

Joel R. Bius, Ph.D.

Headmaster & Athletic Director, Eastwood Christian School
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1. CIVILIAN EDUCATION

2015 Doctor of Philosophy in American History

The Dale Center for the Study of War and Society, The University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, Mississippi (2012-2015)

Doctoral Advisor: Dr. Louis Kyriakoudes

Major Fields: U.S. to 1865 and U.S. Since 1865

Minor Field: War & Society

Minor Field: Colonial Social History

Dissertation title: *The Soldier and the Cigarette: 1918-1986*

2008 Master of Military Operational Art and Science

Air University, Air Command and Staff College (ACSC), Maxwell AFB, Alabama (2007-2008)

Political-Military Affairs Research Thesis: [“Tough as Nails: Police Mentoring in a Non-Permissive Environment \[Afghanistan\]”](#)

2004 Master of Arts in Military Studies – The American Civil War

American Military University, Charlestown, West Virginia (2001-2004)

Capstone Thesis: “Riding on: The Enduring Impact of Civil War Cavalry Innovation in the Western Theater”

1996 Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration – Management

Valdosta State University, Valdosta, Georgia (1992-1996)

Commissioned to Active Duty USAF through Air Force ROTC Det 172

2. SPECIFIC LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE, TEACHING, and TRAINING in CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Headmaster, Athletic Director, and Rhetoric School Teacher

Eastwood Christian School, Montgomery, Alabama (July 2020 to Present)

- Leads a school of 40+ faculty and 275+ students in rigorous, intentional, and discipleship based Classical Christian Education
- In concert with a school board and leadership staff of 5 (principals and support staff), executes a \$2.2 million budget in covenant with 150+ school families
- As Athletic Director, leads efforts to disciple through competitive sports to include basketball, volleyball, tennis, baseball, archery, trap and skeet, cross country, and track

CAO: May 2026

- Instructor of Record for Senior Government and Senior Economics (2024 to Present) and Guest Lecturer in Junior American History
- Senior Thesis Advisor (2020 to Present)
- Chapel Worship Leader (Guitar and Vocals)

Executive for School Institutional Accreditation

Leader of Eastwood's Accreditation Preparation and Execution Committee (July 2024 to Present)

- Led Core team through all aspects of school accreditation.
- Received the Highest 5-Year Accreditation from the Alabama Christian Education Association (State Level organization for the American Association of Christian Schools) Apr 2026

Executive for partnership with the JF Smith Group in Feasibility Study Campaign Planning

Led a team of 3 in partnering with the JF Smith Group to execute 75 interviews with 114 stakeholders over 4 months in support of Eastwood's vision study and planning efforts.

Classical Christian Training and Conference attendance

- The Association of Classical Christian School (ACCS) Annual Conference in Atlanta (2024 and 2026)
- The Stone Haven School CCE Summer Teacher Training Seminar in Atlanta (2024 and 2025)
- The American Association of Christian Schools Annual Leaders Conference in Gatlinburg TN (2025)
- Covenant College Christian School Leadership Retreat and Symposium in Chattanooga TN (2025)
- The Herzog Foundation Seminar on Strategic Stewardship in Nashville TN (June 2026)
- The ACCS Regional Conference at Trinity Christian School in Opelika AL (2024)
- The Champion Group School Leaders Retreat and Seminar, Blue Ridge GA (2023)

Classical Rhetoric and Thesis Supervision

- 2026 Eastwood Christian School Senior Thesis Advisor (Fall 2026)
Joseph Givens - "A Classical Analysis of H.R. McMaster's *Dereliction of Duty*"
- 2025 Eastwood Christian School Senior Thesis Advisor
Liam Waddell - "Historical Tolstory" (analysis of Tolstoy's philosophy of history as found in the classic novel *War and Peace*)
- 2024 Eastwood Christian School Senior Thesis Advisor
Tripp Weaver - "Major Joppolo: The Superb Supervisor" (analysis of John Hersey's Pulitzer Prize Winning Novel *A Bell for Adano*)
- 2023 Eastwood Christian School Senior Thesis Advisor
Owen Alston - "The Army Leading into the Vietnam War" (analysis of Brian McAllister Linn's *Elvis's Army: Cold War GI's and the Atomic Battlefield*)
Brewer Holdich - "The Modern Gatsby" (A literary and historical analysis of F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*)
- 2022 Eastwood Christian School Senior Thesis Advisor

