

Michael A. Sheehan

Michael A. Sheehan is the Distinguished Chair of the Combating Terrorism Center at West Point, New York. Previously, from 2011 to 2013, Sheehan was the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict (confirmed in December 2011).

From 2006 to 2011, Sheehan worked in the private sector as CEO of the Lexington Security Group and was an on-air terrorism analyst at NBC News for five years. From 2003 to 2006, he served as the Deputy Commissioner for Counter Terrorism in the New York City Police Department (NYPD). From 2001 to 2003, he was the Assistant Secretary General of Mission Support in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations at the United Nations. Sheehan was appointed as Coordinator for Counter Terrorism at the US Department of State (1998-2000) and was confirmed by the Senate as Ambassador-at-Large in 1999.

Mr. Sheehan is a retired U.S. Army Special Forces officer where he served in many overseas assignments including Panama, Korea, El Salvador, and Somalia. He was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge for his service. While on active duty, he served at the White House on the National Security Council from 1989 to 1992 and again from 1995 to 1997.

He holds a B.S. from the United States Military Academy at West Point, and a M.S. from Georgetown University School of Foreign Service. He is the author of Crush the Cell, How to Defeat Terrorism Without Defeating Ourselves (2007). He is married with two children.