

OPERA – fiche sociographique - défense

Prénom, Nom:

Joseph Ralston



Contact :

jralston@cohengroup.net

Catégorie : Exécutif

Dates de naissance / décès :

4 novembre 1943

Lieu de naissance :

Hopkinsville, Ky.

Genre : Male

Lieu de résidence (si DC avant l'accession à un poste retenu, avec si possible l'année de l'emménagement à DC):

Formation :

BA/BS	BA, Miami U., Ohio, 1965
MA/MS	MA, Ctrl. Mich. U., 1976
PhD	
Law degree (JD...)	
ROTC¹	
Autre	student, Army Command and Gen. Staff Coll., Ft. Leavenworth,

¹ n'est pas une formation mais un programme pour entrer dans l'armée

	Kans., 1975-1976 student, Nat. War Coll., Ft. McNair, Wash. DC, 1983-1984 student, Harvard U., 1989
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Profession initiale :

Carrière :

1965 : engagement dans USAF
1990-1991 : director tactical programs, Office of the Asst. Sec for acquisition
1991-1992 : director operational requirements, Office of the Dep. Chief of staff for plans and ops, USAF
1992-1994 : Force and joint task force, USAF, Alimendorff, Alaska
1994-1995 : deputy chief of staff, plans and ops, USAF
1995-1996 : commander, Hdqs, Ari Combat Command, USAF, Langley
1996-2000 : Vice chairman of the chief of staffs
2003 : retirement
2003 - : vice chairman, Cohen Group, Washington, Lobbyist
2003- : Bd. dirs. Lockheed Martin Corp., 2003-, The Timken Co., 2003-, URS Corp.
2006 : spl. envoy for Countering the Kurdistan Worker's Party (PKK), US Dept. State

Sources biblio/bio, articles, divers.

Joseph W. Ralston (born November 4, 1943) is the [United States Special Envoy](#) for Countering the [Kurdistan Workers Party](#) (PKK) and holds senior positions in various [defense related corporations](#). He was the [Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff](#) from 1996 to 2000.

Career

- [Military career](#)

Ralston has served in the military since 1965. He has served in operational command at squadron, wing, numbered air force and major command, as well as various staff and management positions at every level of the [United States Air Force](#).

Ralston became Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in 1996. He was favorite to become [Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff](#) in 1997, however following revelations of a secret affair he remained Vice Chairman until May 2000. He then became [Supreme Allied Commander](#) for the [North Atlantic Treaty Organization](#) (NATO) in [Europe](#) until January 2003.

[Bill Clinton](#) writes in his memoirs [My Life](#) that Ralston was used to resolve a potentially sticky situation with [Pakistan](#) in which the US would use Pakistani airspace to strike at the [Al-Qaeda](#) organization meeting in [Afghanistan](#) following the [US Embassy bombings](#) in [Kenya](#) and [Tanzania](#). There was US concern that Pakistan's intelligence services would tip off the targets or even worse assume the missiles over Pakistan came from [India](#), potentially triggering a nuclear conflict on the Indian sub-continent. As Clinton writes on page 799 of [My Life](#), "we decided to send the vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Joe Ralston, to have dinner with the top Pakistani military commander at the time the attacks were scheduled. Ralston would tell him (the Pakistani

general) what was happening a few minutes before our missiles invaded Pakistani airspace, too late to alert the [Taliban](#) or Al-Qaeda, but in time to avoid having them shot down or sparking a counterattack on India."

In September 2006, he was assigned as Special Envoy for Countering the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) by the President of the United States [George W. Bush](#).^[1] The PKK is a [Kurdish](#) separatist group designated as a terrorist organization by the United States, [Turkey](#) and the [European Union](#).

Ralston was one of at least three retired four-star generals asked by [Bush administration](#) to oversee both wars in [Iraq](#) and [Afghanistan](#). Ralston and the two other generals, however, all declined this position.^[1]

• [Corporate career](#)

He is director of the [Timken Company](#) and the [URS Corporation](#), is on the [Board of Directors](#) of [Lockheed Martin](#) and has been Vice Chairman of the [Cohen Group](#), since March 2003.^[2] He also sits on the advisory board of the [American Turkish Council](#), an American-[Turkish lobby group](#).

