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Ward Carroll Joins McPherson Square Group Advisory Board

Carroll brings defense and veteran-related experience and a background in media and entertainment

Fairfax, VA – <u>The McPherson Square Group</u>, a northern Virginia-based public relations and strategic communications firm, today introduced Ward Carroll as the newest member of its Advisory Board. Carroll is the editor-in-chief of *We Are The Mighty*, a Hollywood-based, military-themed media startup that has rapidly grown into the second biggest web destination serving that community. A frequent analyst on radio and cable news, Carroll was previously the editor of *Military.com*.

"Ward knows the military, media, and entertainment industries as well as anyone," said McPherson Square Group co-founder and CEO Brandon Friedman. "That's our sweet spot and he's going to open a lot of doors for our clients. We're thrilled to have him join the team."

About Ward Carroll

Ward Carroll is *We Are The Mighty's* editor-in-chief, a role in which he brings a wealth of military experience as well as an extensive background in the media and entertainment industry. Ward oversees WATM's editorial content, website and associated digital platforms as well as the brand's social media channels. Ward also makes frequent appearances on radio and TV as a military analyst.

During his 20-year Navy career, Ward served in four different F-14 Tomcat squadrons, accumulating more than 2,800 flight hours in operations that included five extended aircraft carrier deployments to hostile regions around the globe. His last tour on active duty was at his alma mater, the U.S. Naval Academy, where he taught English, leadership, and ethics. He retired at the rank of commander.

Immediately following his retirement from the Navy, he worked as the communications director for the V-22 Osprey program at the Naval Air Systems Command where he guided the communications strategy as the aircraft went from the test phase to introduction as a game-changing fleet asset.

In 2005, Ward joined *Military.com* as editor, responsible for all news, editorials, commentaries, and other content on the website and in e-newsletters. During his nearly nine years in that role, he oversaw the development of new verticals like Fitness and Entertainment, created the site's blog network, and led the shift to original news content—efforts that resulted in exponential traffic growth and impact.

Ward's writing has appeared in a wide variety of websites, newspapers, and magazines including *The Huffington Post, The Virginian-Pilot, Hits*, and *Golf World*. His three novels about Navy pilots—*Punk's War* (2001 HB, 2014 TB and e-book), *Punk's Wing* (2003), and *Punk's Fight* (2004)—have been widely praised for their realistic portrayals of a military life. He earned the Naval Institute Press' "Author of the Year" honors in 2001. He has two other published works: *The Aide* (2005) and *Militia Kill* (2006), and he just delivered his latest novel, titled *Autumn of the Sea Wolves*.

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The McPherson Square Group helps clients build brands and reach stakeholders across today's rapidly changing media landscape. We work with the most successful companies, largest government agencies, and fastest moving nonprofits to communicate critical messages to the right audience at the right time.