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POLICY CONFERENCE

2026

FEBRUARY 5 - 7 | JW MARRIOTT | WASHINGTON, D.C.

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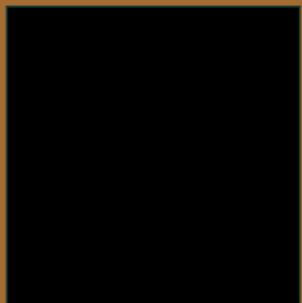


**IMMEDIATE
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REGION TWO
Open



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Sheriff
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Sheriff
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WELCOME

OUTGOING MCSA LEADERSHIP



Thank You
Sheriff
Dennis Lemma

VICE PRESIDENT,
PRESIDENT, &
IMMEDIATE PAST
PRESIDENT
2020 - 2026



Thank You
Sheriff
Shannon Dicus

VICE PRESIDENT -
GOVERNMENT
AFFAIRS
2025

*For your unwavering commitment and service
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TO ACCESS THE
CONFERENCE
AGENDA AND
ANY UPDATES
THROUGHOUT THE
EVENT.



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2025 MCSA AWARD WINNERS 34

SANDRA S. HUTCHENS
SHERIFF OF THE YEAR

Sheriff Don Barnes

MCSA PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Chief Stephen Amos

LEGISLATORS OF THE YEAR

Speaker Mike Johnson
Senator Amy Klobuchar

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FROM OUR OUTGOING PRESIDENT

Dear Attendees and Partners,

On behalf of the Major County Sheriffs of America, welcome to the 2026 Policy Conference in Washington, D.C. This annual convening in our nation's capital provides our most essential forum for sheriffs, law enforcement leaders, and partners to confront federal policies and emerging challenges that directly affect public safety across the country.



This is my final letter as President. Serving the MCSA over the past two years has been a profound privilege. I am deeply grateful to fellow sheriffs for their dedicated service to the diverse communities we represent, and to our exceptional staff: Executive Director Megan Noland, General Counsel Steve Cook, Director of Administration Donna Stark, Conference Coordinator Mary Becton, and Director of Finance Susan Krause. Special thanks go to my adjutant, Lt. Jarrett Morris, and assistant, Theresa Velasco, for their steadfast support.

The last two years tested law enforcement nationally as we built relationships with two presidential administrations and addressed the ongoing concerns of border state and interior sheriffs regarding immigration and border security. Through strong collaborations with the National Sheriffs' Association, Texas Border Sheriffs Association, Southwest Border States Sheriffs Association, and others, we established common ground. The creation of the American Sheriffs Alliance in Sierra Vista, Arizona, allowed us to issue unified statements and engage federal leadership under both administrations. We were also able to help advance legislation beneficial to local law enforcement while mitigating proposals that would have been harmful to our profession.

This conference will feature distinguished presenters and outstanding partner presentations covering critical topics, including public safety technology advancements, community engagement strategies, innovative crime prevention approaches, and ongoing federal cooperation on immigration and border security—issues that remain at the forefront for sheriffs nationwide.

I extend sincere appreciation to our corporate partners, whose support makes events like this possible and equips us with the resources and expertise to better serve our constituents. I also want to thank my predecessors—Sheriff Grady Judd, Sheriff Peter Koutoujian, and Sheriff Dennis Lemma—for their guidance, Vice President Sheriff Bob Gualtieri from Pinellas County, Florida, for his pivotal role in preserving qualified immunity for law enforcement officers, and our legislative representation firm, Brooks Bawden and Moore—

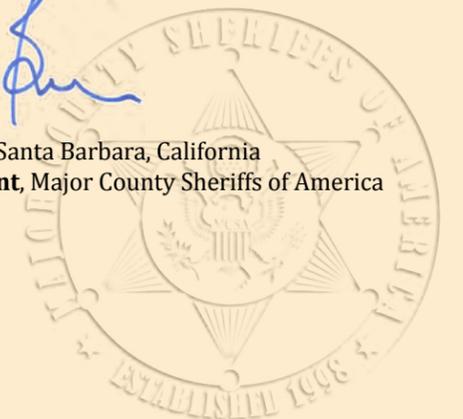
Ron Brooks, Ben Bawden, and Melissa Nee—for their continued outstanding advocacy. We are lucky to have them represent us in the current political environment.

