



# Faces of Security Cooperation

FORMER SC EDUCATOR

## DR. RONALD REYNOLDS



Dr. Ronald Reynolds served as Commandant of the Defense Institute of Security Assistance Management (DISAM), now known as the Defense Security Cooperation University-West (DSCU-West) for almost 20 years between September 2001 and December 2020. While there, he worked for six DSCA Directors and five Deputy Directors.

## EDUCATING THE SC WORKFORCE

**Reynolds played an important role in U.S. Security Cooperation by teaching the "profession and art" of the mission set at its premier schoolhouse.**

Although the institution's name has changed several times, Reynolds was a mainstay as its long-time Commandant. He oversaw the instruction of thousands of U.S. and foreign partner military and civilian students. His role ensured they received the best training possible to support their roles in furthering U.S. Security Cooperation initiatives.

Reynolds first came to know DISAM after attending the Overseas (SAO/SCO) Course himself in 1996 before his assignment in Saudi Arabia. He decided to apply for the position as Commandant when it was advertised because he had been "truly impressed" with the quality of the school and its people.

After being hired by DSCA Director Lt Gen Tome Walters, Reynolds was told that as Commandant he was not hired to teach. However, Reynolds said the real pleasure of his role was engaging with students personally and helping them to succeed.

## BIOGRAPHY

**Dr. Ronald Reynolds was born in Greenville, South Carolina on August 27, 1954.**

Reynolds enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in April 1976 in Intelligence Operations. He graduated from Air Force Officer Training School in December 1979, working in Administration and Personnel.

Over the course of his years as an officer, Reynolds held a number of education, training, instructor, and commander positions including Officer Training School, U.S. Air Force ROTC and Air University (International Officer School) at Maxwell Air Force Base. He also held several overseas assignments including in Honduras, the Republic of Korea, and in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as the U.S. Military Training Mission (USMTM) Security Assistance Officer.

Although Reynolds retired from the U.S. Air Force in November 2001, he started at DISAM on September 13, 2001 – while on terminal leave from the Air Force, two days after September 11th.

Reynolds retired from U.S. Government service on December of 2020.

## ABOUT "FACES OF SECURITY COOPERATION"

**September 1st, 2021 marks 50 years since the establishment of DSCA.**

In celebration of this milestone, DSCA is highlighting notable "Security Cooperators" who have served the Security Cooperation community over the past 50 years. These individuals, uniformed and civilian, all exemplify professionalism and public service, and embody DSCA's ethos of "security through global partnerships."

"Faces of Security Cooperation" aims to provide a quick glance at the lives and legacies of those who have made impactful change in the history of Security Cooperation. From our past into our future, we honor those whose contributions have shaped DSCA into the agency we know today.

