BIOGRAPHIES OF THE SPEAKERS

Frank Asbeck
Frank Asbeck is the Principal Adviser for Space and Security Policy, European External Action Service, European Commission. Mr. Asbeck studied physics, law and political science in Germany and war studies in London. He started his professional career at the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London, dealing with military usage of space and arms control. He then joined the German public service to deal with arms control, CBRN proliferation and East-West technology transfer. Following his assignment to the German Embassy in Brussels, he became Deputy Director of the Western European Union Satellite Center in Torrejón, Spain. From 2001 onwards, Mr. Asbeck worked at the European Commission as Director of the newly created Security Directorate. In 2005, he moved back to Torrejón as the Director of the EU Satellite Centre. Since January 2010, he has been Principle Adviser for Security Policy, first in the Commission (Directorate General RELEX), and now in the European External Action Service, dealing with matters such as space policy and cyber security.

Admiral Dennis C. Blair
Admiral Dennis C. Blair served as the US Government’s Director of National Intelligence from January 2009 to May 2010, where he led sixteen national intelligence agencies and provided integrated intelligence support to the President, Congress and operations in the field. From 2003 to 2006, Admiral Blair was President and Chief Executive Officer of the Institute for Defense Analyses (IDA). Prior to retiring from the Navy in 2002, Admiral Blair served as Commander in Chief, US Pacific Command, the largest of the combatant commands. A graduate of the US Naval Academy, Admiral Blair earned a Master’s degree in history and languages from Oxford University as a Rhodes scholar, and was a White House fellow at the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Michel Bourbonniere
Michel Bourbonniere is Legal Counsel at the Canadian Space Agency. He has been Head of Delegation for Canada at the United Nations COPUOS legal subcommittee meetings. Mr. Bourbonniere is a member of the Department of Justice National Security Emergency Team. He is Adjunct Professor of Law at the Royal Military College of Canada, Course Director at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo Italy, and lectures regularly in the ECSL summer course. Mr. Bourbonniere is widely published on space law and policy, air law, international law and national security law. He holds three law degrees.

David Bair
David Bair is Chief Technical Officer of Eutelsat. Mr. Bair is a former Senior Vice President of Space Programs and Operations at EchoStar Satellite Services. Prior to EchoStar, Mr. Bair’s track record in the satellite industry includes executive posts at Lockheed Martin Commercial Space Systems, where he was Vice President and Chief Engineer of commercial space programs, overseeing the integration of Lockheed’s traditional manufacturing group with its new commercial telecommunications sector. He also held the position of Program Manager and Chief Engineer on several commercial programs at General Electric AstroSpace, and in various engineering and flight operations posts on the military/government side of General Electric’s Space Systems Division. He began his career in the United States Navy working on nuclear submarine operations.

Dr. Christian Bréant
Dr. Christian Bréant is the Research & Technology Director at the European Defence Agency. Dr. Bréant is a graduate of Ecole Polytechnique (1976) and PhD scientist in Laser Physics from Paris University. He completed post-doctoral work at JILA, Boulder, University of Colorado, USA. In 2000, Dr. Bréant was appointed Director of the Defence Analysis Centre (CAD). In February 2004, he was Deputy Director for Technology Strategy and R&T Director for Defence and Security of the DGA in the French Ministry of Defense. In March 2005, Dr. Bréant was elected as a member of the French Academy of Technologies.
Colonel Cartsen Breuer

Colonel Cartsen Breuer is Chief of the Strategy and Policy Branch at the Ministry of Defence, Germany. In this capacity, he oversees the German-French cooperation on Space Situational Awareness (SSA) as well as US-German space cooperation. Previously, Colonel Breuer was the Deputy Supreme Allied Commander transformation representative in Europe and Chief of Staff and branch head transformation at NATO. Colonel Breuer’s extensive military experience also includes posts as Executive Officer to the Army Chief of Staff, Commander of both the Air Defense Battalion 12 and German National Element Multinational Brigade 8th Kosovo Force Contingent in Kosovo, as well as Chief of Staff, Mechanized Infantry Brigade 41, Torgelow.

Oldřich Černý

Oldřich Černý is Executive Director and Co-Founder of the Prague Security Studies Institute. Prior to 1989, Oldřich Černý, who holds advanced degrees in both English and Czech, was employed as a translator of foreign literature into Czech and a producer for the dubbing of foreign films into Czech. In the spring 1990, Mr. Černý was appointed National Security Advisor to the President of Czechoslovakia. Following the split of Czechoslovakia in January of 1993, Mr. Černý was appointed the first Director General of the Czech Foreign Intelligence Service, a post he held until his resignation in 1998. Since 1999, Mr. Černý has served as Executive Director of the Forum 2000 Foundation.

