

Contact:
Glenn Beckmann
(813)396-9437
beckmann@usf.edu
usf.edu/GNSI

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Global and National Security Institute Appoints Steve Pann of Razor’s Edge Ventures to Board of Advisors

TAMPA, FLORIDA, November 1, 2024—The Global and National Security Institute (GNSI) at the University of South Florida has named Steve Pann, a global investment and technology leader, the newest member of its Board of Advisors.

Pann has over thirty years of experience in new concept innovations, technology strategy, and development in support of demanding government missions. He’s the co-founder and Managing Partner at Razor’s Edge Ventures, where he focuses the company on transformational technologies in the areas of artificial intelligence and autonomy in aerospace and space-based operations, military space systems, ocean and underseas systems, defense technology applications, cyber, and environmental technologies.

“We’re at a transformational technology intersection,” said Pann. “The United States faces the most challenging and most dangerous international security environment since World War II. I look forward to working with GNSI to leverage their emerging technology, engineering expertise, and strategic planning to develop new asymmetric advantages against U.S. adversaries.”

Prior to co-founding Razor’s Edge in 2010, Pann co-founded Blackbird Technologies, where he served as its Chief Strategy Officer. His deep expertise in technology disruption within the national security community and his passion for developing and deploying unique technologies to support critical programs make him an ideal fit for GNSI.

“Steve’s reputation as a game-changer within the defense industry and the national security space is going to be a huge boost for GNSI,” said Executive Director, retired Marine Corps General Frank McKenzie, former commander of United States Central Command. “His ability to drive value and growth in the private sector is well-known, and he’ll be a critical voice in shaping the future of GNSI.”

In the last several years, Pann’s portfolio of companies, including BlackLynx, Altamira, Ravenwing, and Blackbird Technologies, has yielded over \$1 billion in shareholder returns. Pann earned a bachelor’s degree from American University and served as an infantry officer in the United States Marine Corps.



Steve Pann, newest member of the GNSI Board of Advisors
Download high-resolution photo [here](#).

###

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 boundary of technology and policy. 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 the University of South Florida

The University of South Florida, a high-impact research university dedicated to student success and committed to community engagement, generates an annual economic impact of more than \$6 billion.



With campuses in Tampa, St. Petersburg and Sarasota-Manatee, USF serves approximately 50,000 students who represent nearly 150 different countries. U.S. News & World Report has ranked USF as one of the nation's top 50 public universities for five consecutive years, and this year USF earned its highest ranking ever among all universities public or private. In 2023, USF became the first public university in Florida in nearly 40 years to be invited to join the Association of American Universities, a prestigious group of the leading universities in the United States and Canada. Through hundreds of millions of dollars in research activity each year and as one of the top universities in the world for securing new patents, USF is a leader in solving global problems and improving lives. USF is a member of the American Athletic Conference. Learn more at www.usf.edu.