

**Colonel Chad M. Pillai**  
**UNITED STATES ARMY**

Colonel Chad M. Pillai is an [Army Strategist](#) serving as the Chief of Plans, G5 for [U.S. Army Europe-Africa \(USAREUR-AF\)](#) and supported the establishment of [Security Assistance Group – Ukraine \(SAG-U\)](#), USAREUR-AF’s emergent role as a [NATO Multi-Corps Land Component Command](#), and heavily involved in [NATO expansion](#). From 2018-2021, he served as the Deputy Director, Commander’s Action Group (CAG), for [General Frank McKenzie, USMC \(Retired\)](#) and Joint Strategic Planner in the Strategy, Plans, and Policy Directorate (J5) at [U.S. Central Command \(CENTCOM\)](#). From 2014-2018, he served as the Deputy Director for Strategy, Plans, and Policy (J5) and Command Strategist for [U.S. Special Operations Command – Central \(SOCCENT\)](#), a Joint Sub-Unified Special Operations Command to CENTCOM and [U.S. Special Operations Command \(SOCOM\)](#), and led planning efforts to support the establishment of [Special Operations Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve \(SOJTF-OIR\)](#) to defeat [ISIS in Iraq and Syria](#).



From 2013-2014, Colonel Pillai served as a Concept Developer in the Army Capabilities and Integration Center (ARCIC), where he worked on [Army’s Force 2025](#) and the [Strategic Landpower](#) Concepts. From 2012-2013, Colonel Pillai served as a Strategic Advisor in the [International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan \(ISAF\)](#) CAG for both [General John Allen, USMC \(Retired\)](#), and [General Joseph Dunford, USMC \(Retired\)](#). His primary responsibilities included U.S. and NATO policy, congressional engagement, and liaison to the Coalition Strategic Plans Directorate. From 2011-2012, Colonel Pillai served as a [Speechwriter](#) for [General Raymond Odierno \(Retired\)](#), the [38<sup>th</sup> Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army](#). Colonel Pillai’s first strategic-level assignment as an Army Strategist was at Headquarters, [Department of the Army \(HQDA\) War Plans Division](#) from 2010-2011. In 2011, Colonel Chad Pillai competed and successfully made it as a [White House Fellowship](#) National Finalist.

Preceding his transition as an Army Strategist in 2008, Colonel Pillai served as an Armor Officer in various staff and command positions in Korea, Germany, Iraq, and Fort Knox, KY. Before going on active-duty time in the Army, Colonel Pillai conducted three inter-agency internships with the [U.S. Department of State Bureau of Diplomatic Security](#) (1998), the [U.S. Embassy to the United Kingdom](#) (1999), and the [White House Office of National Drug Control Policy](#) (2000).

Colonel Pillai’s Professional Military Education includes serving as the [U.S. Army War College](#) Visiting Defense Fellow (VDF) at [Queen’s University Centre for International Defence Policy \(CIDP\)](#) in Kingston, Ontario, Canada, from 2021-2022. Additionally, he completed the [Joint and Combined Warfighting School \(JCWS\)](#), [Basic Strategic Arts Program \(BSAP\)](#), [Intermediate Level Education \(ILE\)](#), [Defense Strategy Course \(DSC\)](#), and [Combined Arms Service Staff School \(CAS3\)](#), and both Armor Officer Basic and Advanced Courses. He received his [Master of International Public Policy from the John Hopkins University School for Advanced International Studies \(SAIS\)](#) in 2009 and a [Bachelor in Arts in International Studies from the State University of New York \(SUNY\) College at Brockport](#) in 2000.

Colonel Chad Pillai authored a chapter on geopolitics and strategy for [On Strategy: A Primer](#) and published over 60 articles and blogs on a variety of sites, including [War on the Rocks](#), [Small Wars Journal](#), [Military Strategy Magazine](#), [Strategy Bridge](#), [Military Review](#), [Offizier](#), and [Center for International Maritime Security \(CIMSEC\)](#). Colonel Pillai received the [Lieutenant General Paul G. Cerjan](#) Distinguished Writing Award at Joint Forces Staff College for his article [Countering 21st Century Threats: The Need for an Increased Joint, Interagency, Intergovernmental, and Multinational \(JIIM\) Approach to Irregular Warfare](#), which appeared in the [Small Wars Journal](#). Colonel Chad Pillai is a member of the [Military Writer’s Guild](#), [International Institute for Strategic Studies \(IISS\)](#), the [Academy of Political Science \(APS\)](#), [Army Strategy Association \(ASA\)](#), and the [U.S. Naval Institute \(USNI\)](#). Finally, Colonel Pillai is a [Gold Star Pin](#) recipient after his younger brother, [Sergeant Anthony N. Kalladeen](#), was killed in Iraq in 2005.