



Department of Veterans Affairs

Senior Executive Biography

James E. Hutton

Assistant Secretary for Public and Intergovernmental Affairs

James E. Hutton was appointed by President Donald J. Trump on June 12, 2019.

As Assistant Secretary, he oversees the elements of public affairs, including, media relations, digital media engagement, outreach, internal information, and field operations nationwide. He also directs intergovernmental affairs, involving local and tribal governments in the 50 states, the territories, and District of Columbia.



Before assuming his position, he served in VA as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs; Executive Director of Public Affairs; and Director of Media Relations.

Prior to arriving at VA, he served as the Chief Communication and Engagement Officer for a year at the non-profit, Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors in Arlington, Virginia.

Mr. Hutton served for nearly 27 years as an active duty officer in the United States Army, retiring as a Colonel. During his military career, he served in numerous stateside positions and overseas in Germany, Kuwait, Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and three tours of duty in Baghdad, Iraq.

He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Oklahoma State University; a Master of Arts degree from Webster University (St. Louis, Missouri); and a Master of Science degree from the National Defense University's National War College.

Mr. Hutton's military awards include the Legion of Merit, three awards of the Bronze Star Medal, two awards of the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, five awards of the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Joint Service Achievement Medal, five awards of the Army Achievement Medal, the Combat Action Badge, the Army Staff Badge and numerous other U.S. and foreign medals and ribbons.