

Kemp L. Chester

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Mr. Kemp L. Chester is the Senior Policy Advisor to the Director of National Drug Control Policy. In this capacity he is the principal advisor to the Director on shaping policy designed to reduce the availability of all illicit or illegally trafficked drugs and their precursor chemicals into the United States by disrupting their global supply chain. Mr. Chester works closely with the National Security Council and senior White House officials to manage relationships with foreign partners, the international community, the Congress, and a network of partnerships across the federal government focused on the trafficking of illicit drugs. Mr. Chester also leads the United States' counternarcotics relationships with the Peoples Republic of China, India, and Afghanistan.

Mr. Chester was previously the Chief of the National Opioids and Synthetics Coordination Group within the Office of National Drug Control Policy. Prior to joining the Senior Executive Service and the Office of National Drug Control Policy Mr. Chester was the Director of National Security and Intelligence for a private sector consulting firm in the D.C. area where he managed a multimillion dollar program bringing state of the art information sharing and safeguarding technologies to the Department of Homeland Security. Mr. Chester previously served as the Chief of the Office of Counternarcotics Worldwide at the Defense Intelligence Agency where he was responsible for intelligence collection and analysis on global narcotics issues, and for the management of all funding for the intelligence analysis effort in support of Department of Defense counternarcotics activities.

During a 27 year career as a U.S. Army Officer, Mr. Chester served in a number of command and staff positions in the United States, Europe, and the Middle East, including combat service in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Enduring Freedom. During his two tours in Iraq he served as a battalion operations officer in the 3rd Infantry Division and a strategic planner for coalition forces in Iraq, and during his time in Afghanistan then-Colonel Chester served as the Chief of the Ministry of the Interior Intelligence Advisory Team for the NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan, where he designed and built an enduring police intelligence capability for the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. He also served as the mentor and senior advisor to Afghanistan's Director of Police Intelligence.

Mr. Chester holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from The Citadel, a Master of Arts in International Relations from the University of South Carolina, a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College, a Master of Military Arts and Sciences from the School for Advanced Military Studies, and a Master of Arts in National Strategy from the National War College.