



JEFF HUNT currently acts as Senior Counsel for Raytheon Company, providing international legal support for the company. He graduated from Cal Poly with a degree in Political Science in 1985.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Jeff Hunt

As a first-generation college student, Commander (Cmdr.) Jeff Hunt, U.S. Navy (retired) understood the importance of a well-rounded education. He chose to attend Cal Poly in 1982 as a political science major. Given his fascination with the legal system, he knew from a young age that he wanted to pursue a career as a lawyer. As he began to take courses, such as American Constitutional Law, it became evident that he had chosen the right career path. During Cmdr. Hunt's his final year at Cal Poly, his mentor, Professor John Culver, suggested that he apply for a California State Assembly Fellowship. He was chosen for the Legislative Fellowship, where he worked on legislation for the California State Assembly's Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife under Assemblyman Jim Costa.

Cmdr. Hunt hoped to join the United States Navy Reserve and was offered a spot in the Navy Aviation Officer Candidate School. He moved to Pensacola, Florida, where he completed flight training and became a Naval Aviator. Cmdr. Hunt was then assigned to his squadron's Safety Department and was selected to be a part of the Navy's Landing Signal Officer program. However, his interest in law had not wavered. Through extensive hard work and dedication, he applied and was selected for the Navy's Funded Legal Education Program in 1990.

After completing his degree at Vanderbilt Law School, he returned to Pensacola and served in the Naval Legal Service Office from 1993 to 1995. During his time at the Naval Legal Service Office he took part in a number of military-jury and bench trials. He has argued cases in Congress and the E-Ring in the Pentagon. One of his most notable cases, which regarded a female flight student, was featured in the PBS special documentary, “The Navy Blues.” Cmdr. Hunt later became a Navy prosecutor and Special United States Attorney for the Northern District of Florida. During this assignment, he was able to bring justice to a United States Navy member and his family when a drunk driver killed the sailor.

Cmdr. Hunt’s first experience with international law came in 1997 when he moved to San Diego to become a Battle Group Legal Advisor and served as a Summary Courts-Martial Judge. He assembled an international law training program that prepared both U.S. Navy and allied military personnel for global security operations and armed conflict. In 2002, he became the first Navy Officer to act as Legal Advisor to the U.S. Military Delegation to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in Brussels, Belgium. The importance of the U.S. delegation escalated after the September 11th attacks and he was given the opportunity to provide legal and policy advice to U.S. and NATO officials. He recalls his first time attending an international meeting in Belgium as being a “humbling experience.” He was the only country representative wearing a military uniform, sitting behind a placard that read “United States of America,” and had the honor to speak for the country. At the time of his service as a member of the U.S. Delegation, there had been little research or effort taken against human trafficking by the international community. Cmdr. Hunt played an essential role in helping NATO adopt an anti-human trafficking policy and implement training programs for NATO personnel to help fight the epidemic.

In 2005, his career in NATO came to an end. He moved to Washington, D.C. to serve as an Executive Officer in the Region Legal Service Naval District Washington. He provided advice to Navy commands, including the Naval Criminal Investigative Service on criminal law issues. In 2007, after 21 years of service, Cmdr. Hunt retired from the Navy. He currently works as the Senior Counsel for Raytheon, a major U.S. defense contractor. Cmdr. Hunt advises current Cal Poly political science students to “think about what they really want to do in life, and to not be afraid to dream big and go for it.”