

Mr. Richard H. Smyth



Position: Political Advisor to PKSOI

Areas of Expertise: Afghanistan, interagency coordination and operations, reconstruction and development, governance, counternarcotics, South Asia.

Professor Richard Smyth became the Political Advisor to PKSOI in July 2008, following two years as a faculty member in the Army War College's Department of National Security Studies. On detail to the Army, Mr. Smyth is a Senior Foreign Service Officer specializing in program management and integration in complex environments and in South Asian Affairs. With over nine years experience working in Afghanistan and Pakistan's border areas, he served as Political Advisor to CJTF-76 as part of Operation Enduring Freedom before joining the War College. In addition to Kabul, Bagram, and Peshawar, other overseas postings have included New Delhi, Baghdad, Jakarta, Copenhagen, Colombo, and Kingston, while domestic assignments have included serving as a liaison to the JCS for ISR matters and as the State Department's Managing Director for Overseas Operations. Mr. Smyth received his BS in Geography from the University of Washington (Seattle), a graduate certificate in Regional and Urban Planning from the University of Alabama, and is a 1997 graduate of the National War College.