



# THE OLMSTED FOUNDATION

Spring 2022

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## Olmsted Foundation Selects First Space Force Scholar



At the March 16, 2022 meeting of the Olmsted Foundation Board of Directors, Foundation President & CEO MG (Ret.) Bruce Scott signed a memorandum of agreement between the United States Space Force and the Olmsted Foundation. During the same meeting, Maj Sean Kelly, USSF was selected to be a member of the Scholar Class of 2023. Three Space Force Guardians are also Olmsted Scholars. Gen DT Thompson (OSC 93, Linz) is the Vice Chief of Space Operations. Col Mike Hopkins (OSC 03, Parma) is an astronaut. Col Brian Denaro (OSC 06, Guangzhou) is a Senior Materiel Leader for the Space Force.

The US Space Force was created in 2019 and is a separate and distinct branch of the armed services, organized under the Department of the Air Force.

ADM (Ret.) Kurt Tidd, Chairman of the Olmsted Board of Directors, joined by the other Directors, look on as President & CEO MG (Ret.) Bruce Scott signs the MOA with the US Space Force.

## Foundation to Hold Dedications at Service Academies

On Wednesday, May 11 Foundation leaders will dedicate the Olmsted Corridor of the US Naval Academy's Nimitz Library. All Scholars who are graduates of Annapolis have received invitations to this event. The dedication and plaque viewing will be held at 11:00am and will be followed by a reception.

The following day, Thursday, May 12, the Foundation will present a perpetual plaque to the US Coast Guard Academy honoring all graduates who have been selected as Olmsted Scholars.

Monday, May 16 the Foundation will dedicate the MG George H. Olmsted Wing of the US Military Academy Library in Jefferson Hall at West Point. Scholars who are graduates of West Point have received invitations to this event. The ceremony will be held at 11:30am followed by a lunch reception at 12:15pm.

## 2022 Olmsted Foundation Annual Meeting, Reunion and Reception



On June 4th, Anderson House will once again be the setting of the Annual Meeting, Reunion and Reception for Olmsted Scholars. By now, all Scholars have received their invitations. Please join us to welcome the new Scholar Class of 2023 and for an evening of camaraderie.. We encourage Scholars to sign up as soon as possible.

## Chairman's Corner



By now I hope you have seen the results of your Board's deliberations resulting in this year's Olmsted Scholar Program Class of 2023. As is always the case, the military Services nominated a breathtakingly impressive array of junior officers, and our dedicated headquarters team parsed the nominees into a solid list of Scholar candidates. Board members participated in the interviews and developed a clear sense of which candidates were best suited — at this point in their careers — to benefit from the unique Olmsted Experience. And that is a critical point; while many officers may only have a single chance to apply, others may have multiple opportunities within the eligibility window. Just because officers are not selected on their first application, they should continue to apply as many times as they are eligible. Officers are often selected on their second attempt, and in some cases — mine for instance — they might not be selected until their third attempt. So, Foundation guidance is for interested officers to apply as many times as they are eligible and to continue to strengthen their records by succeeding in tough, career-enhancing assignments.

At our Spring Board of Directors meeting we reviewed all the records and selected superbly qualified officers from the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard. In a historic first, this Scholar class also includes the first officer from the US Space Force to be selected as a Scholar. We are confident the Space Force will recognize the significant return on investment from participating in General Olmsted's visionary leader development program. Three of our Scholars already exercise senior leadership as members of our newest military Service. By institutionalizing our relationship with Space Force, the Olmsted Foundation ensures Scholars will lead the national security establishment from the bottom of the oceans, across all continents, to the thinnest reaches of the atmosphere, and now to the stars and beyond! Plan to attend the 2022 Olmsted Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 4th to meet all our newest Scholars and celebrate their selection.

*Kurt W. Tidd  
Admiral, US Navy (Ret.)  
Chairman of the Board*

## President's Perspective



Spring is desperately trying to arrive at our headquarters in Falls Church, but it seems we are only tickled by a couple nice days, then the cold winds of winter sweep in again from the North. I am certain the next time I write my perspective, I will be complaining about the summer heat and humidity in Washington, DC.

The Chairman already highlighted the biggest news of the last quarter, the selection by our Board of Directors of the Olmsted Scholar Class of 2023. And we celebrate the selection this year of the very first Scholar from the US Space Force. Naturally, we are truly pleased that line officers from all the Armed Forces are now eligible to compete to be Olmsted Scholars.

