



PAUL E. KNIERIM
Deputy Chief of Operations
Office of Global Enforcement
Drug Enforcement Administration
U.S. Department of Justice



Mr. Knierim was appointed as Deputy Chief of Operations, Office of Special Projects in July 2015. In March 2017, Mr. Knierim was named Deputy Chief of Operations for the Office of Global Enforcement. In this capacity he is responsible for establishing seamless law enforcement strategies and overseeing operations designed to disrupt and dismantle national and international drug trafficking organizations significantly impacting the United States. The Office of Global Enforcement supports the investigative objectives of DEA operations worldwide, while supporting foreign counterparts and United States counternarcotics and counterterrorism policies and objectives. Mr. Knierim directs senior DEA Liaison Officers assigned to the Department of Defense and throughout the interagency community.

Mr. Knierim began his career in 1991 as a Special Agent in the Denver Field Division, where he led complex drug conspiracy investigations. From 1995 to 2001, he was assigned to the Quito, Ecuador Country Office. There he successfully established the Sensitive Investigative Unit program in support of DEA efforts and in partnership with the Ecuadorian National Police.

In 2001, Mr. Knierim was assigned to the Miami Field Division. He was promoted to Group Supervisor in 2002 to lead the agents and task force officers in High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Group 41. In 2005, he was reassigned as the Country Attaché in the San Jose, Costa Rica Country Office. As the Country Attaché, he was responsible for investigative and administrative oversight of in-country enforcement operations and coordination with Government of Costa Rica officials in furtherance of DEA and United States Embassy counterdrug policies and objectives. Upon departing Costa Rica in 2009, Mr. Knierim was assigned as a Staff Coordinator in the DEA Headquarters Office of Congressional and Public Affairs. In this capacity, he was responsible for media issues concerning Mexico and Latin America. He served as the lead for DEA communications and press strategy during several multi-jurisdictional enforcement operations focusing on Mexican cartels and major drug trafficking organizations.

In March 2011, Mr. Knierim was promoted to the position of Assistant Regional Director for the North and Central America Region based in Mexico City. He directed and supervised the enforcement activities and administrative functions of two enforcement groups and the intelligence group in the Mexico City Country Office as well as three Resident Offices located in Monterrey, Matamoros, and Nuevo Laredo, Mexico. He was responsible for managing complex investigations and coordinating with interagency and foreign officials in operational efforts focusing on High Value Targets. He also directed efforts for a multi-faceted clandestine laboratory and precursor chemical interdiction program. He provided leadership and support for capacity building in areas of counternarcotics, anti-money laundering, and prosecutorial development. In April 2014, Mr. Knierim completed his overseas assignment and reported as the Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the Dallas Field Division. He was responsible for divisional Resident Offices located in Tyler, Fort Worth, Lubbock, and Amarillo, as well as a Financial Strike Force located in Dallas.

Mr. Knierim is an alumnus of the University of Utah. He has received numerous awards and commendations from DEA, Department of State, Ecuadorian National Police, and Denver Police Department in recognition of his leadership and vision.