



John Shulli - Biography

12 January 2026

A Delaware Native. A Lifetime of Service.

A native of Delaware, Colonel John Shulli has dedicated over 28 years to defending American interests abroad and leading soldiers at home. Commissioned in 1997, John's career has spanned the globe—from the tank ranges of South Korea to high-level diplomatic talks in Geneva—culminating in his current role shaping the future of national defense as a Faculty Instructor at the U.S. Army War College.

Strategic Leadership & Experience John began his service as a Tank Platoon Leader and Executive Officer in South Korea. Following the attacks of September 11th, he answered the call to duty, deploying to Heidelberg, Germany, and later serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom as a battle staff planner. His operational experience is matched by his strategic acumen; during a pivotal joint assignment at the U.S. European Command (EUCOM), John served as a Country Desk Officer for the UK, Ireland, Greece, and Malta. His expertise in the region led to his role as Chief of Operations for the Russia Strategy Initiative (RSI), where he supported interagency efforts including the 2016 U.S.-Russia Syrian Cessation of Hostilities talks in Geneva.

The Citizen Soldier John's career is defined by his ability to bridge military command with complex civilian policy. He commanded the 2nd Battalion, 349th Regiment, and later the 649th Regional Support Group (Brigade) in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

In his civilian capacity, John established himself as a leader in defense technology and policy. He retired from the Federal Civil Service in September 2025, having served in the Office of the Secretary of Defense as a Policy Analyst and Data Mesh Program Manager for the Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Office at the Pentagon.

Ran for Red Clay Consolidated School Board - found the root causes to school issues were legacy structural design, inflation, and federal overreach - better tackled in D.C. than Dover.

Education & Family John holds a Bachelor of Science in Aviation Computer Science from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and a Master of Arts in International Relations from the University of Oklahoma. He is also a graduate of the U.S. Army War College, where he earned a Masters in Strategic Studies.

John and his wife, Gillian, reside in Wilmington, Delaware, with their daughter, Emily.