- Riggs Walker, Jr. - "Kennan in Context" (analysis of John Lewis Gaddis' *Strategies of Containment*)
Jack Whatley - "The Creation of our Modern Bureaucracy: Response to the Civil War" (analysis of Drew Gilpin Faust's *This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War*)
- 2021 Eastwood Christian School Senior Thesis Advisor
- Peyton Langley - "Washington's Success" (analysis of Fisher's *Washington's Crossing*)
James Hodges - "Sowing the Wind, Reaping the Whirlwind" (analysis of McMaster's *Dereliction of Duty*)
Chandler Weaver - "The Lies of a Country Displayed in a Man" (analysis of Sheehan's *A Bright Shining Lie*)
Bennett Bozeman - "Hitler: The Army or The Man" (analysis of Bartov's *Hitler's Army*)
Caleb Spiers - "The Plunge to Destruction" (comparative analysis of Keegan's *Mask of Command* and Strawson's *Hitler as Military Commander*)
Andrew Grete - "The America Roosevelt Created" (analysis of Cohen's *Nothing to Fear*)

Engagement with the Classical Christian Community

- 2020-Present Founder, Moderator, and Discussion Facilitator for Eastwood Christian School Dads' Great Books Reading Round Table:
- Orwell, *1984*
 - Bradbury, *Fahrenheit 451*
 - Browning, *Ordinary Men*
 - Simons, *Climbing Parnassus*
 - Overy, *Why the Allies Won* (WWII)
 - Sowell, *Vision of the Anointed*
 - Stonestreet & Kunkle, *A Practical Guide to Culture*
 - Hegseth & Godwin, *Battle for the American Mind*
 - Huxley, *Brave New World*
 - C.S. Lewis, The Ransom Trilogy
 - *Out of the Silent Planet*
 - *Paralandra*
 - *That Hideous Strength* (Jun 2026)

3. RELEVANT (Non CCE) WORK and LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Associate Dean of Education

Air Command and Staff College (ACSC), Maxwell AFB AL (Dec 2018 to June 2020)

- Led all operational aspects of USAF's premier mid-level graduate school for 500 joint service, international, and Department of War civilians
- Led operational and academic year planning for 3 academic departments (Air Power, International Security, and Joint Warfighting) and 3 concentrations (Space Power Intensive, Strategic Deterrence Intensive, and Operational Design Intensive)
- Assisted the Dean in leading a faculty of 120+ military and terminally degreed civilian faculty

Deputy Department Chair and Director of Instruction

Department of Joint Warfighting, ACSC (Jun 2016 – Dec 2018)

- Assisted leading a faculty of 40+ in executing Department of War directed Joint Professional Military Education Level One Certification for Joint Planners

Deputy Department Chair

Department of Air Power, ACSC (Jun 2015 – May 2016)

- Assisted leading a faculty of 40+ in delivering a curriculum designed to produce air power professionals serving at the service, joint, and international level focused on the operational level of war.

Political Affairs Specialist (PAS) and Director of the Air War College Preparatory Course

The International Officer School, Maxwell AFB AL (Jun 2011 – Jun 2012)

- Led a team of 3 in preparing 60+ senior international military officers from 60+ countries for entrance to USAF Air War College, the USAF's premier senior/joint PME institution

Deputy J5 (Plans) for Police/Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Operations, Afghanistan Regional Security Integration Command-South (ARSIC-S), Kandahar, Afghanistan (Jul 2007 - Jan 2008)

