

## Contact

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## Top Skills

International Security

Foreign Policy

National Security

# Dr. Mara Karlin

Assistant Secretary of Defense for Strategy, Plans, and Capabilities  
Washington, District of Columbia, United States

## Experience

United States Department of Defense

2 years 7 months

Acting Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy

July 2023 - Present (2 months)

Assistant Secretary of Defense for Strategy, Plans, and Capabilities

August 2021 - Present (2 years 1 month)

Acting Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy

January 2023 - April 2023 (4 months)

Acting Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy

August 2021 - February 2022 (7 months)

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense-International Security  
Affairs

February 2021 - August 2021 (7 months)

The Johns Hopkins University - Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced  
International Studies (SAIS)

Director of Strategic Studies and Associate Professor of Practice

January 2019 - January 2021 (2 years 1 month)

Washington D.C. Metro Area

The Brookings Institution

Non-resident Senior Fellow

July 2017 - January 2021 (3 years 7 months)

Washington D.C. Metro Area

Johns Hopkins University-SAIS

Professor

January 2007 - 2021 (14 years)

Johns Hopkins University SAIS

Associate Professor of Practice and Associate Director of Strategic  
Studies

June 2017 - January 2019 (1 year 8 months)  
Washington D.C. Metro Area

### Semester At Sea

Professor

December 2016 - May 2017 (6 months)

Around the world

U.S. Defense Department, Office of the Secretary of Defense  
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense- Strategy and Force  
Development

January 2015 - December 2016 (2 years)

U.S. Defense Department, Office of the Secretary of Defense  
2 years 3 months

Principal Director-Strategy and Force Development

May 2014 - January 2015 (9 months)

Principal Director-Strategy

November 2012 - May 2014 (1 year 7 months)

RAND Corporation

Adjunct Scholar

February 2010 - October 2012 (2 years 9 months)

Office of the Secretary of Defense, U.S. Department of Defense  
Special Assistant to the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy

July 2007 - February 2009 (1 year 8 months)

U.S. Defense Department

Levant Director, Office of the Secretary of Defense

February 2006 - July 2007 (1 year 6 months)

Advisor to the Secretary of Defense on Levant issues (Syria, Lebanon, Jordan  
and Palestinian Affairs)

Office of the Secretary of Defense, U.S. Department of Defense  
Foreign Affairs Specialist: South Asia

July 2005 - February 2006 (8 months)

Advisor to Secretary of Defense on South Asian Affairs (India, Pakistan,  
Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal)

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## Education

Tulane University

B.A.

Johns Hopkins SAIS

M.A., Strategic Studies, Middle East Studies, Int'l Economics

Semester At Sea / ISE

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

The Johns Hopkins University - Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced  
International Studies (SAIS)

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.), International Affairs (Strategic Studies)