We are also finishing our centennial celebration of the graduation from the US Military and Naval Academies of the Olmsted brothers, George and Jerauld, in June of 1922. Next month, the Chairman and I will honor these former brigade commanders by dedicating permanent memorials at their respective academies.

On May 11, 2022, we will dedicate the Olmsted Corridor in Nimitz Library at the Naval Academy. On May 16, 2022 we will travel to the Military Academy to dedicate the Olmsted Wing of Jefferson Library at West Point. All Scholars who are graduates of West Point or Annapolis have been invited to these events and the receptions that will follow.

In addition, I would like to share some late breaking news: Captain Michael Baker, USN (OSC 2003, Istanbul) has been selected for promotion to Rear Admiral. This is truly wonderful news for Mike, Stacey, and their two sons, and it is a FIRST for the Olmsted Scholar Program. Mike is the first naval aviator Scholar selected for flag rank and will be the fourth Admiral to serve as the SDO/DATT at our embassy in New Delhi, India. Please join me in congratulating Mike!

In closing, for the first time in three years, we will have our annual meeting, reception, and reunion at Anderson House the first Saturday in June. I sincerely hope to see all of you there.

*Bruce K. Scott  
Major General, US Army (Ret.)  
President & CEO*

## Scholar and Family React to the War in Ukraine

by CPT Dan Newell (OSC 21, Kyiv)

In mid-January, the US Embassy in Kyiv decided to evacuate all non-essential personnel and families from Ukraine because of the build up of Russian forces on the borders. At that time, almost all Ukrainians, many western experts, and I believed that it was premature to evacuate personnel. I had read expert assessments, that are revealing in hindsight. They concluded that Russia would not invade because they did not have enough troops and supplies to seize and hold Ukraine. Of course, both the US intelligence assessment, that Russia would invade, and these expert conclusions were correct. Russia did invade and they did not have the manpower or supplies to seize Ukraine.

The days before we left Ukraine were emotional and challenging. Goodbyes are something you get used to in the military but saying goodbye because the country you have called home for a year and a half is threatened with war is different. We had dinner with the family of Jackson's school teacher Olga, her husband Artem and their three young daughters, a couple days before we left. Artem thought that Ukraine would have to make some concessions in Donbas, but I could tell the thought of war terrified him. I had coffee with a friend from school, Yuri. He is a judge in Rivne. He didn't think the war would happen but asked me to hook him up with a Javelin if it did. My language tutor Maryna joked about her friends leaving Kyiv because she did not think it was necessary. Our housekeeper Sveta cried when we said goodbye. She couldn't even talk about the possibility of war.



The Newell family in happier times in Ukraine.

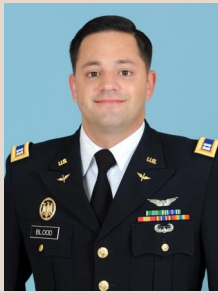
The root cause of the war in Ukraine is that Russians have never accepted Ukraine as a sovereign state. To be clear, I am saying Russians and not Putin. Putin

may represent a radical version of this ideology, but it is an ideology that is prominent in Russia, with over 70% of Russians supporting the war. Russians believe that Ukraine is in fact a part of Russia, and an independent Ukraine is a false construct built by the west to destroy Russia. There are western academics who support this view and blame NATO expansion for the current conflict, providing additional justification for Russian aggression and hesitation on the part of western nations. This misunderstanding of Ukraine led to the overly optimistic initial objectives and to the failure of the Russian military. Ukraine united in a way that surprised everyone, except Ukrainians. The unity has produced incredible results. Everyone expected Kyiv to fall within days and now Russia has withdrawn all forces that advanced from Belarus.

This seemingly dramatic turn of events is the result of three distinct phenomena. First, is the unity and support of the west. The political and military support has been critical to Ukraine's military success. Second, Russia's military has turned out to rather poorly supplied and led. It turns out kleptocracies based on rent seeking are not good at building effective militaries. Finally, and most importantly Ukrainians are fighting. In fact, the entire society has been put onto a war footing. This was not done by the state, which has never been that capable. Rather this is at the initiative of society itself. Everyone I know in Ukraine is either fighting or supporting the fighters. And all of them believe they will win.

