

Robert David Steele

Robert David Steele, or for Latinos Robert David Steele Vivas, is presenting “Reflexivity as Integrity: Toward Science & Web 4.0.” Robert, today Chief Executive Officer (pro bono) of Earth Intelligence Network, a 501c3 chartered in the Commonwealth of Virginia, has been engaged in multi-cultural integrative analytics for over 50 years. He was raised in Latin America and Asia as the son of a petroleum engineer. His education includes an AB from Muhlenberg College with a senior thesis on Multinational Corporations: Home and Host Country Issues. He went on to a research fellowship at Lehigh University, earning an MA in International Relations, with a graduate thesis on predicting revolution, for which he created an original and comprehensive analytic model across the political-legal, socio-economic, ideo-cultural, techno-demographic, and natural-geographic domains, with full operationalization of all relevant data elements. While serving the US Government he earned a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Oklahoma, with a thesis on strategic information (mis) management for Whole of Government operations, and also earned a diploma from the Naval War College, focusing on defense economics.

Joining the United States Marine Corps as an infantry officer, he was selected on his first tour, while still as second lieutenant, to be the S-1/Adjutant of Battalion Landing Team 3/4, a position normally filled by a field grade officer. During four years active duty he served as S-1/Adjutant for regiments and divisions (Marine Corps Recruit Depot), and then joined the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) as a clandestine operations officer. He remained active in the Marine Corps reserve, serving on active duty at the Service level where he helped write the Marine Corps Master Intelligence Plan (MCMIP). Within the CIA he served three back to back tours overseas, and was one of the first case officers assigned the terrorist target full-time. Returning to Washington DC he served in positions dealing with global counterintelligence and collection against a denied area target, in a rotational assignment addressing the most advanced information technology applications for analytics, and in the Director of Central Intelligence (DCI) vault responsible for advanced programs and evaluations (all technical programs outside CIA proper).

He resigned from CIA to accept an offer from the Marine Corps to return as the second-ranking civilian (GM-14) and help create the Marine Corps Intelligence Center (today a global Command). While there he discovered the gap between what secret sources and methods can provide at great expense, and what open sources of information in all languages – still neglected today – can provide.

He resigned from the Marine Corps in 1993 to spend the next seventeen years as an evangelist for Open Source Intelligence (OSINT), managing an international conference, publishing books and training manuals, and ultimately influencing 90 countries that today have OSINT units in being. Determining that OSINT had been captured and corrupted by secret bureaucracies, he shifted his attention to promoting public intelligence in the public interest, and holistic analytics that accurately represented “true cost” information now externalized to the public by corporations and ignored by governments. Earth Intelligence Network was founded in 2006 to design and create the World Brain and Global Game. While unsuccessful to date, the homework has been done and if Occupy is any indication, the global public is beginning to realize that governments and corporations are not intelligent and lack integrity—a global practice of reflexivity, a commitment to open source everything rooted in transparency and truth that creates trust, is now emergent.

He is an elected member of the Silicon Valley Hackers Conference started by Stewart Brand, and also an elected member of Hackers on Planet Earth (HOPE). In passing, he is the #1 Amazon reviewer for non-fiction, reading in 98 categories. Everything he has written is available free online, via Phi Beta Iota the Public Intelligence Blog (www.phibetaiota.net). His newest book, *The Open Source Everything Manifesto: Transparency, Truth, & Trust*, will be released by Random House / Evolver Editions in June 2012. [Learn more.](#)