Richard DalBello

Richard DalBello is Vice President of Legal and Government Affairs at Intelsat General’s legal team, its government relations and public policy efforts, as well as representing Intelsat General before numerous US and international policy bodies. He served previously as President of the Satellite Broadcasting and Communications Association, including more than three years as the President of the Satellite Industry Association. Earlier, Mr. DalBello was General Counsel for Spotcast Communications Inc., and Vice President of Government Affairs, North America, for ICO Global Communications, a provider of mobile satellite communications services. He also served for four years as the Assistant Director for Aeronautics and Space in the White House’s Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Norman L. Eisen

Norman L. Eisen was sworn in as US Ambassador to the Czech Republic on January 14, 2011 and presented his credentials to the Czech President Vaclav Klaus on January 28, 2011. From January 2009 to January 2011, he served in the White House as Special Counsel to the President for Ethics and Government Reform. Prior to that, he was the Deputy General Counsel to the Obama-Biden Presidential Transition.

Before entering the Administration, Ambassador Eisen was a partner in the Washington, D.C. law firm Zuckerman Spaeder. Ambassador Eisen is the Co-Founder of Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW), a government watchdog group. Between college and law school, the Ambassador served for three years as an Assistant Director of the Los Angeles office of the Anti-Defamation League, a national civil rights organization. Ambassador Eisen received his Juris Doctor in 1991 from Harvard Law School and his Bachelor’s from Brown University in 1985.

James Finch

James Finch is the Director for Space Policy and Strategy Development, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy. Mr. Finch is responsible for developing and advocating Department of Defense space policies and strategies that enable flexible, resilient, and dominant capabilities to advance US national interests. Mr. Finch was formerly the Deputy Chief of the Space and Cyberspace Division, Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force, International Affairs. In this position, Mr. Finch built, sustained, and expanded international relationships enabling space and cyberspace cooperation through the development of international engagement strategies, specific cooperative concepts, and the negotiation of international agreements in support of national security objectives.

Dr. Aude-Emmanuelle Fleurant

Dr. Aude-Emmanuelle Fleurant is Head of the Armament and Defence Economy Research Group at the French Military Academy Strategic Research Institute (IRSEM). Dr. Fleurant’s scientific interests are centered on the analysis of budgetary, industrial, technological and policy dimensions of defense and security and how they relate to and influence one another. Dr. Fleurant focuses on issues such as industrial transatlantic relations, armament and dual-use export controls and transfers, and R&D research efforts and projects.

Before joining IRSEM, Dr. Fleurant was Head of Market and Strategic Intelligence Office at Technopole Defense and Security, a Canadian non-profit organization that supports projects within the Canadian defense and security community by bringing together stakeholders to work on common projects. Dr. Fleurant previously held the position of Senior Researcher at the Research Group on Military Industry and Security at the University of Quebec in Montreal.
General Susan J. Helms
General Susan J. Helms is Commander, 14th Air Force, US Air Force Space Command and Commander, Joint Functional Component Command for Space, US Strategic Command, Vandenberg Air Force Base, California, USA. General Helms was commissioned from the US Air Force Academy in 1980. Selected by NASA in January 1990, General Helms became an astronaut in July 1991. On January 13, 1993, then an Air Force major and a member of the space shuttle Endeavour crew, she became the first US military woman in space. A veteran of five space flights, General Helms has logged 211 days in space, including a spacewalk of eight hours and 56 minutes, a world record. General Helms commanded the 45th Space Wing at Patrick AFB, Florida, USA. General Helms holds a Bachelor’s from the US Air Force Academy and a Master’s from Stanford University.

Sylvia Kainz-Huber
Sylvia Kainz-Huber joined the European Commission in 1995. Since 2007, she is Deputy Head of Unit responsible for space policy and coordination at the Commission’s Directorate-General for Enterprise and Industry. In this capacity, she is responsible for space and security issues. In previous positions, Ms. Kainz-Huber coordinated the Directorate-General’s inter-institutional relations and worked on various industrial policy files.

Hirofumi Katase
Hirofumi Katase has served as Deputy Secretary-General at the Secretariat for Strategic Headquarters for Space Policy, Government of Japan since 2010. Before joining the Secretariat for Strategic Headquarters for Space Policy, Mr. Katase held numerous management positions concerning trade, energy and industrial policy in Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), which he joined in 1982.

