



John Petersen is considered by many to be one of the most innovative futurists in the world. He is best-known for writing and thinking about high impact surprises—wild cards—and the process of surprise anticipation and for having conceived of and developed the first national surprise anticipation system in the world for the government of Singapore. His current professional involvements include anticipatory analysis and surprise anticipation related to the unprecedented global shift that humanity is now experiencing.

In 1989, Petersen founded The Arlington Institute (TAI), a non-profit, future-oriented research institute where he now edits and publishes FUTUREdition, an internationally acclaimed newsletter that tracks early indicators of potentially significant futures. Before that, he led national non-profit organizations, worked in sales, manufacturing, real estate development, and marketing and advertising, mostly for companies he founded. A graduate electrical engineer, he has also promoted rock concerts; produced conventions; and worked as a disc jockey - along with building his own airplane and maintaining an Advanced class amateur radio license.

Mr. Petersen's government and political experience include stints at the National War College, the Institute for National Security Studies, the Office of the Secretary of Defense, and the National Security Council staff at the White House. He was twice the runner-up candidate to be Secretary of the Navy. He was a naval flight officer in the U.S. Navy and Navy Reserve, flying aircraft carrier based attack aircraft in Vietnam, and is a decorated veteran of both the Vietnam and Persian Gulf wars. He has served in senior advisory, fundraising and policy positions for a number of pres...

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Speech Topics

- Technology
- Economics

