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He previously served as Director of Operations, U.S. European Command in Stuttgart, Germany, Commander of Combined Security Transition Command – Afghanistan, and as Director of Operations and Intelligence for SHAPE in Mons, Belgium, before retiring from the U.S. Army as a Major General. Skip’s professional life has been characterized by operational and institutional military assignments interspersed with study and practice of international affairs and defense issues, primarily in Europe. Most of Skip’s career has been dedicated to NATO and European defense, including numerous assignments and operations with U.S., NATO, and UN forces in Europe, Africa, Middle East and Central Asia. Skip brings an unusual depth of practical experience and conceptual understanding of contemporary and emerging defense issues as well as executive-level experience in operations, intelligence, leader development, capability development, and policy development. Skip holds an undergraduate degree in nuclear physics and graduate degrees in international business, defense and military history, and strategic studies.