

Thomas J. Gajewski, Ed.D.
AFNC Adaptive Negotiations
& Mediation Instructor
Lead IT, AFNC Education & Curriculum

Areas of Expertise



Dr. Thomas J. Gajewski is honored to serve the Department of the Air Force as an Instructional Systems Specialist (GS-1750-12) for the Air University, Air War College, Air Force Negotiation Center. Dr. Gajewski brings to the table 40 years in mechanical / manufacturing engineering, international managerial and academic administration experience as well as significant tenure on podium.

Dr. Gajewski traces his strong work ethic back to his brief service in the US Army in Germany. Through his service, Dr. Gajewski utilized the Veteran's Education Assistance Program to earn an Engineering degree in Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst as well as a minor in German. General Electric came knocking next and he was accepted into the prestigious Manufacturing Management Program. After two years of training,

Dr. Gajewski held international marketing and manufacturing assignments in the military aircraft engine division and locomotive division of the General Electric Company. As a decade of service came to a close, Dr. Gajewski left General Electric to pursue several higher educational degrees at Pepperdine University: Masters in International Business, Masters in Dispute Resolution and a Doctorate in Education. During his advanced studies, Dr. Gajewski also held the title of Program Chair for the School of Business at Westwood College Los Angeles Campus. There his responsibilities included curriculum development and administer/supervisor responsibility for undergraduate and graduate level business management programs. Once completed with his studies at Pepperdine University and academic as well administrative term at Westwood College, Dr. Gajewski volunteered for a 27-month assignment with the Peace Corps and was stationed in the town of Guanajuato in the state of Guanajuato, México. His assignment there was with the world renowned CIMAT - Centro de Investigación en Matemáticas A.C. with duties encompassing International Business Advising and Cross-Cultural Organizational Strengthening Specialist. As the only United States Government representative for this region of México, Dr. Gajewski promoted and supported several established charities and non-government organizations in the local area. These include: La Conexión de Arco Iris – Fiesta Anual de Arco Iris – Charity for battered women and disadvantaged / disabled children; Amigos de Los Animales de Guanajuato Fiesta – Charity for stray animals; Brillantes Caminantes de Guanajuato – Los Arribeños Fiesta – Charity for grant scholarships to outstanding college students; and Escuela Normal after-hours English Tutoring Workshop for K-12 Teachers in Training.

Upon completion of his Peace Corps assignment, Dr. Gajewski accepted his next position with the Department of the Air Force stationed at Naval Base Ventura County Port Hueneme serving as a Supervisory Training Instructor (GS-1712-11) for the Air Education and Training Command at the 344th Training Squadron, Detachment 1. Through his service, Dr. Gajewski as Intermediate Supervisor spearheaded a

training section encompassing eight NCO and civilian trainers focused on developing and maintaining curriculum for the Air Force's Aircraft Rescue, Firefighting and Re-fueling vehicles. Dr. Gajewski was also responsible for the Detachment's facilities which includes 12 buildings valued at approximately 3.5 million dollars. Lastly, Dr. Gajewski responsibilities included the role of International Military Student Officer hosting military officers from the Arab Republic of Egypt and Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. In his free time, Dr. Gajewski served as a volunteer and treasurer for the Santa Barbara Peace Corps Association 501(c)3. This organization serves as a network and resource for prospective, current, former, and future Peace Corps Volunteers in the Santa Barbara and Central Coast area of California.

Today at Maxwell Air Force Base, Dr. Gajewski current assignment focuses on curriculum development as well as instruction of mediation, negotiation and conflict resolution classes. Being well versed in the topic, his dissertation topic was entitled, "Exploring leadership styles from a mediator's perspective: A phenomenological study examining four specific organizational leadership styles and their relationship to four mediation styles as summarized by Leonard I. Riskin." His research and experiences enhance the mission and exemplary services provided by all his highly qualified colleagues at the Air Force Negotiation Center and his contribution is a welcomed resource for all at the Department of Defense.

Employment

Air Force Instructional Systems Specialist – AFNC Adaptive Negotiations & Mediation Instructor, AFNC Education & Curriculum Lead IT – GS-1750-12 (2/2022 to present)

Air Force Supervisory Training Instructor – AETC Intermediate Supervisor – GS-1712-11 (11/2018 to 2/ 2022)

Non-Profit Board of Directors 501(c)3, Treasurer and Active Member, Santa Barbara Peace Corps Association (2/2019 – Present)

Peace Corps Volunteer – Technology Transfer for Economic Development (3/2016 – 5/2018)

Westwood College – Program Chair and Professor (8/2006 – 3/2016)

General Electric Company

- o Service and Facilities Manager (1/1999 – 5/2000)
- o International Program Manager (1/1998 – 12/1998)
- o International Proposal and Requisition Leader (1/1994 – 12/1997)
- o Manufacturing Management Program (1/1992 – 12/1993)

US Army – Self-propelled Field Artillery Systems Mechanic (63D10/20) – Honorable Discharge (5/1984 – 3/1987)

Education and Training

Educational Doctorate in Organizational Leadership (Ed.D., 8/2004 – 7/2014)

- o Graduate School of Education and Psychology – Pepperdine University, Los Angeles, California
 - o Straus Institute of Dispute Resolution – Pepperdine University, School of Law, Malibu, California
- Masters of Dispute Resolution (MDR, 1/2005 – 12/2007)

- o Straus Institute of Dispute Resolution – Pepperdine University, School of Law, Malibu, California

International Masters in Business Administration (Int'l MBA, 8/2000 – 5/2002)

- o EBS Universität für Wirtschaft (Business) und Recht (Law), Östlich–Winkel, Hessen, Germany
- Bachelors of Science in Mechanical Engineering (BS, 8/1987 – 2/1992)
- o University of Massachusetts @ Amherst, Amherst, Massachusetts

Military Courses Attended

- DoD Basic Meditation Course
- DAF Experienced Supervisors Course – MAFHRMS420 22B
- DoD Green Belt eLearning Course
- Technical Writer Course - V3AIRTXXXX 0W1
- Analysis, Design, Development, Implementation, and Evaluation (ADDIE) Course – V3AIRTXXXX 0A1A
- Military Personnel Management Course – MAFHRMS416 - 2020C
- Intermediate International Military Student Officer – XSPT221 W01
- Introduction to Security Cooperation – SC-101
- Training Supervisor Course – L3AIRTXXXX 0S2A
- New Supervisor Course – MAFHRMS425
- Basic Instructor Course – V3AIRTXXXX 0B2B

DoD Awards

- Awarded Outstanding 37th Training Squadron Civilian Supervisor (Category III) for 4th Quarter, 2021
- Awarded Outstanding 37th Training Group Civilian Supervisor (Category II) for 2nd Quarter, 2019

Personal

- Five (5) years living/working in Germany and two (2) years living/working in México
- Mid-level Fluency in German certified by Goethe Institute
- Novice-High-level Fluency in Spanish certified by Peace Corps
- Extensive travel on work related contracts and consulting to:
 - Australia, Austria, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Gibraltar, Great Britain, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, México, Pakistan, Portugal, Russia, Singapore, Slovak Republic, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland