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Professor Lawrence R. Velte



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Professor Larry Velte was appointed Professor on Oct 1, 2005 following a 37-year career as an Army officer and Department of Defense civilian.

Between 1992 and 2005, Mr. Velte served as Deputy Chief of the Middle East Division in the Joint Staff's Strategic Plans and Policy Directorate (J-5). His duties included providing information, analysis, and policy recommendations concerning the Middle East and North Africa to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the senior military leadership, so that the Chairman could carry out his statutory responsibilities as senior military advisor to the President, the Secretary of Defense, and the National Security Council. In that role, Mr. Velte dealt with key Defense-related issues including strategy and policy toward Iraq and Iran, regional counter-terrorism action plans, Syrian-Israeli negotiations over the Golan Heights, and the development of the NATO Mediterranean Dialogue. He was also responsible for Washington Interagency coordination of military cooperative programs with important regional partners such as Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia, and Algeria.

In the late 1990s, the Middle East Division expanded to encompass the Horn of Africa, the Central Asian states, Pakistan, and Afghanistan. During that period, Mr. Velte helped develop US response strategy toward the Ethiopian-Eritrean border war, Indo-Pakistani nuclear weapons testing, and defense relations with Central Asian states. His civilian awards include the Joint Distinguished Civilian Service Award and Joint Staff Civilian of the Year for 1998.

During his active duty military career, Mr. Velte was a Middle East Foreign Area Officer and served tours of duty in Tunis (at the Foreign Service Institute advanced Arabic course), Jerusalem (as a United Nations Military Observer in the Sinai and southern Lebanon), and in Amman, Jordan (as the Army Attaché.) He also served FAO assignments in Washington, including Chief of the Middle East/Africa/South Asia Branch in the Army Staff G-3. Other military tours included Thailand, Vietnam, and the United States. His awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal and the US Army Legion of Merit.

Mr. Velte is a graduate of Dickinson College and the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs.

"CONCORDIA PER COMMENTATIONEM"