Controversies



This article's *Criticism* or *Controversy* section **may compromise the article's neutral point of view of the subject**. Please [integrate the section's contents](#) into the article as a whole, or rewrite the material. (May 2013)

• [Adultery](#)

In 1997, at the retirement of [John M. Shalikashvili](#), the then [Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff](#), Ralston was the top candidate to succeed him to the highest position in the military. A scandal erupted when it became public that he had an adulterous affair with a CIA employee during the 1980s. Ralston claimed this was while he and his wife Linda were separated, however she disputed that assertion, claiming the affair continued and led to their 1988 divorce.^[3]

Defense Secretary [William Cohen](#) backed Ralston despite the controversy, declaring that Ralston's secret, adulterous relationship 13 years ago wouldn't "automatically disqualify" him from becoming the [Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff](#).^[4] There were allegations of double standards, as 1st Lt [Kelly Flinn](#) was forced out of the Air Force following after being charged with adultery a month prior.

Ralston withdrew his name from consideration^[5] and remained Vice Chairman until 2000, when he was appointed [Supreme Allied Commander](#), Europe, in which function he served from 2000 to 2003, taking over from [U.S. Army](#) general [Wesley Clark](#). In this capacity, he was the highest-ranking officer in NATO. He retired on March 1, 2003.

• [Conflict of interest](#)



This section's **factual accuracy is disputed**. (May 2013)

Ralston holds various senior positions in defense and security-related corporations, simultaneously with his diplomatic role as "anti PKK coordinator". Critics allege Ralston is using his influence as special envoy to secure large governmental weapons contracts for the corporations he has directorship over. The [Boston Globe](#) described him as "an arms merchant in diplomat's clothing."^[6]

On 26 October 2006, the Kurdish National Congress of North America issued a press release demanding "the immediate resignation" of General Joseph Ralston.^[7]

"Ralston's appointment came at a time when Turkey was finalizing the sale of 30 new [Lockheed Martin F-16 Fighting Falcon](#) aircraft (approx. \$3 billion) and as Turkey was due to make a decision on the \$10 billion purchase of the new Lockheed Martin [F-35 JSF](#) aircraft. The sale for the F-16's was approved by the [United States Congress](#) in mid-October and Turkey's decision in favor of the F-35 JSF was announced on October 25, shortly after Ralston's recent stay in Ankara, ostensibly to counter the PKK."

Since the [PKK insurgency began in 1983](#), 30,000 people have died and over 3,000 Kurdish villages have been destroyed, often by U.S. supplied planes.^[8] Critics are concerned that hard line anti-PKK policies influenced by conflicting interests would compromise the prospects for longterm solution to the [Kurdish-Turkish issue](#).^[9]

On October 1, 2006, the PKK announced a unilateral [cease-fire](#) in south-east Turkey, a move that the [Turkish government](#) has rejected.^[10]

"The PKK had to stop fighting anyway because of the winter, but the PKK, backed by [Iraqi Kurds](#), are acting as if this were a major political decision, not a move dictated by a practical necessity. Of course, we don't take it seriously."

Speaking before the Eurasian Strategic Research Center (ASAM) in Istanbul, Ralston mirrored the Turkish government's rhetoric.^[11]

"I want to be clear on this point: The US will not negotiate with the PKK. We will not ask Turkey to negotiate with the PKK. And I pledge to you that I will never meet with the PKK."

Education

1961 Norwood Senior High School, [Norwood, Ohio](#)

1965 Bachelor of arts degree in chemistry, [Miami University](#), Oxford, Ohio

1976 Master of arts degree in personnel management, [Central Michigan University](#)

1976 Army [Command and General Staff College](#), Fort Leavenworth, Kansas

1984 [National War College](#), [Fort Lesley J. McNair](#), Washington, D.C.

1989 [John F. Kennedy School of Government](#), Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts

Military statistics

• [Assignments](#)

- July 1965 - August 1966, student, pilot training, [Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas](#)
- August 1966 - April 1967, student, F-105 combat crew training school, [Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada](#)
- April 1967 - October 1969, F-105 combat crew member, 67th Tactical Fighter Squadron, later 12th Tactical Fighter Squadron, [Kadena Air Base, Japan](#)
- October 1969 - December 1969, student, F-105 [Wild Weasel](#) pilot training, Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada

- January 1970 - October 1970, F-105 Wild Weasel pilot, 354th Tactical Fighter Squadron, [Takhli Royal Thai Air Force Base](#), Thailand
- October 1970 - December 1971, F-105 Wild Weasel instructor pilot, 66th Fighter Weapons Squadron, Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada
- December 1971 - June 1973, Fighter Requirements Officer and Project Officer for F-15 and lightweight fighter programs, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Requirements, Headquarters Tactical Air Command, [Langley Air Force Base, Virginia](#)
- June 1973 - June 1975, Assistant Operations Officer, 335th Tactical Fighter Squadron, then Chief, Standardization and Evaluation Division, 4th Tactical Fighter Wing, [Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, North Carolina](#)
- June 1975 - June 1976, student, Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas
- June 1976 - July 1979, Tactical Fighter Requirements Officer, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Research and Development, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.
- July 1979 - July 1980, Operations Officer, later, Commander, 68th Tactical Fighter Squadron, [Moody Air Force Base, Georgia](#)
- July 1980 - August 1983, Special Assistant, later, Executive Officer to the commander, Headquarters Tactical Air Command, Langley Air Force Base, Virginia
- August 1983 - June 1984, student, National War College, Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington, D.C.
- June 1984 - February 1986, Special Assistant for low observables technology, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Research, Development and Acquisition, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.
- February 1986 - March 1987, Commander, 56th Tactical Training Wing, [MacDill Air Force Base, Florida](#)
- March 1987 - June 1990, Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, later, Deputy Chief of Staff for Requirements, Headquarters Tactical Air Command, [Langley Air Force Base, Virginia](#)
- June 1990 - December 1991, Director of Tactical Programs, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition, Washington, D.C.
- December 1991 - July 1992, Director of Operational Requirements, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans and Operations, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.
- July 1992 - July 1994, Commander, Alaskan Command, Alaskan North American Aerospace Defense Command Region, 11th Air Force and Joint Task Force Alaska, [Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska](#)
- July 1994 - June 1995, Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans and Operations, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.
- June 1995 - February 1996, Commander, Headquarters Air Combat Command, Langley Air Force Base, Virginia
- March 1996 - April 2000, Vice Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Washington, D.C.
- May 2000 - 2003, Commander, U.S. European Command and Supreme Allied Commander Europe, NATO, Mons, Belgium

Notes

1. **Jump up** ^ Baker, Peter; Ricks, Thomas E. (April 11, 2007). "[3 Generals Spurn the Position of War 'Czar'](#)". *Washington Post*. Retrieved 2007-07-17.
2. **Jump up** ^ "[Biography — Joseph W. Ralston](#)". *Lockheed Martin*. Retrieved 2007-07-17.^{[[dead link](#)]}
3. **Jump up** ^ "[ADULTERATED STANDARDS](#)". *Time magazine*. June 16, 1997. Retrieved 2007-07-17.
4. **Jump up** ^ "[Online NewsHour: Ralston Quits as Joint Chiefs Candidate -- June 9, 1997](#)". *Duke Law*. Retrieved 2007-07-17.
5. **Jump up** ^ [Ralston withdraws name from consideration](#) at CNN Interactive, June 9, 1997
6. **Jump up** ^ McKiernan, Kevin (November 1, 2006). "[An undiplomatic conflict of interest](#)". *Boston Globe*. Retrieved 2007-07-17.
7. **Jump up** ^ "[Demanding the Immediate Resignation of General Ralston as Special](#)". *Kurdish National Congress of North America*. Retrieved 2007-07-17.
8. **Jump up** ^ "[Realism Triumphant — Arming the Usual Suspects in Turkey and India](#)". *Guerrilla News Network*. Archived from [the original](#) on 2008-03-16. Retrieved 2007-07-17.
9. **Jump up** ^ "[Damage Control Firm Takes Quiet Interest as Former US General Is Charged with Turkish Profiteering](#)[control-firm-takes-quiet-interest-as-former-us-general-is-charged-with-turkish-profiteering/](#)". *balkananalysis*. Retrieved 2007-07-17.
10. **Jump up** ^ "[PKK and Iraqi Kurds are 'one and the same,' Turk military believes](#)". *Turkish Daily News*. Retrieved 2007-07-17.
11. **Jump up** ^ "[MYTHS ABOUT THE PKK AND THE UNITED STATES](#)". *US Consulate Istanbul*. Retrieved 2007-07-17.^{[[dead link](#)]}
12. **Jump up** ^ "[Kotkaristi I klassi orden](#)". Estonia Government. February, 2006. Retrieved 2008-02-25.

Source : wikipedia http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Ralston consulté le 14 déc. 13

Sources additionnelles :

First Street, Who's Who, CQ Directory, Legistorm