



JOSEPH C. SHARPE JR.  
DIRECTOR  
VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION DIVISION  
THE AMERICAN LEGION

Joseph C. Sharpe Jr. became the Veterans Employment and Education Division Director in April 2009 and previously served as Director of the National Security Division, Deputy Director of the Economic Division, Health Care Field Representative, and Assistant Director of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission.

He graduated from The Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies in Washington, DC, earning an M.A. in International Relations and Economics. He also has two Graduate Certificates in International Business and Trade and Health Care Management from Georgetown University. Joseph earned his B.A. in Sociology from the University of Maryland, College Park, MD.

In 1982, he entered the United States Army. After completing initial training at Ft Sill, OK, and Ft Sam Houston, TX, he served as a Drug and Alcohol Counselor with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division in South Korea. He also worked as a Mental Health Counselor in Ft Benning, GA, worked as a Behavioral Science Research Specialist at the Walter Reed Institute of Research, Heidelberg, Germany, and was appointed as the Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge of Inpatient Social Work and Psychiatry Service, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, in Washington, DC. In addition to his active-duty service, Joseph served with the 354<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Brigade, U.S. Army Reserve, Riverdale, MD, as the Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge of the Brigade's Economics and Commerce Team, and finally, before retiring with the 108<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs/PSYOP battalion as a Civil Affairs instructor, Ft Bragg, NC.

During Mr. Sharpe's military service with the Army Reserve, Sergeant First Class Sharpe was deployed twice overseas, in Operation Joint Forge, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and recently for the Global War on Terrorism, in which he received the Bronze Star Medal for work completed in the restoration and improvement of public and private financial institutions and banking services in Iraq.

Originally from Chicago, Illinois, he and his family reside in Alexandria, Virginia.