

# Christopher M. Piehota, Ph.D.

E-mail: [chrispiehota@outlook.com](mailto:chrispiehota@outlook.com)

Telephone: (571) 332-2510

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/chrispiehota/>



---

## **Biography**

Chris Piehota serves as a private sector subject matter expert, consultant, and board member for a variety of organizations, where he delivers strategic guidance and advisory regarding national security matters, cyber operations, security practices, risk mitigation, leadership concepts, and organizational improvement approaches. He offers experiential insights from his career of overseeing and conducting complex investigations, intelligence collection programs, and technical operations. Over the course of his career, Dr. Piehota served as a key leader and organizational development proponent who developed a number of impactful strategic and tactical action plans; formulated focused performance metrics; advanced leadership programs; and contributed to process improvement and change management campaigns that influenced multi-level government operations since September 11, 2001.

Dr. Piehota is a former senior U.S. Government official, retiring from the Federal Bureau of Investigation after nearly 25 years of experience as a recognized leader who led complex national security investigations, international security programs, and covert operational technology platforms at the highest levels. As a Director of National Intelligence-recognized Senior Intelligence Officer, he received a 2017 Presidential Rank Award in recognition of his superior executive performance and managerial effectiveness.

Prior to retiring from government service, Dr. Piehota served as the Chief Executive for FBI Science and Technology Programs where he served as one of the eight most senior FBI career executives who provided strategic oversight for operations across the entire bureau. He provided strategic leadership for enterprise operational technology programs, forensic laboratory operations, and criminal justice information technology systems. Leading up to this role, he previously served as the FBI Assistant Director who oversaw the United States Government's inter-agency, 24-hour Terrorist Screening Center in its global national security mission. Prior to this role, he served as the Special Agent in Charge of the FBI's Buffalo, New York, Field Office where he led all FBI national security and criminal investigative programs. Throughout the rest of his earlier FBI career, Dr. Piehota worked in National Security program areas regarding counterterrorism, counterintelligence, physical and information security, weapons of mass destruction, and intelligence collection.

Dr. Piehota is an accomplished international public speaker and has provided speeches, presentations, and commentary for audiences of all types. He has been featured in various media interviews and has provided congressional testimonies, as well as executive presentations for the National Security Council, INTERPOL, U.S. Congressional members and staff, numerous international diplomatic parties, private sector organizations, and FBI Academy audiences.

Before joining the FBI, Dr. Piehota worked in the NASA Space Shuttle program as a Metrologist and Laboratory Supervisor. He is a U.S. Air Force military veteran and possesses a Ph.D. in Human Performance Technology, a master's degree in Human Resources and Training, and a bachelor's degree in Business Administration.

## **EXPANDED EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW**

Christopher M. Piehota served the United States as a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a total of 24 1/2 years until his retirement as a Senior Executive Service (SES) leader on 31 January 2020. During his career, Piehota established himself as a highly capable investigator, as well as an exemplary executive leader, through demonstrated accomplishments and proven leadership approaches. These approaches were clearly outlined in his leadership of complex domestic and international counterterrorism, counterintelligence, intelligence, technical, and security operations. Piehota entered onto investigative duty with the FBI in 1995 and was promoted into the SES program in 2010. As a member of the SES, Piehota served as:

- FBI Executive Assistant Director for Science and Technology
- FBI Assistant Director, Terrorist Screening Center Director
- FBI Special Agent in Charge-Buffalo, NY Field Office
- FBI Deputy Director for Operations, Terrorist Screening Center

In addition to his demonstrated program leadership and recognized organizational management skills, Piehota consistently earned and sustained the confidence and respect of his colleagues and staff members while concurrently being recognized as an accomplished leader who consistently inspired people on all levels to attain personal, professional, and organizational goals. Piehota was known to his leaders, colleagues, and staff members as a consummate professional who continually sought to improve himself, advance U.S. Government objectives, and care for/develop personnel. Piehota's business acumen, operational effectiveness, and executive leadership skills were formally recognized by his receipt of a 2017 Presidential Rank Award.

## **SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE ROLES**

**FBI Executive Assistant Director, October 2016 – January 2020:** Appointed by the FBI Director to the role of Executive Assistant Director for Science and Technology, Piehota served as one of the bureau's eight most senior career executives. He employed strategic executive leadership, vision, and oversight in ensuring that the FBI delivered the best services and products regarding applicable scientific and technological tools, resources, and partnerships to advance and facilitate investigations and operations throughout the national security, law enforcement, homeland security, and intelligence communities. Piehota oversaw the operations of 5,500 staff members whose operations served global investigative needs and security requirements. He formulated and executed a \$1.5 billion operating budget and held accountability for the efficient business practices of geographically dispersed staff members, facilities, equipment, and infrastructures. Piehota led the development of updated business practices and strategies to deploy timely and effective investigative technical solutions, forensic and biometric tools, and law enforcement services. Piehota performed focused program reviews of priority issues and consistently developed updated business practices and integrated operational objectives for measurable performance and effectiveness.

