

James Zenner

Director, Los Angeles County Department of Military & Veterans Affairs

United States Army Veteran



Jim Zenner was appointed Director of Military and Veterans Affairs for Los Angeles County in August 2022. Since taking on this role, he has significantly expanded the department in alignment with the priorities of the LA County Board of Supervisors. Under his leadership, the department acquired the Veteran Peer Access Network (VPAN), launched dedicated divisions for homeless services and justice-involved veterans, and co-founded the Warrior Heritage Foundation, a public-private partnership designed to elevate veterans into leadership roles across the county.

Jim also plays a prominent role in shaping veterans policy at the state and national levels. He serves as Legislative Chair for the California Association of County Veterans Service Officers (CACVSO), National Policy Director for the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers (NACVSO), and Vice Chair of the Veterans and Military Services Advisory Council for the National Association of Counties (NACo).

Prior to his current role, Jim worked at the LA County Department of Mental Health as a Program Manager, where he led the implementation of VPAN. His earlier career includes leadership roles with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the Cohen Veteran Network Clinic at USC, and Volunteers of America Los Angeles, where he began his social work career after transitioning out of the military. His leadership has spanned program management, clinical services, consulting, and advocacy for veterans and their families.

Jim served in the U.S. Army from 2004 to 2008 as an All-Source Intelligence Analyst with 1-14 Cavalry, 3rd Stryker Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division during Operation Iraqi Freedom (2006–2007). He continued his service in the Army Reserve from 2008 to 2011.

Jim holds a Master of Social Work from the University of Southern California and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from St. Martin's University.

