



## **Department of Veterans Affairs**

### **Senior Executive Biography**

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#### **Robert Wilkie**

##### **Secretary of Veterans Affairs**

The Honorable Robert Wilkie was nominated by President Trump to serve as the tenth Secretary of Veterans Affairs. He was confirmed by the United States Senate on July 23, 2018, and sworn in on July 30, 2018. Mr. Wilkie previously served as the acting Secretary of VA from March 28 to May 29, 2018.

Before confirmation as VA Secretary, Mr. Wilkie served Secretary James Mattis as his Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness—the principal advisor to the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Defense for Total Force Management as it relates to readiness, National Guard and Reserve component affairs, health affairs, training, and personnel requirements and management, including equal opportunity, morale, welfare, recreation, and the quality of life for military families.



The son of an Army artillery commander, Mr. Wilkie spent his youth at Fort Bragg. Today, he is an officer in the United States Air Force Reserve assigned to the Office of the Chief of Staff. Before joining the Air Force, he served in the United States Navy Reserve with the Joint Forces Intelligence Command, Naval Special Warfare Group Two, and the Office of Naval Intelligence.

Mr. Wilkie has more than 20 years of federal service at the national and international levels. During the George W. Bush Administration, Mr. Wilkie served both Donald Rumsfeld and Robert Gates as Assistant Secretary of Defense from 2005–2009, and he was the youngest senior leader in the Department. Mr. Wilkie was Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs and a senior director of the National Security Council under Dr. Condoleezza Rice. He also has extensive experience in the United States Congress, including recent service as Senior Advisor to Senator Thom Tillis and service as Counsel and Advisor on International Security Affairs to the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Honorable Trent Lott. Mr. Wilkie shepherded the Senate confirmation process for James Mattis, Robert Gates, and Admiral Mike Mullen (CJCS), and he was responsible for the preparation of General David Petraeus and Ambassador Ryan Croker for their multiple appearances before the Congress in defense of the Iraqi Surge.

Mr. Wilkie was Vice President for Strategic Programs for CH2M HILL, one of the world's largest engineering and program management firms, where for five years he held program management and advisory assignments as diverse as the London 2012 Summer Olympics and the reform and reorganization of the United Kingdom Ministry of Defense Supply and Logistics System (DE&S).

Mr. Wilkie holds an Honors degree from Wake Forest University, a Juris Doctor from Loyola University College of Law in New Orleans, a Master of Laws in International and Comparative Law from Georgetown University, and a Masters in Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College. A graduate of the College of Naval Command and Staff, Air Command and Staff College, the United States Army War College, and the Joint Forces Staff College, Mr. Wilkie has published articles in the *Naval War College Review*, *Parameters*, *Armed Forces Journal International*, *Air and Space Power Journal*, and *Proceedings*. He holds personal and unit decorations, as well as the Defense Distinguished Public Service Medal, the highest non-career civilian award of the Department.



## **Department of Veterans Affairs**

### **Senior Executive Biography**

**Paul R. Lawrence, Ph.D.**

**Under Secretary for Benefits**

**Veterans Benefits Administration**

Paul R. Lawrence, Ph.D. was nominated by President Donald J. Trump to serve as the 7th Under Secretary for Benefits and was confirmed by the United States Senate on April 26, 2018.

As Under Secretary, he leads more than 20,000 employees in the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) in the delivery of benefits programs for Veterans, including disability compensation, pension and fiduciary, education, home loan guaranty, vocational rehabilitation and employment, life insurance, and the Transition Assistance Program. Through a nationwide network of 56 regional offices, special processing centers, and VBA headquarters, he oversees the execution of over \$104B in direct benefits to Veterans and their dependents.



Prior to his confirmation, Dr. Lawrence served as Vice President at Kaiser Associates. He has 30 years of experience working closely with federal leaders as a senior management consultant, serving in leadership positions at such organizations as Ernst & Young, Accenture, the MITRE Corporation, IBM Business Consulting Services, and PricewaterhouseCoopers.

He has researched and written extensively on management and government. He is the co-author of *Succeeding as a Political Executive: 50 Insights from Experience*; *What Government Does: How Political Executives Manage*; and *Paths to Making a Difference: Leading in Government*. He is the co-editor of *Transforming Organizations and Learning the Ropes: Insights for Political Appointees*. He served on the Board of Advisors to the Economic Program at the University of Massachusetts and has served on the Board of Advisors of the Thomas Jefferson Public Policy Program at The College of William and Mary. He was twice selected by Federal Computer Week as one of the top 100 public service business leaders.

Dr. Lawrence served in the U.S. Army attaining the rank of Captain. He graduated from the Army's Airborne School and was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal. He earned a Master of Arts and Ph.D. in Economics from Virginia Tech and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.



