

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

Jesse Fong Class of 1981



Jesse Fong retired from the U.S. Department of Justice's (DoJ) Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) in December 2020 after over 35 years of federal service. As the Special Agent in Charge (SAC) of the Washington Division Office, he was responsible for DEA operations in the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia. Jesse oversaw administration of narcotics enforcement operations in the region and managed 450+ employees in 14 DEA offices. Under Jesse's leadership, national drug trafficking performance measures reflected yearly improvements.

Jesse began his DoJ service in 1985 as a U.S. Immigration & Naturalization Service Inspector. In this capacity, he inspected foreign and domestic individuals seeking port of entry admission at JFK's International Airport. Jesse then joined the DoJ's U.S. Marshals Service at Manhattan's Southern District of New York. He graduated from the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Glyncol, Georgia Criminal Investigator Training Program and from the Basic Deputy U.S. Marshals training with an outstanding rating. As a Deputy U.S. Marshal, he provided court security, conducted fugitive investigations, and provided witness security protection details. As a certified Special Operations Group (SOG) member, Jesse provided nationwide tactical intervention in emergency situations and high-risk judicial trials.

In 1988, Jesse graduated from the DEA Academy Quantico's Basic Agent Training and became a Special Agent. He served as a Special Agent in New York City and in the U.S. Embassy Bangkok, Thailand. He received several promotions during his service, and served in many leadership roles—including as a mid-level manager and supervisor in Newark, NJ, Melville, NY, Bangkok, Thailand and again New York City. He also worked at DEA Headquarters as an Inspector with the Inspection Division's Office of Professional Responsibilities (OPR) in Virginia.

Jesse was first promoted to the ranks of Senior Executive Service (SES) in August 2015. He served for over 3 years as the Regional Director (RD) for the Far East Region based in Bangkok, Thailand. As RD, he managed 125+ American employees and foreign service nationals assigned to 14 DEA offices in China, Hong Kong SAR, Taiwan, Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, Burma, Philippines, Malaysia, Australia, Indonesia, and Thailand. Jesse also advised U.S. Department of State senior officials on narcotics issues and collaborated with host country law enforcement officials to further U.S. interests in narcotics and money laundering investigations.

Jesse received numerous performance-based SES awards and performance Special Act/Service awards, including the "DEA Administrator's Group Achievement Award" and U.S. Marshals Service "Director's Honorary Award for Distinguished District." Jesse also received the "Decree on Cooperation Medal Award" from The Kingdom of Cambodia-Government Minister of Interior, the "Recognition of Support Assistance" medal from The Kingdom of Thailand and the "International Award of Honor" from the International Narcotic Enforcement Officers Association.

Jesse, a graduate of several executive leadership courses at the University of Virginia's Federal Executive Institute, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) Eastern Management Development Center and Johns Hopkins University's Executive Leadership Institute. He also earned a Master of Arts degree in Education & Supervision from Seton Hall University and holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Dowling College, where he received a 4-year Division II college basketball scholarship. During his time at Dowling, Jesse co-captained the '83-'85 teams and finished with 1008 points and 415 assists, which placed him as the 4th all-time leader in assists. Jesse graduated from Manhattan's Power Memorial Academy High School in 1981, where he played 4 years of Catholic High School Athletic Association basketball. Jesse began his formative years at East Harlem's St. Cecilia Parochial School and participated in the Catholic Youth Organization basketball program