

General John Nicholson US Army Retired, President Pentagon Federal Credit Union Foundation

With over 36 years of active duty service in the U.S. Army, General John Nicholson's six years deployed in Afghanistan distinguish him one of America's most combat seasoned four-star generals. He is the longest-serving commander of the Afghan War, having led the 41-nation NATO-led Resolute Support Mission and United States Forces-Afghanistan for two and a half years. His leadership and close relations with Afghan leaders were key to brokering the first universal ceasefire of the war in June 2018 and helped enable the launch of the current peace process. He served over twelve years in various NATO commands to include four assignments as a General Officer and developed close, effective relationships with the security leadership of NATO Allies and Coalition partners. As an Airborne Ranger Infantry officer, he commanded units at all levels from company command in the 75th Ranger Regiment to division command of the 82nd Airborne Division. From 2014 to 2016, he commanded NATO's Allied Land Command in Izmir, Turkey where he led the development of Alliance land defensive plans/measures in response to Russian aggression in Crimea and Ukraine. Following retirement from active duty in November 2018, General Nicholson became the President of the Pentagon Federal Credit Union Foundation which helps U.S. Service Members, Veterans, their caregivers and families to realize financial stability and opportunity. The PENFED Foundation was recently recognized as the top Non-Profit in the Washington DC region for their work assisting those negatively impacted by the ongoing pandemic. He is an Adjunct Faculty member on leadership with Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School and is a member of Harvard's Belfer Center 'Elbe Group' which sustains a Track Two dialogue between retired American and Russian senior officials in the military and intelligence fields. He is also a senior mentor to rising US general officers through the U.S. National Defense University and a frequent speaker on security and leadership issues with various national and international audiences.