Maggie Woodward, USAF  
Brigadier General Stephen Xenakis, USA

## Biographies

### **MG Donna Barbisch, USA (ret)**



Major General (Ret) Donna Barbisch, MPH, DHA, is among the nation's most distinguished experts in terrorism, disaster preparedness, and national and international security interoperability. She is a dynamic role model, leader, and agent for change who moves people to action. Dr. Barbisch started her military career as a Private First Class in the Army Student Nurse Program and rose to the rank of Major General over a military career spanning more than 38 years, retiring from the Army in 2005. Today she is focused on building responsible leadership and effective decision-making during complex crisis. She is currently working on serious gaming initiatives to immerse leaders in crisis environments and "force multiply" the reach of education, training, and exercising to improve resiliency, readiness, and response. She works nationally and internationally to improve preparedness, and works with think tanks and executive boards to develop strategic solutions to complex issues. She earned a Doctorate in Health Administration from the Medical University of South Carolina, an MPH from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a Bachelor of Science from California University of Pennsylvania. She also earned a diploma in nursing from Columbia Hospital School of Nursing in Pittsburgh and a diploma in nurse anesthesia from Mercy Hospital School of Anesthesia in Pittsburgh. Dr. Barbisch has been described as a visionary with an entrepreneurial approach to emerging threats.

### **RDML Jamie Barnett, USN (ret)**



Rear Admiral Barnett has had a distinguished career in the public and private sector. A surface warfare officer, he has over 30 years of experience in the United States Navy and Navy Reserve, rising to the rank of Rear Admiral and serving as Deputy Commander, Navy Expeditionary Combat Command and Director of Naval Education and Training in the Pentagon. Among other personal awards, he has received four Legion of Merit medals. In addition to his military service, Admiral Barnett served as the Chief of the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau of the Federal Communications Commission where he executed major cybersecurity initiatives. As Chief of the Bureau, Admiral Barnett also led major rulemakings and projects in public safety broadband, emergency alerting and Next Generation 9-1-1, working closely with industry and government stakeholders. He has also testified before Congress and is a noted speaker on cybersecurity. For nearly 20 years, Admiral Barnett worked as an attorney in private practice. He represented cities, counties, school districts, law enforcement agencies and development authorities in the board room and in state and federal court advising on a range of topics including constitutional law, governmental liability, personnel and employment law, education and school law, policy development, legislation, procurement, and ethics.

**MG George Buskirk, USA-NG (ret)**



George Buskirk, a major general in the National Guard, currently serves as legal counsel to the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, and served as adjutant general of the State of Indiana under Governor Frank O'Bannon from 2001-2004. He is a member of American Legion Frank McKinney Post 510 in Indianapolis. Buskirk, who joined the Guard in 1977, served in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General Corps during the Vietnam War. He is a retired senior vice president and trust officer for Union Federal Savings Bank, and past president of the Indiana War Memorial Commission. An Indianapolis native who resides in Zionsville, Ind., Buskirk holds a bachelor's degree in business from Butler University and a doctor of jurisprudence degree from Indiana University Law School. He and his wife, Maureen, have three children.

**LtGen John Castellaw, USMC (ret)**



John "Glad" Castellaw is the chief executive officer (CEO) of Farmspace Systems a provider of precision agriculture services and equipment in the Mid-South. Castellaw graduated from the University of Tennessee, Martin (UTM) in 1972 with a commission in the Marines and a degree in Agriculture. For 36 years he led Marines around the world while flying more than two dozen different types of aircraft. Castellaw served with the UN during the Siege of Sarajevo, commanded the American force in the multi-national security and stability operation in East Timor, and as the chief of staff for the U.S. Central Command at the height of the war in Iraq. His last tours were in the Pentagon where he oversaw Marine Aviation and then the Marine Corps budget. In 2008, he returned to Tennessee where he operates the family farm, is a teaching fellow at UTM, and on the board of the Bank of Crockett. Castellaw is the president of the non-profit Crockett Policy Institute and is a senior associate with the Washington based Corvus Group. Other national security affiliations include membership on the Nuclear Security Working Group, the Climate Security Working Group, and the board of the American Security Project.

