



Military Veterans in Journalism
2026 New York City Convening
Friday, August 28, 2026 | Columbia Journalism School

- **In Person:** August 28, 2026 | World Room, Pulitzer Hall | Columbia University
 - Career Fair | 9 AM - 5 PM EST, *Brown Institute for Media Innovation*
 - This will be open all day alongside the panels. Attendees have been encouraged to submit resumes in the MVJ Career Center ahead of time.
 - Opening Remarks | 9:05 AM - 9:25 AM
 - Investigative Journalism Masterclass | 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM
 - An intensive masterclass that walks participants through the entire setup of a deep accountability investigation: how to identify a story worth diving into, build a document trail, develop sources, navigate potential legal exposure, and write stories that hold up to scrutiny. Special attention may be paid to investigative techniques relevant to military, veterans, and national security reporting, or to particular real-world examples from NYC. Participants are encouraged to bring a story idea they're currently developing.
 - **Speaker: John Ismay, New York Times**
 - The Business of Journalism & Breaking Out On Your Own | 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM
 - This session pulls back the curtain on how news organizations actually make (and lose) money, and what that means for working journalists trying to build sustainable careers in the New York market and beyond. Topics may include: evaluating a news organization's financial health; understanding audience metrics and what they mean; advice for launching an independent newsletter or local news outlet; and how-tos on negotiating contracts and other legal or money-related matters.
 - **Speakers: CJS Professor Emily Goligoski, Thomas Brennan, The War Horse**
 - OSINT and Its Uses in News Coverage | 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM
 - Open-source intelligence has transformed what a single journalist with a laptop can verify. This panel covers the OSINT tools most useful for veterans-focused and national security reporting, from tracking via public imagery and verifying conflict footage to finding sources from digital trails. Speakers will also discuss the legal and ethical guardrails around OSINT use in published journalism.

- **Speaker: CJS Adjunct Professor Haley Willis, formerly, New York Times Visual Investigations Team**
- Lunch | 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM | *World Room*
- Navigating the Journalism Job Market in NYC | 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM
 - New York City is home to more major media outlets per square mile than almost anywhere else, and also home to some of the most daunting hiring pools in the industry. This panel is a guide to cracking the NYC market specifically. Panelists will also address the real economics of early-career journalism in one of the country's most expensive cities and provide some resume advice
 - **Speakers: Anusha Shrivastava, CJS Dean of Career Development, Columbia Journalism School; Jaylen Green, Assistant Editor, CBS News; Jordan Sartor-Francis, Correspondent, WROC TV**
- Documentary Filmmaking, From Pitch to Screening | 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM
 - This session demystifies the documentary film pipeline for journalists who don't know where to start. The session also addresses the growing market for short-form documentary content for digital platforms, an increasingly viable path for veterans with compelling stories to tell, and highlights work from veterans who have gone through the Columbia Journalism School program.
 - **Speakers: CJS Professor June Cross, Filmmaker Josh Lucas, Filmmaker Jasper Rischen**
- Disability Issues & Coverage in the Big City | 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM
 - New York City's disability community is the largest urban concentration in the country, and disability rates among veterans are significantly higher than in the civilian population. This panel examines how to cover disability with accuracy and dignity, including examinations of some of the NYC-specific issues disability communities face. Panelists will challenge common newsroom assumptions and provide practical advice for getting the story right from the start.
 - **Speakers: Russell Midori, PIX1 (MVJ & DJA), Emily Wax, formerly Washington Post**
- Closing Remarks & CF Reminder | 4:30 PM - 4:45 PM