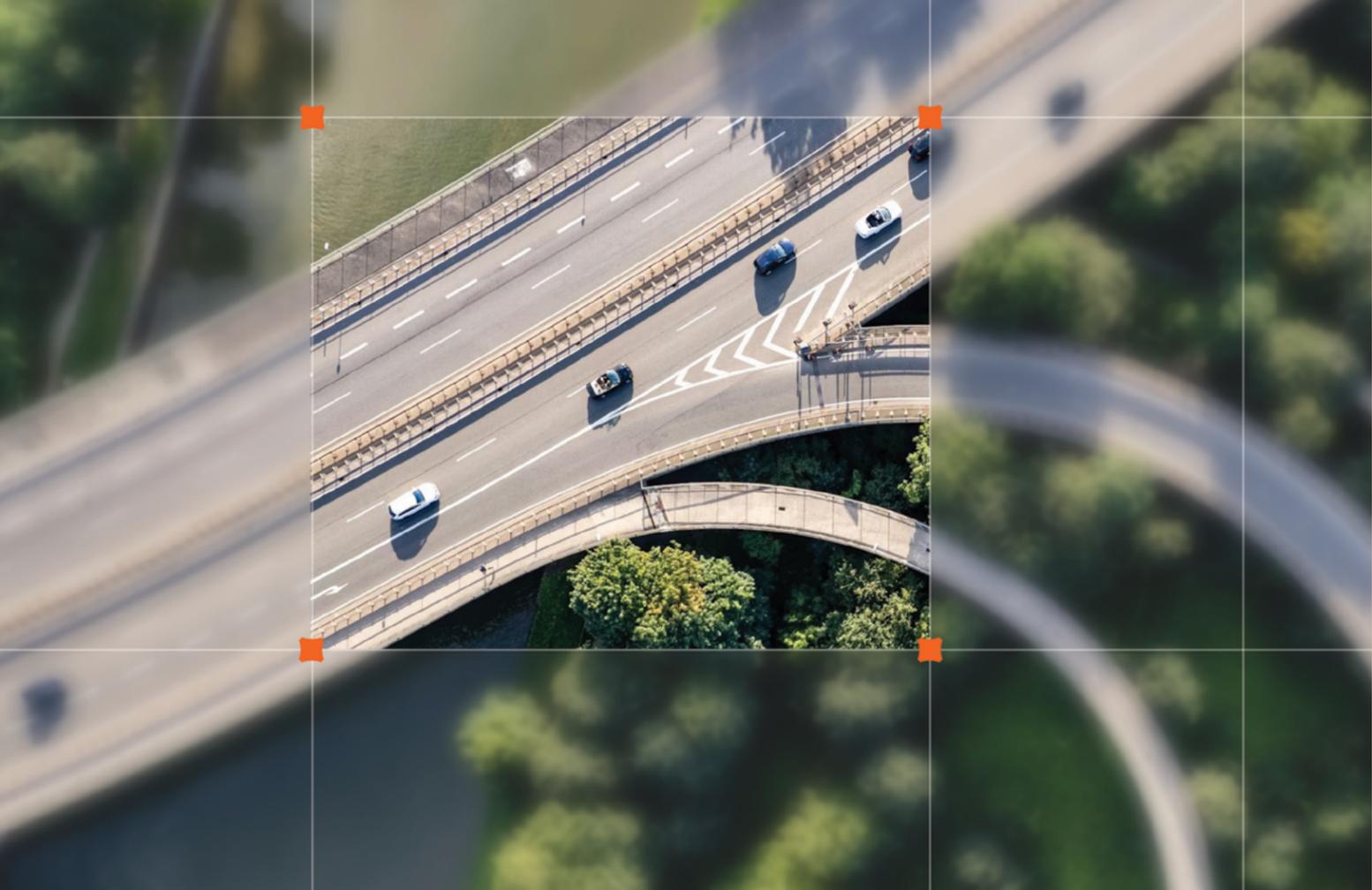
Sheriff Bob Gualtieri will assume the presidency with the experience and determination to lead us forward. He will do an outstanding job, strongly supported by incoming Vice President Sheriff Bill Waybourn from Tarrant County, Texas—a congenial and highly helpful leader.

Your participation as individual sheriffs reinforces our united commitment to professional, fair, and effective law enforcement. Let us make the most of these days in Washington to strengthen partnerships and develop practical solutions to the challenges facing our nation and local communities.

Sincerely,

Sheriff, Santa Barbara, California
President, Major County Sheriffs of America





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CONFERENCE AGENDA



Major County Sheriffs of America

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Major County Sheriffs of America

2026 Policy Conference
JW Marriott - Washington, DC
February 5th-7th

Wednesday, February 4th, 2026

12:00pm-3:00pm	MCSA Executive Board Meeting (MCSA Member Sheriffs Only)	Penn Avenue Terrace
4:00pm-5:30pm	MCSA Hill Reception (MCSA Member Sheriffs & Staff Only) <i>Transportation will leave from the Penn Ave Entrance of the JW Marriott at 3:00pm.</i>	Capitol Hill

Thursday, February 5th, 2026

8:00am-5:00pm	Check-In & Information Desk	Grand Foyer
8:30am-12:00pm	Intel Commanders Meeting <i>Seating is prioritized for officially assigned Intel Commanders but will be open to conference attendees.</i>	Salon III-IV
11:00am-1:00pm	MCSA Women Member Leadership Development (Invitation Only)	Penn Avenue Terrace
12:00pm-1:30pm	Intel Commanders Meeting Lunch (MCSA Sheriffs, Staff, and Intel Commanders Only)	Capitol Ballroom

2:00pm MCSA Annual Conference Officially Opens

2:00pm-3:00pm	MCSA Opening Ceremonies Business Meeting, Elections, & Swearing-In Ceremony <u>Honor Guard</u> Loudoun County Sheriff's Office, VA	Salons I-III
	<u>National Anthem</u> Deputy First Class Shawntel Cooper Loudoun County Sheriff's Office, VA	
3:00pm-3:20pm Flying	TSA Law Enforcement CUAS Initiatives and Law Enforcement Officer Armed Update Acting Assistant Administrator Serge Potapov Law Enforcement Operations TSA Law Enforcement/Federal Air Marshal Service Department of Homeland Security	

Continued...



