

Michael E. Leiter **Keynote Speaker – May 3, 2012**



Michael E. Leiter served as the director of the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) until July 2011. He was sworn in as NCTC's second-ever director on June 12, 2008, upon his confirmation by the U.S. Senate and after serving as the acting director since November 2007. He was initially nominated to serve as director by President George W. Bush in March 2008, and was one of the few national security officials asked to continue as director by President Barack Obama in December 2009.

As the director of NCTC, Leiter led the primary organization in the U.S. government for analysis and integration of all terrorism intelligence—both domestically and overseas. In addition, Leiter reported directly to the President in conducting strategic operational planning for U.S. Government-wide counterterrorism activities, to include the integration of U.S. military, intelligence, diplomatic, financial, and homeland security counterterrorism efforts. As NCTC's Director, Leiter led more than 1,000 personnel and managed an annual budget of more than \$400 million; in addition, he advised the Office of Management and Budget on the allocation of more than \$100 billion annually for government-wide counterterrorism activities.

From February 2007 to November 2007, Leiter served as NCTC's Principal Deputy Director. Before joining NCTC, Leiter served as the deputy chief of Staff for the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI). In this role Leiter assisted in the establishment of the ODNI and coordinated all internal and external operations for the ODNI, to include relationships with the White House, the Departments of Defense, State, Justice, Homeland Security, the Central Intelligence Agency and the Congress. He was also involved in the development of national intelligence centers, including NCTC and the National Counterproliferation Center, and their integration into the larger Intelligence Community.

Prior to his service with the ODNI, Leiter served as the deputy general counsel and assistant director of the President's Commission on the Intelligence Capabilities of the United States Regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction (the "Robb-Silberman Commission"). While with the Robb-Silberman Commission, Leiter focused on reforms of the U.S. Intelligence Community, in particular the development the National Security Branch of the FBI and the National Security Division of the Department of Justice. From 2002 until 2005, he served with the Department of Justice as an assistant United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, where he prosecuted a variety of crimes, including narcotics offenses, organized crime and racketeering, capital murder and money laundering.

Immediately prior to his Justice Department service, Leiter served as a law clerk to Associate Justice Stephen G. Breyer of the Supreme Court of the United States and to Chief Judge Michael Boudin of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. From 1991 until 1997, he served as a Naval Flight Officer flying EA-6B Prowlers in the U.S. Navy, participating in U.S., NATO and UN operations in the former Yugoslavia and Iraq. Leiter also served as a Harvard Law School human rights fellow with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in The Hague.

Leiter received his J.D. from Harvard where he graduated magna cum laude and was president of *The Harvard Law Review*, and his B.A. from Columbia. He is the recipient of numerous awards, to include the National Intelligence Distinguished Service Medal, the Secretary of Defense Outstanding Public Service Medal, the CIA Seal and the Air Medal (Strike Flight, Three Awards).