

## CHRISTOPHER A. DENZEL

christopher.a.denzel.mil@mail.mil

ChristopherDenzel.com

linkedin.com/in/christopher-denzel/

### CURRENT POSITION

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Chief, J-56 Strategic Plans Branch, U.S. Forces, Japan

### CAREER SUMMARY

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I am an operational planner and intelligence officer with an interest in supporting US defense policy in great power competition with a focus on East Asia. I am experienced in blending scholarship with operational practice and developing academically-grounded approaches that operate within practical and institutional constraints.

I thrive working in autonomous positions, and operating with minimal guidance. I want to work hard and contribute to something meaningful, personally interesting, and that I can make a unique contribution to. I enjoy challenging conventional wisdom, working on complex problems in complex operational environments, and strengthening cross-functional and inter-departmental connections within the U.S. national security enterprise.

### EDUCATION

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**M.A.**, U.S. Army School of Advanced Military Studies, *Military Operations*, 2022

**M.S.**, National Intelligence University, *Strategic Intelligence*, 2019

**B.A.**, Case Western Reserve University, *History and Religious Studies*, 2005

### AWARDS

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- 2023 Gen Robert E. Hogaboom Leadership Writing Contest: First Place (*Marine Corps Gazette*)
- 2022 MajGen Harold W. Chase Prize Essay Contest: Second Place (*Marine Corps Gazette*)
- Meritorious Service Medal
- Joint Service Commendation Medal
- Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (2<sup>nd</sup> Award)
- Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (3<sup>rd</sup> Award)

### MILITARY CAREER

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**Branch Chief**, U.S. Forces, Japan J-56 Strategic Plans

6/25-Pres

- Subordinate Unified Command strategy
- Campaign planning
- Command and control modernization

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- Japan Plans Officer, III Marine Expeditionary Force G-5** 6/22-5/25
- Bilateral U.S.-Japan planning
  - Expert in Japanese crisis/conflict authorities
  - Wargame design and execution
  - Strategic project management for multi-million-dollar flagship command activity
  - Managed and executed joint exercise lifecycle (JELC) for major bilateral and joint activity
- Graduate Student, U.S. Army School of Advanced Military Studies** 6/21-6/22
- Superior graduate (top 30%)
- Intelligence Officer, Marine Aircraft Group-14** 7/19-6/21
- Contingency plan intelligence support
  - Training and education curriculum development
- Deputy Plans Officer, Joint Task Force Ares/Marine Forces Cyberspace Command** 5/17-7/19
- Service component campaign and operational planning
  - Interagency, multi-national coordination
- Offensive Cyberspace Operations Planner, Joint Task Force Ares/USCYBERCOM** 8/15-5/17
- Military operations planning
  - Combatant command strategic and operational planning
  - Interagency, multi-national coordination
- Intelligence Officer, 24<sup>th</sup> Marine Expeditionary Unit, Air Combat Element** 4/14-8/15
- Deployed (Gulf of Aden) crisis and contingency intelligence operations and planning
  - Combatant command intelligence planning
  - National-to-tactical intelligence integration
  - Department of State and special operations intelligence support
- Intelligence Officer, Marine Aircraft Group-26** 8/13-3/14
- Reach-back intelligence support
  - Intelligence manpower planning
- Intelligence Officer, Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 264** 9/12-8/13
- Deployed (Afghanistan) intelligence operations and planning
  - National-to-tactical intelligence integration
- Student** 1/11-9/12
- Air Intelligence Officers Course
  - The Basic School
  - Officer Candidate School

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### MILITARY QUALIFICATIONS

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- Strategic Planner (MOS: 0507)
- Operational Planner (MOS: 0505)
- Intelligence Planner (MOS: 0209)
- Weapons and Tactics Instructor (MOS: 0277)
- Special Technical Operations (STO) Planner (MOS: 8016)
- Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF) Intelligence Officer (MOS: 0202)
- Air Intelligence Officer (MOS: 0207)

### MILITARY EDUCATION

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*War Gaming Introductory Course (WGIC)*, Naval War College, 2024

*Advanced Military Studies Program (AMSP)*, US Army School of Advanced Military Studies, 2022

*Master's of Science in Strategic Intelligence (JPME 1)*, National Intelligence University, 2019

*Command and Staff College (JMPE 1)*, Marine Corps University, 2019

*MAGTF Intelligence Officer's Course (MIOC)*, Navy and Marine Corps Intelligence Training Center, 2019

*Expeditionary Warfare School (EWS)*, Marine Corps University, 2017

*Advanced Operational Design Course*, US Cyber Command, 2017

*Joint Staff PDAS Operator's Course*, Joint Staff, 2016

*Joint Staff Special Technical Operations (STO) Planner's Course*, Joint Staff, 2016

*Joint Targeting School Staff Course*, Joint Staff, 2015

*Expeditionary Open Source Intelligence Course*, Marine Corps Intelligence Activity, 2014

*Expeditionary Warfare Intelligence Course (EWIC)*, Fleet Intelligence Training Center, 2014

*Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course (WTI)*, Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One, 2014

*Air Intelligence Officers Course (AIOC)*, Navy and Marine Corps Intelligence Training Center, 2012

### PUBLICATIONS

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#### *Academic Theses*

[Useless Intelligence: Risk Reduction Redundancy in Planning](#), master's thesis, US Army School of Advanced Military Studies, 2022

[Improving Marine Air Intelligence Training](#), master's thesis, National Intelligence University, 2019

#### *Professional Work*

[Japan-US Alliance for Defense Practitioners: Plans, Wargames, and Exercises Reference Guide](#),  
*Unpublished Draft*

[Japan-US Alliance: Pocket Reference](#), *Unpublished Draft*

[Decoding the Alliance: A Guide to Alliance Acronyms, Abbreviations, and Associated Terms](#),  
*Unpublished Draft*

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[Marine Corps Reference Publication 2-10A.9, Air Intelligence](#), *Headquarters Marine Corps*, Washington DC, February 2021

[Air Combat Element Intelligence Operations Manual \(ACEINT OPMAN\)](#), *Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One (MAWTS-1)*, Yuma, AZ, March 2020

**Journal Articles**

[AI Is Being Misunderstood as a Breakthrough in Planning. It's Not](#), *War on the Rocks* (February 2026)

[Collegial Leadership: Leading As A Staff Officer](#), *Marine Corps Gazette* (June 2024), pp. 60-62

[Get Multinational Warfighting Right, Before It Matters: Don't wait until the shooting starts to develop a combined command structure in the first island chain](#), *US Naval Institute Proceedings* (May 2024), pp. 20-24

[Maneuver Warfare Is Just Operational Art: Rework MCDP-1 to synthesize the science of attrition with the art of maneuver](#), *US Naval Institute Proceedings* (November 2023), pp. 38-43

[Achieving Decision on the Battlefield: Redefining maneuver warfare as method, not philosophy](#), *Marine Corps Gazette* (August 2022), pp. 86-89

[Professionalizing Air Intelligence, Part VI: A functional concept for air intelligence](#), *Marine Corps Gazette* (October 2021), pp. 38-44

[On Intelligence, Part II: Understanding intelligence in risk mitigation](#), *Marine Corps Gazette* (October 2020), WE1-WE4

[On Intelligence, Part I: Why does intelligence work?](#), *Marine Corps Gazette* (September 2020), pp. 41-44

[Professionalizing Air Intelligence, Part V: In defense of the wing intelligence support company](#), *Marine Corps Gazette* (October 2019), pp. 78-83

[Professionalizing Air Intelligence, Part IV: What makes a good squadron S-2?](#), *Marine Corps Gazette* (September 2019), pp. 68-72

[Professionalizing Air Intelligence, Part III: The Air Intelligence Tactics Study Group \(AITSG\)](#), *Marine Corps Gazette* (September 2018), pp. 31-38

[Professionalizing Air Intelligence, Part II: Who needs an 0277?](#), *Marine Corps Gazette* (March 2018), pp. 39-43

[Air Intelligence Tradecraft and Doctrine: Air threat zone matrix](#), *Marine Corps Gazette* (May 2017), pp. 48-51

[Professionalizing Air Intelligence, Part I: An MOS tactics, techniques, and procedures manual](#), *Marine Corps Gazette* (January 2016), pp. 72-75

**Blog Posts**

[Force 2030 – Divesting: Maneuver Warfare](#), *Marine Corps Association Blog* (April 2020)

## CHRISTOPHER A. DENZEL

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### Podcasts

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[Sea Control 584: Wargaming in the Pacific with Chris Denzel and Sebastian Bae](#), CIMSEC Sea Control (August 2025)

[Continued Conversation with Chris Denzel, Part II \(Season 2, Episode 6\)](#), *Revolution in Military Affairs* (January 2024)

[Dead Men Have No Will with Chris Denzel \(Season 2, Episode 5\)](#), *Revolution in Military Affairs* (January 2024)

[Maneuver Warfare Is Just Operational Art \(Episode 368\)](#), *US Naval Institute Proceedings Podcast* (November 2023)

[MCDP 1 in the 21st Century: Where Do We Go from Here?](#), *The Warfighting Society* (April 2023)

### SPEAKING & INSTRUCTION

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**Marine Corps Expeditionary Warfare School**, Guest Lecturer 2023-2024

- Marine Corps Doctrinal Publication 1 “Warfighting”
- Maneuver, attrition, and positional warfare
- Operational art and operational design

**1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, New Zealand Army**, Guest Speaker 2024

- Marine Corps Doctrinal Publication 1, “Warfighting”
- Maneuver, attrition, and positional warfare
- Operational art and operational design

**Air Intelligence Officers Course**, Guest Lecturer 2015-2021

- Tactical intelligence
- Training, leadership, and professional development

**Squadron Intelligence Training Course**, Guest Instructor 2013-2021

- Tactical intelligence
- Applied scientific principles
- Doctrine