

GAIL FANN THOMAS, Assoc Professor
Graduate School of Business & Public Policy
Program Manager, Strategic Communication
Center for Executive Education
Naval Postgraduate School
Monterey, California 93943
gthomas@nps.edu
831.656.2756



Gail Fann Thomas received an EdD in Business Education from Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona. In 1989 she joined the faculty at the Naval Postgraduate School where she teaches graduate courses in communication, high-performing teams, and inter-agency collaboration.

In 2005 Gail became Program Manager for Strategic Communication in NPS's Center for Executive Education (CEE). To date, she and her colleagues from University of Southern California's Annenberg School have assisted more than 300 teams in the development of their strategic communication capabilities. Workshop participants come from the US Navy as well as US Combatant Commands. Gail also conducts executive communication coaching for US Navy senior officers going to major commands.

Representing NPS's Partnership for Peace Training and Education Center, Gail and her colleagues worked with key stakeholders in the Mine Action communities of Bosnia to assist them in developing collaborative processes that would allow them to become mine-free. She has also worked with The World Bank, Yellowstone National Park, and the Singaporean Armed Forces.

Dr. Thomas conducts research on inter-organizational collaboration and strategic communication. Gail and two other colleagues have developed a diagnostic tool to assess an agency's collaborative capacity. Her research related to strategic communication has most recently focused on the use of social and semantic network analysis to study social media narratives in real-world events. She has published in several academic journals and co-authored a booklet on conflict management.

Gail has also served in various leadership capacities. At NPS she served as Associate Chair where she conducted operations for the Department of Systems Management (now, GSBPP). For ten years, she served on the Board of Directors for her professional organization and served as Associate Editor for her field's primary journal. Before her academic career, she was co-owner and manager of a computer firm that developed turn-key computer systems for hospitals, retail, and legal organizations.

In 2004, Dr. Thomas was awarded the Distinguished Member Award by the Association for Business Communication (ABC). In 2005 she received ABC's Outstanding Research Award and NPS's Richard W. Hamming Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching. In 2010 she and her co-authors received an award for ABC's outstanding research article of the year. In 2013, she and a co-author received an outstanding paper award for the International Communication Association.