**LTG Dan Christman, USA (ret)**



Dan Christman is the former Superintendent of the United States Military Academy (1996–2001), and the current Senior Vice President for International Affairs, U.S. Chamber of Commerce. A 1965 graduate of West Point, he went on to earn multiple post-graduate degrees and hold numerous commands during his army career. Christman served in highly visible and strategically important positions and four times was awarded the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the nation's highest peacetime service award. He is currently Senior Vice President International Affairs for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, a position he has held since June 2003, and was previously the Executive Director of the Kimsey Foundation in Washington, D.C. He also currently serves as a director of United Services Automobile Association, an insurance mutual corporation and Entegris, Inc., a semiconductor equipment manufacturer.

### **Brig Gen John Douglass, USAF (ret)**



John Douglass is a retired U.S. Air Force general. In 1981, he was named special assistant to the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering in Washington, D. C. He joined the United States National Security Council in 1984 as director of defense programs. In March 1988, he became director of program planning and integration, and acting director of science and technology in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition. In August 1989, he became deputy U.S. military representative to the NATO Military Committee in Brussels, Belgium. Douglass retired from the United States Air Force in 1992. Following his retirement from the Air Force, Douglass served as a foreign policy and science and technology advisor to Senator Sam Nunn and served as lead minority staff member for the Senate Armed Services Committee defense conversion and technology reinvestment programs. Appointed by President Clinton, Douglass served as Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development and Acquisitions) from November 1995 to August 1998. From 1998 to 2007, Douglass served as president and CEO of Aerospace Industries Association, an American trade association representing manufacturers and suppliers of civil, military, and business aircraft; helicopters; UAVs; space systems; aircraft engines, materiel, and related components; equipment services; and information technology. In 2007, Douglass became President and CEO of The Douglass Aerospace Group. During the 2008 Presidential election campaign, Douglass was a member of President Obama's Aerospace and Defense Industry advisors group and campaigned on behalf of the President.

### **LtGen Walter Gaskin, USMC (ret)**



Lieutenant General Gaskin served as the Commanding General of the 2d Marine Division at Camp Lejeune, NC from June 2006 until July 2008. In addition to this role, he simultaneously served as the Commanding General of II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward). During this tour, Lieutenant General Gaskin led II MEF (FWD) during its year-long deployment to Al Anbar Province, Iraq as the Commanding General of Multinational Forces-West. A 1974 graduate from Savannah State University's NROTC Program with a Bachelor of Science, Lieutenant General Gaskin also earned a Master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Oklahoma in 1992. He has also completed the Senior Executive Seminar from the JFK School of Government, Harvard University in 2002.

### **BG Larry Gillespie, USA (ret)**



Gillespie has led a distinguished 33-year career with the U.S. Army. He served as the Assistant Deputy Commanding General, (ARNG) Army Material Command. He is a recognized authority in many of the technical challenges and solutions associated with Homeland Security and National Defense. As a civilian, General Gillespie has held a series of increasingly important positions with the Air Transport Association, Hughes Aircraft Company, Raytheon Systems Company, NCI, Hampton University, and Eagle Force Association.

### **VADM Kevin Green, USN (ret)**



Kevin Green served more than thirty years as a naval officer, completing his Navy career as Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Operations, Plans, and Policy. As DCNO, he coordinated global naval operations, strategic planning, information operations, and naval policy development; and managed service relationships with the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Joint Staff, the National Security Council staff, the US military services, other federal agencies, and allied navies. As a flag officer he commanded Naval Forces U.S. Southern Command, the ABRAHAM LINCOLN Carrier Group, and Naval Training Center Great Lakes, Illinois. He served in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Atlantic Fleet Headquarters, the Bureau of Naval Personnel, and commanded Destroyer Squadron 23 and the guided missile frigate USS TAYLOR. He graduated from the United States Naval Academy and the National War College, and received an M.S. in Applied Science from the Naval Postgraduate School. Kevin consults with the Defense Science Board, the National Academy of Sciences, and the Council on Foreign Relations. He is a member of the U.S Naval Institute and the Surface Navy Association, and serves on the Tuskegee University Board of Trustees. Kevin now leads IBM's Department of Defense and Intelligence Community business which covers the armed services, joint commands, defense agencies, and the national intelligence agencies.

