

Contact

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(LinkedIn)

Top Skills

Navigation

Executive Consultation

Strategic Consulting

Certifications

Foreign Policy Fellowship Program
Certificate

Physician Assistant

Climate for Health Ambassador

Kishla A.

Former Deputy Assistant Secretary | Public Servant | Senior Executive | Arctic | Biosecurity | Preparedness | Health | Environmental Security | Science Diplomacy | Combat Veteran | Purpose-Driven | People First |

Alexandria, Virginia, United States

Summary

Accomplished public servant, clinician executive, and military veteran with over 30 years of leadership experience across national security, public health, and healthcare sectors. My diverse roles have spanned the Federal government—including both Executive and Legislative branches—the United States military, the private sector, and community appointments.

As a seasoned executive, I've navigated complex challenges in multi-domain operations, global health responses, and strategic policy developments, particularly in environments characterized by combat, natural disasters, and public health crises. My career is distinguished by a steadfast commitment to forging purpose-driven solutions and a profound dedication to service.

A transformational leader, I excel in bridging divides and forging strong relationships, directing multi-specialty teams to achieve strategic objectives across diverse functional and organizational landscapes. My leadership philosophy centers on collaborative engagement, strategic foresight, and unwavering ethics to drive successful outcomes.

I am concurrently honing my expertise at the intersection of biosecurity, climate change, and emergency preparedness, with a particular focus on the Arctic region. This research includes critical issues such as organizational command structures, biosecurity, equity among Alaska Natives, health security, and strategic communication, enhancing my capability to address and lead on emerging global security challenges.

Experience

City of Alexandria, Virginia

2 years 10 months

Environmental Policy Commissioner

January 2024 - Present (11 months)

Alexandria, Virginia, United States

Emergency Medical Services Council

February 2022 - January 2024 (2 years)

Alexandria, Virginia, United States

Self-employed

Senior Executive Consultant

January 2024 - Present (11 months)

United States

As a seasoned Senior Executive Consultant, I specialize in bridging the gap between disparate fields such as emergency preparedness, environmental and national security, biosecurity, and public health. With a robust background in integrating diverse specialties, I focus on crafting strategies that enhance operational efficiencies and resilience in complex environments.

In today's interconnected world, a siloed approach is no longer viable. My consultancy is centered on developing a unified framework that not only conserves resources and prioritizes people, but is also rigorously data-informed. This approach ensures that every strategy is backed by solid evidence and tailored to the dynamic demands of global challenges.

Fosters collaboration across sectors to create a synergistic approach to emergency preparedness, response, and recovery.

Enhances the skill sets and operational capabilities of organizations to address and adapt to the evolving landscape of global threats through a multi-tiered, sector, and disciplinary lens.

Leverages cutting-edge analytics and comprehensive data sets to inform policy and operational decisions.

Ensures that ground-level operations are prepared to implement strategies effectively, maximizing impact while minimizing cost.

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Deputy Assistant Secretary | Office of Enterprise Integration

July 2022 - June 2023 (1 year)

Washington, District of Columbia, United States

Connecting people, processes, and systems.

Global Bridge Health Strategies LLC

Chief Executive Officer/Co-Founder

September 2020 - June 2022 (1 year 10 months)

Alexandria, Virginia, United States

“Breaking down stove pipes and building resilient bridges for a healthy and stable world.”

Leads a women, veteran-owned small consulting business in national security, strategy, healthcare, emergency preparedness, and climate security arenas.

A key strength is our expertise in bridging these arenas (or stovepipes within) to provide cross-cutting input for our clients.

Office of the Secretary of Defense

Principal Staff Officer/Senior Policy Advisor to the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs)

August 2017 - May 2019 (1 year 10 months)

Washington D.C. Metro Area

Retired from the Navy July 31, 2019

Led executive support team for the Senior Executive of the Military Health System (MHS) that encompasses 9.2 million beneficiaries, \$52 billion Defense Health Program (DHP) and TRICARE.

Advised senior executive(s) on health policies, force readiness, global health, and change management during a historically significant transformation to the MHS, providing counsel and written recommendations for successful implementation and alignment.

Provided senior policy and strategic advice during international (e.g., Africa and Europe) and domestic engagements with key partners and Allies.

Acted on behalf of the Assistant Secretary to carry out the MHS strategic goals and objectives with internal (OSD, Joint Staff, and Services) and external stakeholders including the White House, Health and Human Services, Veteran

Affairs, Centers for Disease Control, Department of Homeland Security, and National Institutes of Health

US Navy

Legislative Liaison and Congressional Affairs

January 2016 - July 2017 (1 year 7 months)

Bureau of Medicine and Surgery Washington D.C. Metro Area

Senior policy and legislative advisor to the Surgeon General of the Navy.

Advised, prepared and coordinated congressional hearing and legislative responses for senior executives implementing strategy and improving communication goals. Led a team of senior strategic members that developed a comprehensive analysis, mitigation strategies, and implementation recommendations for the most significant piece of legislation governing the DHP.

Navy SME for the 2018 Federal, State and Interagency revision for the National Emergency Medical Services Scope of Practice Model. Efforts positioned DoD to establish partnerships and enable alignment of certification and training models across military and civilian practice settings.

