

James Schwartz

Work Experience

April 2003 – Present: Harvard Kennedy School of Government

Senior Fellow

- Faculty member in the Executive Education *Leadership in Crises*; program delivered to international participants from government, private and non-profit sectors to explore preparing for novelty in crisis situations.

September 2015 – February 2021: Arlington County, VA.

Deputy County Manager

- Served as part of County Manager's staff with portfolio of public safety agencies and technology department in a metropolitan community of 220,000 people with diverse residential, commercial real estate and major government facilities such as the Pentagon, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall. Served as primary liaison to Public Health Director and elected Sheriff. Represented Arlington County in regional homeland security and preparedness bodies to include Homeland Security Executive Committee (MWCOG) and Board of Directors for the Northern Virginia Emergency Response System.

July 2004 - September 2015: Arlington County Fire Department, Arlington, VA.

Chief of Department

- Served as Chief for a fire department of 340 personnel providing fire, EMS, hazardous materials, bomb disposal, technical rescue response and prevention and community education services to a densely populated urban jurisdiction.

Focus areas included setting strategic direction of the department, monitoring the health of the organization, and establishing or maintaining effective partnerships with organizations that were essential to the department's success.

February 1984 – July 2004: Arlington County Fire Department

- Progressively responsible experience through the ranks of firefighter, including two-year assignment to Training Academy, company officer, battalion chief and assistant chief before being promoted to Chief of Department in 2004.

March 1981 – February 1984: U.S. Army, Ft. Belvoir VA.

Firefighter

- Served as structural and crash rescue firefighter at U.S. Army post.

Professional Activities

- Lecturer - provide frequent lectures on Crisis Leadership for organizations such as U.S. State Department, FBI, Georgetown University, American University, George Washington University as well as international audiences (2005 – present); lectured as part of FEMA Joint Counterterrorism Awareness Workshop Series on complex coordinated attack preparedness (2014 – 2018)
- Member - DHS Science and Technology Advisory Committee (2012 – 2017)
- Member – Department of Homeland Security Quadrennial Review Advisory Committee (2010)
- Member - Advisory Council for the Interagency Threat Assessment and Coordination Group (ITACG) and subsequently the Joint Counterterrorism Assessment Team (JCAT) at the National Counter Terrorism Center (2005 – 2019)
- Founding Member - Northern Virginia Emergency Response System (2005 – 2021)
- Adjunct Member - International Association of Fire Chiefs Terrorism and Homeland Security Committee (2004 – present; committee chair, 2008-2014)
- Advisory Council Member - Joint Counterterrorism Assessment Team (formerly Interagency Threat Assessment and Coordination Group), National Counterterrorism Center (2005 – 2019)
- Member - Interagency Board for Equipment Standardization (2002 – 2020)

Education

- Bachelor of Science, Fire Administration, University of Maryland (1993)
- Executive Leaders Program, Naval Postgraduate School (2009)

Memberships

- Board Member – Committee for Tactical Emergency Casualty Care
- International Association of Fire Chiefs
- International Association of Fire Fighters