



Warren C. Edwards

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Summary

A Senior Fellow at Meridian Institute. In close coordination with senior Meridian staff, develops and implements high-profile projects to promote building and creating incentives and support for resilience across a wide spectrum of activities, organizations, and communities. Seasoned government and corporate leader with extensive experience in strategic planning, policy formulation, operations, training, and management of personnel and financial resources at US and international organizations. Has managed annual budgets of more than \$450 million with verifiable cost-effectiveness. An able communicator with a well-honed ability to reduce complex information into easily understood concepts.

Meridian Experience

Meridian Institute

2011–Present

Meridian Institute designs and facilitates collaborative processes that help diverse parties identify critical issues, build relationships and trust, construct innovative solutions, and implement durable decisions. These collaborative processes address challenges at the local, state, national, and international levels, and involve leaders from government agencies, industry, nongovernmental organizations, and international institutions. Meridian also assists organizations in conducting strategy development and planning.

Senior Fellow

Works closely with Meridian staff to design, coordinate, and implement key high-profile projects in support of the Community and Regional Resilience Institute (CARRI). CARRI is housed at Meridian Institute, where their partnership can leverage both organizations' deep expertise in building collaborative foundations for resilience and stability. CARRI is aimed at developing and sharing critical paths that any community or region may take to strengthen its ability to prepare for, respond to, and rapidly recover from significant manmade or natural disasters. Toward this end, CARRI supports communities, colleges and universities, and other organizations in their resilience-building efforts and also works with state, regional, and national stakeholders to create incentives and support for national resilience. Selected highlights are summarized below:

- Helps direct a multi-year project team supporting CARRI. In this role, has carried out a broad portfolio of work with local and federal government officials, including helping local leaders devise cross-sector approaches and solutions and facilitating cross-sector dialogues and work groups.

- Helps direct a multi-year CARRI project team that is applying community resilience principles to college campuses. Worked with staffs from seven campuses to understand how resilience principles can be applied to campus communities, and then led Meridian's team in translating those learnings into a set of web-based tools and resources modeled on the Community Resilience System. Helped to facilitate campus use and testing of the Campus Resilience Enhancement System (CaRES).
- Worked with a multidisciplinary team to embed resilience learnings and best practices into the web-based Community Resilience System. In so doing, worked together with cross-sector leadership teams from eight Community Resilience System Pilot communities.
- Initiated a process and coordinated a multi-stakeholder, private-sector based team to design and implement a method for measuring and benchmarking the resilience of U.S. communities.
- On the Asia-Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience project, works with a multilateral group of representatives from the public sector, private industry, nongovernmental organizations, and academia from across the Asia-Pacific region to collaboratively develop strategies and activities to reduce disaster risk and strengthen resilience in the region. Assists in developing a strategic vision and strategies, formulating collaborative initiatives, and supporting the partners in developing a collaborative framework and organization.

Previous Experience

Community and Regional Resilience Institute (CARRI)

Washington, DC 2011–2016

Executive Director

Led and provided day-to-day operational guidance to help develop and share critical paths for communities/regions to strengthen the ability to prepare for, respond to, and rapidly recover from significant manmade or natural disasters. Supported the development of an innovative program to build a Community Resilience System (CRS) that provides resources and processes to assess, measure, improve, and reward community resilience. Also supported the development of the Campus Resilience Enhancement System, which applies CRS tools and processes to college and university campuses.

Southeast Region Research Initiative (SERI), Oak Ridge National Laboratory

Oak Ridge, Tennessee 2006–2011

Program Director

Directed a cooperative research program involving five federal laboratories and 25 research universities to address scientific challenges for the US Department of Homeland Security. Coordinated and supervised more than 80 highly diverse research projects with a total investment of more than \$125 million.

TechConnect

Oak Ridge, Tennessee 2005–2006

Chief Operating Officer

Created the operating systems for this start-up venture that was created to spin off knowledge management software from a major national laboratory, in order to provide “technology intelligence” to major national security companies. Established the initial business plan, operating systems, policies, and business procedures and brought them to full operating capability.

CACI, Inc.

Atlanta, Georgia 2003–2005

Senior Director, Program Manager

Established the CACI Atlanta Operations Office and managed business operations supporting the U.S. Army and other federal agencies throughout the southeastern U.S. Identified and recruited staff, established a network of supporting subcontractors, and prepared business plans and offerings. Managed cost and technical performance.

United States Army

Worldwide 1969–2003

Retired Major General

Held numerous positions worldwide, including Deputy Commanding General, Coalition Land Component Command, Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan); Deputy Commanding General, 5th U.S. Army; Assistant Division Commander, 2nd Infantry Division (Korea); and Chief of Staff, U.S. Army Aviation Center and School, Fort Rucker, Alabama.

Education**U.S. Naval War College**M.S., International Relations/Strategic Studies
1989**U.S. Army Command and General Staff College**M.M.A.S.
1981**University of Richmond**B.A., English
1969