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CONFERENCE AGENDA



3:20pm-4:30pm	MCSA Corporate Partner Roundtable	
5:00pm-6:30pm	President's Reception Hosted by Flock Safety	Penn Avenue Terrace

Friday, February 6th, 2026

7:30am-5:00pm	Check-In & Information Desk	Grand Foyer
7:30am-9:00am	Breakfast	Salon IV
8:30am-9:00am	Legislative Affairs Update and 2026 Outlook Sheriff John Mina, MCSA VP – Government Affairs Orange County Sheriff's Office, Florida	Salons I-III
	Ben Bawden, Partner Brooks Bawden Moore, LLC	
	Melissa Nee, Partner Brooks Bawden Moore, LLC	
9:00am-9:30am	Deputy Director Robert Cekada Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives (ATF)	
9:30am-10:00am	Principal Deputy Administrator Daniel Salter Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)	
10:00am-10:30am	Principal Deputy Under Secretary Adam Luke Office of Intelligence & Analysis Department of Homeland Security (DHS)	
10:30am-11:15am	Director Kash Patel Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)	
11:15am-12:00pm	MCSA Awards Ceremony 2025 MCSA Legislator of the Year 2025 MCSA President's Award 2025 MCSA Sheriff Sandra S. Hutchens Sheriff of the Year	
12:00pm-1:30pm	MCSA Awards Lunch	Salons F-G
1:30pm-2:30pm	Joe Burrow Robbery: SATGs and Pro-Athletes Sheriff Charmaine McGuffey Hamilton County Sheriff's Office, OH	Salons I-III
	Major Tony Orue Hamilton County Sheriff's Office, OH	
	Detective Justin French Hamilton County Sheriff's Office, OH	

Continued...



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CONFERENCE AGENDA



2:30pm-3:15pm	Dr. Sebastian Gorka Deputy Assistant to the the President Senior Director for Counterterrorism National Security Council	
3:15pm-4:00pm	No God, Just Kill Counts: Understanding Nihilistic Violence Katherine Keneally Director of Threat Analysis and Prevention Institute for Strategic Dialogue (ISD) - US	
5:00pm-6:30pm	Reception Hosted by Motorola Solutions	Penn Avenue Terrace
<u>Saturday, February 7th, 2026</u>		
7:30am-11:00am	Check-In & Information Desk	Grand Foyer
7:30am-8:45am	Breakfast	Salon IV
8:45am-9:45am	Bombing of American Reproductive Center: Palm Springs, California Supervisory Special Agent Samuel Newlin-Haus FBI Investigator David Rivera Riverside County Sheriff's Office, CA/FBI JTTF Deputy Mina Shehata Riverside County Sheriff's Office, CA/FBI JTTF	Salons I-III
9:45am-10:00am	Health and Reentry: State and Local Innovations and Insights Vikki Wachino Founder and Executive Director Health and Reentry Project (HARP) David Ryan Senior Director of Criminal Justice Initiatives Health and Reentry Project (HARP)	
10:00am-10:30am	Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard Office of the Director of National Intelligence	
10:30am-12:00pm	MCSA Sheriff's Roundtable (CLOSED SESSION) Member Sheriffs and Sheriff's Staff Only	
12:00pm-1:00pm	Grab n' Go Lunch	Grand Foyer



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MCSA LEADERSHIP ELECTION



December 31, 2025

Dear MCSA members,

I am writing to express my sincere interest in serving as the Region 2 Representative for the Major County Sheriffs of America. As the Sheriff of Arapahoe County, Colorado, I have had the honor of leading one of the largest sheriff's offices in the state, and I am committed to advancing the mission of MCSA by fostering collaboration, innovation, and strong partnerships among our nation's major county sheriffs.

Throughout my tenure, I have focused on strengthening community trust, modernizing law enforcement practices, and prioritizing the well-being of both our deputies and the citizens we serve. I believe these priorities align with MCSA's core values of leadership, advocacy, and service. Representing Region 2 would provide me the opportunity to elevate the voices and needs of sheriffs in our region while working collectively to address the complex challenges facing law enforcement nationwide.

I bring experience in regional and statewide collaboration through my service with the County Sheriffs of Colorado, where I have worked closely with fellow sheriffs on legislative advocacy, budgetary initiatives, and programs that enhance public safety. These experiences have equipped me to effectively represent our region's diverse interests while ensuring they are heard at the national level.

It would be a privilege to serve as the Region 2 Representative, and I am committed to bringing energy, integrity, and a collaborative spirit to the role. I deeply value the work of the Major County Sheriffs of America, and I would be honored to contribute more directly to its leadership.

