

# PROFESSIONAL, MORAL AND ETHICAL LESSONS FROM THE WAR ON TERRORISM

Lt. General Richard C. Harding (USAF, Retired)

*"Can we do that?!"* It's the core question of ethical and professional quandaries. For Lt. General Rich Harding, that question forms the theme of this presentation. Your professional obligations and aspirations may not be summoned in the command center during the most costly attack in U.S. history, but for each of your clients, their case is a matter of personal terror and your counsel must be just as steady and well-reasoned. From 9/11 through the current war against terrorism, the parallels Harding outlines will strike home.

His presentation is enriched by his participation in policy makers' decisions on 9/11, his service in combat theaters, and his involvement in decision-making in the Pentagon regarding application of law in multiple operations in the Middle East. His views are further informed by his legal leadership at Air Combat Command and Air Force Space Command, and by a childhood spent living in Lebanon and Pakistan.

He uses real-world examples of how policy makers reach decisions that affect when and how we go to war against terrorist organizations. This presentation is a compelling explanation of how history, military science, and cultural awareness give rise to changes in policy and law.

60 to 90  
minutes



**Richard C. Harding** served as Judge Advocate General of the United States Air Force from 2010 until his retirement in 2014. He also served as the Commander of the Air Force Legal Operations Agency, where he improved the organization and provision of legal services in environmental, contract, labor, criminal, and medical law for the Air Force.

Harding's Legal Information Services team won the W. Edwards Deming Award, in recognition of impressive workforce development and a training initiative that measurably improved the organization's performance—the first time an Air Force team had won this prestigious award.

Harding created a successful program to provide Special Victims' Counsel to service members who are survivors of military sexual assault. In 2014, the Department of Justice awarded the Air Force a Special Service Award for its Special Victims' Counsel Program.

In addition to his work with The Professional Education Group, General Harding assists universities and interest groups in eradicating campus sexual assaults with successful lessons learned from combating military sexual assaults. He serves on the Advisory Council of the National Crime Victims' Legal Institute. He is a Board of Trustees member at Columbia College in Columbia, Missouri with extension sites over the world and the Vice President of Welcome Home, Inc., a shelter and transition services organization for homeless veterans.



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