### **RADM John Hutson, USN (ret)**



John Hutson is a retired United States Navy rear admiral, attorney, and former Judge Advocate General of the Navy. He is the outgoing dean and president of University of New Hampshire School of Law in Concord, New Hampshire, having served in the position since 2000. Dean Hutson holds a B.A. from Michigan State University, a J.D. from the University of Minnesota Law School, and an LL.M. from Georgetown University Law Center.

### **Lt Gen Arlen "Dirk" Jameson, USAF (ret)**



Lt. General Dirk Jameson served as Deputy Commander in Chief and Chief of Staff of U.S. Strategic Command before retiring from the U.S. Air Force in 1996 after more than three decades of active service. Gen. Jameson was responsible for directing the headquarters staff of 4,000 men and women and participating in numerous nuclear forums with the leaders of the Russian Federation Strategic Rocket Forces. Prior to his StratCom assignment, Gen. Jameson commanded the 14,500 men and women of the U.S. 20th Air Force, and was responsible for all U.S. Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles, seven major subordinate units, operational training, testing, security and readiness. Since retiring from the Air Force, General Jameson has continued to serve in a number of private sector leadership positions. General Jameson received his undergraduate degree in Business Management from the University of Puget Sound, an MBA in Business Management from Ohio State University, and completed the Northwestern University Kellogg School of Business Program for Senior Executives. General Jameson graduated from the National War College and attended the Harvard University Kennedy School National Security Program for Senior Executive.

### **RADM Dave Oliver, USN (ret)**



Dave has succeeded in the military, government and industry – both commercial and defense. In industry, he ran his own consulting business and served as a chief executive officer, chief operating officer or senior executive for components of Airbus, Northrop Grumman and Westinghouse. In government, President Bill Clinton appointed him to the Defense Department as the Principal Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics and subsequently President Bush tasked him to go to Iraq to serve as the Special Advisory to the Minister of Finance. Dave not only did so, he also assumed the role for Ambassador Bremer as the Director of Management of Budget for the Coalition Forces. Before entering industry, Dave completed a distinguished career in the US Navy, retiring as a Rear Admiral, (Upper Half). His specialty was nuclear submarines and he commanded the Submarine Group in Yokosuka, Japan, as well as the Group in San Diego, in addition to his own individual submarine. Most of his time at sea was spent in the Pacific. Dave is the author of a how-to book for political appointees, Making it in Washington, as well as his wife's biography, Wide Blue Ribbon, and two leadership books, Lead On (Random House), and Against the Tide (Naval Institute Press). The latter is the story of Admiral Rickover's insistence on culture change in the Navy.

### **RDML Harold Robinson, USN (ret)**



Rear Admiral Harold L. Robinson earned a Bachelor of Arts from Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in 1968. He earned a Bachelor of Hebrew Letters in 1972, a Master of Arts and ordination as a Rabbi in 1974 all from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion Cincinnati, Ohio. In 1999 the College Institute awarded him the degree of Doctor of Divinity, and in 2005 Coe College conferred the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters. He was Rabbi of Temple Israel of Gary, Ind., (1974-1977), the Cape Cod Synagogue (1977-1998) and of B'nai Zion Congregation in Shreveport, La. (1998-2006) During this time, he has served on numerous boards and commissions, including 12 years on the Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism, six years on the Resolutions Committee of Reform Judaism and four years on the Commission on Religious Living of Reform Judaism. He served for seven years as Chair of the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination, Cape and Islands Advisory Council. He currently serves as the Director of the Jewish Welfare Board-Jewish Chaplains Council. Commissioned an Ensign in the U.S. Naval Reserve in 1971, Rear Adm. Robinson received a superseding commission as a Chaplain in 1975. His Flag assignment is: Deputy Chief of Chaplains for Reserve Matters and Director of Religious Programs, Marine Force Reserve. Rear Adm. Robinson also served as the President of the COMNAVRESFOR Policy Board FY 2005, the first staff corps officer so assigned. Rear Adm. Robinson is a Fleet Marine Force Qualified Officer.

