



## Colonel Ollen Richey, USMC (Retired)

Managing Partner, Senior National Defense and Security Consultant



Colonel Ollen Richey is a national defense and security expert and co-founder of Leonidas Strategic Solutions, LLP. His primary disciplines include strategic assessment and planning, operational analysis, policy analysis and formulation, senior leadership support, strategic communications, joint/combined operations and planning, political-military affairs, interagency coordination, civil-military operations, and program management. He has over thirty-five years of experience in varied and challenging staff and leadership positions in the public and private sectors including service on the personal staffs of three service chiefs and the deputy secretary of defense. Colonel Richey is a graduate of the National War College and holds a Master of Science in National Security Strategy and Master of Military Studies. He has recent, extensive experience in the Middle East and North Africa. As the Riyadh-based study leader, he provided analytical and senior leadership support to Jones Group International's (JGI) efforts to assist the transformation of Saudi Arabia's ministry of defense. Until February 2021, he served as the JGI Program Manager/Senior Principal for a project assisting Libyan Government of National Accord efforts to reform its defense and security sector and implement disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR).

Colonel Richey graduated from East Carolina University and was commissioned a second lieutenant in July 1982. Following completion of The Basic School and Infantry Officers Course, he joined 2d Battalion, 2d Marines and served as a rifle and weapons platoon commander, company executive officer, and battalion adjutant. During this tour, he spent three months in southern Chile as a project leader for the British sponsored expedition, Operation Raleigh. Upon his return to the US, he joined the 2d Marine Regiment for duty as the Assistant Operations Officer. In June 1986, he reported to the 12th Marine Corps Recruiting District for duty as the Assistant for Enlisted Recruiting and Officer-in-Charge, Contact Team. He returned to Quantico in July 1989 to attend the Amphibious Warfare School and, following graduation, reported to the Mountain Warfare Training Center and served as the Assistant Operations Officer and Officer-in-Charge, Unit Operations. From August 1993 to May 1995, Colonel Richey served as the Commanding Officer, Headquarters Company, 23d Marines. Following that assignment, he served as the Operations Officer and, then, Regimental Inspector Instructor, 23d Marines.

Colonel Richey graduated with distinction from the Marine Corps Command and Staff College in June 1998 and reported to Headquarters, Marine Corps and served as an analyst in the Strategic Initiatives Group and as the Director, Commandant's Staff Group for both the 31st and 32d Commandants of the Marine Corps. Colonel Richey left the Pentagon in July 2001 to attend the National War College in Washington, DC. Following graduation, he joined the 4th Marine Division for duty, first, as the Operations and Plans Officer and, then, Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations and Training (G-3). During this tour, he also served as a strategist and planner with Combined Joint Task Force-7/Multinational Force-Iraq (Baghdad) and as the Director, Plans, Policy and Strategy (CJ-5) for Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa (Djibouti).



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Colonel Richey returned to Headquarters, Marine Corps in September 2005, serving, first, as the senior service planner and Head, Joint Staff Branch and, then, Director, Strategic Initiatives Group. From September 2006 to September 2007, he served collaterally as the primary Marine Corps representative and, for six months, chairman, of a senior-level working group (Council of Colonels) in direct support of Joint Chiefs of Staff strategic dialogue. Following his retirement from the Marine Corps in January 2008, Colonel Richey served as the Special Assistant for Communications to the Deputy Secretary of Defense and Senior Editor and Program Manager, Marine Corps Center for Lessons Learned. Since 2014, he has consulted for several US defense companies and supported both US-based and international projects. In 2021, he co-founded Leonidas Strategic Solutions, LLP, a US company dedicated to providing its clients and partners at home and abroad actionable national security and defense solutions.

Colonel Richey has extensive experience in desert, mountain and arctic operations and has participated in operations and exercises throughout the US and in Africa, Europe, Asia, South America, and Southwest Asia. He is a designated winter and summer Mountain Leader, a master rock climber and certified Military Ski Instructor, and graduate of the Mountain Leaders Course and US Army Jungle Warfare School. His personal decorations and awards include the Legion of Merit with gold star, Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal with two gold stars, Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and Joint Staff Identification Badge.