

Joseph Zacks

CIA's Former Deputy Assistant Director of Counterterrorism

Countering Terrorism in the 21st Century: The Confluence of Low- and High-Tech. In this talk, Joseph Zacks deciphers the confluence of low-tech tactics with high-tech cyber strategies, especially in how terror networks adapt quickly to innovation. The talk outlines how businesses must prepare for the ripple effects of these global threats, including cyber vulnerabilities and intelligence blind spots.

Leading Spies at the Central Intelligence Agency: A Peek Behind the Curtain. Offering gripping first-hand accounts from inside the CIA's leadership ranks, Zacks opens the curtain on the high-stakes world of intelligence. He distills leadership lessons forged in crisis environments—from decision-making under ambiguity to cultivating trust across fractured teams. The session emphasizes how these lessons translate directly into effective leadership for private sector executives navigating uncertainty.

An Evolving Middle East: An Optimist's View of the Region. This talk provides a grounded overview of the Middle East, tracing key historical events, regional dynamics, and long-standing sources of tension that continue to shape the present. Drawing from decades of intelligence experience, Joseph Zacks outlines how political shifts, economic pressures, and evolving alliances influence the region's trajectory. The session also offers analytical insight into how these developments may impact geopolitical factors in the years ahead.