**FBI Assistant Director, April 2013 – October 2016:** As a result of his known ability to lead operations in complex mission environments and deliver results, Piehota was appointed by the U.S. Attorney General as the senior government official to lead a multi-agency workforce and manage U.S. Terrorist Screening Center national security and international organized crime mission areas. In this role, Piehota operated at the national and international policy levels with senior White House/foreign Ministerial-level diplomatic officials under the auspices of Homeland Presidential Directive Six. Piehota served in the title of Director of the Terrorist Screening Center and provided senior executive leadership, management, and liaison for the U.S. Government's sole inter-agency, consolidated counterterrorism center for 24 hour domestic and international counterterrorism watchlisting management, known or suspected terrorist screening/encounter management, intelligence sharing, and global operational coordination. Piehota filled a key national security leadership role and provided expert personal testimony and briefings directly to the National Security Council, Senate, House of Representatives, and congressional staff members. He facilitated focused action and targeted program activity through his direct personal engagement in White House National Security Council policy development efforts and other national-

level decision-making and program development forums. Piehota held an essential role in national policy areas across the government by adjudicating and utilizing the national terrorist watchlist and the “No Fly List” to address key security areas such as aviation/maritime security, immigration and VISA screening, access to government benefits, firearms purchases, and international partner aid. He consistently demonstrated refined talents in communication and liaison-building with senior members of the global law enforcement, homeland security, and intelligence communities. Piehota used sound business and security methodologies to effectively lead international partner engagements; negotiate, sign, and implement formal information sharing agreements; and sustain U.S. Government international security agreements.

**FBI Special Agent in Charge, Chief Field Office Executive, July 2011 – April 2013:** Selected by the FBI Director, Piehota served as the senior FBI executive official who led and managed FBI operations and investigations across Western New York State. In this role, Piehota provided tactical and strategic leadership for all FBI national security, criminal, cyber, and liaison operations (to include field office business operations). Piehota employed a transformational leadership style to re-establish organizational alignment with FBI corporate objectives, to improve program focus, and to modernize business practices across the entire field office. While directly managing office operations, as well as multi-million-dollar capital assets and operating budgets, Piehota also established updated personnel and physical security awareness programs. Piehota worked with Buffalo Field Office staff members and implemented updated FBI vision and mission objectives to lead the office through a challenging period of organizational advancement through a clear change-management vision. Piehota served as a senior law enforcement leader and established/maintained beneficial security partnerships among political bodies, community organizations, private sector entities, and law enforcement networks across Western New York State. He also met with community stakeholders on a regular basis to assess needs and to sustain a collaborative leadership environment. Piehota’s efforts built diverse stakeholder commitment to promote and to facilitate community safety and improved quality of life for high-risk neighborhoods.

**Deputy Director – Operations Chief, Terrorist Screening Center, February 2010 – July 2011:** Piehota personally managed daily operations of the U.S. Terrorist Screening Center and conducted daily domestic and international 24-hour counterterrorism watchlisting and screening operations, in addition to managing operational deconfliction with various U.S. Government partners and international security organizations. As a result of his ability to set organizational goals and obtain staff buy-in and adoption, Piehota successfully resolved evolving mission ambiguity and alignment challenges associated with rapidly growing, evolving organization mission scope, depth, and complexity. Piehota used effective leadership mentoring and business process changes to promote and reward leadership, initiative, professionalism, and accountability. In addition, Piehota managed complex business issues regarding civil liberties/privacy matters, watchlisting litigation, congressional inquiries, and watchlisting mission expansion.

#### **ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL ROLES**

- **Chief of Security/Technical Programs/Counterintelligence Supervisor**, FBI, Washington DC, 2007–2010
- **Intelligence Unit Chief/Counterterrorism Operations Supervisor**, FBI Headquarters, 2002–2007
- **Special Agent Field Investigator**, FBI, Newark NJ, 1995–2002
- **Metrology Scientist, Laboratory Supervisor, Quality Assurance**, NASA Space Shuttle Program, 1990–1995
- **Metrology Laboratory Supervisor, Technical Trainer, Quality Assurance**, U.S. Air Force, 1983–1989

#### **EDUCATION**

- **Doctorate (2010):** Human Performance Improvement; Capella University
- **Master of Science (2001):** Human Resources, Training, and Administration; Seton Hall University
- **Bachelor of Science (1993):** Business Administration; Nova Southeastern University