Our friends are representative of the entire population. Olga, Artem and their daughters fled the country. But Olga immediately found a job at a preschool in Ireland because she could not be a refugee. Their daughters are in school, and they send what money they can home to support family there. Yuri the judge is a part of the Kyiv civil defense. And while I was unable to send him a javelin, I have advised him on the best equipment like sleep systems and eyepro. Maryna did finally leave Kyiv but is still in L'viv. She is now certain that Ukraine has an opportunity not only to survive but to retake Crimea and Donbas from Russia. Sveta left Kyiv but stayed in Ukraine because her husband and son were unable to leave. She takes care of the young kids while the men help with defense. Everyone is horrified by what Russia has done to their homeland, but they are all proud of what they have done, and they are confident in Ukraine's victory.

# Meet the Olmsted Scholar Class of 2023



**CPT Andrew Blood, USA**

Aviation  
Bogota, Colombia



**LT Jaclyn Franc, USN**

MH-60 Instructor Pilot  
Leiden, Netherlands



**CPT Alexander Holland, USA**

Infantry  
Florence, Italy



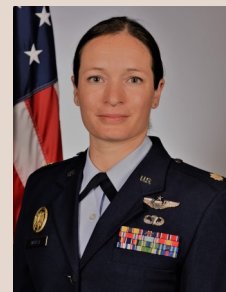
**Maj Sean Kelly, USSF**

Developmental Engineer  
Seoul, Korea



**LT Samuel Mouer, USN**

Intelligence  
Taichung, Taiwan



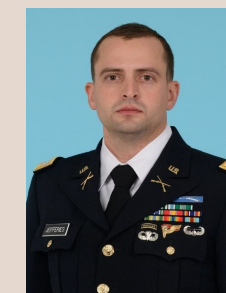
**Maj Marie Carillo, USAF**

F-16 Pilot; T-6 Instructor Pilot  
Tokyo, Japan



**LCDR Brendan Henning, USN**

Supply Corps  
Szeged, Hungary



**CPT Alexander Jefferies, USA**

Infantry  
Rabat, Morocco



**LT Myles McCarthy, USCG**

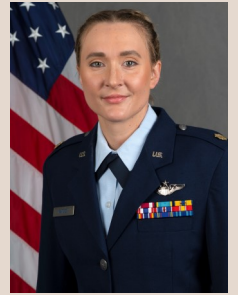
Operations Afloat/Cutterman  
Santiago, Chile



**Capt Nitin Prashar, USAF**

RC-135 Instructor EWO

Brno, Czech Republic



**Maj Natalie Rambish, USAF**

RC-135 Pilot, T-38 IP

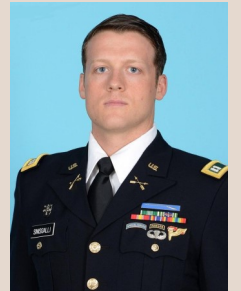
Tartu, Estonia



**Capt Shakir Robinson, USMC**

Ground Logistics

Mexico City, Mexico



**CPT Tyler Sinisgalli, USA**

Special Forces

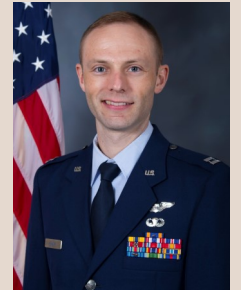
Krakow, Poland



**1stLt Rebecca Claire Smith, USMC**

Field Artillery

Coimbra, Portugal



**Maj Gordon Spahr, USAF**

C-17 Pilot; KC-135 IP

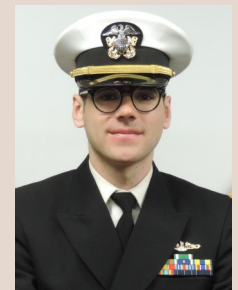
Bangkok, Thailand



**Maj Michael Sweeney, USMC**

Ground Logistics

Valencia, Spain



**LT James Talisse, USN**

Submariner

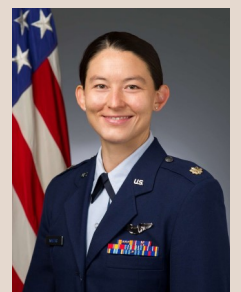
Tel Aviv, Israel



**CPT Brandon Thoennes, USA**

Engineer

Freiburg, Germany



**Maj Jennifer Walters, USAF**

KC-10 Instructor Pilot

Aix-en-Provence, France

## VADM Doug Crowder Named USNA Distinguished Graduate



Vice Admiral (Ret.) Doug Crowder (OSC 80, Lausanne) has been selected as a 2022 recipient of the US Naval Academy Alumni Association and Foundation Distinguished Graduate Award. This award honors graduates who have demonstrated a lifetime commitment to service, personal character and distinguished contributions to our nation. Crowder served as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Olmsted Foundation from 2013 -2019. Crowder and other 2022 award recipients will be honored at a ceremony this Fall.

