

RUDOLPH ATALLAH

COUNTERTERRORISM & POLITICAL/MILITARY SPECIALIST

Air Force Lt Colonel Retired • Foreign Area Officer – Africa/Middle East/Europe • Linguist (French/Arabic)

Counterterrorism strategist specializing in political & military negotiations at the highest levels of leadership. Designed approaches for East, North & Sahel regions of Africa. Accredited Air Force Defense Attaché to 6 African countries; possess extensive *on-the-ground* experience across the continent. Requested by name to speak at numerous government, military, academic, & civilian conferences / symposiums. Able to represent policy to Congress & Senate. A 17-year Middle East resident who has traveled to 100+ countries & met w/5 heads of state.

EXPERIENCE

Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

12/2009 to Present

White Mountain Research LLC (WMR), Herndon, Virginia

WMR is a service disabled veteran owned small business that is dedicated to understanding and mitigating complex threats to human security. Built the company from the bottom up, from 2009-2011, WMR grew by 400% taking on contracts with US government agencies and corporate clients.

- Led & negotiated 5 successful hostage releases from Somali pirates.
- Planned/developed emergency evacuation plans from Egypt for DODI, a Houston based Oil Company. Worked w/senior executives on crisis planning to protect 3 oil rigs. Saved \$3 million/day.
- Led event security for 3 of ICANN's (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names & Numbers) 1200 person conferences in Kenya, Columbia & Senegal – 100% success.
- Taught risk management class to 430+ oil workers in Norway, Egypt & UAE. Reduced mishaps by 50%.

Africa Counterterrorism (CT) Director / Morocco-Tunisia Country Director

4/2007 to 9/2009

Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), Pentagon, Washington, DC

Only Foreign Area Officer in the Air Force concurrently holding three regional specialization designations – Africa, Middle East, and Europe. Informed and advised the Secretary of Defense (SecDef) on CT policy & strategy in Africa and related engagement with Morocco and Tunisia. Orchestrated conferences with Ministry of Defense (MOD) officials of Morocco and Tunisia. Developed strategic CT initiatives, programs & activities to enhance U.S. national security interests through evaluation of regional political & military developments. Supervised security cooperation, military training & humanitarian assistance programming. Advocated CT policy w/United Nations.

- Briefed Congress and Senate on counterterrorism activities/operations against violent extremists in Somalia.
- Worked in the office of the Secretary over the last 6 years on complex political/military issues ranging from CT operations to complex border disputes (Ethiopia/Eritrea) and mil to mil engagements.
- Led first ever OSD Policy U.S./European Africa CT conference, resulting in new policy changes designed to reduce terrorist threats from Africa. Also increased terrorist captures through new strategy development.
- OSD's point-man for Morocco's \$2.1 billion purchase of F-16 and T-6 aircraft from U.S. manufacturers.
- Instrumental in steering Morocco's choice of aircraft over French jet fighter by using effective negotiation.
- Advised DoD Senior official during visit to Djibouti, Ethiopia & France to discuss the establishment of Africa Command (AFRICOM).
- Worked w/SOCOM on the rescue of Capt Philips (MAERSK ALABAMA) from pirates off the Somali coast. Provided key information/strategy, which led to his rescue.

Africa Counterterrorism Director / East Africa Director

6/2003 to 4/2007

Office of the Secretary Of Defense, Pentagon, Washington, DC

Informed & advised SecDef on CT policy and strategy in Africa and related engagement with nations in the Horn of Africa (HOA). Supervised security cooperation, military training & humanitarian assistance programming. Advocated CT policy among foreign governments, the UN, Congress and interagency intelligence organizations. Developed strategic CT initiatives, programs, activities & intelligence policies to enhance U.S. national security interests through evaluation of regional political & military developments. Handpicked to be key advisor for the Air Force on Defense Attaché panels.

- Led/negotiated w/Government of Djibouti the expansion of 1st forward-operating base in Africa. (10-year, \$1.5 billion deal)
- Lead strategist in crafting Somali policy to eliminate Al Qaeda activity & protect U.S. interest in the HOA.
- Outlined innovative approach to counter piracy off the Somali coast, lessening food crisis affecting more than 14 million people in the horn of Africa.

- Led DoD team to advance counterterrorism plans with Kenya, Djibouti and Ethiopia.
- Invited by SOCOM & UAE's Crown Prince as guest speaker to the CT Symposium in Abu Dhabi.
- Spearheaded initiative leading to the capture of 10 pirates and rescue of an Indian vessel with 16 hostages off Somali coast through development and implementation of a counter-piracy policy.

Air Force Defense Attaché

6/2000 to 6/2003

Defense Intelligence Agency, United States Embassy – Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire

Represented the Sec/Air Force & Commander of U.S. Air Force Europe. Advised U.S. Ambassadors in 6 West African nations, their respective national air forces and MODs on Air Force matters. Reported on military & political matters leading to formulation of U.S. policy supporting regional national security interests, crisis contingency planning & response. Directed air operations for C-12 aircraft supporting U.S. diplomatic missions & defense attaches in 24 African countries.

- Led most active C-12 aircraft program in the Defense Attaché system.
- Judged most effective Air Force liaison to military leaders in 6 nations due to knowledge of the region and fluency in both French and Arabic.
- Authored 1/3 of intelligence reports in the Defense Attaché's Office.
- Assisted evacuation of 1,700+ American Citizens from Ivory Coast following 2002 coup.
- Spent extensive time on the ground in West / Central Africa seeking out extremist in response to 9-11.
- Sought by key embassy officials for insight on local Arabic-speaking communities.

Director / Instructor - Sub-Saharan Orientation Course

6/1997 to 6/2000

Joint Special Operations University, Hurlburt Field, FL

Directed/managed the Sub-Saharan Africa Orientation Course, instructing military & government civilian personnel on political, military, economic, and cultural aspects of Sub-Saharan region. Taught officer courses to CT & Special Operations Forces staff. Developed new coursework utilized in Middle East & CT programs.

- Handpicked by OSD to instruct in first-ever senior African civil-military course in Senegal, West Africa.
- Extraordinary instructor teaching 5 separate courses relevant to regional terrorism and security issues.
- Only AF pilot to advise 3rd Special Forces Group on integration of airlift into Africa peacekeeping program.

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

Senior Fellow at ANSARI African Center

Wing Flight Safety Officer / C-141 Aircraft Commander

United States Air Force - 60th Air Mobility Wing, Travis Air Force Base, CA

Directed and supervised 35 base safety programs ensuring flight and aircraft safety.

Over 4,000 flight hours to include combat flight time.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Masters of Science, International Relations, Troy University, AL

Bachelor of Science, Electrical & Biomedical Engineering, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT

Squadron Officer School & Air Command and Staff College

Joint Military Attaché School

Multiple C-141 / C-12 Qualification, Instructor Pilot and Aircraft Commander Schools

Air Force Flight Safety School, Top Graduate

Dynamics of International Terrorism; African Studies

CERTIFICATIONS

- Fixed Wing Multi-engine Instructor Pilot / Multi-engine and Instrument Rated Pilot / Air Refueling Pilot
- PADI Advanced Open Water Diver

AWARDS/ACHIEVEMENTS

Over 25 military honors including: Defense Meritorious Service Medal for direct involvement in the rescue of Capt Philips and 6 years of OSD Policy achievements.