

PRESS KIT 2015

OUR STORY

As we know, in the realm of national security, the journey to combat terrorism is a difficult one, laden with danger and the less obvious, yet inherent risk of missing something, almost inevitably followed by the afterthought that something could have been done better.

In 1997, a company called Blackwater was established to offer an alternative training solution for the country's special operators. They did so by establishing a premiere training facility, and in 2000 after the bombing of the USS Cole, the need for better training became even more urgent.

As the war on terror expanded, the company was tasked to provide elite protection services, and successfully deployed the industry's highest-trained security experts who delivered an unprecedented level of support to their government clients. The company expanded rapidly. But as many of us now know, it became marked by controversy as it grew, and in 2010, when the owner and founder decided to sell the training facility and completely walk away, a group of investors saw an opportunity to build on the best-in-class people and training curriculum and create something even better.

ACADEMI's journey began with the creation of a Board of Directors, something that did not exist under the prior ownership. ACADEMI now conducts business under the watchful eye and leadership of people like former Attorney General John Ashcroft, respected Texas businessman Red McCombs, former White House counsel Jack Quinn and retired Admiral Bobby Inman.

Under the careful oversight of the Board, a new senior management team was put in place, one determined to maintain the company's reputation for excellent service to clients, while balancing it with a more disciplined and more respectful company culture.

That management team then put in place what is arguably among the most impressive internal legal and compliance programs in the business. So much so that ACADEMI was honored this year by the National Law Journal with their prestigious "Corporate Compliance of the Year Award."

All of these steps were important in order to restore the respect earned by our colleagues who serve in harm's way - especially those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in support of their country - and the professionalism owed to our clients and the public.

Taking these dramatic and necessary measures has changed the entire ethos of the company and enables us to continue focusing on fully supporting our clients' efforts to protect our citizens and expand economic opportunity.

For us, the journey is about earning the honor and the privilege to serve. Our pledge moving forward is to never stop in our quest to do better.

ACADEMI is honored to continue providing elite training and trusted protection with a culture of integrity, excellence, and dignity.

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FAQ

Q: What does ACADEMI do?

A: ACADEMI is an elite security services provider. With expertise forged in the world's most challenging environments, the company's world-class network of security professionals designs customized solutions for their clients to help them navigate the complex, sensitive environments in which they operate.

Q: Who does ACADEMI work for?

A: ACADEMI serves both government and corporate clients that require elite training and security services for static site protection, executive protection, cyber and physical protection strategies, logistics planning and more.

Q: How is ACADEMI different from Blackwater?

A: ACADEMI is a completely separate company from the former Blackwater. ACADEMI's owners purchased the Blackwater training facility in 2010, hired an entirely new senior management team and formed a bi-partisan Board of Directors which includes former Attorney General John Ashcroft, Retired Admiral Bobby Inman, and former White House Counsel Jack Quinn, who help oversee and guide the company's award-winning governance and compliance efforts. Blackwater's former owner sold the part of the company more than four years ago, and he retained all rights to the Blackwater name/brand as well as several other entities that once operated under the Blackwater umbrella.

Since its purchase, ACADEMI has been repeatedly recognized as a leader in the security industry for compliance and good governance practices, recently earning The National Law Journal's 'Corporate Compliance Office of the Year' Award.

Q: Is ACADEMI associated with Erik Prince or the former Blackwater?

A: No. A group of private investors bought the world-class training facility formerly owned by Blackwater back in December of 2010 and immediately began to build a more compliant, more transparent organization around it. Erik Prince took both the Blackwater name and legacy with him when he sold the facility.

ACADEMI LEADERSHIP

ACADEMI's world-class leadership and management team is made up of experts with decades of unique experience from U.S. government service and work in the private sector. The ACADEMI leadership and management team aims to set the bar for a level of best-in-class operational excellence against which all other companies in the industry are measured.

CRAIG NIXON

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Craig Nixon joined ACADEMI after spending two years at the McChrystal Group as a Partner following his retirement from the U.S. Army in July 2011. At the McChrystal Group, he led several consulting engagements, including two Fortune 500 technology companies, and was a senior advisor to chief executives on strategy and change management. McChrystal Group's consulting focused on implementing CrossLead, a combat proven leadership system that optimizes the performance of individuals, teams and organizations through shared consciousness and purpose.

Over a 29 year Army career, Brigadier General Nixon served in a wide range of assignments including seven tours in special operations units, five joint service assignments, and three tours in Korea. He commanded a combined U.S./Korean Battalion in the Korean DMZ, 3rd Ranger Battalion and the 75th Ranger Regiment. During his career, he led multiple diverse organizations that included all services, other government agencies, contractors, and soldiers from other nations that ranged in size up to 20,000 people.