**RDML Michael Smith, USN (ret)**



Mike Smith is currently serving as a Senior Executive with an information technology company in Northern Virginia. Having recently retired from the U.S. Navy, he has over twenty years of senior executive experience building successful teams, managing transformational change and leading a range of highly technical and diverse organizations. With an Ocean Engineering degree and graduate level education in nuclear engineering, Mike spent 32 years in the U.S. Navy successfully planning, executing and leading change. He capped his career as the independent authority responsible to Congress for evaluating the effectiveness of every ship and submarine in the Navy, including those under construction. Mike was a key advisor and direct report to Admiral Mike Mullen, then the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the senior military advisor to the President. He similarly advised Admiral Bob

Willard who, as the Commander of the U.S. Pacific Command, was responsible for leading the nation's strategic approach to Asia and the Pacific. Both of these positions solidified Mike's appreciation for the value diverse cultures and people bring when identifying innovative solutions to complex problems. In November, 2015 Mike joined Burdeshaw Associates, a premier U.S. and global consulting firm and in April 2016 assumed his current Senior Executive position. He was awarded the Bronze Star for action during combat, is a fellow of MIT's Seminar XXI program and has a Master's in International Negotiations.

**BG Loree Sutton, USA (ret)**



Loree K. Sutton was the founding director of the Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury (DCoE) and was a special assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs. Prior to founding DCoE, Sutton was commander of the Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center in Fort Hood, Texas, commander of the DeWitt Army Community Hospital, deputy commander for clinical services, General Leonard Wood Army Community Hospital and a special assistant to the Army surgeon general. During her career, she received many awards, including the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, and Order of Military Medical Merit. Sutton graduated from Pacific Union College with a bachelor of science in business administration in 1981. She graduated from medical school at Loma Linda University and completed her

internship and residency at Letterman Army Medical Center. She is also a graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College.

### **Brig Gen Dan Woodward, USAF (ret)**



Brig. Gen. Daniel P. Woodward served as the Director of Regional Affairs, Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force for International Affairs, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C. He managed the Air Force's direct liaison with foreign government officials, Washington agency counterparts, and representatives of the aerospace industry to implement Air Force security cooperation programs, particularly the sale of Air Force military equipment to foreign governments. General Woodward received his commission in 1980 as a distinguished graduate of the ROTC program at Embry-Riddle University in Daytona Beach, Fla. He has served in a variety of operational and support positions throughout his career. The general has commanded a support group and a flying training wing. He also served as the Deputy Director of Force Management on the Joint Staff.

### **Maj Gen Margaret Woodward, USAF (ret)**



Maj. Gen. Margaret H. Woodward served as the Director of the Air Force Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Office of the Vice Chief of Staff, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C. Gen. Woodward entered the Air Force in 1983 as a graduate of Arizona State University, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in aerospace engineering. Her career includes a variety of operational and staff positions, including command at the squadron, group, wing and numbered Air Force levels. She flew and commanded in operations Just Cause, Northern Watch, Southern Watch, Allied Force, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. Additionally, Gen. Woodward was Commander, 17th Air Force and U.S. Air Forces Africa and served as Coalition Forces Air Component Commander for Operation Odyssey Dawn. Gen. Woodward also served as acting director, Operational Planning, Policy and Strategy and as deputy chief of staff, Operations, Plans and Requirements, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C. Prior to her current assignment, Gen. Woodward was the Air Force Chief of Safety, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C. and Commander, Air Force Safety Center, Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M.

### **BG Stephen Xenakis, USA (ret), MD**



Dr. Stephen Xenakis is a retired brigadier general and Army medical corps officer with 28 years of active service. He is an adjunct clinical professor at the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences. He is the Founder of the Center for Translational Medicine, a nonprofit that conducts clinical research and development. He has been a senior adviser to the Department of Defense on neurobehavioral conditions and medical management. Dr. Xenakis serves as an anti-torture advisor to Physicians for Human Rights and belongs to the group of retired generals and admirals convened by Human Rights First. Dr. Xenakis is board certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology in General Psychiatry, as well as Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. While in the United States Army, Dr. Xenakis served in multiple positions of responsibility as a clinician and commander. He commanded medical activities, medical centers, and medical regions for most of the last 10 years of duty. During his career, he served as an assistant inspector general for The Surgeon General of the Army and was the adjudicating authority for credentialing and privileging actions for numerous providers.