

MICHAEL (MIKE) THEILMANN

Mike Theilmann has been with the Canadian federal public service for 22 years working in the areas of emergency management and national security.

Presently, under the title Senior Liaison Director, he is the first Canadian liaison officer to the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) from Public Safety Canada. Based in Washington, D.C., he is an advisor to management teams in both departments contributing toward the development of joint operational protocols and procedures, and facilitating security and emergency management policy development in areas where the two departments have mutual interests. He is also responsible, during actual or potential cross-border emergencies, for helping facilitate Canada-US operational coordination and cooperation.

Before taking up his current position, Mr. Theilmann was the Chief Operational Readiness with the Counter-Terrorism Division of the former Department of the Solicitor General of Canada, a post he held for eight years. During this period he worked in both domestic and international for a to strengthen Canada's national counter-terrorism arrangements.

As Chief, he was responsible for the planning and delivery of major counter-terrorism exercises and for addressing operational and policy issues related to national security. In the latter area, this included leading a major national initiative to strengthen Canada's capability to respond to the threat of chemical, biological and radiological terrorism.

During 2002-2003, Mr. Theilmann was also the lead planner and head of delegation for Canadian participation in the US-led national counter-terrorism Exercise TOPOFF 2.

Before joining the Counter-Terrorism Division, Mr. Theilmann held several senior public information positions with various federal government departments and agencies where he specialized in crisis communications, emergency public information planning, and media relations.

Mr. Theilmann has a history degree from Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, and a journalism degree from Ryerson Polytechnic in Toronto. He is married with two children.