United States Senate

Defense Fellow in the Office of Senator Joe Donnelly

November 2014 - December 2015 (1 year 2 months)

Washington, District Of Columbia

Defense Fellow in the Office of Senator Joe Donnelly that included advising him on defense and national security issues writ large, foreign policy, homeland security, veteran issues and matters before the Senate Armed Services Committee.

US Navy

Fellowship Director

January 2012 - October 2014 (2 years 10 months)

Naval Medical Center San Diego, California, United States

Author and Fellowship Director of Inaugural EMPA Fellowship, Emergency Medicine PA, EM ACGME Faculty, FCC National Disaster Medical Systems Coordinator, Emergency Management Executive Committee, Medical Education Committee, Wilderness Medicine and SAFE Examiner.

Pioneered the inaugural Physician Associate fellowship program within the U.S. Navy, enhancing medical training standards and emergency response capabilities. Developed comprehensive fellowship curriculum and established pivotal training agreements and sites, ensuring a robust educational framework. Forged strategic alliances with community stakeholders, medical centers, and diverse medical specialties, facilitating integrated clinical practice and interdisciplinary collaboration.

United States Marine Corps

2 years 9 months

Regimental Surgeon

October 2010 - December 2011 (1 year 3 months)

Combat Logistics Regiment 27

Combat Logistics Regiment 27, Regimental Surgeon & Staff Officer to the General, and responsible for the healthcare and readiness of 2500 Sailors and Marines.

Battalion Surgeon

April 2009 - October 2010 (1 year 7 months)

Combat Logistic Battalion 24

Forward deployed - Battalion Surgeon, Staff Officer, MAGTF Medical Operations Planner for the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit deployment leading force health protection and combat casualty care for HA/DR and OEF on land and sea.

Earned the Surface Warfare Medical Department Officer designation LPD Platform.

US Navy

Acting Senior Medical Officer

December 2006 - December 2008 (2 years 1 month)

Naval Medical Center San Diego San Diego, CA

Managed 20 providers and 40 ancillary staff in the delivery of safe and quality healthcare for the Naval Base San Diego operational forces

Led a successful Joint Commission Accreditation and received the "model clinic" award from the Commission as Acting Senior Medical Officer.

Scripps Health

Emergency Medicine Physician Assistant

2006 - December 2008 (2 years)

Greater San Diego Area

Healthcare delivery in Trauma 1 Emergency Department

United States Marine Corps

Executive Officer

January 2008 - August 2008 (8 months)

Mobile Shock Trauma Platoon and Forward Resuscitative Surgical Suite

Forward deployed - Mobile STP and FRSS XO and Emergency Medicine Physician Assistant leading a multidisciplinary team for combat casualty care and evacuation.

Earned the Fleet Marine Force Warfare Officer designation.

US Navy

16 years 2 months

Physician Assistant Student

August 2004 - August 2006 (2 years 1 month)

Interservice Physician Assistant Program Fort Sam Houston, Texas

Senior Enlisted Leader and Independent Duty Corpsman

July 2003 - July 2004 (1 year 1 month)

USS WASP (LHD 1) Forward Deployed

Large Deck Departmental Senior Enlisted Leader & Independent Duty Corpsman for 20+ staff providing care for 1100 crew members and a capability of providing intensive medical assistance to 600 casualties, whether combat incurred or brought aboard ship during humanitarian missions. Air and Surface Warfare Specialist for LHD platform. Forward deployed OIF/OEF.

Inspector & IDC

June 2001 - July 2003 (2 years 2 months)

Regional Support Group Norfolk, Virginia, United States

IDC for short fused coverage and/or deployments for USS GONZALEZ, USS HAWES, USS COLE, USS ARLEIGH BURKE & oversight of the medical readiness on 36 CRUDES ships. Surface Warfare Specialist for DDG platform.

Navigation Senior Enlisted Leader and Clinician (IDC)

May 1998 - June 2001 (3 years 2 months)

USS BRISCOE (DD 977) Forward Deployed

Leading Chief for the Navigation Department and Ship's "Doc" responsible for the healthcare of a 400+ crew and safe navigation of the ship. Surface Warfare Specialist for DD platform. Forward Deployed.

Senior Clinician (IDC)

May 1997 - May 1998 (1 year 1 month)

NSA Souda Bay Crete, Greece

Forward deployed - Responsible for the healthcare of 1000+ personnel plus multiple deployed units in direct support of Kosovo operations.

Paramedic

July 1990 - May 1997 (6 years 11 months)

Master Training Specialist

January 1992 - January 1997 (5 years 1 month)

Teaching EMT, Aerospace Physiology, Aviation Medicine, and Survival Training

Aerospace Physiology

June 1991 - January 1996 (4 years 8 months)

Pensacola, Florida

Self Paced Air Desensitization (SPAD) coordinator, researcher, hyperbaric team, instructor for survival training, hypobaric inside tender, and all aerospace physiology training topics, EMT instructor, and adjunct instructor for enlisted aerospace physiology "C" Schools.

Education

University of Nebraska Medical Center

Doctor of Public Health, Emergency Preparedness · (August 2021 - December 2024)

Tulane University

Master of Public Health - MPH, Crisis/Emergency/Disaster Management

University of Nebraska Medical Center

Masters, Physician Assistant Studies

University of Nebraska Medical Center

Bachelor of Science - BS

The George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences

Bachelor of Science (BS)