Mark A. Staal, PhD, ABPP

The following is a brief statement of intent and introduction to accompany my nomination for a position on the APA’s Council of Representatives (representing Division 19). For those of you who don’t know me, I have worked as a licensed consulting psychologist for 27 years, serving 20+ years as an active-duty military psychologist. My PhD is in Clinical Psychology, I am board-certified, and fellowship-trained in human factors engineering through NASA. I have owned my own consulting company for 11 years, providing human capital management and executive coaching, and have worked as a Department of Defense consultant for commercial consulting firms, Booz Allen Hamilton and KBRWyle Engineering.

Following my military retirement, I served as the President of the Society for Military Psychology (Division 19) and its Ethics Committee chair. I am currently serving in my third year as Council Representative. In this capacity, I have operated as a liaison officer to the APA Board of Directors, Council membership, and President on behalf of the Division. I currently provide consultation and support to our Presidential Trio and EXCOM on matters relating to APA policy, legislation, and governance. I have been successful at forging alliances and building critical connective tissue with key leaders and decision-makers across APA and our community on behalf of military psychology and Division 19.

For six years I chaired an APA Task Force representing applied psychology divisions and national organizations (the American Board of Forensic Psychology and Police and Public Safety), seeking to develop practice guidelines for Operational Psychology. These were adopted last year as formal APA policy. I currently serve as an officer on the General Applied Psychology/Psychologists caucus and have published 50+ articles and book chapters addressing issues relevant to military psychology and ethical decision-making, culminating in a recent co-edited book, “*Operational Psychology: A New Field to Support National Security and Public Safety*” that explores the ethical issues surrounding this emerging area of specialization.

I have been an outspoken advocate for military psychology and the ethical practice of our profession, regularly presenting on such subjects at the annual convention and elsewhere. My own experience as a military psychologist has brought into sharp focus the many challenges facing our applied practice communities. Such challenges include issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion as well as a myriad of ethics-related concerns. I am driven and passionate when it comes to the advancement of military psychology. If given the opportunity, I will bring a focused advocacy to the highest levels of the Association on behalf of our members as a Division 19 CoR representative. I can imagine no greater service as a professional practitioner. I ask for your support (and vote) to continue my role and position serving as a member of the APA’s Council of Representatives.