## Foundation Signs Memorandum of Agreement with The Legacy



Foundation Director ADM (Ret.) James Foggo, President and CEO MG (Ret.) Bruce Scott, Legacy President Eva Garcia and Executive Vice President COL (Ret.) Mark Elfandahl at the recent signing ceremony.

The historic Army and Navy Club on Farragut Square in Washington, DC was a fitting location in April for the signing of a memorandum of agreement between the Olmsted Foundation and *El Legado Español en los Estados Unidos de América* (The Legacy.)

The Legacy is an organization founded by its President, Eva Garcia and is dedicated to bringing attention to the significance of Spain's historical and cultural contributions to the United States, in order to encourage and promote the ties between the two countries.

The signing ceremony was held in the club's library where Ms. Garcia also donated two books detailing the relationships between the Spanish and American Armies and Navies.

After the ceremony, the guests were given a tour of the club, and enjoyed dinner in the main dining room.

Admiral David Farragut, a Civil War hero, was the son of a Spanish immigrant who joined the South Carolina and Continental Navies during the Revolutionary War. His statue stands in the center of Farragut Square.

## Olmsted Scholar Promotions

**Selected for promotion to Rear Admiral (Lower Half) by the US Navy:**

- ◆ CAPT Michael Baker (OSC 03, Istanbul)

**Selected for promotion to Colonel by the US Army:**

- ◆ LTC Joshua Taylor (OSC 09, Buenos Aires)
- ◆ LTC Sonny Avichal (OSC 12, Lima)
- ◆ LTC Kenneth Wainwright (OSC 12, Jerusalem)

**Selected for promotion to Lieutenant Colonel by the US Army:**

- ◆ MAJ Timothy Boswell (OSC 14, Paris)
- ◆ MAJ Dale Trakas (OSC 14, Istanbul)
- ◆ MAJ Jason Davis (OSC 15, Sao Paulo)
- ◆ MAJ Khristina Allen (OSC 16, Bologna)
- ◆ MAJ James Vansandt (OSC 16, Louvain)
- ◆ MAJ Jeffrey Agnew (OSC 17, Hangzhou)

## 2003 Scholars Meet in France

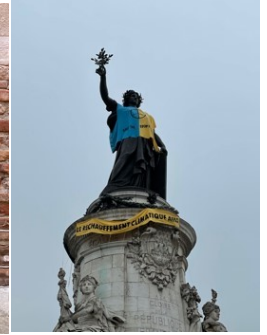


BG Joe Hilbert (OSC 03, Leipzig), Commander, 7th Army Training Command, recently met up with COL Allen Pepper (OSC 03, Strasbourg), SDO/DATT Paris, France. They both were attending a colloquium on military thinking in the French Army held by the French Command Doctrine and Education Center.

## Responding to the War in Ukraine

CDR Kevin Ringelstein (OSC 21, Parma)

For the first time, my family and I find ourselves responding to war in a way we never could have imagined while on active-duty – by assisting refugees from one European nation in another European nation. Prior to the invasion of Ukraine, professors in my master’s program on the European Union (EU) noted in almost every class how Europe has been in a state of peace, with the exception of the Balkan War, since World War II. They proudly pointed out how the EU received a Nobel Peace Prize in 2012 for advancing peace and serving as a stabilizing force in Europe. As Russia amassed its troops along the Ukrainian border, our instructors demurred at the notion that the 77-year Pax Europa might end. When it came crashing down on 24 February, we found all those around us in complete shock. Yet, as reality set in, shock has turned into action, to include in our host city of Parma, Italy.



Signs and symbols of support for Ukraine - from Italy to France.

From peaceful protests to assisting Ukrainian refugees, we have observed and taken part in pervasive efforts aimed to assist those fleeing war. The solidarity felt in Parma has been palpable, as well as in most Italian and European cities we have visited since the invasion. We see Ukrainian colors flying next to Italian and European Union ones everywhere we go. While refugees here do encounter some hurdles, to include language barriers, finding long-term housing, and overcoming bureaucratic challenges when trying to access goods and resources, the Parma community has stepped-up to assist where it can. This unifying response has provided our Ukrainian friends with hope despite the uncertainty and constant fear for loved ones in Ukraine.



