

RICHARD RODRIGUEZ

Richard Rodriguez is currently serving as the Veterans Services Coordinator at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. In May of 2018, he began his employment at ERAU directly after graduating with Honors from the University's College of Aviation with a Bachelor of Science in Aeronautics.

Richard is a retired U. S. Navy SEAL Platoon Chief from SEAL Team Three, serving 20 years in Special Operations. He led Foxtrot Platoon in the initial invasion of Iraq in 2003, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. His actions as Assault Team Leader won him the Bronze Star with Combat "V" for valor during the assault. Immediately following the assault he assisted in the March to Baghdad, Foxtrot Platoon conducted numerous covert operations and multiple counter-insurgent engagements. While helping to secure the city of Baghdad, Richard was called on to give support to the U. S. Marine Corps as a counter-sniper. He provided over watch and cover during unit movement throughout the city along with hunting enemy snipers. These actions would earn him the nickname "The Boogie Man" in country.

Throughout his Naval career, Rodriguez has served extensively in leadership and instructor positions, including teaching Land Warfare, Demolitions, and Weapons at BUDS the Basic Underwater Demolition School for AEALs, and developing a Tactical Ground Mobility Department in the Advanced Training Detachment.

Upon retiring from the SEAL Teams, Richard moved to Arizona and joined the Surprise Police Department, becoming a Traffic Motorcycle Officer. He immediately joined SWAT and his military experience quickly elevated him to the position of SWAT Team Leader. There he implemented new standards raising the efficiency and effectiveness of the SWAT Team. As Entry Team Leader, he led numerous high-risk search warrants, successfully apprehending escaped fugitives, drug cartel associates, and violent gang members.

Richard's tactical and leadership experience combined with his degree from ERAU provides unique qualifications for the work he performs as the Veteran's Services Coordinator. There he mentors the Student Veterans and oversees the Student Veterans Organization (SVO). Together they are the leading club on campus for community involvement and we are recognized as the "Outstanding Organization for Fall of 2022".

