



New Fellow Spotlight

Joseph Christoff

Joseph Christoff has over 30 years of experience designing and implementing evaluations of the effectiveness and impact of government programs. He brings to MSI a dynamic passion and insight for ensuring that governments are transparent and accountable to their citizens, oversight bodies, and international donors. At MSI, he leads a robust team of 40 specialists in four practice areas: (1) monitoring & evaluation, (2) education, (3) leadership & organizational development, and (4) health. His teams implement and evaluate the effectiveness of development and security assistance programs for U.S. and international donors in countries worldwide, many in conflict zones. In addition, his teams generated over \$150 million in project wins for MSI in 2020. Mr. Christoff is also an accountability subject matter expert with a focused expertise on enhancing the skills of developing countries' anti-corruption agencies and supreme audit institutions -- institutions that are the key enablers of greater transparency and oversight in government budgeting and management.

As the prior director of international affairs and trade at the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), Mr. Christoff directed over 200 performance evaluations of nearly \$1 trillion in development and security assistance the United States provided to over 100 countries. He spearheaded performance evaluations on the U.S. civilian and military surges in Iraq; the burgeoning sales of U.S. military equipment to the Middle Eastern; sanctioned investments in Iran's oil and gas industries; and China's illicit attempts to secure sensitive U.S. technologies. Mr. Christoff's reports have facilitated changes in U.S. law, improved agency performance and enhanced oversight and accountability. He has presented the audit findings at congressional hearings, appearances on major news networks and interviews with NY Times, Washington Post, and Wall Street Journal. His reports detailed 200 recommendations for program improvements and resulted in over \$2.1 billion in financial benefits.

What are you most looking forward to as a NAPA Fellow?

Furthering my work in international development and security issues. It takes multiple, interconnected villages to reduce conflicts, expand democracy and help struggling societies.

What inspires you during these challenging times?

It is "who" rather than "what". My passionate daughters inspire me to use my voice to assert continuously that black lives matter and climate change is real.

Who or what inspired you to work in public service?

My father. He immigrated to this country as a refugee, lived through the Depression and WWII, failed as a small businessman, found the middle class through Ford Motor Company and always celebrated the value of government support and protection. I also appreciate bipartisan members of Congress who value compromise and thoughtful debate.

Which of the Academy's Grand Challenges resonate most with you?

Advancing national interests in a changing global context – my passion (and career) for a heck of a lot of years.

What advice can you give to folks beginning careers in public service?

Tell and advance the truth.

What was the first concert you ever attended?

The Boss, Bruce Springstein