Leith J. States, MD, MPH, MBA, FACPM

Witness Biography

Leith J. States, MD, MPH, MBA, FACPM, is a board-certified preventive medicine physician whose career spans military medicine, federal health leadership, and behavioral health innovation. He is Founder and Principal of States Strategies LLC, advising health systems, health technology companies, and public-sector partners on federal strategy, program implementation, and military and veteran health.

Dr. States previously served as Acting Assistant Secretary for Health and Acting Head of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps. In those roles, he led a federal health enterprise exceeding $700 million, including the Office of the Surgeon General and more than 5,400 uniformed officers. During his HHS service from October 2018 through September 2025, his portfolio included substance use disorders, drug policy, psychedelic-assisted therapies, Long COVID, environmental health, and health equity. He worked across federal agencies, Congress, and scientific and clinical organizations to translate evidence into policy and practice.

A former Navy Medical Corps officer and combat veteran, Dr. States deployed to Afghanistan as Battalion Surgeon with 1st Battalion, 1st Marines. He subsequently served as a Preventive Medicine Officer, Officer in Charge of a Forward Deployable Preventive Medicine Unit, and Public Health Emergency Officer for Navy Medicine West.

Dr. States currently serves as Fractional Chief Medical Officer and Strategic Advisor at Firehorse Health, Visiting Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson Center, and President of the Uniformed Services Academy of Preventive Medicine. He is a Fellow of the American College of Preventive Medicine, an adjunct faculty member at Emory University and Loma Linda University, and Board Secretary of the Ibogaine Health Policy Institute.