- Served on a team of 4 planning for and integrating 16 US Army Police Mentor Inbed Teams in and with local police and SWAT forces in the provinces of Southern Afghanistan at the Operational and Tactical Level in support of ARSIC stability and reconstruction objectives

20th Air Force Nuclear Weapons Inspector General (IG) Team Member & Speech Writer and Resource/Budget Advisor to 20 AF Commander (2 Star General Officer)

20th Air Force Headquarter, F.E. Warren AFB WY (Jun 2006 - Jun 2008)

- Responsible for evaluating and inspecting combat crew operations at America's 3 nuclear missile wings (Minot AFB, Malmstrom AFB, and F.E. Warren AFB)
- Directly served Major General Thomas Deppe as weapons system advisor and speech writer
- Directed the preparation and execution of multi-million dollar budget in support of 20th Air Force nuclear oversight and inspection mission

Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) Training Flight Commander

392nd Training Squadron, Vandenberg AFB CA (Jun 2004 - Jun 2005)

- Led a team of 10 instructing Emergency War Order (EWO) procedures for combat execution of nuclear missiles
- Custodian for all Top Secret / Specially Compartmentalized Information (SCI) materials associated with the EWO mission and supervisor of the EWO vault and comm equipment

ICBM Combat Crew Chief of Weapon System Instruction

341st Missile Wing, Malmstrom AFB MT (Jun 2001 - Jun 2002)

- Lead weapon system instructor for all missile combat crews assigned to Malmstrom AFB

4. EDUCATION OBTAINED DURING MILITARY SERVICE

Professional Military Education

- 2016 Joint Air Operations Command and Control Course**
505th Training Wing, Hurlburt AFB, Florida
(Integration of joint operational air power at the tactical level in support of strategic campaigns)
- 2010 State Department Office of the Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization (S/CRS) Level One Planners Course Graduate**
The Center for International Security Affairs, Washington D.C.
(Integration of state department assets into the Phase 4 operations of a military campaign)
- 2009 Air Command and Staff College Joint Professional Military Education Level 1**
Air University, Maxwell AFB, AL
- 2007 Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan (CSTCA) Joint-Combined Counter Insurgency Training Course**
Kabul, Afghanistan
(Integration with host nation military, police, and intelligence forces in support of allied campaign objectives)
- 2007 US Army Military Transition Team (MiTT) Combat Skills Training Course**
Fort Riley, Kansas
(Trained as leader of a 16 person US Army imbedded mentor team for integration with Afghan military and police formations at the company level in combat conditions)
- 2005 Air Command and Staff College (Correspondence)**
Air University, Maxwell AFB, Alabama
- 2005 20TH Air Force Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) Center of Excellence ICBM Evaluator Course**
F.E. Warren AFB, Wyoming
(Professional evaluators course for assessing combat effectiveness of the US Landbased Strategic Deterrence Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) deployed weapon system)
- 2004 Space 200 – Intermediate Level Space Professional Education**
Colorado Springs, Colorado
(Professional course for the integration of Air & Space assets at the operational level of war)
- 2002 Squadron Officer School, Residence**
Air University, Maxwell AFB, Alabama
- 2002 Air Education and Training Command (AETC) Basic Instructor Course**
Vandenberg AFB, California
- 1999 Lieutenants’ Professional Development Program**
Malmstrom AFB, Montana
- 1998 Rapid Execution and Combat Targeting (REACT) ICBM Combat Crew Initial Qualification Course**
Vandenberg AFB, California
(Professional and Operational course qualifying graduates for service in operations involving the ICBM nuclear weapon systems)

5. PUBLISHED WORKS

Books

Smoke 'Em If You Got 'Em: The Rise and Fall of the Military Cigarette Ration, (Maryland: Naval Institute Press, October 2018)

<https://www.amazon.com/Smoke-Em-You-Got-CigaretteRation-ebook/dp/B07FTN4CXB>

Edited Volumes

“The Damn Y Man in WWI: Service, Perception, and Cigarettes” chapter in *The YMCA at War* edited volume (New York: Lexington Press, 2018)

<https://www.bloomsbury.com/us/ymca-at-war-9781498548229/>

“From Field to Foxhole: Cigarettes and Soldiers in WWII” chapter in *Nature at War: American Environments and World War II* edited volume (Boston: Cambridge University Press)

Articles

“How the US Military Taught Americans to Smoke: A 1918 Policy Devised to Calm Soldiers’ Nerves Sparked a Bad Habit That Was Difficult to Stop,” Zocalo Public Square, August 5, 2019.

