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Blake Ortner is the Deputy Government Relations Director with Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) at PVA's National Office in Washington, D.C. He is responsible for federal legislation and government relations, as well as veterans' budget, benefits and appropriations analysis. He has represented PVA to federal agencies including the Department of Labor, Office of Personnel Management, Department of Defense, HUD and the VA. In addition, he is PVA's representative on issues such as Gulf War Illness and he coordinates issues with other Veteran Service Organizations.

He has served as the Chair for the Subcommittee on Disabled Veterans (SODV) of the President's Committee on the Employment of People with Disabilities (PCEPD) and was a member of the Department of Labor's Advisory Committee on Veterans' Employment and Training (VETS) and the Veterans Organizations Homeless Council (VOHC).

A native of Moorhead, Minnesota, he attended the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis on an Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) scholarship. He graduated in 1983 with an International Relations degree and was commissioned as a Regular Army Infantry Second Lieutenant. He was stationed at Ft. Lewis, WA, where he served with the 9th Infantry Division and the Army's elite 2nd Ranger Battalion. He left active duty in September 1987.

He continues his military service as a Major General in the Virginia Army National Guard and is a 2010 graduate of the US Army War College. From 2001-2002, he served as Chief of Operations - Multi-National Division North for peacekeeping missions in Bosnia-Herzegovina, from 2004-2005 he commanded an Infantry Battalion Task Force in Afghanistan earning 2 Bronze Star Medals, from 2007 to 2008 he served in Iraq as the Chief of Operations - Multi-National Force - Iraq earning a Bronze Star Medal and a Joint Commendation Medal, from 2011-2012 he commanded a NATO Infantry Brigade Combined Combat Team in Afghanistan earning a Bronze Star Medal and Meritorious Unit Citation, and from 2016-2017 he commanded Task Force Spartan in Kuwait earning the Distinguished Service Medal. Additional awards include the Legion of Merit, the Combat Infantryman Badge, Combat Action Badge, Ranger Tab, Military Free Fall Parachutist Badge and the Parachutist Badge. He currently serves as the Division Commander of the 29th Infantry Division for the Virginia Army National Guard.

Mr. Ortner resides in Stafford, VA with his wife Kristen, daughter Erika and son Alexander.