



## **Department of Veterans Affairs**

### **Senior Executive Biography**

#### **Melissa Cohen, M.Ed., Ed.S.**

##### **Executive Director, Outreach, Transition & Economic Development Veterans Benefits Administration**

Melissa Cohen was appointed as the Executive Director for Outreach, Transition, and Economic Development (OTED) in January 2024. She provides oversight of programs aimed at connecting transitioning Service members, Veterans, their families, and caregivers, to benefits and services. Ms. Cohen directs outreach events, as well as the policy, training, and compliance efforts for the National Call Centers. She is responsible for the VA's Transition Assistance Program (TAP) at over 300 installations worldwide for Active Duty, Reserve, and National Guard personnel, across all branches of Service. Ms. Cohen joined the VA in June 2022, serving as the Deputy Executive Director for OTED. In that role, she was responsible for policies and programs impacting the 56 regional and overseas offices, as well as the 200,000 Services members attending the Transition Assistance Program course annually. Prior to the VA she served as the Director of the Office of Force Resiliency for the Department of the Navy, responsible for sexual assault, sexual harassment and suicide prevention and response. Ms. Cohen started her federal service career at Headquarters Marine Corps in 2010. She received the Department of the Navy Superior Civilian Service Award in 2022 and the Meritorious Civilian Service Award in 2019.



#### **CAREER CHRONOLOGY:**

2024-Present	Executive Director, Outreach, Transition & Economic Development, Washington, DC
2022-2024	Deputy Executive Director, Outreach, Transition & Economic Development, Washington, DC
2019-2022	Director, Force Resiliency, Department of the Navy, Arlington, VA
2017-2019	Director, Personnel Studies and Oversight, Headquarters Marine Corps, Quantico, VA
2010-2017	Director, Sexual Assault Prevention & Response, Headquarters Marine Corps, Quantico, VA

#### **EDUCATION:**

Master's degree in Education, with a focus on mental health counselling, University of Florida  
Education Specialist degree, University of Florida  
Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology, University of Florida