



# Department of Veterans Affairs

## Senior Executive Biography

### **Lewis Ratchford Jr.**

#### **Chief Security Officer, Office of Operations, Security and Preparedness**

Mr. Lewis Ratchford serves as the Chief Security Officer for the Office of Operations, Security and Preparedness, Department of Veterans Affairs. In this capacity, Mr. Ratchford oversees VA's force protection and mission assurance efforts by leading the facilitation and integration of the Department's emergency management response and recovery, personnel security and suitability, and security and law enforcement activities. These efforts aid to prevent and mitigate degradation of VA services to Veterans and employees, as well as to support federal response efforts for incidents and emergencies.



Prior to serving in his current role, Mr. Lewis Ratchford served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Emergency Management and Resilience, Office of Operations, Security, and Preparedness (OSP). Mr. Ratchford was a Commissioned Officer in the United States Army (1998 – 2003) and participated in multiple operational deployments to the Balkans and the Middle East. He is a Federal Emergency Management Agency Professional Continuity Practitioner (Level I) and member of the Senior Executive Association (SEA). Mr. Ratchford has also earned numerous awards including the Department of Veterans Affairs Meritorious Service Award, Executive Office of the President, Office of Administration Director's Honor Award and Director's Team Recognition Award for Security Excellence, Department of the Army Commander's Award for Civilian Service, Department of the Army Achievement Medal for Civilian Service, Department of the Army Outstanding Antiterrorism Innovation or Action Award (Individual), and the Governor's (MD) Volunteer Service Certificate (2015 and 2016). Mr. Ratchford also serves on the Charles County Public Schools Security Advisory Board where he advises the County on security practices to improve school safety.

#### **CAREER CHRONOLOGY:**

<b>2020 – Present</b>	<b>Chief Security Officer, Office of Operations, Security and Preparedness</b>
2015 – 2020	Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Emergency Management and Resilience
2013 – 2015	Director, Operations and National Security Services, Department of Veterans Affairs
2010 – 2013	Director of Operations, Office of Emergency Response and Recovery (OERR), U.S. General Services Administration
2009 – 2010	Antiterrorism Program Manager, Office of Emergency Response and Recovery (OERR), U.S. General Services Administration
2007 – 2009	Physical Security Branch Chief, Office of Administration (OA), Executive Office of the President
2006 – 2007	Chief of Antiterrorism, 11 <sup>th</sup> Wing, Air Force Military District of Washington
2003 – 2006	Antiterrorism and Force Protection Officer, US Army Garrison (Fort Wainwright and JRTC & Fort Polk)

#### **EDUCATION:**

2012 – 2013	Masters of Science in National Resource Strategy, Dwight D. Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy, Washington, DC
2012 – 2013	Graduate Certificate in Weapons of Mass Destruction Studies, National Defense University, Washington, DC
1992 – 1998	Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering, Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University, Huntsville, AL