Brian T. Kennedy
Brian T. Kennedy is President of the Claremont Institute. Mr. Kennedy has been with the Institute since 1989. He became the fourth president of the Claremont Institute in 2002. During his tenure he has directed the Institute’s Golden State Center in Sacramento and also the Institute’s National Security Project.

Michael Krepon
Michael Krepon is Co-Founder of Stimson, where he also serves as Director of the South Asia and Space Security programs. Mr. Krepon is the author or editor of thirteen books, including Space Assurance or Space Dominance: The Case Against Weaponizing Space (2003); Open Skies, Arms Control and Cooperative Security (1992); and Commercial Observation Satellites and International Security (1990). His most recent book is Better Safe than Sorry, The Ironies of Living with the Bomb and more than 350 articles. Prior to co-founding Stimson, he worked at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, the US Arms Control and Disarmament Agency during the Carter administration, and in the US House of Representatives, assisting Congressman Norm Dicks. Mr. Krepon’s current research focus is on nuclear stability and crisis management in South Asia. His work on space security centers around the promotion of a code of conduct for responsible space-faring nations, which has subsequently been endorsed by the European Union and the Obama administration. Mr. Krepon received a Master’s from the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University, and a Bachelor’s from Franklin & Marshall College. He also studied Arabic at the American University in Cairo, Egypt.
Jeff Kueter
Jeff Kueter is President of the George C. Marshall Institute, a public policy institute focused on scientific issues with an impact on public policy. An expert on space security and missile defense, he has testified on both topics before the US Congress. He also serves as a contributor on strategic issues for the print and television media, and is the author of analytical pieces exploring aspects of the space security and missile defense debates. Mr. Kueter received his Bachelor’s in Political Science and Economics at the University of Iowa, where he graduated with honors, and Master’s degrees in Political Science and Security Policy Studies and Science & Technology Studies, both from George Washington University.

Pierre-Louis Lempereur
Pierre-Louis Lempereur is the Chairman of the Council Working Party on Disarmament and Space and Counsellor in the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Department (EEAS), Brussels, Belgium. Prior to his current position, he was Counsellor in the Office of the Personal Representative of the EU High Representative for Non-Proliferation Issues at the Council of the European. Mr. Lempereuer previously served as First Secretary at the Office of the Council of the European Union to the United Nations, as well as advisory positions such as Assistant European Correspondent at the European Commission and Adviser to the Delegation of the European Commission. Mr. Lempereur holds degrees from the College of Europe, the Ruprecht-Karls-Universität, the Free University of Brussels, the Institut d’Etudes Politiques, the University of California, Los Angeles, and Georgetown University.

Tomaž Lovrenčič
Tomaž Lovrenčič was elected Director of the European Union Satellite Centre (EUSC) in 2010. From 2006 to 2008, he served as the EUSC’s Deputy Director. In addition to his work within space security, Mr. Lovrenčič has held various diplomatic posts, including as Slovenia’s Ambassador to Spain and Cuba from 2002 to 2006, as Diplomatic Advisor to Prime Minister Dr. Janez Drnovšek (1996-1999) and then as Deputy Director (1999) and Director (2000-2002) of the Slovenian Intelligence and Security Agency. In the latter period, he was also Secretary of Slovenia’s National Security Council. Mr. Lovrenčič received his Bachelor’s in International Affairs from Université Américaine de Paris, France, and studied in Cairo, Egypt. He obtained his Master’s degree in Foreign Service from Georgetown University, Washington, D.C. He also did post-graduate studies in the field of international security at John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Giuseppe Morsillo
Giuseppe Morsillo has been Director of Policies, Planning and Control (D/PPC) at the European Space Agency since April 2011. He has 27 years of experience in international environments, but is primarily focused on the space sector. In 2005, Mr. Morsillo joined ESA as Head of the Director General’s Policy Office where he was in charge of coordination with member states and EU institutions, strategic planning and control, security strategy, and management of future studies and advanced concepts. In 2001, he held various positions at the Italian Space Agency (ASI). He last served as Head of Strategy & National and International Relations while simultaneously working as the Chairman of ELV and Italian delegate to the ESA Council. Mr. Morsillo studied electrical engineering at the Polytechnic of Naples, Italy. From 1983 to 2000, he held several positions in various aerospace companies of Finmeccanica. In his most recent appointment, he served as the Head of Civil Marketing of the Alenia Aerospazio Space Division.

