



Dr. Jill A. Rough

A 1996 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Dr. Jill A. Rough has nearly 25 years of experience in national security and defense related policy and practice. Upon commissioning as an Ensign in the U.S. Navy, she served seven years as an active duty Surface Warfare Officer. Her sea tours included the USS BLUE RIDGE (LCC-19) in Yokosuka, Japan and Amphibious Squadron SEVEN embarked aboard USS BOXER (LHD-4) in San Diego, California. She also served as a military fellow at the Center for Naval Analyses in Arlington, Virginia. Following the September 11, 2001 attacks on the Pentagon, she was assigned to the Chief of Naval Operations Strategy and Policy Division (OPNAV N51) to help reconstitute the division after the tragic loss of many of its personnel.

In 2003, Dr. Rough transitioned to the U.S. Navy Reserve as an intelligence officer. In this capacity, she has held multiple command tours and supported a variety of organizations, including the Defense Intelligence Agency, the Joint Staff (J2), and the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency. She was recalled to active duty in 2012 in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM, serving as Production Manager of the Combined Joint Intelligence Operations Center – Afghanistan in Kabul. She is currently a Captain in the Navy Reserves.

As a civilian, Dr. Rough has worked as a national security and defense intern on Capitol Hill; a research assistant at RAND Corporation, where she supported a year-long study of U.S. Army operations during Hurricane Katrina; and a graduate research assistant with George Mason University's Terrorism, Transnational Crime and Corruption Center examining WMD smuggling, human trafficking, and organized crime. Her dissertation research focused on the impact of Army National Guard mobilizations on public support for the War on Terror.

From December 2017 to July 2020, Dr. Rough served as the Director of Research and Analysis for the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service, a Congressionally-chartered organization charged with examining the military selective service process (known as the 'draft') and exploring ways to increase military, national, and public service.

Dr. Rough has taught advanced qualitative methods, program evaluation, leadership, and public speaking at George Mason University as an Adjunct Professor. Her academic research focuses on civil-military relations, civic engagement, and military manpower policies, specifically active-reserve integration and issues related to women in the military.

Dr. Rough holds a PhD in public policy from George Mason University, a MA in international affairs from The George Washington University, JPME I diploma from the Naval War College, JPME II certificate from the Joint Forces Staff College, and a BS in political science from the U.S. Naval Academy. She lives in Northern Virginia with her husband and three children.