

Jonathan F. Thompson

Jonathan Thompson is the Executive Director and CEO of the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA), the nation's preeminent, non-profit entity representing the interests of the 3,080 sheriffs in the United States and their deputies.

Immediately prior, Mr. Thompson was a principal with Refero Communications, helping organizations to plan and implement their communications strategies on a wide variety of public affairs, public relations and government outreach endeavors.

From 2007-2009, Mr. Thompson was the Director of External Affairs for the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency. In this role, he oversaw all elements of communications and outreach for the agency, including public affairs, community affairs, legislative, international and intergovernmental affairs, as well as all web and social media communications. During this time, he worked closely with law enforcement and first responder organizations on more than two dozen major disasters and incidents. Through his service with FEMA, Mr. Thompson gained first-hand knowledge of rural, urban, suburban and state law enforcement agencies across 30 states.

Mr. Thompson was previously Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs, responsible for the design, development and oversight of communications planning for the Department's Iraq and Global War on Terror. Here he worked closely with agency leadership, as well as the communication leaders at the White House, Department of State, the National Security Council and other relevant departments and agencies concerning mission-related matters. He worked closely with the strategic communications assets of the Department, including the Information Operations, Psychological Operations and Legislative Affairs entities. In this and prior roles, Mr. Thompson traveled to Iraq more than a dozen times, and numerous other middle-east and Asian countries. Prior to this assignment, Mr. Thompson served in the Defense Reconstruction Support Office for Iraq and Afghanistan Affairs. Mr. Thompson's principal responsibilities included strategy development, public affairs, elections and political-military affairs policy development in support of the Department's overall mission in Iraq.

Prior to his Government service, Mr. Thompson served in senior management positions with two national trade associations. He has led communications for the Consumer Electronics Association, as well as overseeing the Consumer Electronics Trade Show (1994-1998), and events and marketing for the Software and Information Industry Association (2002-2003). His management career has spanned the private sector with two full service event and market communications firms, specializing in strategic planning and communications. His clients included several Fortune 500 companies, non-profit organizations and U.S. governmental agencies.

Mr. Thompson holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin – Madison, is married and lives in Northern Virginia.