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#### **Richard A. Stone, M.D.**

##### **Executive in Charge, Veterans Health Administration**

Dr. Richard Stone serves as the Executive in Charge, Veterans Health Administration (VHA), with the authority to perform the functions and duties of the Under Secretary for Health. As the Executive in Charge, Dr. Stone directs a health care system with an annual budget of approximately \$68 billion, overseeing the delivery of care to more than 9 million enrolled Veterans. The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) is the largest integrated health care system in the United States, providing care at 1,243 health care facilities, including 172 VA Medical Centers and 1,062 outpatient sites of care of varying complexity (VHA outpatient clinics). VHA is the nation's largest provider of graduate medical education and a major contributor to medical and scientific research. More than 73,000 active volunteers, 127,000 health professions trainees, and more than 306,000 full time health care professionals and support staff are an integral part of the VHA community.



Prior to returning to VA, Dr. Stone was a Vice President at Booz Allen Hamilton, assigned to Military Health within Booz Allen's health portfolio. Dr. Stone previously served the Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Health in VHA. His focus on VHA organizational transformation, ensuring Veteran access to health care and restoring trust in the Veterans Health Administration has been broadly recognized. Prior to that appointment, Dr. Stone was a Principal at Booz Allen Hamilton and was widely recognized for his expertise in civilian and Department of Defense health and health care business reengineering. He provided strategic input across the Federal and civilian Health portfolio and supported programs to enhance the overall health of service members, Veterans, and military families.

Dr. Stone is retired from the US Army where he served as the Army's Deputy Surgeon General and the Deputy Commanding General of Support for US Army MEDCOM. His final assignment was leading the operations cell of the Defense Health Agency Transition Team that developed business case analysis and business process reengineering for the 10 "shared services" assigned to the new Defense Health Agency. With extensive experience in civilian health care, Dr. Stone served multiple non-profit regional health care systems and has owned multiple businesses over his career. Currently a practicing dermatologist, he obtained his training from Wayne State Affiliated programs in Detroit and the VA Health system, and is a Board Certified fellow in the American Academy of Dermatology.

He has a number of awards and honors to his credit including the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Combat Action Badge, and was a member of the Department of Defense Recovering Warrior Task Force from 2011 – 2015.

#### **CAREER CHRONOLOGY:**

<b>2018 – Present</b>	Executive in Charge, VHA
<b>2017 – 2018</b>	Vice President, Booz Allen Hamilton, Military Health, Washington, DC
<b>2016 – 2017</b>	Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Health, VHA

**2009 -- 2013** Deputy Surgeon General, US Army  
**2005 – 2009** Deputy Commanding General of Support for US Army MEDCOM

**EDUCATION:**

**2005** MS in Strategic Studies, Army War College, Carlisle, PA  
**1977** MD Wayne State University, Detroit, MI  
**1973** BS in Biology and Chemistry, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI



## **Department of Veterans Affairs**

### **Senior Executive Biography**

#### **Jon Rychalski**

##### **Assistant Secretary for Management and Chief Financial Officer**

Mr. Jon Rychalski is the Assistant Secretary for Management and Chief Financial Officer of the Department of Veterans Affairs. In this role, he is responsible for directing the Department's budgetary, financial, capital asset management, and business oversight functions as well as corporate analysis and evaluation.



Prior this appointment, Mr. Rychalski was the acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs and the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Budgets and Financial Policy. Health Affairs is responsible for providing a cost effective, quality health benefit to 9.6 million active duty uniformed Service Members, retirees, survivors and their families in the Military Health System (MHS). The MHS is a \$50 billion program that consists of a worldwide network of 59 military hospitals, 360 health clinics, private-sector health business partners, and the Uniformed Services University.

In 1989, Mr. Rychalski entered federal service with a commission through Air Force Officer Training School. After three years as a line officer, he was commissioned in the Air Force Medical Service Corps (MSC). While an MSC Officer, Mr. Rychalski served in a variety of capacities including Patient Administration Officer, Medical Readiness Officer, TRICARE Flight Chief, and Resource Management Officer. He also participated in an Education with Industry assignment at Long Beach Memorial Medical Center in Long Beach, CA and completed a tour at the Air Force Surgeon General's office as a staff officer. He left active duty in 2001.

In addition to federal service, Mr. Rychalski worked in the civilian health care consulting industry for nearly eight years. In this capacity, he served a diverse clientele ranging from Military Health System organizations to commercial health care clients to the Department of Health and Human Services. As a consultant, he was responsible for successfully leading numerous projects that were financially, operationally, or strategically focused.

Mr. Rychalski holds a Master of Science in Management degree from the State University of New York Institute of Technology; a Bachelor of Science in Accounting degree from National College; and a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration from Carroll College.