Frances Tilney Burke

Frances is the George P. Shultz Postdoctoral Visiting Fellow at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute in Washington, DC where she is writing a book on Reagan's democratization initiatives in Latin America in the 1980s.

Frances was a special assistant to two Deputy Secretaries of Defense during the Bush administration, a counterterrorism analyst at the Defense Intelligence Agency, and, later, a foreign affairs specialist in the Office of Detainee Policy in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy. Frances served as an intelligence officer in the U.S. Navy Reserve and was selected as a "Next Generation National Security Fellow" at the Center for a New American Security (2011-12). She has been an active Army family volunteer leader with the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), the 25th Infantry Division, and the 7th Infantry Division.

Frances will receive her Ph.D. in international relations at The Fletcher School, Tufts University, in October 2021 where she wrote on the history of the decision to invade Iraq in 2003 and was the recipient of the Smith Richardson Foundation World Politics & Statecraft Fellowship. She is a historian of U.S. foreign relations and expert in international security. She earned her M.A. in Law and Diplomacy, also from the Fletcher School, an M.Phil. in Latin American Studies from Oxford University, and an A.B. in U.S. History and Literature from Harvard University. From 2019-2020, she was a visiting research fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, where she focused on foreign and defense policy, and especially policy issues affecting military families. Frances is also a Senior Advisor in Leadership & Strategy at Exactus Advisors, based in Chicago.

Her commentary has appeared in the Weekly Standard, the National Review, the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, The National Interest, Foreign Policy, and War on the Rocks.

Frances is married to an active-duty Army officer in his 26th year of service. They have four children, ages 13, 12, 8, and 1.