

ROBERT FRANCIS CLIFFORD

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Internationally recognized law enforcement and intelligence executive with extensive private sector, FBI, diplomatic, and military experience. Proven success in international training and sustainability programs, project management and administration, sensitive investigations and security operations, and the transformation of complex policies into decisive and disciplined action.

Highly decorated executive with an exemplary record of directing investigative, operational, strategic, performance monitoring, and training programs throughout the banking, compliance, law enforcement and intelligence fields. Management assignments world-wide, to include Latin America, Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and Europe. Responsibilities included organizational change, global mission development, training plans and delivery, and relationship cultivation. Expert practitioner and instructor in counterterrorism, counterespionage, and criminal investigations; combatting human trafficking; and fostering the Rule of Law. Specific expertise in forming multi-agency task forces; and mentoring and training local, state, and international police agencies and intelligence units.

CORPORATE EXPERIENCE

2019-Present: President, Robert Clifford Consulting-Charlotte, NC

International security and investigations consultancy, specializing in domestic and international law enforcement and intelligence training, corporate internal investigations and interviews for law firms, and program review and analysis. Served as Mission Advisor and Country Program Director of the US Department of Justice's international training and support missions in Somalia (2019-2021) and Ukraine (2021-present). Extensive interaction with the United Nations, African Union, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and US Departments of Justice, State, and Defense.

2015-2019: Senior Vice President and Head of Specialty Investigations-Bank of America, Charlotte, NC

Head of Bank of America's Internal Enterprise Investigations -Specialty Investigations Group. Global responsibility for the investigation of allegations of misconduct by senior executives, retaliation, and management and training of Bank of America's Whistle Blower program.

2012-2014: Executive and Consultant-US multinational corporations in Singapore and Belgium

Executive and consultant for US-based multinational corporations in Asia and Europe. Responsible for compliance with US and foreign regulatory authorities to include Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA), and UN Sanctions List. Principal liaison with regional and national law enforcement.

GOVERNMENT EXPERIENCE – FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (FBI)

1989-2012: Special Agent, Legal Attaché, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, and Senior Executive

Investigative, operational, policy and management experience in positions of increasing complexity and responsibility from Special Agent to Senior Executive. Assignments included field offices, FBI Headquarters, multi-agency task forces, combat theater of Iraq, and international diplomatic and operational assignments. Specific expertise in international terrorism, counterespionage, anti-money laundering and terrorist financing, government corruption, nuclear proliferation, and violent transnational gangs. Specific accomplishments include:

-Senior FBI representative to Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, NATO, and the EU. Coordinated multiple international counterterrorism, counterespionage, and nuclear proliferation investigations and operations. Significant portfolio of US-EU law enforcement policy development and implementation.

-Senior Executive Service (SES) appointment as the On-Scene Commander for all FBI operations in Iraq, directing 100+ personnel. Coordinated with DOD in combat operations, counterinsurgency, intelligence, explosives, hostage recovery, major criminal investigations, and judicial and civilian infrastructure development.

-Awarded the Service to America Medal and named Federal Employee of the Year in 2004 for work with Greek counterterrorism agents to identify, arrest, and prosecute the lethal "November 17" terrorist organization before the 2004 Olympic Games. Prior to their arrests, the November 17 terrorists had for 25 years conducted multiple attacks, bombings

and assassinations of US and international diplomatic and military personnel, Greek officials and industrialists, and other victims without a single member being identified.

-Established and directed the FBI's Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) National Gang Task Force and led multi-agency efforts to combat violent transnational street gangs. Deployed throughout Central America to garner international cooperation. Testified before Congressional and Cabinet-level officials on a regular basis.

-Developed and supervised a four-year undercover operation that penetrated, covertly monitored, and dismantled a Hezbollah terrorist cell in Charlotte, NC that was raising funds for the Hezbollah terrorist organization through cigarette smuggling, financial fraud, and other criminal activity. This case was the first time a terrorist group was named as the association in fact in a mafia-style RICO prosecution and set the legal precedent for the Material Support to Terrorism statute, now used in virtually all US terrorism prosecutions.

-Led the investigation and capture of Abu Nidal terrorist Omar Rezaq, whose hijacking of Egyptair Flight 648 resulted in the deaths of 61 passengers. The rendition of Rezaq out of Nigeria resulted in Rezaq's conviction of Air Piracy in US federal court, setting legal precedent, and becoming a model for subsequent extraterritorial operations, terrorist renditions, and federal extraterritorial jurisdiction prosecutions.

-Conducted one of the FBI's first successful extraterritorial investigations in Latin America, leading a two-year investigation in Bolivia, resulting in the capture of Bolivian terrorists who had bombed Secretary of State George Schultz' motorcade and assassinated two Mormon missionaries.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE – U.S. MILITARY

1981-1988: Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Navy

Naval Officer specializing in surface warfare, intelligence, and special warfare operations. Surface Warfare Officer qualified. Later designated a Naval Intelligence Officer for a Naval Special Warfare Group/SEAL Command Staff.

EDUCATION

Georgetown University-Graduate Certificate in Project Management, 2021

University of Southern California – Master of Public Administration, 1994

Saint Mary's College of California – Bachelor of Arts, 1981

Oxford, England – Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies 1979

CERTIFICATIONS and EXPERT LECTURER

Intelligence Officer – Elite FBI and U.S. Intelligence Community Certification

Expert Panelist and Lecturer – Appeared before diplomatic panels in Europe and Latin America; international summits and seminars; and private industry compliance, internal audit, and security organizations.

FBI Instructor/Lecturer – FBI Academy in Quantico, VA and International Law Enforcement Academy, Budapest

University and Law School Lecturer-Guest lecturer on terrorism, homeland security studies, economic espionage, US-EU legal cooperation, Classified Information Procedures Act, and extraterritorial jurisdiction

HONORS AND AWARDS

Numerous US and international awards and honors, to include the 2004 Federal Employee of the Year and Service to America Medal, FBI Director's Award for Counterterrorism, FBI Combat Theater Award, FBI Legal Attaché of the Year, multiple Department of State Commendation Awards, Director of National Intelligence Commendation Award, National Counterintelligence Executive Award of Excellence, Bolivian Police Medal of Honor and Merit, and many other decorations.

MEDIA RELATIONS

Extensive movie, television, and print interview experience and coverage in national and international media to include CNN, BBC, ABC, FOX, MSNBC, *NY Times*, *Washington Post*, *Financial Times*, *USA Today*, *Miami Herald*, *LA Times*, *Newsweek*, *Time*, *The Guardian*, *La Libre Belgique* and numerous other publications.

Movie Features: CNN television series *Declassified-Untold Stories of American Spies* "To Catch a Hijacker" and "Operation Smokescreen: The Terrorists Next Door"; National Geographic "MS-13: The World's Most Dangerous Gang-Power of Fear", and Alexandre Fuchs "Hijos de Guerra".

Book Features: Hezbollah-Lightning out of Lebanon (Diaz and Newman, 2005); MS-13-No Boundaries (Diaz,2009); Europe's Deadliest Terrorists-17 November (Paphellas 2004)

LANGUAGES

English – Native; **Spanish** – Professional proficiency; **French** – Conversational