<https://www.zocalopublicsquare.org/2019/08/05/how-the-us-military-taught-americans-to-smoke/ideas/essay/>

6. LECTURES, SCHOLARLY ENGAGEMENT, AND OUTREACH

- 2026 Guest Speaker: [“The General, the Book, and thoughts upon High School Graduation”](#) for the Eastwood Christian School 2025-26 Graduation Commencement Ceremony (Start at minute 46:45)
- 2025 Guest Speaker: “War and Peace at Eastwood: The Place of Great Literature in a Lifelong Learner” for the Eastwood Christian School 2025-26 Convocation Ceremony
- 2023 Lecture: “A Case Study Approach to The American Military Establishment in the 20th Century: Frontier Warriors, Powerful Institutions, and Social Engineers” The USAF Inspection Agency Team Week, Kirtland AFB, New Mexico
- 2022 Guest Speaker: “Notes on Understanding the Uses of History” for the Francis Marion Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution
- 2020 Lecture: “Ascedia: A Classical Exposition on Intellectual Laziness ... also known as Cheating” for Eastwood Christian Rhetoric and Logic School Chapel
- 2020 Lecture: “A Journey With Truth” for Eastwood Christian School Faculty

- 2020 Podcast: The Flashback Podcast with Sean Braswell - "Holy Smokes: How the YMCA Helped Launch the Tobacco Black Market"
<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/fb-102-holy-smokes-how-ymca-helped-launch-tobacco-black/id1506779922?i=1000473738265>
- 2016-2019 Founder, Moderator, and Discussion Facilitator for ASCS Scholars Great Books Reading Round Table:

Browning, *Ordinary Men*
Genovese, *The Southern Tradition*
Blanning, *The Romantic Revolution*
Dawson, *The Gods of Revolution*
Pieper, *Leisure - The Basis of Culture*
Snell, *Acedia and its Discontents*
Marcel, *Man against Mass Society*
McDougal, *Heavens and Earth*
Bacevich, *The New American Militarism*
- 2019 Lecture: "Perspectives on Teaching Military Leadership at PME" for Air University Leadership Development Course Faculty Development, ACSC, Maxwell AFB AL
- 2019 Podcast: Book Discussion/Interview for "The War College Podcast"
https://m.soundcloud.com/war_college/what-cigarettes-tell-us
- 2018 Podcast: Book Discussion/Interview for "History with Mark Bielski" Podcast Presentation <https://historywithmarkbielski.com/?s=bius>
- 2018 Lecture and Book Discussion: *Smoke 'Em if you got 'Em: The Rise and the Fall of the Military Cigarette Ration*, The University of Southern Mississippi Dale Center for The Study of War and Society
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9xOtaUD3yDY>
- 2018 Lecture and Book Discussion: *Smoke 'Em if you got 'Em: The Rise and the Fall of the Military Cigarette Ration*, The Pritzker Center Military History Museum and Library, Chicago, Illinois (Oct 2018)
https://www.pritzkermilitary.org/whats_on/pritzker-military-presents/joel-bius-smoke-em-if-you-got-em/
- 2018 Lecture: "American Joint Warfighting: An Organized, Presented, and Planned Force," Summer Reserve Officer Course and ACSC International Officers Preparation Course, ACSC, Maxwell AFB AL
- 2018 Paper: "The Soldier and the Cigarette in War and Peace"
The Society for Military History Annual Conference
Louisville, Kentucky

