

## Veterans for Common Sense – National Board Chair & Director

**Anthony Hardie** is a veterans' advocate, former public official, and a longstanding national leader on Gulf War veterans' health, toxic wounds, and other veterans' issues.

He has served with the treatment-focused U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program ([CDMRP](#)) on Gulf War Illness ([GWIRP](#)), as a consumer reviewer with the program's managing Programmatic Panel since the program's creation in 2006, and as its Chair since 2015. Since 2014, he has also served as Chair of the External Advisory Boards for the program's two Gulf War Illness research consortia at Boston University and Nova Southeastern University. He previously served from 2006 to 2013 on the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses ([RAC](#)). He served on the VA's Gulf War Steering Committee from its inception in 2010 until it concluded its work in 2012 to develop a strategic plan for VA for Gulf War illness research.

He served with the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) from 2003 to 2009 as Executive Assistant for Legislative, Public, and Intergovernmental Affairs (the position has since been renamed as Assistant Deputy Secretary), the agency's third-in-command. In that role, he also provided legislative and other support to the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs (NASDVA). From 1999 until joining WDVA in 2003, he served as a Congressional staff member to then-Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin.

Prior to his public service, he was an early leader of the former National Gulf War Resource Center from 1995 to 2000, including serving as a popularly-elected member of its Board of Directors, as National Secretary, and as National Vice-President. He served as a founding national officer of Veterans of Modern Warfare (VMW), including as Legislative Chair, National Treasurer, and National Secretary.

He has testified before Congress, federal agencies, and the National Academies on veterans' health issues on numerous occasions, and has been frequently interviewed and quoted in the national media on issues related to veterans' health and benefits. He has received numerous awards and commendations for his veterans' affairs service, including from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Wisconsin State Legislature, Disabled American Veterans (DAV), and AMVETS. In June 2017, he was awarded the [Ozonoff Unsung Hero Award](#) by the Boston University School of Public Health Department of Environmental Health.

He served with the U.S. Army from 1986 through 1993, with six overseas tours of duty that included two combat tours: the 1991 Gulf War, and Somalia. His military awards include the Bronze Star medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal (4 awards), Army Achievement Medal (6 awards), Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Parachutist Badge, and several more.

He is a graduate of the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School, and the Defense Language Institute. Following his military service, he earned his Bachelor of Science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is a life member of Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and Disabled American Veterans (DAV).

He is the author of [91outcomes](#), a Gulf War health and news website. As VCS's Director (2014-Present), he leads VCS's policy formulation and public advocacy efforts.