
Mark Assur



Senior Advisor for Human Intelligence

Mark Assur directs and oversees Navy's human intelligence (HUMINT), counterintelligence (CI), and foreign materiel (FM) programs as the N2X under the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Information Warfare / Director of Naval Intelligence (OPNAV N2N6). In addition, he manages the selection and nomination of personnel for duty as naval attachés and support staff in U.S. Defense Attaché Offices in nearly 80 nations. Mr. Assur has served in intelligence assignments for 33 years and was appointed to his post in July 2014.

He retired from the Navy as a Captain with 28 years of reserve and active service, qualified in Information Warfare, multiple intelligence subspecialties, and certification as a Joint Staff officer. Prior to assuming his current position he served for three years as the Commandant of the Reid Center, a DoD school for advanced skills training. From 2008 to 2011, as Director for CI/HUMINT (J2X) at U.S. Joint Forces Command, he prepared intelligence staffs deploying to all combat theaters, led a special study in Iraq and managed exchanges with NATO partners in Afghanistan. He deployed from 2007 to 2008 as a joint task force J2X director in the Horn of Africa. Notably, he was the first Navy officer to fill the senior CI/HUMINT position at a combatant command or in a joint task force.

As a civilian, Mr. Assur served in the Central Intelligence Agency's (CIA) Directorate for Operations both at headquarters and abroad. During a decade in the National Clandestine Service he performed and managed covert action and espionage activities on three continents. He voluntarily returned to active duty soon after the attack on September 11 and working from CIA's Counterterrorist Center he coordinated the initial efforts of special operations and paramilitary teams infiltrated into Afghanistan. During 2002 he performed with distinction while embedded with SEAL and Special Forces advance force operations elements in hostile and austere surroundings.

In 2003, after his release from the Navy, he accepted an appointment as a Special Assistant to the Director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement in the new Department of Homeland Security. He established domestic incident response capabilities and then served as Deputy Director of the Office of Training until once more returning to active duty in 2007. Prior to his affiliation with CIA he served briefly with the Department of Energy and U.S. Customs Service.

Mr. Assur earned a bachelor of arts in Government from George Mason University in 1984 and a master of arts in National Security and Strategic Studies from the U.S. Naval War College in 1992. The recipient of personal awards from the Director of Central Intelligence and the Secretary of Energy, for his actions in Afghanistan in 2002 the Secretary of the Navy awarded the Bronze Star and authorized wear of the Combat Action Ribbon.