CAO: May 2026

- 2017 Lecture: "Bodies, 'Baccy, and War: Thoughts on the Expansion of Federal Government" The Montgomery Chapter of the Federalist Society
Montgomery, Alabama
- 2017-2018 Lecture Series: "Perspectives on Military Leadership and Command"
Troy University, Leadership 3320 Great Leaders Course
Troy, Alabama
- 2017 Lecture: "Multi-Domain: The Biography of a BuzzWord"
ACSC Wood Auditorium Lecture Series
ACSC, Maxwell AFB AL
- 2016 Paper: "The Damn Y Man in WWI: Service, Perception, and Cigarettes"
The Society for Military History Annual Conference"
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
- 2016 Paper: "Land Use Implications of Military Cigarette Consumption During WWII" The Ohio State University Mershon Center for International Security Studies *Nature of War: American Environments and World War II* Workshop, Columbus, Ohio
- 2015 Lecture: "The Future of American Air Power: Challenges and Opportunities,"
The 15th International Air Command and Staff Seminar
Tokyo, Japan, Meguro Air Base
- 2015 Lecture: "The Soldier and the Cigarette: THE Story of the Twentieth Century"
Faculty Forum Lecture Series, ACSC, Maxwell AFB AL
- 2015 Professional Development Speaker: "How to Finish a Ph.D. in 3 Years,"
The University of Southern Mississippi History Honors Society
Hattiesburg, Mississippi
- 2014 Paper: "The Damn Y, the Soldier, and the Cigarette in WWI"
The Louisiana State University Graduate Student History Symposium
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
- 2014 Paper: "The Soldier and the Cigarette: A Research Prospectus"
Winner of Best History Paper, the USM Graduate Student Research Symposium
Hattiesburg, Mississippi
- 2010 Lecture: "An Air Force Officer in the Army: Police Mentoring in a Non-Permissive Environment"
Faculty Forum Lecture Series, ACSC, Maxwell AFB AL

7. SERVICE TO COMMUNITY AND LOCAL CHURCH ACTIVITIES

- 2020-2025 Eastwood Presbyterian VBS volunteer and leader
- 2020-Present Leader and Worker in Eastwood Christian School's Local Mission Project serving the innercity church and ministry community in Montgomery, Alabama
- 2019 Montgomery Foster Care Association Fellowship Volunteer
Montgomery, Alabama
- 2018-Present Eastwood Presbyterian Choir Member and Christmas Cantata Vocalist
Montgomery, Alabama
- 2016-Present Children's and Youth Sunday School Teacher and Music Leader, Eastwood
Presbyterian Church
Montgomery, Alabama
- 2016 Prattville Christian Academy Pee-Wee Head Football Coach
Prattville, Alabama
- 2013 Hattiesburg Dixie Little League Assistant Baseball Coach and Batting Practice
Pitcher
Hattiesburg, Mississippi
- 2012-2013 Presbyterian Christian School Middle School Basketball Coach
Hattiesburg, Mississippi
- 2010-2011 Prattville YMCA Head Basketball Coach
Prattville, Alabama

8. COMMITTEE WORK AND SERVICE TO THE ACADEMIC INSTITUTION

- 2024-Present Leader of Eastwood's Accreditation Preparation and Execution Committee. Led Core team through all aspects of school accreditation. On schedule for a full 5 year Accreditation from the Alabama Christian Education Association, strengthening our memberships with the Association of Classical Christian Schools and the American Association of Christian Schools.
- 2019 Co-Authored college level operating guidance, *ACSC Operating Instruction 36-2602*, 88 pages with 10 Annexes
- 2018 Academic Rank Advisory Committee Voting Member and Secretary;
Screened candidates for promotion to Associate and Full Professor
- 2018 War Theory Course Writing Competition Judge

CAO: May 2026

- 2017 Research Award Committee – Chair for Nowak Logistics Award
- 2016 - 2018 Won election to and served as ACSC representative to the Air University Faculty Senate; represented 125 faculty in the 15 seat AU Senate
- 2016 Member of 3 separate Faculty Hiring Committees – screened and hired 9 new Associate and Assistant Professors
- 2016 - 2018 Summer Seminar Leader, International Officers School ACSC Prep Course
- 2016 - 2019 Director, Guest Lecturer, and Small Group Leader, ACSC New Faculty Training Course
- 2016 - 2017 Minerva Research Grant Screening and Selection Committee

