

Office of the Director of National Intelligence



Shawn Thornton

Executive Director, National Counterintelligence and Security Center

Shawn M. Thornton serves as the Executive Director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center. In this role, Mr. Thornton provides essential leadership for the nation's counterintelligence priorities and supports critical security initiatives across the Intelligence Community and U.S. government.

Mr. Thornton began his intelligence career as a U.S. Army Counterintelligence Special Agent, where he deployed to multiple combat zones and conducted operations across NORTHCOM, CENTCOM, and PACOM areas of responsibility. This foundation in operational counterintelligence provided him with invaluable field experience and technical expertise that would shape his approach to leadership throughout his career.

With over twenty years in the counterintelligence field, Mr. Thornton has held numerous key leadership positions including Deputy G-2X U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command and Director of Support for the U.S. Army Counterintelligence Command. Most notably, he was instrumental in the establishment of the Army Counterintelligence Command. In these roles, he provided oversight to Counterintelligence Investigations and Operations as well as various Army programs, including Force Protection Detachments, Joint Terrorism Task Forces, Counterintelligence Task Forces, the Army Intelligence Polygraph Program, and the Army Technical Surveillance Countermeasures Program, while successfully leading substantial organizations of civilian, military, and contractor personnel.

Mr. Thornton managed multi-million dollar budgets aligned with national security objectives and developed extensive collaborative relationships across the intelligence community. As an accomplished leader, Mr. Thornton excels in developing innovative planning and implementation solutions that address complex counterintelligence challenges. His expertise in resource management, operational efficiency, and strategic oversight has consistently enhanced mission capabilities while ensuring optimal allocation of critical intelligence assets.

Mr. Thornton's proudest accomplishment remains his family - his wife Katie and their three children.

