



## **BIOGRAPHY DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE**

### **JOHN A. ATELA**

Chief, Underground Facility Analysis Center  
Directorate for Analysis



Mr. John Atela was appointed as Chief of the Underground Facility Analysis Center (UFAC) in June 2022. As Chief of UFAC, Mr. Atela leads a complex Intelligence Community program with a large civilian, military, and contractor workforce from several agencies providing comprehensive intelligence to combatant commanders, national-level policymakers, weapon developers and the acquisition community to detect, characterize and assess foreign underground facilities and programs.

Prior to this assignment, he served for 4 years as the Deputy Chief of the Defense Combating Terrorism Center (DCTC). As Deputy Chief of DCTC, Mr. Atela led Defense Intelligence Enterprise production of all-source intelligence for U.S. counterterrorism policy and defense contingency planning and operations, with a focus on terrorism-related warning for force protection.

Promoted to Defense Intelligence Senior Level in February 2012 and Senior Executive Service in May 2014, Mr. Atela was previously the Director, Office of Partner Engagement (OPE) and responsible for all DoD non-SIGINT/IMINT intelligence relationships with foreign governments and international organizations, directed operations of DIA Liaison Offices, and foreign defense attaches from over 100 countries accredited to DoD. Before that, Mr. Atela was appointed the Senior Expert for International Engagement, Office of International Engagement, responsible for assessing the effectiveness of international engagement activities and developing policies for enhancing international relationships and later served as the Deputy Director for OPE.

Mr. Atela began his civil service career in the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI), International Programs and Engagement, Collections Directorate responsible for the Navy's Intelligence Engagement, Attaché Affairs and Foreign Disclosure Program. Later assigned as the Senior Intelligence Officer for Navy's International Intelligence Engagement for the Director of Naval Intelligence, Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), N2 Staff foreign intelligence engagement program. He was selected for a one-year Joint Duty Assignment (JDA) to the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, Office of the Americas, Latin American Division. Following his JDA, Mr. Atela assumed duties as the Deputy Director for International Programs and Engagement, CNO N2N6, where he led and executed the Navy's Intelligence Engagement Strategy with foreign partners.

Mr. Atela is a retired Naval Officer having served in operational and staff assignments supporting combat and peacekeeping operations in the Balkans, Persian Gulf, and Latin America.

Born in Allentown, Pennsylvania, Mr. Atela received a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering Technology from Old Dominion University, and earned a Master of Science in Engineering Management from George Washington University.

Mr. Atela is the recipient of the Department of the Navy Superior and Meritorious Civilian Service Awards and the ONI, Richard Bryce, Collections Award and various military awards.

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