

Thomas J. Walters

Director, Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers



Mr. Thomas J. Walters was selected as the sixth Director of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers (FLETC) in October 2017. Mr. Walters oversees all operations related to the development and delivery of collaborative law enforcement training for more than 95 federal partner organizations across four FLETC domestic training sites; for state, local, and tribal departments throughout the U.S.; and outside the Nation's borders through international training and capacity-building efforts.

Prior to becoming the Director of FLETC, Mr. Walters established a border security consulting service after nearly 30 years with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). He began his career as a Border Patrol Agent in El Paso, Texas in 1975, and went on to hold several leadership positions with CBP, including Associate Chief at U.S. Border Patrol National Headquarters; Chief of the U.S. Border Patrol Academy; Assistant Commissioner for the CBP Office of Training and Development; Director of the U.S. Border Patrol Communications Division; Acting CBP Assistant Commissioner for Public Affairs; and CBP Deputy Assistant Commissioner for Public Affairs.

Mr. Walters was an original member of the U.S. Border Patrol Tactical Unit (BORTAC), and served for over a decade as a BORTAC team member, team supervisor, unit manager, and unit leader during its domestic and foreign operations. He played a key role in shaping the U.S. Border Patrol's first strategic plan. As Chief of the Border Patrol Academy, Mr. Walters led and managed all aspects of Border Patrol Academy basic and advanced training at FLETC locations in Glynco, Georgia, and Artesia, New Mexico. He spearheaded the training portion of the agency's successful effort to double the number of Border Patrol agents, which required opening a temporary satellite training facility and training hundreds of new instructors and thousands of trainees in Charleston, South Carolina.

Mr. Walters led CBP in adopting a new agency-wide approach to training that successfully integrated the training requirements for former Customs officers, Immigration officers, and Agriculture specialists into the CBP officer basic training program. He authored and attained approval for CBP's first Use of Force Policy document. Mr. Walters developed a robust, intranet based distance learning program, providing access to training for all 60,000 CBP employees. He led the initiative to design and build CBP's Harpers Ferry Advanced Training Center to support CBP-specific operations.

Mr. Walters is a graduate of the State University of New York at Buffalo, and earned a master's degree in national security strategy from the National Defense University, National War College.