

Walter S. Harris

Mr. Harris is the Deputy Commissioner for Operations and Chief Operating Officer at the Food and Drug Administration in Washington, DC. In this role Mr. Harris is responsible for approximately 15,000 staff plus 400 contractors and has financial oversight of \$4.2 Billion dollars.

Mr. Harris has amassed more than 20 years of leadership and management experience from the private sector and in the federal government. He has managed at the executive levels in the areas of public health operations, healthcare operations, information technology (IT), and has led organizational development for large and small organizations.

Mr. Harris served 6 years in the United States Air Force and was selected to serve as a liaison to the Secretary of Defense, Honorable Casper Weinberger. Mr. Harris was also recalled to serve during Operation Desert Storm.

From 1988 – 2002 Mr. Harris worked as a manager in private sector healthcare.

In November 2002, Mr. Harris continued his healthcare career; he joined the federal government as an Enterprise Systems Manager (ESM) for the Veterans Health Administration (VHA). As an ESM, he managed a health care portfolio of management and financial programs totaling more than \$600 million and served a customer base of 200,000 VHA business and clinical customers. Two years later, Mr. Harris was promoted to the Director of the Enterprise Systems Office.

In April 2006, Mr. Harris was appointed to the Senior Executive Service (SES) as the Deputy Chief Information Officer at the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

In February of 2008, Mr. Harris joined the Centers for Disease Control as the Chief Management Officer for the Coordinating Center for Health and Information Services (CCHIS) and was later appointed as the Deputy Director of the Office of Surveillance, Epidemiology and Laboratory Services (OSELs).

Mr. Harris earned a Bachelor of Art degree in management and communication from Concordia University in Mequon, Wisconsin, and a Master of Business Administration degree from Regis University in Denver, Colorado.