

College of International Security Affairs
National Defense University

Lt. Col. Don Palmer
Air Force Chair
Department of International Security Studies



Education

- M.A., Naval Postgraduate School: National Security Affairs—Middle East (2003)
- B.S., University of Missouri--Columbia: Computer Science (1991)

Research Interests

- Impact of worldview on culture and civilization.
- “History and evolution of today’s prevailing worldviews.”

LIEUTENANT COLONEL DON PALMER is a core Cyberspace Operations officer, an International Affairs Specialist for the Middle East, and an Arabic linguist. He holds a Master’s Degree in National Security Affairs from the Naval Postgraduate School with an emphasis on the Middle East. A 22-year veteran of the US Air Force with extensive joint, combined, and interagency experience, he has served at three joint commands, in the Attaché Corps at US Embassy Riyadh, in a MAJCOM center supporting NORAD, and at the base level. While serving at USJFCOM’s Joint Warfighting Center, he took part in 16 major exercises supporting every regional combatant command and various Joint Task Force headquarters. He conducted a Staff Assistance Visit in-theater for US Forces – Iraq and supported two multi-national exercise events: a US/Afghan National Army exercise in Kabul and the biennial US/Egypt exercise BRIGHT STAR 09 in Cairo. As an educator, Lt Col Palmer conducted Air Command and Staff College seminars over three academic years of International Security, Operational Warfare, and Regional/Cultural Studies. He taught lessons on Joint Planning and Strategic Communication in the Joint Operations Modules of CAPSTONE and KEYSTONE and directed courses on insurgent warfare and the Middle East for the US Air Force Special Operations School (USAFSOS). Lt Col Palmer was recognized as the USAFSOS Course Director of the Year for 2005.