Géraldine Naja
Géraldine Naja is Head of Coordination with EU Institutions at the European Space Agency. Ms. Naja is a graduate of the French Ecole Polytechnique, after which she specialized in chemical engineering at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Techniques Avancées (ENSTA). Ms. Naja also holds a degree from the French Institute for Political Studies (Sciences Po). After conducting post-graduate research at ONERA, Ms. Naja joined ESA as a payload engineer in the Space Station Program. In 1997, Ms. Naja became responsible for European Policy in the Directorate of Strategy and External Relations, a post that she held until 2002. She was in charge of relations with European institutions, and she also elaborated together with CNES, the Charter for Space and Major Disasters. In 2003, Ms. Naja was seconded to the French Ministry of Research as a Strategy Advisor to the Minister, a position she held until 2004.

Dr. Xavier Pasco
Dr. Xavier Pasco has been a Senior Research Fellow at Fondation pour la Recherche Stratégique in Paris, France for more than 20 years. Dr. Pasco previously worked at CREST-Ecole Polytechnique. He has specialized in international space policy and security related issues and been in charge of numerous studies and working groups about National and European space policies in the field of civilian and military activities. In addition to authoring numerous books and articles, Dr. Pasco is also an Associate Fellow at the Space Policy Institute (George Washington University) and the European Editor of Space Policy since 2002.
Dumitru-Dorin Prunariu
Dumitru-Dorin Prunariu currently works for the Romanian Space Agency as an expert within the Airspace Consulting Association. In June, he was elected Chairman of COPUOS (United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space), a position he will hold until 2012. From 1993 to 2004, Mr. Prunariu was the Permanent Representative of the ASE at COPUOS sessions. In 1996, he served as a member of the Executive Committee of ASE for two, three-year terms and in 2010 he was appointed President of the European Branch. In addition, Mr. Prunariu has held the position of Vice President of the International Institute for Risk, Security and Communication Management (EURISC), Bucharest since 1995. Mr. Prunariu was the President of the Romanian Space Agency from 1998 to 2004. In 2004 he was elected as the Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of COPUOS for a two year term. In 2004, Mr. Prunariu served as Ambassador to Russia. Mr. Prunariu also served as Director of the Romanian Office for Science and Technology (ROST) to the European Union in Brussels until 2008.

Jana Robinson
Jana Robinson has been a Resident Fellow at the European Space Policy Institute (ESPI) since December 2009. Prior to joining ESPI, she served as Development Director for the Prague Security Studies Institute (PSSI) from 2005–2009. She was likewise responsible for the corporate establishment of PSSI Washington, a non-profit organization in Washington, D.C., closely affiliated with PSSI Prague. Previously, she held positions consistent with her academic background in Asian Studies that made use of her Mandarin language skills. Mrs. Robinson is currently pursuing her PhD at Charles University focusing on space security. She holds an MA in Asian Studies from George Washington University’s Elliott School of International Affairs, in Washington, D.C. specializing in Asia-Pacific security issues and space policy, and an MA in Asian Studies from Palacky University, Olomouc, Czech Republic. She received scholarships to attend the International Space University 2009 Space Studies Program, 2008 Summer Mandarin Training Course at the Mandarin Training Center of the National Taiwan Normal University in Taipei, and Shanghai University in 1999-2000.

Roger W. Robinson, Jr.
Roger W. Robinson, Jr. has served as President and CEO of RWR Advisory Group since its founding in 1985. In addition, Mr. Robinson is Co-Founder of the Prague Security Studies Institute. Between 2001 and 2009, Mr. Robinson served as President and CEO of Conflict Securities Advisory Group. He was previously Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Congressionally-mandated US-China Economic and Security Review Commission from 2001 to 2006. Mr. Robinson worked at the White House from March 1982 to September 1985 as Senior Director of International Economic Affairs at the National Security Council (NSC). Between January 1984 and April 1985, Mr. Robinson was Executive Secretary of the Senior Interdepartmental Group-International Economic Policy, a Cabinet-level body that reported through the NSC to the President. Prior to joining the NSC staff, Mr. Robinson was a Vice President in the International Department of the Chase Manhattan Bank in New York City and he also served for some two and a half years as a personal assistant to former Chase Chairman David Rockefeller and earlier on assignment with the Chase branch in Tokyo.

