# Eric Olson, USN, RET.

Former Commander of the U.S. Special Operations Command and Four-Star Admiral Navy SEAL

**The World at Night** Olson addresses the changing geopolitics of our modern world and shares insights on the megatrends affecting global security, economics, and politics and the importance of balancing our approach to international challenges. Referencing an image of the world at night, he describes how our military priorities have changed from the light areas of the map – where the electricity generates the most light (the industrialized countries), to where the land is dark (the poorer, less developed areas). He explains the demographic shifts, resource struggles, and nuclear proliferation that affect our security and our businesses. He also addresses how we must be change our perspective and be proactive rather than reactive to geopolitical issues and how solid strategic planning and micro-regional knowledge is a must for governments and businesses alike.

**Teambuilding and Leadership in the 21st Century** Admiral Eric Olson describes the world's "new normal" and the global challenges that leading in this new environment presents. Pulling from his vast military experience, he uses a series of fascinating vignettes and visuals to bring principles of leadership to life. Olson shares insights on leadership and how small and large organizations can develop highly productive teams – like what to do about the fact that most people will quit in the anticipation of a difficult challenge rather than in the middle of it. Olson believes that it is critical to an organization's success that leaders intentionally challenge their people in order to expose their character and weaknesses and prove to them that they are stronger than they thought. He also discusses how to create an inclusive environment where it is ok to fail in front of one's teammates. Credited with developing the specialized forces that have accomplished some of the most notable military operations of the last decade, Olson knows better than anyone how to get the most out of team members. His lessons and their applications are universal. Admiral Olson speaks with the quiet authority of his extraordinary military experiences, and in his engaging presentations, he encourages interaction and audience Q&A sessions.