

# REX SAUKKONEN

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Dear Mrs. Voorhees:

It is with great enthusiasm that I submit my qualifications for the City Manager position in Troy, MI. During the course of my professional career, I established my reputation as a leader implicitly trusted by management, peers, and subordinates. I am driven by challenge, undeterred by obstacles, and strictly adhere to the core values of INTEGRITY, SERVICE, and EXCELLENCE. Additionally, I have extensive experience forming, professionalizing and sustaining personal networks and planning groups ranging from small, tight-knit teams to large complex national-level organizations, both civilian and military. With decades of history in orchestrating all facets of high-impact international liaison and communication strategies, I am confident that I will contribute significantly to the success of the City of Troy mission. My 25 years of experience in worldwide affairs has also allowed me to develop exceptional skills in thinking outside of my comfort zone, crisis management, emergency services, multicultural awareness, community outreach, and public relations. Furthermore, my expertise in interagency engagement in a global scale will certainly render me an immediate asset to the City of Troy. I look forward to bringing my military background and all of these skills the City Manager position. Please consider the following highlights of my qualifications:

**Established a city of 4300 military personnel, government civilians, contract employees and family members.**

- This \$30M program included the civil engineering and logistics to set housing, work, and recreation areas, airfield construction while I synchronized the work of 195 specialties, long and short-range budgeting and the overall responsibility for equipment valued at over \$1.6B.
- My rapport with the UK government and the local community set my success. This relied on knowing and adhering to code for all development, over-communicating with these officials, setting multiple town hall meetings to gain public trust and support, and nurturing these relationships throughout the build and after.

**Established and led European Command's Institution Building directorate.**

- I trained and led Six Sigma teams to assess/improve the legislative, judicial, and defense programs for 28 nations. My techniques became Special Operation Force enterprise best practices.
- Implemented \$100M Security Cooperation programs to deter corruption, and strengthened governance through national stability and decreased reliance on US force and tax dollars.

**Trusted by my superiors and host-nations to represent them at the highest levels of international affairs:**

- Negotiated access to 21 nations' Defense Plans; a feat unheard of in both military and civilian circles.
- Shaped the 10-year strategy for special operations in Europe and forecast budgeting requirements.
- Nominated for US Special Operations Command's prestigious Peter J. Ortiz Award for exceptional contribution to Special Operation Forces.

Throughout my career, I have always been inspired to maintain superior performance across diversified environments. My solid operational skills, strong work-ethic, and compelling "can-do attitude" have been consistently commended and recognized by prestigious awards from both US and Foreign Government. My approach to management is to establish realistic goals and objectives, and to develop a team of dedicated professionals which values the utmost integrity, loyalty and enthusiasm in serving the public. Moreover, I am known for enhancing overall performance through strategic planning, advanced employee training, and implementation of best practices. My sincere mission for the City of Troy is to grow revenues, reduce costs, and build trust with the public and within government. I believe that I am uniquely qualified to direct and manage the day-to-day operations of the City of Troy on a path of creative problem solving and financial stability.

Please contact me to discuss past and ongoing successes of my present position, the goals for this position, as well as my potential contributions. Confident I will prove valuable to the City of Troy, I respectfully submit my resume for your review.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you to schedule an interview at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Rex Saukkonen

\*Enclosure: Resume

# REX SAUKKONEN

Agile self-motivated proactive leader with combined unique critical skill-set, multifaceted proficiencies & strong hands-on operational experience. Senior-level strategic planning professional & effective communicator with 25 years' experience in global public affairs and guiding dynamic teams in complex high-profile initiatives. Active Security Clearance: Top Secret/SCI, Single Scope Background Investigation & Polygraph.

## Skill & Expertise

- ♦ Strategic Planning & Implementation
- ♦ Project/Program Management
- ♦ Training & Facilitation
- ♦ Process Design & Management
- ♦ Subject Matter Expert
- ♦ International Affairs
- ♦ Force Protection
- ♦ National Security
- ♦ Public Trust & Transparency
- ♦ Government Contracting
- ♦ Leadership & Development
- ♦ Financial Management
- ♦ Consultation & Advisory
- ♦ Innovation & Implementation
- ♦ Liaison & Public Relations
- ♦ Analysis & Reporting
- ♦ Crisis Management
- ♦ Logistic Procurement
- ♦ Six Sigma Focused
- ♦ Priority Based Budgeting
- ♦ Emergency Services
- ♦ Humanitarian Operations
- ♦ Multicultural Awareness
- ♦ Community Relations
- ♦ Special Operations
- ♦ Joint Task Force
- ♦ Foreign Language (Spanish)

## Professional Experience

### Site Lead, Advise and Assist Contract Division, 2017 – Present

Decypher Corporation, Mildenhall, UK

Provided daily oversight of multiple contractors and supported a \$6.25M Advisory and Assistance Services Contract for the United States' only overseas special operations wing. Mentored active duty leaders, staff personnel, and provided constant feedback to senior leaders through face-to-face meetings and weekly summary reports. Accompanied leaders and planners to conferences, teaching them how to operate in the international environment.

- ♦ Led sub-contract SERCO team ensuring full success of the PWS; contract extended for an additional year.
- ♦ Established metrics and reporting process used by seven Decypher operating sites in three countries.
- ♦ Success of contract year resulted in being nominated for SOCOM's Peter J. Ortiz Award for exceptional contributions to SOF, the only contractor to be nominated for this award.

