

## College of International Security Affairs National Defense University

### **Christopher T. Blekicki**

DHS Faculty Chair

Department of Strategic Initiatives & Leadership



#### **Education**

- M.A. Strategic Security Studies, College of International Security Affairs, National Defense University
- M.B.A. Virginia Commonwealth University
- B.A. History, Virginia Military Institute

#### **Research Interests**

- Criminal Enterprises involving Maritime Smuggling
- Terrorism & Counterterrorism
- African Migration Routes & Seaborne Transit
- Counterterrorism Community Policing in the Post 9/11 World

Mr. Blekicki is a Special Agent of Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), the investigative agency within the U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE). He currently serves as the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Faculty Chair at CISA. His previous HSI Headquarters assignment was at the Counterterrorism & Criminal Exploitation Unit (CTCEU) where he led case development for investigations of fraud relating to the Student & Exchange Visitor Program. Mr. Blekicki worked as a criminal investigator for 10 years in South Florida conducting complex investigations involving crimes against minors on the internet, narcotics smuggling, money laundering and violations of the International Trafficking in Arms Regulations (ITAR). He effectively managed multi-agency efforts to recruit informants, control cooperating sources, and gather evidence for successful prosecution of federal crimes. His CISA thesis focused on Cuban smuggling into South Florida and how renewed diplomatic relations with Cuba may be the catalyst for reducing such dangerous smuggling ventures.

Mr. Blekicki is an active Navy Reservist with operational experience in amphibious warfare. During a recent mobilization to the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA), Blekicki served as the staff Liaison Officer (LNO) to the U.S. Embassy Djibouti. He worked to synchronize all instruments of national power to neutralize Al-Shabaab in Somalia. Additionally, he served as the head LNO charged to manage and oversee 8 other LNOs working in four other East Africa countries. He worked with the Embassy's Country Team to affect smooth interaction between the Department of Defense, Department of State, and all interagency partners to achieve common U.S. Government objectives. He is Joint Professional Military Education (JPME) I and II certified.