



### **Ylber Bajraktari Biography:**

The Office of Net Assessment (ONA) is responsible for providing the Secretary of Defense and other senior leaders with independent assessments of the prospects of the military capabilities of the United States relative to other actors, as well as the political, economic and regional implications of those assessments. ONA focuses most on strategies and opportunities that improve the U.S. position in military-economic-political competition. ONA also studies the security environment and provides a source of deep, long term future thinking for the Department of Defense.

Ylber Bajraktari is a Senior Fellow in the Office of Net Assessment at the U.S. Department of Defense. Previously, he served as a Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Defense Policy and Strategy at the National Security Council. From 2015-2017, he served as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy to the Secretary of Defense. From 2008-2014, he held several different positions dealing with U.S. policy towards Iran at the Department of Defense and on the National Security Council staff. Ylber joined the Department of Defense as a civil servant through the Presidential Management Fellowship program in 2006, spending the majority of his fellowship in Baghdad, Iraq. Ylber earned a B.A. in International Relations from American University, Washington, DC and a M.P.A. from Princeton University. He is also a graduate of the National War College. Ylber is a native of Kosovo, but moved to the United States in 1999 as a refugee, having been forcefully displaced by the regime of former Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic. He, his wife Besa, and their son Noah now consider Washington, DC as their home.