Thank you for considering my candidacy. I look forward to the opportunity to serve and represent Region 2 with the same dedication I have shown to the people of Arapahoe County.

Respectfully,

Tyler S. Brown
Sheriff



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MEET THE SPEAKERS

SERGE V. POTAPOV

ACTING ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR
LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS
TSA LAW ENFORCEMENT/FEDERAL AIR MARSHAL SERVICE,
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY



TSA Law Enforcement / Federal Air Marshal Service Department of Homeland Security Serge Potapov is a seasoned federal law enforcement executive with over 27 years of experience in aviation security, counter-terrorism, insider threat mitigation, and emerging technology applications. He is currently the Acting Assistant Administrator for the Law Enforcement Operations Division, Law Enforcement / Federal Air Marshal Service (LE/FAMS) at TSA. In his role as Acting Assistant Administrator, Serge provides strategic oversight of TSA's Counter-Unmanned Aircraft Systems operations, Insider Threat Program, inter-agency law enforcement partnerships, industry liaison initiatives, and assessment programs addressing Unmanned Aircraft Systems, Man-Portable Air Defense Systems, and airport vulnerabilities.

Before his current role, Serge led law enforcement operations, strategic planning, and multi-agency collaborations in counter-terrorism and aviation security at the Washington Field Office. He also served in the FBI Counter-terrorism Division, focusing on international terrorism, transportation security, and insider threat investigations. During the rapid post-9/11 expansion of LE/FAMS, he was a Training Instructor at the TSA Training Center in Atlantic City, NJ. Prior to joining TSA, Serge served as a U.S. Marine for five years, specializing in communications technology, reconnaissance, direct-action operations, and Russian language applications.

Serge has received multiple awards, including the 2022 TSA Honorary Award for Mission Focus, the 2018 TSA Honorary Award for Supervisory Air Marshal in Charge of the Year, the 2016 Office of the Director of National Intelligence – National Intelligence Professional Award, the 2016 TSA Honorary Awards for Security/Intelligence and Global Security, and the FBI National Joint Terrorism Task Force Award for Excellence.

He is a graduate of TSA's Senior Leadership Development Program, has completed the American University Key Executive Leadership Program, and holds a Master's degree in Security Studies from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School and a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Maryland Global Campus. Serge speaks fluent Russian and conversational French, and enjoys outdoor activities and traveling with his wife and twin daughters.

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References:

1. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). *Use of Medication-Assisted Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder in Criminal Justice Settings*. SAMHSA; 2019. Accessed March 6, 2025. <https://store.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/medication-assisted-treatment-opioid-use-disorder-criminal-justice-settings-pep19-matusecjs.pdf>
2. Sawyer W, Wagner P. *Mass Incarceration: The Whole Pie 2025*. Prison Policy Initiative. Updated March 11, 2025. Accessed March 28, 2025. <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/pie2025.html>



MEET THE SPEAKERS

Robert Cekada was appointed as the Deputy Director for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) in April 2025. As the second highest ranking official at ATF, he is responsible for leading an agency of men and women charged with enforcing laws and regulations related to firearms, explosives, arson, and alcohol and tobacco trafficking.

Prior to this appointment, Mr. Cekada served as the Executive Assistant Director – Operations, Office of the Director since September 2022. In this position, he oversaw ATF's Office of Regulatory Operations, Office of Field Operations, and the Office of Intelligence Operations.

From January 2022 to September 2022, Mr. Cekada served as the Deputy Assistant Director Central, Field Operation, where he was responsible for operational and regulatory oversight of the 19 States located within the central region of the United States. Previously, he served as the Special Agent in Charge (SAC) of the Miami Field Division, where he was responsible for oversight of all ATF criminal enforcement and regulatory operations in 21 offices located across southern Florida, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin



ROBERT CEKADA

DEPUTY DIRECTOR
**BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO,
 FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES (ATF)**

Islands. He also served as the SAC of the Baltimore Field Division, overseeing criminal enforcement and regulatory operations in Maryland and Delaware. Prior to that assignment, Mr. Cekada served as the Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the Philadelphia Field Division and the Resident Agent in Charge of the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Task Force North in the Miami Field Division. He also serves as a board member on the National Crime Gun

Intelligence Governing Board and on the IACP Firearms Committee.

Mr. Cekada began his ATF career as a Special Agent in the Baltimore Field Division's Hyattsville II Field Office, working on the Regional Area Gang Enforcement Task Force from 2005 to 2011. From there, he joined the Tampa Field Division for two years before reporting to ATF headquarters in 2013, initially as a project officer in the Firearms Operations Division's Frontline Branch, and then as a program manager serving as a special assistant to senior leaders.

Prior to joining ATF, Mr. Cekada served as a local law enforcement officer with two agencies. From 1992 to 2000, he was a police officer with the New York City Police Department. He was assigned to the Housing Bureau, Citywide Anti-Gang Enforcement Unit, and the Street Crime Unit, where he was promoted to detective. After joining the Organized Crime Control Bureau's Gang Division, he focused his efforts on gun violence attributed to gang activity. Mr. Cekada then joined the City of Plantation Police Department in Broward County, Florida, where he served with the Patrol Division and Special Weapons and Tactics Team from 2001 to 2005.