Frank A. Rose
Frank A. Rose currently serves as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Space and Defence Policy in the Bureau of Arms Control, Verification and Compliance. In this position, he is responsible for advising the Assistant Secretary and, as required, the Undersecretary for Arms Control and International Security, on key issues related to arms control and defence policy. Prior to joining the State Department June 2009, Mr. Rose held various national security staff positions in the US House of Representatives, including service as a Professional Staff Member on both the House Armed Services Committee and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, where he focused on missile defence, defence policy, and intelligence issues. Mr. Rose received his Bachelor’s degree in History from American University in 1994 and a Master’s degree in War Studies from Kings’ College, University of London in 1999.
Jiří Schneider
Jiří Schneider is the First Deputy Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. From 2005-2010, Mr. Schneider served as Program Director of the Prague Security Studies Institute. He was Head of the Policy Planning Department of the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1993-1994, 1999-2001, 2003) and Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Israel (1995-1998). Mr. Schneider was an International Policy Fellow at the Open Society Institute in Budapest (2002) and an MP of the Czechoslovak Federal Assembly (1990-1992). He also serves as a part-time lecturer at Charles University, New York University in Prague, and to PSSI’s Robinson-Martin Security Scholars Program. He is a graduate of Charles University and University of Cambridge.

Dr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl
Dr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl has served as Director of the European Space Policy Institute (ESPI) in Vienna, Austria since 2007. Prior to this, he was the Head of the Corporate Development and External Relations Department in the German Aerospace Center (DLR). Previously, he also worked with the German Ministry for Post and Telecommunications and the German Space Agency (DARA). He has been chairman of various European and global committees (ESA International Relations Committee and two UNCOPOUS plenary working groups). He presented and respectively testified at hearings of the European Parliament and the US House of Representatives. Dr. Schrogl has written or co-edited 12 books and more than 130 articles, reports and papers in the fields of space policy and law as well as telecommunications policy. He is editor in chief of the Yearbook on Space Policy and the book series Studies in Space Policy. He holds a doctorate degree in political science and lectures on international relations at Tübingen University in Germany (as an Honorary Professor). Dr. Schrogl has been a regular lecturer at the International Space University (where he serves as Adjunct Faculty) and the European Centre for Space Law’s Summer Courses.

Dr. Scott Pace
Dr. Scott Pace is the Director of the Space Policy Institute and a Professor of Practice in International Affairs at George Washington University’s Elliott School of International Affairs. His research interests include civil, commercial, and national security space policy. From 2005-2008, he served as the Associate Administrator for Program Analysis and Evaluation at NASA. Prior to NASA, Dr. Pace was the Assistant Director for Space and Aeronautics in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP).

Michael Sheehan
Michael Sheehan is a Professor of International Security and Politics at Swansea University. He previously worked at the University of Aberdeen, where he was Director of the Scottish Centre for International Security, and at the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London. His current research focuses on the military use of outer space, particularly the strategic issues surrounding anti-satellite systems, the rising space powers, and the military space policies of the European Union. He has published in numerous academic journals and is the author of twelve books, the most recent being Securing Outer Space.

Colonel Vladimir Šilhan
Colonel Vladimir Šilhan presently serves as Defence Advisor in the Permanent Representation of the Czech Republic to the EU. Colonel Šilhan is a retired Colonel from the Czech Armed Forces. He works within a broad range of EU capability based activities, including space related technologies, the GNSS Galileo, space situation awareness, satellite communication, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance project teams and workshops organized by the European Defence Agency. Additionally, he represents the Czech Republic on the EU Satellite Centre Board and has prior experience heading the Systems Analysis department at the MoD Czech Republic Defence Policy and Strategy Division.

Colonel Šilhan is a graduate of the Military Academy in Brno, Czech Republic and he completed his MSc from the UK Royal College of Science/School of Military Survey. His postgraduate studies focused on varying satellite navigation and remote sensing projects and activities.

Eric R. Sterner
Eric R. Sterner is a Fellow at the George C. Marshall Institute and a consultant in Washington, DC. He has held senior Congressional Staff positions, including the lead Professional Staff Member for defence policy on the House Armed Services Committee and Staff Director for the Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics in the House Science Committee. In the Executive Branch, he served in the Office of the Secretary of Defence as Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Defence for International Security Policy. At NASA, Mr. Sterner served as both Associate Deputy Administrator for Policy and Planning and Chief of Strategic Communications. In the private sector, Mr. Sterner served as Vice President for Federal Services at TerreStar Networks Inc. His work on national security, military history, and space issues has appeared in a range of security and international affairs publications. Mr. Sterner earned a Bachelor’s in International Studies and USSR Area Studies from American University and separate Master’s degrees in Political Science and Security Policy Studies at George Washington University.
Atsuo Suzuki
Atsuo Suzuki is Director of Defense Policy Division of Ministry of Defense in Tokyo, Japan. As Director of Defense Policy Division, Mr. Suzuki was in charge of the National Defense Program Guidelines released in December 2010, a capstone document of Japanese defense posture and capability development. He received a Master’s from Georgetown University and Bachelor’s from Waseda University. Mr. Suzuki has extensive experience in defense policy and military operation, including Director of International Operations (2005-2007) and Director of Defense Intelligence Division (2007-2009). When Mr. Suzuki was Director of International Operations, he dealt with Iraq reconstruction operation by Japanese Self-Defense Force.

