



“U.S. SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES – FROM COUNTERTERRORISM TO GREAT POWER COMPETITION”

SEPTEMBER 3
3:00 - 4:00 PM (PST)



United States Special Operations Forces have played a critical role in every corner of the globe. For the last two decades special operations forces have been focused on counterterrorism in the wake of 9/11. The importance of their mission and the complexity of the operational environment is only growing as we look ahead to the challenges of great power competition. Now more than ever, we recognize the SOF truth that “Humans are more important than Hardware.” We invite you to join Admiral Eric Olson (Ret), the former Commander of the U.S. Special Operations Command, for a discussion on Thursday, September 3, from 3:00 - 4:00 PM (PST). Joining Admiral Olson will be Colonel John Crisafulli, U.S. Army Green Beret and Special Operations Forces Chair at NPS, who will share their insights on how the SOF community is evolving and the role NPS plays in enhancing the capabilities of our special operations personnel. They will also share information about a new project at NPS to support the refit and subsequently enhance the cognitive and physical performance of the special operations forces.

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Retired USN Adm. Eric Olson last served as the eighth Commander, U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) from July 2, 2007 to August 8, 2011. He previously served as Deputy Commander, U.S. Special Operations Command. Olson is now president of ETO Group, consulting on national security; an adjunct professor at Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs; a director of Iridium Communications; and a director of the Special Operations Warrior Foundation. Adm. Olson is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and the Naval Postgraduate School.



U.S. Army Colonel John R. Crisafulli last served as the Director of the Special Operations Advisory Group and the Operations Officer from 2018-2019 in support of Operation INHERENT RESOLVE under the Special Operations Joint Task Force. He previously served as the J3X for Special Operations Command South (Airborne) in Homestead, FL. Colonel Crisafulli currently serves as the SOCOM Chair at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA. Col. Crisafulli is a Graduate of Tulane University and the U.S. Army War College.



MODERATOR

Todd Lyons serves as the Vice President for the NPS Alumni Association and Foundation. In this role, he bridges the divide between industry, academia, and DoD entities to accelerate the responsiveness of NPS to the challenges arising from great power competition and emerging technology. Todd also serves as a volunteer instructor for Innovation Leadership at NPS. Prior to coming to the foundation, Todd served in the Marine Corps for 30 years, initially as a Field Artillery Officer and subsequently as a Foreign Area Officer and Intelligence Officer. In his last assignment, he served as the Senior Marine Representative and the Associate Dean of Research at the Naval Postgraduate School.

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