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 VELOCITY

Domestic Violence
 May 15, 2025

Potential Suspect
 June 11, 2025

Associated People
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MEET THE SPEAKERS

DANIEL SALTER

PRINCIPAL DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR
DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION (DEA)

Dan brings more than 37 years of federal law enforcement experience, built from the ground up in DEA field offices and culminating in senior leadership positions that directly shaped our enforcement posture. A second-generation public servant, Dan's legacy of service began as a Special Agent and progressed through assignments across the United States and South America, ultimately serving as Special Agent in Charge (SAC) of both the Dallas and Atlanta Field Divisions. His command experience across two of our largest divisions demonstrated not only his operational acumen, but his ability to lead during times of increasing drug threats and shifting criminal tactics.

As Principal Deputy Administrator, Dan serves as DEA's second-in-command and oversees the agency's most mission-critical components: the Forensic Sciences Division, Operations Division, Intelligence Division, Inspections Division, and Diversion Control Division. These portfolios touch every corner of DEA's enforcement mission—driving global operations, delivering intelligence to the field, ensuring internal accountability,



and overseeing efforts to prevent diversion and protect the pharmaceutical supply chain. The Deputy Administrator also serves as a key touchpoint for interagency coordination, representing DEA in high-level engagements with federal law

enforcement, the Intelligence Community, state and local partners, and foreign counterparts working to dismantle transnational drug trafficking networks.

Following his retirement from DEA in 2018, Dan continued to serve the mission as Executive Director of the Atlanta-Carolinas High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (AC-HIDTA), a regional program under the Office of National Drug Control Policy. In that role, Dan led the coordination of more than 150 federal, state, local, and tribal partners, facilitating joint task force operations, information sharing, and strategic targeting. He chaired the AC-HIDTA Executive Board, working daily with sheriffs, police chiefs, and agency leaders to confront the fentanyl crisis and drive coordinated enforcement efforts against transnational criminal organizations.

Dan brings with him the coordination skills necessary to operate across multiple agencies and jurisdictions; a deep understanding of DEA's culture and how to lead collaboratively within it; the international experience required to represent the United States abroad on global drug enforcement matters; and the discretion and judgment needed to handle the most sensitive issues facing the agency today. His career has been defined by a commitment to enforcement, partnership, and public trust.

A native of Texas, Dan has spent his life building relationships in the communities we serve. He understands the burden our mission places on the workforce and the urgency of our response to emerging threats. His lifelong commitment to DEA and to the broader law enforcement community makes him ideally suited to help guide the agency forward.





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MEET THE SPEAKERS



ADAM LUKE

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OFFICE OF INTELLIGENCE AND ANALYSIS
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS)

and scaling novel solutions to address a broad range of foreign and domestic threats to the Homeland and national security. After serving for 12 years in various intelligence roles and leading international deployments as an agent for U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Adam joined I&A as the Chief of Strategy and Policy in 2018, became the Deputy Chief of Staff in 2019, and the Chief of Staff in 2021, overseeing I&A's policy, legislative affairs, strategic communications, and risk management portfolios.

Adam also served as the acting Deputy Under Secretary for Management, leading the Agency's financial, human capital, training, technology, and cybersecurity operations, and designing and implementing I&A's inaugural framework to integrate artificial intelligence across I&A's

intelligence and business operations. Throughout his career, Adam has led a diverse array of initiatives to spur innovation, maximize and unlock new resources, and strengthen resilience during times of uncertainty and crisis. Adam has extensive experience building coalitions across the executive and legislative branches, with extensive experience with the National Security Council and Congress's Intelligence and Homeland Security Committees to design effective intelligence and security programs and innovative technology solutions across operations with national and international scope.

Adam received his B.A. in International Relations from The Johns Hopkins University.

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MEET THE SPEAKERS

Kash Patel became the ninth Director of the FBI on February 20, 2025.

A native of New York, Mr. Patel graduated from the University of Richmond in 2002 with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and history. He later returned to New York to earn his juris doctor and earned a certificate in international law from University College London Faculty of Laws in the United Kingdom.

Mr. Patel began his career in 2005 as a public defender in Florida, trying scores of jury trials in federal and state courts, ranging from murder to narco-trafficking and complex financial crimes.

In 2014, Mr. Patel began his tenure with the Department of Justice (DOJ) as a national security prosecutor under the Obama Administration, where he led investigations spanning multiple theaters of conflict and oversaw the successful prosecution of al-Qaida, ISIS, and other terrorist actors. He also served as the DOJ liaison officer to Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC), working with our nation's tier one special forces units to conduct collaborative global targeting operations in almost every theater of war worldwide.

Mr. Patel then served as the national security advisor and senior counsel for the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI), where he spearheaded the investigation into Russia's influence campaign of the 2016 presidential election and ultimately unearthed U.S. intelligence malpractice during the FBI's Crossfire Hurricane investigation.

Concurrently, he led congressional oversight of sensitive programs for the Intelligence Community (IC) and U.S. Special Operations Forces. His efforts ensured that legislation was enacted to fully fund the multi-billion-dollar budgets supporting intelligence and counterterrorism operations worldwide.