Dry food goods collected for Ukrainian refugees in Parma.

We have witnessed many small acts of empathy and support, and the aggregate of such deeds is substantial. From our children’s school to my local running club, organizations, groups, and individuals are all seeking ways to help. Notably, my university classmates, who hail from all over Europe, have demonstrated inspiring generosity in their responses. When they learned that my wife was assisting local refugees by providing them with clothing and home-cooked meals, they also sprung to action. They compiled dry food goods, offered free language lessons, and sought to host refugees needing housing. As a result of these efforts, the tired faces we first saw have slowly turned more confident and assured. As war continues to rage on in Ukraine, the refugees in Italy, as far as we have observed, have been welcomed with open arms by the community. We have also found ourselves in a new, supportive role where we are able to contribute in other meaningful ways to a war effort.

## Active Duty Director Selected as Fellow

The Olmsted Foundation’s Active Duty Director for the US Air Force, Col Tobias Switzer (OSC 09, Santiago), has been selected as a 2022 fellow by The Irregular Warfare Institute, a joint project of the Modern War Institute at West Point and the Empirical Studies of Conflict Project at Princeton University.

Col Switzer has also been selected as Adjunct Senior Fellow for the Military, Veterans, and Society Program of the Center for a New American Security.

All Olmsted Scholars are encouraged to go to the Foundation website and update their Scholar profiles. Please help the Foundation keep your record current. You can access Scholar profiles by going to the Foundation website at <https://olmstedfoundation.org/> and clicking login on the top right corner.

## Foundation and Scholars in the News

ADM (Ret.) Kurt Tidd (OSC 84, Bordeaux), US Navy, Mission Command 2, *Radio Stockdale*, <https://radiostockdale.transistor.fm/episodes/mission-command-2>

COL (Ret.) Mark Elfendahl (OSC 99, Jena), US Army, Empowering Leaders, *Checkpoints*, <https://olmstedfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Olmsted-Brothers-Centennial-in-Checkpoints-Dec-2021.pdf>

COL (Ret.) Mark Elfendahl (OSC 99, Jena), US Army, 2021 Army-Navy Game Marks Centennial of Historic Olmsted Brothers Meeting, *Shipmate*, <https://olmstedfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Shipmate-Article-Oct-21.pdf>

COL (Ret.) Mark Elfendahl (OSC 99, Jena), US Army, George and Jerauld Olmsted: Brothers for Life, But Not at the 1921 Army-Navy Game, *West Point*, [https://www.pageturnpro.com/West-Point-Association-of-Graduates/103547-West-Point-Magazine-Winter-2022/sdefault.html?utm\\_source=website&utm\\_medium=hp&utm\\_campaign=wpmw2022#page/65](https://www.pageturnpro.com/West-Point-Association-of-Graduates/103547-West-Point-Magazine-Winter-2022/sdefault.html?utm_source=website&utm_medium=hp&utm_campaign=wpmw2022#page/65)

LCDR Mike Moysowicz (OSC 19, Chengdu), US Coast Guard, Insights from China's Study of the U.S. Coast Guard, US Naval Institute, *Proceedings*, <https://www.usni.org/magazines/proceedings/2022/march/insights-chinas-studies-us-coast-guard#:~:text=Chinese%20scholarly%20studies%20on%20the%20U.S.%20Coast%20Guard,Guard%20March%202022%20Proceedings%20Featured%20Article%20View%20Issue>

Diana Moysowicz has coauthored Deckplate Diplomats: Invest in Coast Guard FAOs, US Naval Institute, *Proceedings*, <https://www.usni.org/magazines/proceedings/2022/february/deckplate-diplomats-invest-coast-guard-faos>

The Olmsted Foundation, in the University of North Georgia's UNG Newsroom, Olmsted grant gives cadets experience overseas, [https://ung.edu/news/articles/2022/02/olmsted-grant-opens-doors-abroad-for-cadets.php?fbclid=IwAR0aRMz0wQumDvkDDLhwFgGuWf\\_nIPwfu0B-BXI\\_zMVPZ3cvN1X5kWI7GM](https://ung.edu/news/articles/2022/02/olmsted-grant-opens-doors-abroad-for-cadets.php?fbclid=IwAR0aRMz0wQumDvkDDLhwFgGuWf_nIPwfu0B-BXI_zMVPZ3cvN1X5kWI7GM)



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