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Rick "Ozzie" Nelson is a former Navy helicopter pilot with over twenty years operational and intelligence experience, including assignments at the National Security Council and the National Counterterrorism Center. He currently serves as Vice President for Business Development at Cross Match Technologies, Inc., a global provider of best-in-class, multimodal biometric identity management solutions.

Prior to joining Cross Match Technologies, he was a Senior Fellow and Director of the Homeland Security and Counterterrorism program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS).

He joined CSIS in September 2009, after retiring from the U.S. Navy, where he served in a variety of senior policy and operational positions including service in Afghanistan. His last military assignment was with the Joint Special Operations Command. In 2005, he was selected to serve as an inaugural member in the National Counterterrorism Center's (NCTC) Directorate of Strategic Operational Planning. Prior to his assignment at NCTC, Nelson served as associate director for maritime security in the Office of Combating Terrorism on the National Security Council staff at the White House.

Other career assignments have included counterterrorism team leader in Deep Blue, the navy's operational think tank created after September 11; navy legislative fellow for Senator Edward M. Kennedy; assistant aviation officer community manager; and flag aide in Okinawa, Japan, to the commander of naval amphibious forces in the Western Pacific.

He is operationally trained in naval helicopter strike warfare in the SH-60B Seahawk and SH-2F Seasprite helicopters, and he has deployed around the world and flown in support of numerous operations.

Nelson graduated from the George Washington University with a B.A. in political science, holds an M.A. in national security studies from Georgetown University, and is a graduate of the Naval War College. He is an adjunct lecturer at Georgetown University, a Council on Foreign Relations Life Member, and a non-resident senior affiliate at CSIS. He is also a frequent contributor to many media outlets, including the New York Times, Washington Post, NPR, CBS, CNN, NBC, and ABC, among others.