

BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Francis A. Galgano
Professor of Geography
Director of Sustainability Studies, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Department of Geography and the Environment
Villanova University

Education and Professional Preparation

Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, Virginia, BS, Biology (1980)
University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, MA, Geomorphology (1989)
University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, Ph.D., Geomorphology (1998)
United States Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas (1993)

Summary of Professional Appointments and Work History

U.S. Army Officer, 1980–2007, Retired, 31 December 2007, Lieutenant Colonel
Geography Program Director, Department of Geography and Environmental Engineering, USMA (2002-2007)
Founding Department Chair, Department of Geography and the Environment, Villanova University (2007-2018)
Professor of Geography, Department of Geography and the Environment, Villanova University (2025-present)
Director of Sustainability Studies, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Villanova University (2021-present)

Biography

Dr. Francis A. Galgano is the founding Chair of the Department of Geography and the Environment at Villanova University. He retired from the U.S. Army in 2007 as a Lieutenant Colonel, after 27 years of service with experience in tank and cavalry units. He served in numerous locations in the United States, Europe, Central Asia, and the Middle East. His last assignment was at the United States Military Academy where he was an Academy Professor and the Director of the Geography Program. Dr. Galgano is a physical geographer with expertise in coastal geomorphology, military geography, and environmental security. He has published five books, three physical geography study guides, and more than 30 professional articles focused on geographic, environmental, and military subjects. In 2011 he published (as co-editor) *Modern Military Geography* (Routledge). He also published *The Environment-Conflict Nexus: Climate Change and the Emergent National Security Landscape* in 2019 (Springer), which examines security and conflict from the perspective of climate and environmental change. Dr. Galgano has been invited to speak on the subject of environmental security at Villanova, West Point, the University of Maryland, Hofstra University, and the University of Pennsylvania, as well as by organizations such as the Pew Charitable Trust Foundation and Defense Intelligence Agency. He is currently researching topics such as the effects of climate change on regional stability in the Sahel, maritime piracy, ungoverned space, environmental security, and abrupt climate change.



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SHORT CURRICULUM VITAE

Awards and Honors

Distinguished Scholar Award, Pennsylvania Geographical Society (2011)
Villanova University Mid-Career Service Award, Villanova University (2022)
Dr. William B. Kory Distinguished Mentor Award, Pennsylvania Geographical Society (2024)

Published Books (Author, Editor, or Co-Editor)

Galgano FA 2019 (ed.). The Environment–Conflict Nexus: Climate Change and the Emergent National Security Landscape. New York: Springer.
Galgano FA and Palka EJ (eds.), 2011. Modern Military Geography. New York: Routledge.
Veregen H 2008. Goode's World Atlas. 22nd Edition. Christoferson R, Galgano FA, Marston S, and Thompson V. (editorial board), New York: Rand McNally, Inc.

Articles in Referred Journals

McKenzie R. and Galgano F, 2026. The Geography of Fragility: Climate Change and the Escalation of Violent Conflict in Mali. In Preparation for *The Pennsylvania Geographer*, 64 (1): 23-63. DOI [10.66518/XLUB4092](https://doi.org/10.66518/XLUB4092)
Laughlin A. and Galgano FA, 2025. Spatial and Temporal Patterns of Drought and Violence in Darfur, Sudan. *African Security Review*, 34 (1): 60-83.
Galgano FA, 2024. The 1964 Jordan River Diversion Plan: Transboundary Water Basins and Conflict. *Case Studies in the Environment*, 8 (1): 1-18.
Galgano FA, 2024. Hostis Humani Generis: Pirates and Global Maritime Commerce. *Research in Globalization*, 8 (2024) 100188
Miller M and Galgano FA, 2023. Potential Effects of Sea–Level Rise on Critical Infrastructure in New York City and Los Angeles. *Pennsylvania Geographer*, 60 (2): 1–21.
McRae M, Lee RA, Steinschneider S, and Galgano FA, 2021. Assessing Aircraft Performance in a Warming Climate, *Weather, Climate and Society*, 13 (1): 39-55.

Peer Reviewed Chapters in Scholarly Books

Galgano FA, 2022. Contemporary National Security Threats on the High Seas, In Military Geoscience: A Multifaceted Approach to the Study of Warfare, Ehlen J, and Bondesan A, (eds.), New York: Springer Verlag, pp. 267–285.
Galgano FA, 2020. Fort Eben Emael: Geographic Pivot of the Western Front, 1940, Military Geoscience, Bridging History to Current Operations, Guth P, (ed.), New York: Springer Verlag, pp. 99–114.
Forthcoming in 2026
Galgano FA. and Laughlin A. The First Climate War? An Environmental Security Analysis of the Darfur Conflict. In Henrico, I. and Kleynhans, E.P. (eds), The Geoscience Compass: Navigating the New Terrain of Military Operations. Springer Verlag.
Galgano FA. Evolution of the Scope of Military Operations: The Emergence of Failed States and Effective Sovereignty Doctrine. In Henrico, I. and Kleynhans, E.P. (eds), The Geoscience Compass: Navigating the New Terrain of Military Operations. Springer Verlag.