

Mike Studeman

U.S. Navy Rear Admiral (Ret.), Renowned National Intelligence Leader, Foreign Policy Practitioner, & China Expert

Rear Admiral Mike Studeman is a decorated military leader and former Commander of the Office of Naval Intelligence who stands as one of the United States' preeminent national security officials. His distinguished 35-year career has taken him to assignments around the globe and positioned him as one of the most influential voices on intelligence, foreign policy, and defense matters. He is an internationally recognized authority on Asian affairs with deep expertise on China. Studeman has led intelligence operations at every level — from the tactical to the strategic, through crises and war – and is an accomplished foreign policy practitioner with a track record of geostrategic impact.

Exclusively represented by Leading Authorities speakers bureau, Studeman draws upon unrivaled insight into global intelligence and the shifting geopolitical landscape of major power strategic competition to help groups connect the challenges and opportunities in national security and global affairs to what's going on within their own organizations and industries. The rich knowledge he passes along to audiences, especially on China's rise, provides a unique framework to help organizations anticipate challenges, make tough decisions, and adapt their strategies to deal with a dramatically changed risk environment.

When he was a Commander, Studeman was appointed by President George W. Bush as a White House Fellow. He is the only officer in the Navy ever to have been Special Assistant on separate occasions to the Navy's top three leaders: the Chief of Naval Operations, Vice Chief of Naval Operations, and U.S. Fleet Forces Commander. Senior defense and White House officials selected Studeman to brief Taiwan's President on sensitive geopolitical matters multiple times. He was also a key player in strengthening alliances in the Pacific and engineering closer relations with India.

Studeman's ascent to the forefront of national security coincides with some of the most pivotal moments in history: the fall of the Berlin Wall, Tiananmen Square massacre, and Desert Storm. He went on to support coalition campaigns in the Balkans, Iraq, Afghanistan, Yemen, and Somalia, as well as a range of counterterrorism, counterinsurgency, counternarcotics, and counterproliferation operations. As a flag officer, Studeman served as the Director of Intelligence for the U.S. Indo-China Pacific Command, the nation's largest combatant command. In this role, he oversaw intelligence operations covering half the earth, a messianic China, provocative North Korea, and assertive Russia. He was also Director of Intelligence for the Southern Hemisphere and commanded cyber intelligence forces at U.S. Cyber Command.

Among numerous honors and recognitions for his dedication and exceptional service, Studeman is the recipient of the Navy Distinguished Service Medal, three Defense Superior Service Medals, three Legion of Merit Awards, and five Meritorious Service Medals. The Director of National Intelligence recognized his outstanding contributions with the National Intelligence Superior Service Medal. He has also received decorations from Australia, Japan, Taiwan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Colombia.

Studeman is a two-time Distinguished Graduate in National Security Affairs Masters programs and an Honors Graduate in Mandarin Chinese.