The Air Force Cyber College Welcomes Professor Guttieri as Dean

The Air Force Cyber College faculty and staff are pleased to announce the promotion of Dr. Karen Guttieri from Professor of Cyber Warfare Studies to Air Force Cyber College Dean. Guttieri begins her deanship in conversation with Air University leadership and colleagues about new cyber certificate and degree initiatives and other next steps in cyber education and research. The AF Cyber College currently offers elective courses for Air War College and Air Command and Staff College students and highly sought after continuing professional education for thousands of others. The Cyber College will launch a project to develop cyber teaching scenarios and will host the semi-annual meeting of the Consortium of Cyber Professional Military Education in February 2020.

Dr. Guttieri notes that “Cyber is a fast-growing field. In just the last decade, cyber was recognized as a domain, US Cyber Mission Forces stood up, and US Cyber Command became a combatant command. There is institutional urgency to develop cyber warriors, given that Air Force leadership tell us we are not currently at peace in the cyber domain.” The Department of Defense Cyber Strategy and the Air Force Cyber Warfare Flight Plan call for investment in people, partnerships and innovation. “The Air University and our team in the Cyber College are uniquely positioned to provide what is needed,” says Guttieri. “The College provides a think tank on cyber issues at classification levels not widely available. Our relationships with research labs, civilian universities and industry partners make the Cyber College a wonderful asset for the Air Force.”

“This is a key moment for the cyber domain,” she says. “We are seeing cyber flowing together with other disciplines - electronic warfare, ISR (intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance), and psychological operations - into a new construct of information warfare. We need diverse technical and social scientific expertise.” Current faculty in the Cyber College include experts in targeting, geospatial, ISR, cyber economics and information operations. New faculty will bring expertise including cyber law, artificial intelligence and industrial control systems. Dean Guttieri has a long professional history of convening and leading diverse teams, developing curricula for the Naval Postgraduate School and the Geneva Centre for Security Policy. She has been successful in attracting significant grants for research and education. She brings two decades of experience working with senior military leaders to identify and address research and curricula needs.
Dr. Guttieri joined the Air University’s e-School in 2016 where she served as Course Director for national security courses at multiple levels of professional military education. That position “provided a very thorough perspective on the Air Force continuum of learning,” she says. Her research on information warfare drew her to the Cyber College. Since joining the College last year, she co-taught the Cyber Advanced Research Seminar and co-authored new work on information warfare. She judged the Cyber 9/12 Strategy Challenge at Columbia University in New York in which student teams address a major cyberattack scenario.

Dr. Guttieri’s training includes a PhD in Political Science at the University of British Columbia, after which she returned to her native California for postdoctoral work at Stanford University on the civil dimension of the revolution in military affairs. Her research and publications include journal articles, several co-edited volumes, a case study series and numerous technical and professional reports. She has written on peace technology and the problem of online disinformation through projects with the Peace Innovation Lab at Stanford. She co-edited a special issue journal on the subject of populism in 2019. Her current work continues to explore the relationship between emerging technologies, the military, and society.

Dr. Guttieri brings a wealth of experience to the Air Force Cyber College, and we are excited about her new role in the organization. Please join us in welcoming Dr. Guttieri as the Dean of the Air Force Cyber College and congratulating her on her promotion.

Best regards,
Kevin Beeker
Cyber College Commandant