



**Captain Jack Sotherland, USN (Retired)**

Managing Partner, Senior National Security Consultant



Captain Jack Sotherland is a national defense expert as well as an Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) pilot-in-command of highly modified King Air 350 aircraft, operating overseas. His primary disciplines include strategic assessment and planning, operational analysis, policy analysis and formulation, senior leadership support, joint/combined operations and planning, political-military affairs, and interagency coordination. He is a graduate of the US Army War College and US Army Command and Staff College and holds a Master of Science in Strategic Studies. He has recent, extensive experience in the Middle East and West Africa.

Mr. Sotherland grew up in a Navy family, as such he lived in such diverse overseas locations as Iceland, the Republic of the Philippines and Japan, as well as throughout the United States, inspiring his love of travel and interest in other cultures.

Mr. Sotherland landed in Pensacola, Florida following his father's retirement where he attended a local high school and college, graduating with a BA in Political Science. He was successful in gaining admittance to the US Navy Aviation Officer Candidate School (AOCS), then located at NAS Pensacola. His initial flight training was conducted at NAS Whiting Field, FL, where he earned his Naval Aviator wings as a helicopter pilot. Following flight school, Captain Sotherland's first operational assignment was with HSL-36 LAMPLIGHTERS in Mayport, Florida, flying the SH-2F SEASPRITE helicopter. He completed a six-month deployment aboard USS BOWEN (FF 1979) and USS JOSEPH HEWES (FF 1078). Captain Sotherland transferred to HSL-30 NEPTUNE'S HORSEMEN in Norfolk, Virginia as a flight instructor in the SH-2F. At HSL-30 he served as the Tactics Division Officer and COMNAVAIRLANT SH-2F NATOPS Evaluator. Captain Sotherland next reported to COMNAVAIRLANT as the LAMPS I/III Training and Readiness Officer before reporting to USS GUADALCANAL (LPH 7) as Ship's Navigator in Aug 1992, completing a deployment to the Mediterranean Sea and Indian Ocean.

Following the decommissioning of USS GUADALCANAL Captain Sotherland reported to HSL-40 AIRWOLVES in Mayport, Florida for transition training in the SH-60B SEAHAWK, followed by assignment to HSL-46 GRANDMASTERS. He deployed for a BALTOPS operation embarked aboard USS PHILIPPINE SEA (CG 58) and subsequently completed a deployment to the Mediterranean and Black Seas as Officer-In-Charge of Detachment 7 aboard USS ARTHUR W. RADFORD (DD 968). Upon returning from deployment, he served as the squadron's Safety and Maintenance Officer.

Captain Sotherland was selected to attend the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Upon graduating with his JPME I designation, Captain Sotherland reported to the Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff as Deputy Director, Protocol. Following this tour he reported to the U.S. Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania where he participated in the Advanced Strategic Art Program and graduated with a Master's Degree in Strategic Studies. It was during this timeframe that he was selected for operational command and reported to HSL-44 SWAMP FOXES in Mayport, Florida as Executive Officer and as Commanding Officer of HSL-44. Captain Sotherland's next served as Navigator aboard USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69), stationed in



Norfolk, Virginia. He would spend 10 months as the Test and Certification Director for IKE's Refueling Complex Overhaul (RCOH) and oversaw the re-certification and extensive training of the bridge watch teams. Captain Sotherland then reported to COMUSNAVCENT, Manama, Bahrain, serving as the Assistant Chief of Staff for Theater Plans, Security Cooperation and Political-Military Affairs (N-5). After selection for Major Command At-Sea, Captain Sotherland was assigned to COMPHIBRON TWO as Deputy Commander, completing Joint Forces Staff College JPME II en route and assumed command soon thereafter. While serving as Commodore, Captain Sotherland was in command of nine surface combatants and amphibious warfare ships. He was also Commander, BATAAN Expeditionary Strike Group which was re-named the BATAAN Amphibious Ready Group (BATARG). After ten months of training, BATARG departed for a six-month deployment to the Sixth Fleet and Fifth Fleet Areas of Responsibilities. This deployment saw the initial at-sea operational deployment of a USMC Air Combat Element (ACE) equipped with the MV-22B Osprey.

Captain Sotherland's final active-duty assignment was as US Naval Attaché (ALUSNA); in support of this assignment he reported to the Defense Intelligence Agency, Washington, D.C. to begin language, attaché and C-12 King Air transition training. Upon completion of this extensive preparation, he reported for a three-year tour as the Naval Attaché assigned to Manila, Republic of the Philippines.

Captain Sotherland's personal awards include the Legion of Merit (three awards), Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (two awards) and the Navy Commendation Medal (four awards) and various unit commendations and service medals.

Soon after retiring Captain Sotherland began a second career as an ISR pilot, flying heavily-modified Beech King Air 350s throughout the Middle East, Africa and Europe. Between OCONUS rotations, Captain Sotherland supported an organizational transformation project in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia advising the Ministry of Defense.