### Chief of Operations, Defense Institution Building, 2015 – 2017

Special Operations Command Europe, Stuttgart, Germany

Directed the daily operations for Europe's Special Operations Command encompassing the development and execution of strategic plans, policies, and assessments of \$100M command security cooperation projects ensuring the capability for joint special operations among 28 different nations. Praised: "Europe's recognized special operations aviation expert...wrote theater's development road maps"

- ♦ Oversaw the coordination of two multi-year aviation contracts ISO SOCEUR; manned ISR and Non-Standard Fixed-Wing aircraft.
- ♦ Source selected seven rotary-wing training contracts and sub-contracts ISO NATO SOF aviation development.
- ♦ Served as a subject matter expert (SME) on the policies and processes of the US Department of Defense, NATO, and Department of State.

### Chief of Operations, Chief of Staff & Commander, 2008 – 2015

Air Force Special Operations Command, Mildenhall, UK

Served in various leadership capacities directing the effective operations of 12 divisions comprised of 1,200+ employees focused on operational excellence throughout Europe and Africa and the construction of the US Air Force's only overseas special operations wing. Advised Afghan nationals and NATO senior leadership in the strategic design of the Kandahar Air Wing.

- ♦ Oversight over multi-million dollar project budgets, equipment, and assets.
- ♦ Licensed Ground Flight Representative; set baseline, and oversaw performance by tracking contracts in Czech Republic, Hungary, Croatia.
- ♦ Liaised with national and international leaders as an adviser on defense and security strategies.
- ♦ Led the development of the crisis response and security assistance programs on behalf of the US Air Force.

### Chief of Operations & Academic Instructor, 2005 – 2008

NATO Combined Air Operations Centre, High Wycombe, UK

Headhunted to develop NATO's first special operations headquarters. Provided consultation on design, processes, training and education.

- ♦ Created the doctrine, process documents, standard operating procedures, and course content for the school within the headquarters.
- ♦ Facilitated initial courses to 1,000+ students.
- ♦ Analyzed and validated training material for Afghan combat and humanitarian operations.
- ♦ Initiated and implemented various strategic plans including wartime employment and peacetime tasking strategies as well as operations with air, land, maritime governmental and non-governmental agencies.

## Director of Operations, Commander & Evaluator Pilot, 2002 - 2005

Supervised flying operations for a squadron of 90+ personnel tasked with the maintenance and operations of aircraft valued at \$350M, as well as the flight instruction operations. Developed command best practices and combat leadership led to USAF Command Instructor of the Year Award.

- *Designed and administered training facilitation of flight students encompassing syllabus management, forecasting, and enforcement of safety regulations, instructor performance management, and daily coordination with maintenance production.*
- *Logistical plans expert; with no warning, organized/coordinated a full unit move requiring 12 Jumbo Jets to complete: start-finish 96 hrs.*
- *Redesigned of contract with prime resulting in streamlined syllabus and graduating combat ready students one month faster.*

## Award & Recognition

- ❖ 1992: Distinguished Military Graduate, Army ROTC
- ❖ 1992: George C. Marshall Award Recipient
- ❖ 1992: Army Achievement Medal
- ❖ 1994: Army Achievement Medal - Awarded two (2) in the same year
- ❖ 1994: Army Commendation Medal
- ❖ 1997: Army Commendation Medal
- ❖ 1998: Air Force Commendation Medal
- ❖ 2002: Meritorious Service Medal
- ❖ 2003: Air Medal for Valor and Combat
- ❖ 2004: USAF Air and Education Command Instructor of the Year
- ❖ 2005: Meritorious Service Medal
- ❖ 2006: NATO Air Command Ramstein Field Grade Officer of the Year
- ❖ 2008: Defense Meritorious Service Medal
- ❖ 2010: Meritorious Service Medal
- ❖ 2011: Joint Service Commendation Medal
- ❖ 2012: Bronze Star Medal for Leadership and Valor in Afghanistan Combat
- ❖ 2012: Air Medals for Valor & Combat - Awarded three (3) in the same year
- ❖ 2012: Joint Meritorious Unit Award w/ Valor
- ❖ 2013: Defense Meritorious Service Medal
- ❖ 2014: Defense Meritorious Service Medal
- ❖ 2015: Meritorious Service Medal
- ❖ 2017: Defense Meritorious Service Medal

## Additional Experience

- ♦ Chief of Plans – Air Force Special Operation Command, RAF Mildenhall, UK
- ♦ Scheduling Officer – Air Force Special Operation Command, RAF Mildenhall, UK
- ♦ Instructor Pilot – Air Force Special Operation Command, RAF Mildenhall, UK
- ♦ Aircraft Commander – Air Force Special Command, Malmstrom, AFB, MT
- ♦ Commander – US Army, 4 Infantry Division, Fort Carson, CO
- ♦ Maintenance Officer-Test Pilot – US Army, 4 Infantry Division, Fort Carson, CO
- ♦ Instructor Pilot – US Army, 4 Infantry Division, Fort Carson, CO

## Education & Training

- Master of Arts in Unconventional Warfare – American Military University, Charles Town, WV
- Bachelor of Arts in Government & Political Science – Saint John's University, Collegeville, MN
- Training/Development:
  - ♦ Commercial, Multi-Engine Helicopter Pilot
  - ♦ US Army Maintenance Manager/Maintenance Test Pilot
  - ♦ Squadron Officer School
  - ♦ Air Command Staff College
  - ♦ Joint Professional Military Education Phase II
  - ♦ Air War College