



## Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army

RHODE ISLAND



## RICARDO O. MORALES

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Dr. Rich Morales served as an Army officer for over thirty years in military units, university settings, and on governmental interagency teams. Dr. Morales is a Professor of Practice of Innovation Management and Design Engineering at Brown University, where he teaches strategy and decision-making and volunteers as an advisor to the university's Formula One racecar design students, D1 baseball team, and campus veteran community. Rich is also a Leader in Residence at the US Coast Guard Academy, integrating military, academic, and athletic domains to develop leaders, assess programs, and fuel innovation through partnerships. He serves on national boards alongside leaders from business, academia, and nonprofits and is an advisor to start-up efforts. Rich is a first-generation American born in El Paso, Texas. In kindergarten, he met his wife, Christy, a pediatric nurse practitioner. Both are active volunteers, enjoy traveling beyond the beaten path, and work hard to keep up with their very active teenage son, Matthew. Team Morales calls Rhode Island home after living 10 years overseas and moving 16 times as an Army family.

### EDUCATION

Dr. Morales holds a BS in aerospace engineering from West Point, a Yale MBA, graduate degrees in strategic studies from the Naval College of Command and Staff and Strategy from the National Defense University, and a PhD in engineering from the University of Cambridge. As a Senior Executive Fellow, he studied systems dynamics and organizational learning at MIT and Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

### MILITARY SERVICE

Dr. Morales is a retired Brigadier General and Purple Heart recipient; he served globally, leading in 5 hostile fire zones, and serving in roles ranging from leading a tank platoon in the Gulf War to duty in the Executive Office of the President. He commanded UN peacekeepers in the Balkans, led an Army Task Force arrayed across 1/3 of Baghdad – a Valorous Unit recognized for extraordinary heroism in combat, was an aide to the Head of NASA, a White House Fellow at OMB, and led a national Presidential initiative to revolutionize how our country supports transitioning military and their families. He later commanded an Army ROTC brigade responsible for officer development at 97 universities, chaired the Department of Systems Engineering at the US Military Academy, and researched in collaboration with DoD, industry, the public sector, and leading think tanks. Rich is a graduate of parachute, air assault, scout, armor basic, infantry advanced, USAF air/ground operations, DoD, NATO, and Joint courses.

### MEMBERSHIPS AND OTHER AFFILIATIONS

Association of the US Army, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Royal United Services Institute  
International Council on Systems Engineering, and America Society of Engineering Management

### AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

White House Fellow, 2001; US Armor Association Draper Leadership Award, 2007; Yale School of Management Donaldson Fellow, 2017; Yale Business & Society Award, 2019; Brown University Hazeltine Innovation Award, Awarded St George (Armor), St Barbara (Artillery), and St Maurice (Infantry) Association Medallions, 2024

### ORIGINAL APPOINTMENT

October 2024



U.S. ARMY