Martinzie Richmond

Former CIA Assistant Director for the Near East

Global Risk Briefing: What Leaders Need to Know Now. A key voice in the US national security space, Martinzie Richmond served decades in the US intelligence community, rising through the ranks to become the senior most CIA executive in charge of the Agency's operations, analysis, and resources across the Middle East and North Africa. He offers audiences a unique real-time lens into today's global threat landscape and its implications for business and leadership. He connects geopolitical instability, emerging security risks, and shifting power dynamics to the decisions organizations face every day. With nearly 30 years of combined CIA and FBI experience on the Middle East, counterterrorism, counterintelligence, and service as a President's Daily Briefer, he translates complex global developments into clear, relevant insights. This session equips leaders to think strategically about risk and respond with agility.

Leadership Under Pressure: Decision-Making When the Stakes Are Highest. Drawing from his nearly 30 years of combined experience in the CIA and FBI, Richmond takes audiences inside the moments where decisions carry global consequences. As former Assistant Director of CIA for the Near East, he led intelligence efforts across one of the world's most volatile regions, guiding teams through rapidly evolving crises with incomplete information and no margin for error. From briefing multiple presidents and senior US government officials to leading large-scale intelligence operations, Richmond shares how leaders can cut through noise, assess risk, and act decisively under pressure.

A Leadership Journey: From Small-Town Roots to the Highest Levels of Intelligence. In this powerful and personal talk, Richmond shares the story behind his rise from small-town Tennessee to one of the most senior roles in the CIA. As one of the highest-ranking Black officers in the Agency's history, his journey offers a compelling perspective on resilience, opportunity, and leadership. He reflects on the experiences and decisions that shaped his path, providing audiences with insights into perseverance, purpose, and personal growth. This session resonates with leaders and aspiring professionals alike, offering both inspiration and a deeper understanding of what it takes to lead at the highest levels.