

Contact:

Glenn Beckmann

(813)396-9437

beckmann@usf.edu

usf.edu/GNSI

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USF's Global and National Security Institute Names New Board of Advisors

Seven New Members Will Provide Strategic Guidance and Diverse Expertise

TAMPA, FLORIDA, (February 9, 2023) – The newly-created Global and National Security Institute at the University of South Florida is pleased to announce the creation of its inaugural Board of Advisors, a group of eight highly successful individuals from a diverse group of industries and disciplines, including academia, cybersecurity, finance and global consultancies.

“Traditionally, the military comes to mind when you think about global and national security, but that’s an obsolete point of view,” said General (Ret) Frank McKenzie, Executive Director of GNSI. “21st century security challenges involve whole-of-society problems that are complex and globalized; they require a robust and interdisciplinary expertise and approach. This group of advisors understands that the need for organizations like GNSI has never been more paramount.”

Rick Knop, leading investment banker and investor in the government/defense industry, was previously announced as the Chairman of the Board of Advisors in January. Joining Knop on the Board of Advisors will be:

- **Frank Cilluffo** – currently serves as the Director of Auburn University’s McCrary Institute for Cyber & Critical Infrastructure Security ([full bio here](#))
- **Chris Galvin** – Co-Founder and Chairman of Gore Creek Asset Management LLC and former Chairman and CEO of Motorola ([full bio here](#))
- **General James L. Jones, USMC (Ret)** – currently the president of Jones Group International and former National Security Advisor to President Obama ([full bio here](#))
- **Cathy Lanier** – currently the Senior Vice-President of Security for the NFL and formerly was Chief of Police in Washington, D.C. ([full bio here](#))
- **Kirstjen Nielsen** – served as U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security under President Trump and also served as his principal White House Deputy Chief of Staff ([full bio here](#))

- **Lieutenant General Vince Stewart, USMC (Ret)** – Founder and CEO of Stewart Global Solutions and formerly Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, as well as Deputy Commander of the U.S. Cyber Command ([full bio here](#))
- **Chip Walter** – currently the Managing Director of Marlinspike Disruptive Technology Fund 1 and spent over 30 years serving the U.S. Navy and federal government ([full bio here](#))

This group of eight people will help chart the future for GNSI, which was created last summer as a way for USF to capitalize on the university’s tremendous academic talent and research, as well as leverage deep relationships with the two United States military combatant commands located in Tampa: U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM) and U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM). GNSI is also going to work in conjunction with the Florida Institute for Cybersecurity (Cyber Florida), which is housed at USF, along with the university’s Institute for Applied Engineering, which is already producing work for the Department of Defense.

In its short existence, a central mission for GNSI has evolved: to operate and flourish at the intersection of science and technology, cybersecurity, and human dynamics and social behavior.

“General McKenzie’s vision is for GNSI to operate at the boundary of technology and policy, while connecting academia, government and industry,” said Knop, who has deep educational experience as a longtime member of the Board of Trustees of The George Washington University and chairman of The George Washington University Center for Cyber & Homeland Security. “It’s a unique and interdisciplinary approach that this new group has embraced, recognizing it’s the best way to help our civic, academic, military and government leaders to overcome challenges they may never have encountered before.”

Knop is also a current member of the Board of Advisors of the McCrary Institute for Cybersecurity & Critical Infrastructure as well as a member of the Board of Advisors of Cyber Florida, for which McKenzie also serves as Executive Director.

GNSI has already created a new platform to host events, the **GNSI Tampa Summit**, which will continue to feature the Great Power Competition Conference series, and will incorporate other events, as well. In addition to the bi-annual Summit, GNSI has an expansive lineup of other events to tackle non-military issues that still have a connection to global and national security; issues like hunger, refugees, violent extremism and climate change.

About GNSI

The Global and National Security Institute at the University of South Florida is dedicated to the idea of providing actionable solutions for 21st century security challenges, focusing on the intersection of science and technology, human dynamics and social behavior, and cybersecurity. GNSI brings together the proven academic and research excellence of USF and connects them with expertise across government and the private sector to serve decision makers and leaders at the local, state, national, and international levels. GNSI will utilize outreach and engagement, continuing education, and research and support to lead USF towards a more prominent leadership role in the global and national security environment. Learn more at www.usf.edu/GNSI.

About USF

The University of South Florida, a high-impact global research university dedicated to student success, generates an annual economic impact of more than \$6 billion. Over the past 10 years, no other public university in the country has risen faster in U.S. News and World Report's national university rankings than USF. Serving more than 50,000 students on campuses in Tampa, St. Petersburg and Sarasota-Manatee, USF is designated as a Preeminent State Research University by the Florida Board of Governors, placing it in the most elite category among the state's 12 public universities. USF has earned widespread national recognition for its success graduating under-represented minority and limited-income students at rates equal to or higher than white and higher income students. USF is a member of the American Athletic Conference. Learn more at www.usf.edu.