



Dr. Mal Macgown
Founder, Chief Executive

Dr Mal Macgown is a former member of the British Special Air Service (SAS) with active experience in some of the world's most hostile locations. Prompted by events during the 1991 Gulf War when he was captured behind enemy lines and interrogated by the Iraqi secret police and Republican Guard, he saw the need for specialist security services to help civilian organisations operate more safely in areas of high risk.

Macgown was born and raised in Zimbabwe by his British father and Swedish mother. He left Africa and moved to Australia. He began army infantry and officer training as a college student, having been awarded honours in both academics and sport (rugby, cricket, swimming and rowing).

Following university, Macgown spent four-and-a-half years as a licensed dental surgeon at one of Sydney's leading medical and dental practices. He became a junior partner and during this period he joined the Australian Commandos as a soldier, thus shaping the rest of his career. In 1989 Macgown moved to UK, leaving dentistry completely with plans to return to civilian life after pursuing his ultimate military goal, to serve with the British SAS.

He was a member of the now-famous Bravo Two Zero patrol, an eight-man team decimated behind enemy lines in the first Gulf War. He was captured alone, held prisoner and tortured for 42 days before being released. Many books have been written on Bravo Two Zero.

During further service with the SAS, he saw active duty in South America, Northern Ireland, Europe, the Middle East, South-East Asia and various regions of Africa. He is a noted specialist in air, land and sea operations as well as counter-insurgency operations and counter terrorism.

He left the military early seeking further challenges. In 1998 he co-founded Pilgrims Security Services and then Pilgrims Group. Following the September 11 terrorist attacks and a global shift by Governments towards co-operation in dealing with worldwide terrorism, Macgown recognised a further requirement – for a more specialised high level security and logistics provider with global reach – TOR International. Today, TOR is based just outside London, with regional offices in the United States, Russia, Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

In 2000, noted film director Taylor Hackford enlisted the help of Macgown for his blockbuster hit *Proof of Life* starring Russell Crowe and Meg Ryan. The movie told the story of a hostage negotiator (Crowe) who flies to South America to obtain the release of a kidnapped U.S. corporate executive. Crowe modeled his character on Macgown's life after spending time in both Los Angeles and the UK studying his mannerisms and personality traits.

Macgown leads TOR International. TOR designs and implements integrated plans to assist clients worldwide. This includes contingency planning, close protection of people and corporate assets, logistical support, maritime security and UXO/mine clearance. A short list of recent TOR clients includes the US Department of Defense, MCI, the United Nations, Michael Baker Corporation, Emerging Markets Group, the Government of Mozambique, Abt Associates, Chemonics, RTI International and the BBC.

Macgown originally set up the specialist training unit that coaches executives in operating more safely and effectively in hazardous environments. This ranges from walking the street and defusing difficult situations to managing kidnap and ransom scenarios. TOR is in its fourth year of the primary training contract with the BBC and runs courses for organisations ranging from MCI to the United Nations. TOR has become a market leader and sets the industry benchmark in quality Hostile Environments training worldwide. A fitting evolution of Macgown's early vision – to enable people to benefit from his unique experience; to bring something worthwhile to the people who need it most, those who go out there trying to do their job in difficult circumstances and hazardous environments.