KATHLEEN SWACINA, COL, (USA RETIRED)

Kathy Swacina is the CEO of Kolibri Strategy, a consulting agency that provides Strategic Management Consulting to Government agencies, academic institutions, and industry. She has been the Program Solutions Executive Chameleon Integrated Services. She provides IT strategic and technical expertise for service delivery solutions and serves on teams to produce a variety of written products including proposals, technical white papers and processes. Kathy has over 39 years of experience of IT strategic and military experience in planning for, and overseeing, cutting-edge military and industry high-tech solutions, and managing the implementation and support of systems critical to business operations for the Federal government. She currently sits on an AI Think Tank as a Member of HISSPI's Project Cerebellum. Kathy has been recognized as an innovative and resourceful leader in building strong cohesive cross-functional teams and partnering with senior business leaders to effectively manage and deliver on a multitude of technology driven initiatives.

COL Swacina has over 30 years of military and 10 years industry experience in providing strategic leadership, direction, oversight, and support for complex technology programs including network architecture, cybersecurity and data center consolidation. She has been the Principal/Program Leader for the acquisition of multi-billion-dollar DOD programs including: the HMMWV ('Humvee'), night vision googles, tactical radios, MILES laser training system, mortar weapons, helicopters and training systems. She has been nationally recognized as an expert in the DoD Procurement system and a published author. Her skills in design, engineering, and implementation of military and commercial technology infrastructures have been implemented and are still in use today in the military. COL Swacina has led small development teams, as well as the command of 3000+ person units in the military. Her military experience spans the Department of the Army, Department of the Navy, Department of the Air Force, and MEDCOM.

COL Swacina held several high-level Army and Joint Military staff jobs including: Deputy Chief of Staff for the Army Reserve, the Deputy Chief of Staff for Information Management (CIO/G-6) for First Army, where she directed the IT support for over 10,500 military and 2,000 civilians and the units deploying to Iraq and Afghanistan. She was also the Deputy Chief of Staff for Current Operations/Knowledge Management (G-3) at First Army, and the Deputy Chief Information Officer (CIO) and Chief of Information and Technology Operations (CTO) for the Army Reserve. At the Pentagon, COL Swacina held positions as the Deputy of Acquisition Oversight in the Office of the Army CIO/G-6, and she was the first Chief of Strategic Communications and Programs for the Office of the Chief of the Army Reserve (CAR). Prior to those assignments Kathy served as the Deputy Chief Information Officer (CIO) for the Army Reserve Personnel Command in charge of all Army Reserve Personnel Systems.

Her military awards include: the Legion of Merit Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (5th Award), Joint Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal, and the Army Staff Badge.

She holds a Master of Science in Information Technology and Acquisitions, a Master of Art in Information Management and Computers, and a Bachelor of Science in Fine Art. She also holds several certifications including CIO from the Defense Acquisition University.

Kathy has been an officer in the AFCEA Atlanta Chapter for over 15 years and served as the President from 2016 until June 2020. She has also been on the AFCEA International Education Board as a Member since 2018. She and her husband, LTC (USA, Ret) Daniel Swacina, have started an AFCEA Women in STEM $1500 annual scholarship.