

ADAM POTTER

FORMER CAPTAIN, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS MARSOC

Adam Potter's presentation will cover the Counter-Insurgency (COIN) strategy that Marine Special Operations Company – Alpha implemented while deployed to Farah Province in western Afghanistan from July 2009 to February 2010. The composition of forces, both Afghan and NATO, were ideally suited to effectively render the violent insurgency inoperable by the end of this tour. In addition to the campaign that cleared the insurgency within the province, topics such as Public Information, Economic Development, and Governance used to consolidate and hold regions that were won will be discussed.

Adam Potter just completed nine years of active service as a Marine Officer obtaining the rank of Captain. He most recently served as the Executive Officer for Marine Special Operations Company – Alpha as well as its Intelligence Officer with the missions of conducting COIN, developing the Afghan National Army capacity, and targeting high value individuals. His tour in Afghanistan is the third combat tour of his career with two others in Iraq; of those two Iraq tours, one was with Special Operations Forces in Baghdad (2004) and the other as a Civil Affairs Officer working on development in Southern Iraq (2003). Additionally, he served a full year (2007) in the Asia Pacific region conducting multi-lateral military exercises and contingency humanitarian relief operations.

Prior to joining the Marine Corps, Adam Potter was able to work as an External Relations Advisor for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, an English teacher for Arabic-speaking refugees from the Horn of Africa while living in Egypt, an international election monitor for the Azerbaijan parliamentary elections, a press advisor for the International Organizations Bureau of the US Dept of State as well as obtain an International Studies degree from Johns Hopkins University with a minor in Arabic language. All these experiences culminated in helping create and implement strategies during his military career oriented on serving and strengthening the distressed populations confronted in Iraq and Afghanistan so that they could overcome violent insurgencies.