



Central American Prosperity & Security

Friday, December 7th, 2018
9:30 A.M. -11:30 A.M.



Kevin M. McAleenan
Commissioner
U.S Customs and Border Protection

Kevin K. McAleenan was sworn in on March 20, 2018, as Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Prior to his confirmation, Mr. McAleenan served as the Acting Commissioner. As the agency's chief executive, Mr. McAleenan oversees 60,000 employees, manages a budget of over \$13 billion, and ensures the effective operations of CBP's mission to protect national security while promoting economic prosperity. Mr. McAleenan directs CBP's three core missions, counterterrorism, border security, and trade enforcement, while facilitating \$4 trillion in trade and facilitating travel of over 365 million people through ports of entry. He oversees the largest law enforcement agency and the second-largest revenue collecting source in the federal government.

Mr. McAleenan previously served as Deputy Commissioner from November 2, 2014. In this role, he served as the agency's Chief Operating Officer and senior career official. Under Mr. McAleenan's leadership, CBP has developed strategies that protect the nation's borders from terrorism and attack transnational criminal networks. Mr. McAleenan has also implemented innovations that have facilitated the U.S. international arrival and departure process, saving the government and travel industry millions of dollars. Additionally, he has advanced the development of CBP's trade transformation agenda, designed to help America compete in the global economy.



Nick Miroff
Reporter on Immigrant Enforcement, Drug Trafficking and National Security
The Washington Post

Nick Miroff is a national security correspondent who covers immigration enforcement, drug trafficking and the Department of Homeland Security. He was a Washington Post correspondent in Latin America from 2010 to 2017, based in Havana and Mexico City. Miroff has been a staff writer since 2006. He has a master's degree from the University of California at Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism, and he studied Spanish and Latin American literature at the University of California at Santa Cruz.

Mr. Miroff has received several honors and awards. In 2008 he received the Nancy Dickerson Whitehead Award. In 2012 he received the Overseas Press Club citation to then receive the Award in 2015. In 2017 he received the Maria Moors Cabot Prize.



Alejandro Aleman
Professor of Practice
William J. Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies

Mr. Alemán brings over 15 years of Latin American regional expertise and work experience to the Perry Center as a Professor of Practice and the Central American Project Lead for the Defense Institution Reform Initiative. In this capacity he supports the OSD-led Security and Defense Institution Building effort, working with local ministries of defense in defense and security sector reform initiatives. He previously served three different commanders as a foreign policy advisor on Latin America, ensuring the command's activities were informed by US foreign policy objectives and embassy goals. Later, during his nearly four years on the Joint Staff, he helped formulate expert policy advice for the Chairman. He personally participated in the White House discussions addressing a changing Cuba policy, the transformation of our Venezuela policy, Latin American defense assistance reform, regional strategies, and trans-national threats. He is a retired USAF Colonel with 25 years of service.



Eric L. Olson
Director, Central America-DC Platform
Seattle International Foundation

Eric L. Olson is Director of the Seattle International Foundation's Central America-DC Platform. His primary responsibility is to provide strategic policy advice to the Foundation and its Central American partners on promoting rule of law and good governance, ending forced migration and displacement, ensuring equity, and strengthening civil society. In addition, Olson is a consultant with the Wilson Center's Latin American Program and Mexico Institute, where he worked for 11 years most recently as Deputy Director. He has published numerous articles and books including, "Crime and violence in the Northern Triangle: How U.S. policy is helping, hurting, and can be improved." Prior to his arrival at the Wilson Center he worked with the Secretariat for Political Affairs at the Organization of American States as a Senior Specialist on Good Governance, at Amnesty International USA as Advocacy Director for the Americas, and at the Washington Office on Latin America as Senior Associate for Mexico. He also worked for worked in Honduras as an economic development specialist. Olson has spent over 20 years living and working in Latin America including Venezuela (where he grew up), Honduras, and Mexico.



Kristin Tennyson
Chair of Western Hemisphere Area Studies
Foreign Service Institute

Kristin Tennyson has studied and worked on Latin American issues for over 15 years; her research focuses broadly on issues relating to rule of law and violent crime across the region. Prior to chairing the Western Hemisphere Area Studies Program for FSI, Dr. Tennyson served as an advisor in the Office of the Undersecretary for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights at the Department of State. Dr. Tennyson also served as an intelligence analyst for both the Department of Defense and the Department of State's Bureau of Intelligence and Research. During her tenure as an analyst, she focused primarily on Central America and Mexico. With the Department of Defense, Dr. Tennyson deployed to Afghanistan in support of the NATO/ISAF mission where she was the lead civilian member of a task force overseeing information operations.