KASH PATEL

DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

During the first Trump Administration, Mr. Patel led President Trump's counterterrorism mission as deputy assistant to the president on the National Security Council (NSC). In this capacity, he oversaw the execution of several of President Trump's top priorities, including eliminating al-Qaida and ISIS senior leadership and safely repatriating dozens of American hostages. As the top counterterrorism official at the White House, he was responsible for overseeing the interagency implementation of the national counterterrorism strategy.

Mr. Patel also served as deputy director of National Intelligence, where he oversaw all 17 IC agencies. He led the director's mission to synthesize our most critical intelligence holdings, which he briefed during the president's daily briefing.

In 2020, Mr. Patel transitioned over to serve as the chief of staff to the Department of Defense (DoD). As the chief of staff, his responsibilities included executing the DoD's no-fail mission with over three million employees, operating a \$740 billion budget, and overseeing \$2 trillion in assets.

Prior to being confirmed as the Director of the FBI, Mr. Patel founded The Kash Foundation, a 501(c)(3) that raises money for legal defense matters, education programs, and financial assistance for all Americans, with a special emphasis on active-duty military, veterans, and law enforcement communities.

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MEET THE SPEAKERS

SHERIFF CHARMAINE MCGUFFEY

HAMILTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, OH

Sheriff Charmaine McGuffey is a lifelong Cincinnati and a 40-year veteran of the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office. Prior to being elected sheriff in November 2020, she held the rank of sergeant, lieutenant, captain, and major. Sheriff McGuffey took office on January 4, 2021, and is the highest-ranking woman in the history of the Hamilton County, OH, Sheriff's Office.



included in the 2013 Cincinnati Enquirer's list of Professional Women to Watch. In 2021, Sheriff McGuffey was recognized by the Cincinnati Business Courier in its Women Who Mean Business event, and in March 2022, Sheriff McGuffey was one of 25 women featured

in Cincinnati Magazine's Our Future is Women edition.

Sheriff McGuffey is a reformer and effective leader committed to moving our justice system from one of hard incarceration to one that offers opportunities for rehabilitation. Sheriff McGuffey is committed to public safety and to ensuring accountability, transparency, and engagement with the community as the foundation of the work in the Sheriff's Office.

Sheriff McGuffey is a member of the Human Rights Campaign, a graduate of Leadership Cincinnati 39, and in 2023, was named a Career Woman of Achievement by the YWCA of Greater Cincinnati. In 2024, Sheriff McGuffey was awarded the David Crowley Leadership Award by the Human Rights Campaign, the Cincinnati Women's Political Caucus Outstanding Achievement Award, and the NAACP Marion Spencer Open Hearts Award.

Sheriff McGuffey has worked in nearly all facets of the Sheriff's Office including as the Academy Commander for the Ohio Peace Officer Corrections Academy, serving as lead hostage negotiator for the Sheriff's Special Response Team, and as Commander of the Sheriff's Honor Guard. Sheriff McGuffey provided training for law enforcement officers throughout the State of Ohio and is an accomplished self-defense instructor.

During her tenure as major of Jail and Court Services, Sheriff McGuffey was credited with leading reforms in the jail to reduce the likelihood of people returning to jail. She was also credited with bringing the jail from the worst ranking in the State of Ohio to the top ranking. As major, Sheriff McGuffey was named local and regional "Law Enforcement Officer of the Year" and was honored by the Ohio House of Representatives for being named the 2016 Public Citizen of the Year by the Ohio Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. She was

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MEET THE SPEAKERS



MAJOR TONY ORUE

COMMANDER, INVESTIGATIONS & INTELLIGENCE DIVISION
HAMILTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, OH

Major Tony Orue serves as the commander of the Investigations & Intelligence Division at the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office in Ohio, a position he has held since August 2023. With nearly 31 years of service at the Sheriff's Office, he has advanced through key roles including Intelligence Unit Commander, Criminal Investigations Section Commander, Patrol District Commander, and Night Watch Commander, where he pioneered initiatives such as establishing the agency's first intelligence unit, implementing electronic records management systems, and optimizing patrol schedules through data analysis of calls for service.

A decorated veteran of the United States Army, where he served as a Psychological Operations Team Leader and Staff Sergeant from 2007 to 2018, including deployments to Afghanistan and Botswana, Major Orue holds a Master of Science in Criminal Justice from the University of Cincinnati (2019), a Bachelor's in Criminal Justice from American Military University (2017), and has completed advanced training at the Southern Police Institute. His expertise in crime analysis, inter-agency coordination, and problem-oriented policing has driven significant operational improvements, including grant-funded innovations and compliance with national standards, making him a valued resource in enhancing community safety and law enforcement effectiveness.



DETECTIVE JUSTIN FRENCH

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION SECTION
HAMILTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, OH

Detective Justin French is a fourteen-year veteran of the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office. Detective French began his career in 2011 as a Special Deputy and was promoted to full-time Enforcement Officer in June 2014.

