Kristen Best
Director, Illicit Trade, Travel, Finance
Department of Homeland Security, Office of Strategy, Policy, & Plans
Membership Chair, Executive Women in Government

Kristen Best is the Director (A), Illicit Trade, Travel, Finance at the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Strategy, Policy, & Plans. In this role she leads a portfolio that focuses the Department's efforts on victim- and exploitation-based crimes such as sex trafficking, forced labor, child sexual exploitations, and human rights abuses. Ms. Best spent ten years in numerous positions at the Transportation Security Administration, where she most recently was the Chief of Staff, Operations Support, responsible for supporting the Executive Assistant Administrator in implementing processes that strengthen operations support services to enhance TSA's policy plans and engagements, intelligence and analysis, enrollment services and vetting programs, as well as requirements and capabilities analysis efforts. She also served as the Assistant Federal Security Director-Screening, leading a team of approximately 500 employees and six specialized departments in screening operations to ensure the safety and security of the traveling public at Portland International Airport in Portland, OR. Ms. Best holds a Master of Public Administration degree from George Mason University and a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Delaware in Leadership and Consumer Economics, with a Minor in Japanese. In 2018 she was awarded a professional certificate from the American University, Key Executive Leadership Certificate Program and in 2019 graduated from the Federal Executive Institute, Leadership for a Democratic Society. She has three active and athletic boys who live in Portland, OR, and spends the majority of her downtime reading, exercising, and traveling back-and-forth to Oregon.