

ROBERT T. ROSS

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48 Round Hill Road, Salem, CT 06420 (860) 859-9104

CAREER SUMMARY: Over 25-years experience in professional public service. A record of achievement in organizational leadership, program management and public communication. M.A., Public Policy and Administration. M.A., National Security and Strategic Studies. Sustained superior performance and a unique skill set in executive-level decision making, public policy, public safety and emergency management.

*Strategic Public Policy Coordination
Interagency & Stakeholder Management
Internal & External Information Management
Public Safety & Law Enforcement Leadership*

*Public Finance
Community Relations
Government Relations
Emergency Management*

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

FIRST SELECTMAN, Town of Salem, CT. (2007-2009). Chief Executive Officer in a municipal jurisdiction encompassing 30-square-miles in southeastern Connecticut. Served as the Town's Chief Elected Official and managed routine and emergent municipal operations. Represented the Township in all government affairs.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR, City of Cripple Creek, CO. (2007). Chief Administrator in municipal government for a city with a three billion dollar economy. Directed operations of 18 departments and provided oversight of all municipal operations. Represented the City in local, state and regional civic and business affairs.

DIRECTOR, EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER, Cripple Creek, CO, (2006-2007). Coordinated organizational and professional development programs to fully integrate city-wide emergency management and first responder operations. Managed a consolidated 911 call center and directed dispatch operations for two police departments, two fire departments, a private sector EMS company and the state Division of Gaming. As the City's National Incident Management System Coordinator, organized City-wide compliance with DHS and FEMA homeland security objectives.

MANAGEMENT EFFICIENCY RESEARCHER, United States Transportation Security Administration, Hartford, CT, (2004-2005). Designed and directed a comprehensive national study to measure relative management efficiency in 78 agencies, using *Data Envelopment Analysis*, an innovative public sector analytic program. This project produced performance benchmarks and strategies to enhance management efficiency in passenger screening operations at all major U.S. airports.

DIRECTOR, PUBLIC AFFAIRS, United States Sixth Fleet, Gaeta, Italy, (2001-2003). Coordinated public activities of U.S. Naval Forces in the Mediterranean and Black Sea Regions. Worked directly with U.S. Embassies in 22 countries to coordinate Defense and State Department foreign policy initiatives. Supervised a decentralized organization of 30 staff members in the Mediterranean region during combat operations with Iraq.

PROGRAM MANAGER, REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS, Navy Region Northeast, New London, CT., (1998-2001). Created a regional information management program, consolidating communication systems throughout an eight-state region, encompassing New England, New York and New Jersey. Personally managed and directed crisis action teams for major incidents, including the search and salvage of Egypt Air flight 990 and TWA flight 800. Coordinated public access to OpSail, Fleet Week and International Naval Review (INR) in New York City and Boston. The INR, a U.S. Secret Service National Security Event, required careful coordination with over 60 local, state and federal law enforcement and public safety agencies.

DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY RELATIONS and MEDIA OPERATIONS OFFICER, United States Atlantic Fleet, Norfolk, VA., (1995-1997). Coordinated media and community relations programs for 13 major bases, 250 ships, and over 150,000 employees. Provided training and education programs to prepare senior leaders for public forums. Coordinated major events with local and state government agencies.

DIRECTOR, PUBLIC AFFAIRS, Dwight D. Eisenhower Battle Group, Norfolk, VA., (1992-1995). Senior advisor to the Battle Group Commander. Coordinated public information programs for 13 ships in the Aircraft Carrier Battle Group, while deployed to the Mediterranean Sea and Arabian Gulf. Supervised the embarkation of virtually the entire Pentagon press corps in the Navy transport of the 10th Mountain Army Division during Operation Restore Democracy. Coordinated numerous visits by members of Congress and the President of the United States. Personally commended by the President of the United States.

