

Eric Traupe

National Intelligence Leader, Former CIA Assistant Director

With over 30 years of combined experience in the CIA and the US Marine Corps, Eric Traupe stands as one of the most influential voices in the Intelligence Community. He is renowned for his strategic foresight and unparalleled expertise in national security, playing a pivotal role in the US counterterrorism efforts. Traupe's invaluable counsel has shaped critical decisions at the highest levels of government, advising CIA directors, U.S. presidents, military leaders, and members of Congress. Celebrated for his inclusive leadership style, top CIA officials hailed Traupe as someone that "will reverberate across the agency for decades."

Traupe leveraged his extensive leadership experience in national security and founded *Azimuth Global LLC*, a consulting firm that provides strategic advisory services to Fortune 500 companies in the technology, national security, and strategic risk sectors. [Exclusively represented by Leading Authorities speakers bureau](#), Traupe's talks cover geopolitics, leadership, and risk management. His passion for fostering people-centered cultures empowers teams to innovate and collaborate across organizational and cultural boundaries. Through servant leadership principles, he inspires others to succeed even in the most challenging environments. In his speaking engagements, Traupe captivates audiences with his deep insights on risk management, national intelligence, and the constantly shifting geopolitical landscape.

As CIA Near East Assistant Director, Eric Traupe was at the forefront of global challenges, overseeing traditional intelligence operations, including Iran's nuclear ambitions and regional influence. At the same time, he was responsible for strengthening U.S. partnerships across the Middle East and North Africa. Throughout his tenure, his ability to manage crises, assess risks, and guide the agency's workforce through uncertainty—such as during the COVID-19 pandemic—ensured the CIA remained resilient. A senior Operations Officer, he served overseas as Chief of Station in two Middle Eastern countries and held senior positions in South Asia, Southeast Asia, and three conflict zones. Eric also spent nearly 10 years in the U.S. Marine Corps, adding to his expertise in intelligence, defense, and geopolitical challenges.

In addition to leading *Azimuth Global LLC*, Traupe currently serves as an operating partner with Lightspeed Venture Partners and Chief Strategy Officer for the integrated multi-family office Johnson Financial Group, LLC. He sits on the Board of Advisors for Intel Corporation and is an advisor to Anduril Industries Inc. and other emerging technology companies. Eric is a Principal at WestExec, on the Board of Advisors for the Center for a New American Security, a Senior Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School's Belfer Center, and a panel member for the Special Competitive Studies Project focused on geopolitical rivalries associated with China and Russia. He was previously the President of Capella Federal Inc., a subsidiary of Capella Space Corp. Eric is also an Ambassador for the Third Option Foundation and the CIA Officers Memorial Foundation.

At the CIA, Eric received several honors including the Distinguished Presidential Rank Award, Distinguished Career Intelligence Medal, CIA's Director Award, Intelligence Medal of Merit, ODNI's National Intelligence Medal of Achievement, Clandestine Service Career Award, and Directorate of Operations Excellence in Leadership Award. Eric holds an MBA in International Business from American University and a BA in Communications from the University of Michigan. While at Michigan, he played Division I football as an inside linebacker and participated in two Rose Bowls and a Gator Bowl.