

General Wayne A. Downing, U.S. Army (Retired) is a highly decorated combat veteran who retired after a 34-year career in the U.S. Army. While on active duty he served in a variety of command assignments in infantry, armored, special operations, and joint units, culminating in his appointment as the Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Special Operations Command. He served two combat tours in Vietnam as a junior infantry officer. As a general officer, he commanded the special operations of all services during the 1989 invasion of Panama and commanded a joint special operations task force operating deep behind the Iraqi lines during Operation DESERT STORM.

Following retirement, General Downing was appointed by the President to assess the 1996 terrorist attack on the U.S. base at Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia, and to make recommendations on how to protect Americans and U.S. facilities worldwide from terrorist attack.. The resulting report to the Secretary of Defense pointed out significant command failures to adequately protect the base and predicted that terrorist attacks of this nature would be the asymmetric tactic of choice in the future.

From 1999-2000, General Downing also served as member of the Congressionally mandated National Commission on Terrorism (the Bremer Commission) charged with examining the terrorist threat to the US, evaluating America's laws, policies, and practices for preventing and punishing terrorism directed at US citizens, and recommending corrective actions. The Commission found that the United States needed a far more aggressive strategy on combating terrorism at home and abroad. The Commission predicted further terrorist attacks on America.

General Downing most recently served the White House as National Director and Deputy National Security Advisor for Combating Terrorism. As the President's principal advisor on matters related to combating terrorism, he was responsible for the close coordination among the military, diplomatic, intelligence, law enforcement, and financial operations of our war on terror, and for developing and executing a strategy that integrates all elements of national power.

General Downing serves on several boards in the private sector. He is also a visiting faculty member at the University of Michigan Business School and has conducted seminars on leadership and transformation management.

General Downing graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point with a B.S. degree in 1962 and has a M.B.A. from Tulane University.

His awards and decorations include: the Defense Distinguished Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Distinguished Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Silver Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Soldiers Medal, the Bronze Star with V Device for Valor and five Oak Leaf Clusters, the Purple Heart, the Air Medal with V Device and thirty five Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with V Device and three Oak Leaf Clusters. General Downing has earned the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Military Free Fall Jumpmaster badge, the Master Parachute Badge, the Ranger Tab and the Pathfinder Badge. He is a Commander in the French Legion of Honor.

November 17, 2002