PENTAGON SPOKESPERSON, The Pentagon, Washington, D.C., (1991-1992). Spokesman for national-level issues at the Pentagon. Interacted with Pentagon policymakers, researched policy issues, drafted responses to public inquires and advised senior leaders. Taught practical applications of public communication strategies to prepare senior leaders for public policy issues and events. Routinely briefed the Secretary of the Navy and Chief of Naval Operations on public policy issues.

NUCLEAR WEAPONS SAFETY and SECURITY OFFICER, USS Monterey, Mayport, FL., (1989-1991). Supervised, trained and equipped 25 highly skilled technicians to maintain and operate ordnance and weapons systems aboard a Guided Missile Cruiser. Directed ship-wide procedures to provide physical security for the ship and weapons systems. Piloted this ship in international waters. Coordinated professional development training for all officers, and security procedures training for 250 crewmembers.

CHIEF of SECURITY and LAW ENFORCEMENT, USS Lexington, Pensacola, FL., (1986-1989). Piloted this aircraft carrier while conducting flight operations in international waters. Organized, trained and supervised a 40-member Security Department to provide proportionate security and law enforcement aboard this historic aircraft carrier. Coordinated public access, security, and shore patrol operations with local law enforcement agencies.

EDUCATION:

M.A., Public Policy and Administration, University of Connecticut, (2004).
M.A., Security and Strategy, U.S. Naval Command & Staff College, Newport, RI., (1998).
Certificate, Graduate Studies, Govt. Communication, University of Oklahoma, (1997).
B.A. Communication, Bethany College, Bethany, OK., (1985).

SUMMA CUM LAUDE Graduate.

PHI DELTA LAMBDA National Scholastic Honor Society.

PI ALPHA ALPHA National Honor Society for Public Affairs & Administration.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD, UCONN Department of Public Policy (2008).

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING & CERTIFICATIONS:

Organizational Leadership and Financial Management. Strategic Communication and Public Policy. Crisis Communication and Freedom of Information Act Policy. News Media and Community Relations. Security Techniques and Tactics. Nuclear Weapons Safety and Security. Trained in National Emergency Police and Fire Dispatch Protocols. Certified in Emergency Medical Dispatch. Certified in National Incident Management System and Incident Command System for Managers and Supervisors in State and Local Governments.

PERFORMANCE AWARDS:

The **LEGION OF MERIT** for distinguished public service in European, Middle Eastern, Mediterranean and Black Sea regions. Three **MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDALS** for meritorious service in the Atlantic Fleet. The **NAVY COMMENDATION MEDAL** for coordinating public events, including three events with Presidents of the United States. The **ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL** for outstanding performance in Operation Desert Storm. The **JOINT SERVICE ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL** for outstanding performance in Operation Restore Democracy. Two **NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDALS** for superior performance in Naval Surface Warfare, Navigation and Security Operations.

PERSONAL INTERESTS AND CIVIC ACTIVITIES:

Adjunct Professor, Public Policy and Administration, *UCONN Graduate School*, (2009).
Adjunct Professor, Public Administration, *Eastern Connecticut State University*, (2008).
Board Member, *Southeastern CT Council of Governments*, Norwich, CT (2007-2009).
Board Member, *Southeastern CT Enterprise Region*, New London, CT (2009-2010).
Member, *Connecticut Council of Small Towns* (2007-2009).
Member, *Lions Clubs International*, Salem, CT (2007-2010).
Graduate, *Leadership Pikes Peak*, Colorado Springs, CO (2006).
Commissioner, *Charter Commission*, Town of Salem, CT (2003-2004).
Lead Organizer, U.S. participation in the 1st *Special Olympics* in Italy, (2001-2002).
Member, Board of Directors, *International Naval Review*, New York, NY (2000).
Cub Scout Leader, Town of Salem, CT (1998-2001).
Volunteer, *Habitat for Humanity*, Norfolk, VA (1995-1996).
Volunteer, *Norfolk Emergency Shelter Team (NEST)*, Norfolk, VA (1993-1995).