Dr. Bohuslav Svoboda
Dr. Bohuslav Svoboda is the 42nd Mayor of Prague. Dr. Svoboda is a graduate of the Faculty of Medicines, Charles University in Prague. Before assuming duties as the mayor of Prague, Dr. Svoboda enjoyed an extensive career as a practicing doctor, including as the Head of the Clinic of Gynecology and Obstetrics of the Third Faculty of Medicine of Charles University, and the Faculty Hospital Královské Vinohrady. Between 2003 and 2010, Dr. Svoboda served as the Dean of the Third Faculty of Medicine, Charles University; in 2010 he became a Vice-Dean. From 1992-1998, Dr. Svoboda worked as the President of the Medical Chamber.

David A. Turner
David A. Turner is currently the Deputy Director of the Office of Space and Advanced Technology, within the US State Department’s Bureau of Oceans, Environment, and Science. Previously, Mr. Turner was an employee of the Aerospace Corporation, supporting the US Government on GPS policy and technology matters. He most recently served as Director of the Corporation’s Center for Space Policy and Strategy, which conducts policy and strategy analyses for a number of customers in the national security and civil space community. Mr. Turner also served in the US Department of Commerce as the Executive Secretariat Director of the Interagency GPS Executive Board (IGEB). He was an active participant on the US State Department’s Ad Hoc GPS/Galileo Interagency Working Group and was a member of the US Delegation that negotiated the June 2004 Agreement between the US and Europe on Cooperation Between the GPS and Galileo satellite navigation programs.

Major Phillip Verroco
Major Phillip Verroco is the Chief of Space Policy, Joint NATO Strategist at the Joint Air Power Competence Centre in Kalkar, Germany. Major Verroco entered the US Air Force in 1999. He began his career as an Intercontinental Ballistic Missile operator before attending the US Air Force Weapons School in 2004. Following graduation, Major Verroco was posted to Schriever Air Force Base, Colorado as the Chief of Weapons and Tactics and subsequently became the Headquarters’ Air Force Space Command Chief of Tactics. He has deployed as the Air Forces Central Command Chief of the Combined Air Operations Center Combat Operations Division space cell and participated in an array of exercises in US Strategic Command, US Northern Command, US European Command, and US Pacific Command.

Alexandr Vondra
Alexandr Vondra is presently the Minister of Defence of the Czech Republic. Previously, Dr. Vondra served as Deputy Prime Minister for European Affairs, Foreign Minister, and the Czech Ambassador to the US. Mr. Vondra has also served as a Foreign Policy Advisor to President Vaclav Havel and the First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. Mr. Vondra is a former Transatlantic Fellow at the German Marshall Fund. In 1989, he was the spokesman for Charter 77 and co-founder of the Civic Forum in Czechoslovakia. Mr. Vondra earned a Doctorate of Natural Sciences (RNDr.) from Charles University in Prague.

Jiří Žák
Jiří Žák is Deputy Minister of Foreign Relations and Satellite Systems at the Czech Ministry of Transportation. Mr. Žák served as a Senator of the Parliament of the Czech Republic from 2004 to 2010, representing the Bruntál district. In the Upper Parliamentary Chamber, Mr. Žák acted as the Vice Chairman of the Constitutional and Judicial Committee, among other duties. Finishing his secondary education in Bruntál, Mr. Žák enrolled in the Technical University of Mining and Metallurgy in Ostrava. Before finishing he left to work at the nationally owned ČSAO company, he pursued private business interests, and joined UAZ firm in 1997. At the end of the 1980s and into the 1990s, Mr. Žák participated as the driver and the navigator in the Paris-Dakar races. Mr. Žák first entered politics in 1989 through the Civic Forum party, a driving force in the 1989 Revolution. Since 1998, he has also been a member of the Municipal Council of the town of Bruntál.