

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF'S PAGE

“Don’t be afraid to enjoy yourself, because none of you are going to get out of this alive.” - Robert O’Neill, Team Leader, Special Warfare Development Group (Seal Team 6)

This was but one of many pearls of wisdom dispensed by Robert O’Neill at a Futures Industry Association Law & Compliance Division Conference I attended recently in Baltimore, Maryland.

O’Neill is one the most highly decorated combat veterans in the United States over the past decades. As a trained Navy SEAL, he led the most elite teams and was involved in many important missions including the assassination of Osama bin Laden and the rescue of Captain Phillips.

I think it’s valuable to share some of O’Neill’s pithy lessons learned from his years of service:

All stress is self-induced.

Fear is healthy.

Don’t panic.

When you make a mistake, forget about it and move on.

Be prepared.

Never underestimate the value of training, communication, and preparation.

Complacency kills.

You’ll learn a lot more from failure than success.

Try to separate decisions and emotions.

Trust your people.

Never, ever quit.

As the energy industry continues to address difficult challenges such as volatile oil prices, the impact of innovation, political and regulatory uncertainty, the role of distributed generation, environmental activism, climate change, and more, keeping O’Neill’s pearls of wisdom in mind can be helpful.

Respectfully,

Bob Fleishman