After working uniformed Patrol in eastern Hamilton County for several years, Justin was assigned to the Criminal Investigation Section in March of 2023. As a Detective, Justin worked general assignment before becoming a member of the South American Theft Group (SATG) Task Force in early 2024. The Task Force is made up of Federal, State, and Local agencies. Another area Detective French specializes in is crimes against children, working as a Mayerson Center Investigator with Cincinnati Children's Hospital.

Detective French is a lifelong resident of Southwestern Ohio. He lives in Butler County, Ohio with his wife and two sons.

2026 DEPUTY LEVEL PARTNERS



MEET THE SPEAKERS



DR. SEBASTIAN GORKA

DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
SENIOR DIRECTOR FOR COUNTERTERRORISM
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

Dr. Sebastian Gorka is a British-born American military and intelligence analyst, media commentator, and author. Dr. Gorka is currently serving in the second Donald Trump administration as the Deputy Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Counterterrorism, a role he returned to in January 2025 after being appointed in late 2024, continuing his work as a prominent conservative media host and advisor focused on national security and the "America First" agenda.

Dr. Gorka appears frequently on Newsmax and Salem Radio, discussing counterterrorism and policy, and is active in the White

House, focusing on issues like suppressing global jihadist movements. He previously served as a deputy assistant to U.S. President Donald Trump. Dr. Gorka held this position for several months before departing the administration.

Born in the United Kingdom to Hungarian parents, Dr. Gorka lived in Hungary for an extended period before becoming a naturalized American citizen.

MEET THE SPEAKERS



KATHERINE KENEALLY

DIRECTOR OF THREAT ANALYSIS AND PREVENTION
INSTITUTE FOR STRATEGIC DIALOGUE (ISD)-US

Katherine Keneally is the Director of Threat Analysis and Prevention, ISD-US. Katherine leads the strategic thinking and projects that track and respond to online to offline threats of political violence across the ideological spectrum in the US. She additionally advises civil society, law enforcement, and government stakeholders on threat detection, prevention, and rapid response. She has been a guest on BBC and CSPAN, and her work has been referenced in The New York Times, Salon, and The Hill.

Prior to joining ISD, Katherine consulted and led research for the US government related to human trafficking and hostage taking. She also was an Intelligence Research Specialist at the NYPD Intelligence Bureau's Racially/Ethnically Motivated Extremism Unit ("REME") where she supported terrorism investigations and tactical and strategic research related to individuals and groups affiliated with politically- and ethnically-motivated, as well as single-issue, extremist ideologies. Katherine has a Master of Arts Degree in Security Studies from Georgetown University. She resides in Montana.

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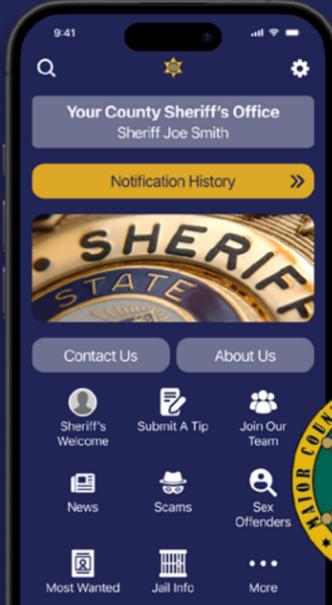


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MEET THE SPEAKERS



SAMUEL NEWLIN-HAUS

SUPERVISORY SPECIAL AGENT
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Mr. Newlin-Haus entered on duty as a Special Agent of the FBI in 2016. SA Newlin-Haus was assigned to the Los Angeles Division where he worked several violations, including Complex Financial Crime, Public Corruption, and International Counterterrorism. Over his career, SA Newlin-Haus responded to several critical events, including the Las Vegas Shooting and Sri Lanka Easter Terrorist Attack. SA Newlin-Haus completed TDYs overseas in support of the counterterrorism mission to the Philippines, Jordan, and Mali. SA Newlin-Haus was promoted to Supervisory Special Agent and currently leads the Inland Empire Joint Terrorism Task Force. SSA Newlin-Haus helped lead the response and investigation of those responsible for the Palm Springs Bombing in 2025. SSA Newlin-Haus is the recipient of the Medal of Excellence Award and two-time recipient of the United States Attorney's Office Law Enforcement Award.

Before the FBI, SSA Newlin-Haus was a detective and police officer in Indiana for eight years. SSA Newlin-Haus is a graduate of Indiana University with a master's in public administration.

INVESTIGATOR DAVID RIVERA RIVERSIDE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, CA

David Rivera is a Lead Investigator with the Riverside County Sheriff's Office, bringing 15 years of experience to his role. He began his law enforcement career in corrections, where he spent nearly five years interacting with and transporting state prison inmates throughout California. Investigator Rivera then transitioned to patrol at the Moreno Valley Sheriff's Station, eventually joining the Robbery Burglary Suppression Team. In that capacity, he managed numerous critical incidents and complex investigations, including home invasions, deputy-involved shootings, and murder cases.