Since 9/11 he has spent four years in combat including tours in Afghanistan and Iraq as the Director of Operations for Joint Special Operations Command and the Commander of the 75th Ranger Regiment. Following an assignment as the Director of Operations for United States Special Operations Command, he returned to Iraq as the Deputy Commanding General of 25th Infantry Division / Multi-National Division North, Iraq. His final military assignment was in U.S. Central Command as the Deputy Director of Operations responsible for force protection.

Over his career, Brigadier General Nixon participated in a number of contingency and combat operations including the invasion of Panama, Task Force Ranger Operations in Somalia, Operation JOINT GUARDIAN in Bosnia, and seven deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq. He is a combat decorated soldier whose awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, a Silver Star for valor in combat, three Bronze Star Medals and the Purple Heart.

Brigadier General Nixon graduated from Auburn University with a degree in business in 1982 and he has earned two Masters Degrees in Military History and Strategic Studies. Over the course of his career he attended numerous military and civilian professional development courses including the U.S. Army Command and General Staff Course and the Air War College.

He supports a number of non-profit organizations focused on veterans and their families and is on the Advisory Board for Team Red, White, and Blue.

Brigadier General Nixon resides in Washington D.C with his wife Debbie and four children.

DOUG LEE

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Doug Lee is the Chief Financial Officer at ACADEMI, bringing more than 16 years of financial experience.

Most recently, Mr. Lee spent four years as CFO at McNeil Technology where he worked on contracts administration, pricing, information technology and human resources, in addition to traditional controller and treasury CFO responsibilities. While working there in his role as CFO and SVP of corporate services, he restructured the finance and corporate support functions and personnel of McNeil to support the company's growth from \$140 million per year to \$350 million per year, and improved government contract compliance reporting. In 2010, Mr. Lee managed the finance and reporting transition process following McNeil's acquisition by AECOM.

DR. ROBERT RIEGLE

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Dr. Robert Riegler has performed work in North America, South America, Central America, the Middle East, North Africa, and Southeast Asia. Dr. Riegler has developed security solutions for National Security Agencies, the U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security and Law Enforcement organizations worldwide.

Before ACADEMI, Dr. Riegler served in the U.S. Government Senior Executive Service including appointments as DHS representative to the Department of Justice's Global Justice Initiative, the Co-chair of the National Fusion Center Coordination Group and as an advisory member of the Criminal Intelligence Coordinating Council. Prior to working at DHS, Dr. Riegler worked at Booz Allen Hamilton in the Strategic Communications Area and at the Defense Intelligence Agency with the National Intelligence Support Team, serving in Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle.

JIM HICKEY

VICE PRESIDENT, ACADEMI SECURITY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

James Hickey is responsible for overseas operations and the successful delivery of contracted services to key U.S. Government customers on three continents.

Prior to joining ACADEMI, Mr. Hickey was a Colonel in the U.S. Army retiring from the Pentagon having served more than 29 years in the military. His command of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, resulted in a number of decisive successes for which it was recognized with the Valorous Unit Award by the Secretary of the Army in 2004.

Having served five years at the Army's most advanced training centers, Mr. Hickey has developed expert knowledge in organizational effectiveness and leadership development.

Mr. Hickey was one of the senior planners of the Iraq 'surge' and the principal advisor to the theaters two most senior commanding generals for full-spectrum counter improvised explosive device operations.

Mr. Hickey's decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, the Silver Star, the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Bronze Star for Valor, the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Iraq Campaign Medal with Four Stars and the Valorous Unit Award.

James Hickey graduated from the Virginia Military Institute. He has a Masters from Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies and attended Georgetown as the US Army's War College fellow. He is a graduate of the Defense Language Institute.

GREGORY BELANGER

ACTING GENERAL COUNSEL

Gregory Belanger joined ACADEMI in November 2012 as the Deputy General Counsel, Operations, responsible for international and host nation law compliance, and cross-border transactions. Mr. Belanger is an expert in the areas of national security, compliance and international law. He has over 25 years of domestic and international experience in leadership, law, compliance, investigations, litigation, and sensitive intelligence-based operations.

Prior to ACADEMI, Mr. Belanger was a Captain in the U.S. Navy, retiring in 2012 as a Navy Judge Advocate and Naval Special Warfare (SEAL) qualified officer. Most recently, he served two years as the Senior Legal Advisor to high level DoD officials in Afghanistan with concentration in investigations, national security law, operations, and compliance. Mr. Belanger also served as the Commanding Officer of the Naval Legal Service Office for the U.S. Navy's Pacific Fleet. He was awarded 19 service medals including the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal during his U.S. Navy career.

In addition to a variety of general counsel postings around the globe, with a concentration in the Middle East and Asia, Mr. Belanger has seven years of federal criminal and civil litigation experience, including a posting at the United States Department of Justice.

Mr. Belanger graduated from the University of the State of New York, Regents College and received a J.D. from California Western School of Law. In addition, Mr. Belanger earned two LL.Ms - one in Tax Law from Georgetown Law School and one in International and Comparative Law from George Washington University Law School - as well as an M.S. in Strategic Studies at the U.S. Army War College.