

## **U.S. Customs and Border Protection**

**John A. Florence**  
Branch Chief Supervisory Customs and Border Protection Officer  
Field Operation Academy

Mr. Florence's Federal Law Enforcement career began in 1986 with the United States Air Force (USAF) holding the position as a Law Enforcement Specialist based at F.E. Warren, AFB Cheyenne, Wyoming. I served five years in the military including active duty participation in Operation Desert Storm. During his tenure in the Air Force Mr. Florence attained the rank of a Non Commissioned Officer (Sergeant), and was awarded several meritorious service and accommodation awards and was honorable discharged from the USAF in 1990.

Mr. Florence continued his Federal Law Enforcement career excepting a position with the Department of Justice (Federal Bureau of Prisons) assigned to the Metropolitan Correctional Center (MCC San Diego).

In January of 1991 Mr. Florence accepted a position with the former US Customs in San Diego, CA working in several key positions which included numerous Narcotics Enforcement Teams, Joint Tasks Force Assignments, and numerous Special Operation Teams. During his tenure in San Diego Mr. Florence was assigned to narcotics enforcement teams which involved the seizures of tens of thousands of pounds of narcotics and disrupted major narcotics smuggling operations by both seizing assets and arresting major figures in the organizational structure.

Mr. Florence transferred from San Diego to Glynco, GA in 2001 to accept a position as a Physical Techniques Defensive Tactics Instructor. From 2001 until 2005 he instructed defensive tactics and intermediate force device training to all of the Customs and Border Protection Basic trainees. In 2006 he was promoted to GS-14 (Senior Instructor) where he supervised all Instruction of basic tactics instruction for the entire US Customs and Border Protection basic training academy. In 2008 Mr. Florence was promoted to the position of assistant Director of Use of Force training for the US Customs and Border Protection Field Operations Academy. This position included the oversight of Use of Force training in both the basic and advanced training environments.

Mr. Florence accepted a position as Chief Customs and Border Protection Officer Nassau, Bahamas Preclearance in 2009 and was also appointed as the Acting Area Port Director and US Embassy liaison for CBP to the US Embassy Nassau, Bahamas.

Mr. Florence returned to the Field Operations Academy in 2012 accepting a position as an Acting Assistant Director and then being assigned as a Branch Chief. Mr. Florence has served in many key management positions throughout his government career and is a dedicated and distinguished Federal Government employee of 27 years. Mr. Florence has been married to his wife Suzanne Florence for 13 years, and has two stepsons Kevin, and Kurt Olson.