In 2020, he was promoted to Sheriff's Investigator and assigned to the Special Investigations Bureau as a Task Force Officer with the Riverside FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force. Currently, he focuses on investigating international terrorism while also assisting with counterintelligence and domestic terrorism cases. As a Task Force Officer, he dedicated a year to a supervisory role at FBI headquarters in McLean, VA as a Project Manager for international terrorism. In that position, he gained invaluable knowledge and experience in



counterterrorism investigations at the national level. He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Redlands and a master's degree in national security studies, with a concentration in

terrorism, from the American Military University. He has also completed the Emergence Program certificate program at the Center for Homeland Defense and Security at the Naval Postgraduate College, which expanded his network of defense and security professionals.

Investigator Rivera is committed to being at the forefront of change, working to integrate private and public sectors in the fight against violent extremism, whether it be internationally or domestically inspired.

MEET THE SPEAKERS



DEPUTY MINA SHEHATA RIVERSIDE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, CA

Deputy Sheriff Mina Shehata has served with the Riverside County Sheriff's Office since 2015. After he graduated from the Ben Clark Training Center and earned his California POST Certificate, he started at the Cois M. Byrd Detention Center, where he served four years demonstrating strong integrity, vigilance, and dedicating his time to the safety and security of the correctional facility.

He later transitioned to patrol operations at the Southwest Patrol Station and was soon selected for a special assignment with the Community Outreach Resource and Engagement (CORE) team. In this role, he worked closely with city leadership to address quality-of-life issues, manage public demonstrations, and ensure the safety of lawful assemblies. Deputy Shehata also

played a key role in undercover operations targeting prostitution-related crimes, collaborated with the Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force to identify victims, dismantled criminal operations, and conducted compliance checks that resulted in the closure of multiple illegal establishments.

His experience includes leading deputies in the execution of search warrants, investigating illegal marijuana cultivation, and planning public safety operations for large-scale community events attended by tens of thousands of residents and visitors. Deputy Shehata currently serves with

the Special Investigations Bureau as a certified Threat Liaison Officer and is assigned as a Task Force Officer with the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force, supporting terrorism-related investigations and community outreach efforts.

Deputy Shehata holds an Advanced California POST Certificate, as well as specialized certifications in terrorism and homeland security. His career reflects a strong commitment to public safety, community engagement, and addressing complex investigative and security challenges.



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MEET THE SPEAKERS



VIKKI WACHINO

FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
HEALTH AND REENTRY PROJECT (HARP)

Vikki Wachino founded the Health and Reentry Project and is its Executive Director. She has dedicated her career to leading and inspiring organizations that advance policy change to improve the lives of people in need. Prior to founding HARP, Vikki served as Deputy Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. There, she oversaw the implementation of major Affordable Care Act coverage expansions and groundbreaking new policies related to mental health, managed care, delivery system reform and substance use disorder. Her early career included stints at the White House Office of Management and Budget and the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. She holds a MPP from Harvard University and BA from Mount Holyoke College.



DAVID RYAN

SENIOR DIRECTOR OF
CRIMINAL JUSTICE INITIATIVES
HEALTH AND REENTRY PROJECT (HARP)

David Ryan is HARP's Senior Director of Criminal Justice Initiatives. David has over fifteen years of experience working on policy issues at the intersection of health and justice.

Prior to joining the Health and Reentry Project, David spent over a decade at the Middlesex Sheriff's Office leading policy priorities to advance changes to the Medicaid Inmate Exclusion Policy (MIEP). He also spent five years working for Senator Edward M. Kennedy in Washington, DC. His core responsibilities while on staff included promoting the Senator's legislative agenda through coordinated outreach to federal, state and local agencies and organizations.

David holds a BA in Government from Colby College and JD from Suffolk University Law School.



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MEET THE SPEAKERS



TULSI GABBARD

DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

Director Tulsi Gabbard's life is defined by her unwavering commitment to service and her love of country. From her earliest days in public office to her extensive military career, she has dedicated her life in service to protect the safety, security and freedom of the American people and our nation.

The people of Hawaii elected Director Gabbard to the State Legislature when she was 21 years old, to the Honolulu City Council eight years later, and at age 31, to the United States Congress, where she served for four terms. Having experienced firsthand the true cost of war, the Director vowed to honor the lives and sacrifice of her brothers and sisters in uniform, serving on the Armed Services, Homeland Security, and Foreign Affairs Committees in Congress.

A combat veteran with three deployments to the Middle East and Africa as part of a special operations mission to counter terrorism, Director Gabbard has served in uniform since 2003. She served in a medical unit during her 2005 deployment to Iraq and later led a Military Police platoon in Kuwait, where she was the first woman to receive an award of appreciation from the Kuwaiti military, earning their hard-won respect. She

currently serves in the U.S. Army Reserve as Battalion Commander of the 1-354 Regiment, in Tulsa, Oklahoma, leading soldiers in Oklahoma, Missouri and Arkansas.

Director Tulsi Gabbard approaches every issue, domestic and foreign, with a focus on ensuring the safety, security, and freedom of the American people. She is honored to be President Trump's Director of National Intelligence and is committed to securing the nation, upholding the Constitution, and serving the American people.

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