



**CIAN WESTMORELAND** is a former RF/Satcom Transmissions Systems Technician who served in the US Air Force from 2006-2010. In 2009, a then Senior Airman Westmoreland was one of the US Air Force communications personnel who built a critical component of the global communications infrastructure underlying the US drone program in Afghanistan through the 73rd Expeditionary Air Control Squadron based out of Germany. It's area of responsibility covered 621,000 square kms over Afghanistan, and assisted in networking disparate ground and air assets across coalition forces and service branches to include the Battlefield Airborne Communications Nodes, Predators and Reapers. From 2009-2014 this unit helped to connect the battlefield to the Combined Air Operations Center in Al Udeid, Qatar and Ramstein, Germany.

At the end of his tour of duty he received a document stating that his unit assisted in 200+ enemy kills, 2,400 Close Air Support Missions and 100,000 combat sorties, while the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) reported over 300 civilian deaths due to air strikes that year within its Area of Responsibility. He has since studied International Affairs with a certificate in European Peace and Security Studies at the Vrije Universiteit in Brussel, Belgium, and began speaking openly about his military role and the pitfalls of arming drones in November of 2015, along with three other former drone personnel. Currently he works with refugee populations on the US/ Mexican border.