
Mark N. Russ



Deputy Director Operational Support Naval Criminal Investigative Service

Special Agent Mark N. Russ was appointed in 2019 as the Deputy Director of Operational Support with the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS). He directs operational support elements of the agency's worldwide activity, and oversees agency budgeting and planning to ensure that resources are managed against priority mission areas and critical requirements. He also advises the NCIS Director on agency business operations and support services, including planning, programming, policies, and procedures associated with cyber, intelligence, human resources, material, capital, fiscal, acquisition, administrative, and technology functions.

Prior to his current assignment, Special Agent Russ served as the Executive Assistant Director (EAD) for the NCIS National Security Directorate (2016-2018). He exercised program management oversight of counterterrorism/counterintelligence investigations and operations, including espionage, terrorism, compromise, technology transfer, cyber intrusion, insider threat, and threats to research development and acquisition programs. He served as the primary advisor to the NCIS Director and Deputy Director on all national security investigations, operations, and operational support services. He was also responsible for manning, training, and equipping of agency personnel to protect Navy and Marine Corps forces, operations, information, facilities, equipment, and networks from attacks and the intelligence activities of foreign governments and international terrorist organizations.

Special Agent Russ was appointed to the Senior Executive Service in 2016 and has 30 years of Federal service. His previous leadership positions include serving as Acting EAD for the newly formed Cyber Directorate (2016); Assistant Director for Intelligence and Information Sharing (2014-2015); First Director, Joint Detachment Apollo, Afghanistan, where he led, managed, and executed strategic capabilities against the adversary (2013); and Assistant Director for Financial Management and Planning (2012-2013).

Special Agent Russ' supervisory and managerial assignments include serving as the Special Agent-in-Charge (SAC) of the NCIS Norfolk Field Office, Norfolk, Virginia (2009-2012); SAC of the NCIS Middle East Field Office, Manama, Bahrain (MEFO) (2008-2009); Deputy Assistant Director, Cyber Department, Washington, D.C. (2006-2008); Assistant SAC for Counterintelligence, Washington, D.C. Field Office (2004-2006); Executive Assistant to the NCIS Deputy Director and Director, NCIS Headquarters, Washington, D.C. (2002-2004); and Supervisory Special Agent, MEFO (2000-2002).

Special Agent Russ began his career with NCIS in 1989, serving in the Washington, D.C. Field Office. He served tours of duty in Pusan, Republic of Korea (1996-1998); and with the Counterintelligence Directorate at NCIS Headquarters (1998-2000).

Special Agent Russ graduated from American University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Justice. His personal awards include two Secretary of Defense Medals for the Global War on Terrorism (2002/2013), the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Non-Article 5 Medal (2013), and the Joint Civilian Commendation Award (2013).