

Arlon Smith

Defense Technology Executive | AI & Software-Defined Warfare | Strategic Growth

U.S Marine Corps Colonel | arlonsmith@icloud.com | linkedin.com/in/arlonsmith | Vienna, VA

Active TS/SCI | Available January 2027 | Open to Relocation

EXECUTIVE PROFILE

Defense technology executive and Marine Corps Colonel with 25 years of leadership spanning combat operations, the Pentagon, CIA, and NSA. Proven track record of building high-performing teams, challenging the status quo, and turning ambitious ideas into operational capabilities. Selected by senior Marine Corps leadership to found and lead Project Dynamis, an initiative to accelerate AI-enabled command and control across the Service. Built the initiative from concept to execution, secured \$50M+ in external RDT&E commitments, and championed Service-wide adoption of Palantir's Maven Smart System. Uniquely positioned to help ambitious defense technology and AI companies build exceptional teams, scale breakthrough technologies, and accelerate growth.

\$50M+ RDT&E Mobilized | \$2B Five-Year Technology Portfolio | 500+ Personnel Led

EXECUTIVE EXPERIENCE

Founder & Director, Project Dynamis | U.S. Marine Corps

Aug 2025 - Oct 2026

Headquarters U.S. Marine Corps | Washington, DC

- Built a Service-level AI initiative from the ground up, selected by three-star leadership to establish the strategy, assemble a cross-functional team, and accelerate development of AI-powered battle management and command and control capabilities.
- Mobilized \$50M+ in external RDT&E commitments within 90 days without a dedicated budget; led nine field development serials with industry and Joint Force partners, advancing AI, tactical networking, edge computing, and C2 while influencing \$100M+ in technology investments.
- Championed Service-wide adoption of Palantir's Maven Smart System in partnership with DoW CDAO, expanding from limited user evaluation to full enterprise access by securing funding, building three-star consensus, and leading implementation across the Marine Corps.
- Established strategic partnerships across the Joint Force, government, and industry, engaging senior DIU and DoW CDAO leadership and regularly briefing the Commandant and three-star leaders on strategy, investments, and execution.

Director, Intelligence Capabilities Portfolio | U.S. Marine Corps

Jul 2024 - Aug 2025

Portfolio Acquisition Executive Marine Corps | Quantico, VA

- Directed investment strategy and modernization across a \$2B technology portfolio spanning the five-year Future Years Defense Program (FYDP), prioritizing AI-enabled targeting, autonomous systems, intelligence capabilities, and next-generation command and control.
- Developed and advocated for Program Objective Memorandum (POM) funding priorities, regularly briefing three-star decision forums and securing record funding for priority programs.
- Translated emerging threats and operational requirements into investment decisions, aligning senior leaders, acquisition executives, technologists, and industry partners.

Military Assistant, Under Secretary of Defense for Policy

Jul 2022 - Jul 2024

Office of the Secretary of Defense | Pentagon, Washington, DC

- Directly supported the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy on consequential national security matters, including Ukraine, Middle East security, and scaling of robotic and autonomous systems.
- Facilitated senior-level coordination across the Pentagon, White House National Security Council, Congress, Intelligence Community, and international partners, helping advance complex policy initiatives and inform executive decision-making.

Commanding Officer, Marine Component, National Security Agency

Jun 2019 - Jun 2021

National Security Agency | Fort Meade, MD

- Led a 500+ person global organization spanning six companies and 13 locations, responsible for delivering cryptologic capabilities supporting national security priorities.
- Directed organizational transformation, realigning more than 20% of the workforce toward emerging peer-adversary threats while sustaining worldwide operational commitments.

Deputy Group Chief | Central Intelligence Agency

Jul 2016 - Jun 2019

CIA Headquarters | Langley, VA

- Led a 60+ person organization of CIA personnel and DoD detailees, integrating intelligence capabilities and coordinating global operations in support of national security priorities.
- Coordinated the CIA's Crisis Operations Liaison Team (COLT) program, integrating personnel, systems, and operational readiness to enable rapid deployment in response to emerging crises worldwide.
- Served as the senior Marine representative to the CIA Director, strengthening CIA–DoD collaboration and aligning operational priorities across organizations.

Intelligence Officer | 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit

Mar 2014 - Jul 2016

USS Kearsarge | Camp Lejeune, NC

- Led 60+ intelligence professionals at sea supporting a 2,442-person expeditionary force during combat operations in Iraq and crisis response across the Middle East and Europe.

COMBAT & OPERATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Six operational deployments spanning combat operations in Iraq, security cooperation in Georgia, crisis response in Africa, and expeditionary operations across the Middle East. Brings firsthand combat experience and operational insight to defense technology development and adoption.

EDUCATION

Johns Hopkins University SAIS | Master of International Public Policy | Strategic Thinkers Program
Boston University | Master of Science in Business Administration
Indiana University | Bachelor of Arts, Economics

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

2026 GovCIO Flywheel Award | Data Advocate of the Year
General Mazniashvili Medal | Republic of Georgia Ministry of Defense