9. RESEARCH

Research Awards Granted

Competitively selected for \$3,000.00 Minerva Grant

- Researched the impact of changing economic activity on the conduct of war and the military-industrial complex
- Integral part of manuscript preparation in support of publication
- Conducted research at the National Archives and Records Administration in College Park, Maryland, and the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

Military Research Supervised

- 2019 Air War College Professional Studies Paper (Graduate Level)
Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Alabama
Lt Col Kendrick Carol, “Back to the Future: A Study of Change in American Military Culture”
- 2018 School for Advanced Air and Space Studies (SAASS) thesis advisor and outside reader (Graduate Level)
Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Alabama
Major Jonathan Shea, “Theatre Campaign Plans, or Infinite Campaigning?”
- 2017 ACSC Professional Research Paper Advisor, 6 Students/2 Papers (Graduate Level)
Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Alabama
“Cost Effective Airpower for the Long War Against Violent Extremist Organizations”
“Is It Time For a Paradigm Shift in Managing People”

10. ACADEMIC TEACHING RECORD

Eastwood Christian School

- Senior Thesis Advisor and Research Supervisor (2020 to present)

CAO: May 2026

- Instructor of Record for Senior Government and Senior Economics (2024 to present)
- Instructor of Record for American History (Fall/Spring 2026)

Air Command and Staff College Courses

Air University, Maxwell AFB, AL

- LS 5510 Leadership in Warfare Core Course (Fall 2009, Fall 2010)
- LD 5510 Leadership Development Core Course (Spring 2016)
- LS 5511 The History of Air Power Core Course (Winter 2009, Winter 2010)
- Leadership and the Practice of Command (Spring 2010, Spring 2011)
- Counter Insurgency and Stability Operations Elective (Fall/Winter 2010, Fall/Winter 2011)
- AP 5510 Air Power Studies I Core Course (Fall 2015)
- AP 5511 Air Power Studies II Core Course (Winter 2015)
- RE 5221 American Military Culture Elective (Spring 2016, Fall 2016, Fall 2017, Fall 2018, Fall 2019)
- RE 5462 Vice, Consumption, and Facebook: Selected Topics in American Military Culture Elective (Spring 2016, Spring 2018)
- Joint Air Power Core Course (Spring 2017)
- JW 5510 Joint Warfighting: How We Fight Core Course (Spring 2017, Spring 2018, Spring 2019)
- WT 5510 War Theory: The Evolution of War and Military Thought Core Course (Fall 2017, 2018)
- RE 5417 Muskets, Monuments, and Memory: A Cultural History of the American Civil War Elective (Winter 2019, Winter 2020)

Faulkner University Adjunct

Montgomery, Alabama

- HY 6396 Special Topics in History (Cultural History of the American Civil War) Faulkner University, Montgomery Alabama (Fall 2018)

International Officers School Courses

Air University, Maxwell AFB, AL

- Air War College Prep Course for International Fellows (Summer 2011, Summer 2012)

11. MISCELLANEOUS

Academic Honors and Awards

ACSC Military Educator of the Year Award, 2016

381st Training Group Instructor of the Year, 2005

Military Decorations

Devices

1. Meritorious Service Medal	2
2. Air Force Commendation Medal	1
3. Army Commendation Medal	0

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4. Air Force Achievement Medal	2
5. AF Outstanding Unit Award	5
6. Combat Readiness Medal	0
7. National Defense Service Medal	0
8. Afghanistan Campaign Medal	1
9. Global War on Terrorism Service Medal	0
10. Armed Forces Service Medal	0
11. Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal	0
12. AF Overseas Ribbon Short	0
13. AF Longevity Service	3
14. AF Training Ribbon	0
15. NATO Medal	0