



Department of Veterans Affairs

Senior Executive Biography

Melissa Cohen, M.Ed., Ed.S.

**Deputy Executive Director
Outreach, Transition and Economic Development
Veterans Benefits Administration**



Melissa Cohen was appointed as the Deputy Executive Director for Outreach, Transition and Economic Development on June 21, 2022. She provides oversight of programs and initiatives aimed at helping Transitioning Service members, Veterans, and their families. Ms. Cohen advises on the delivery and access to benefits and services, as well as on matters related to economic development and sustainability. She is responsible for services throughout Veterans Benefits Administration's 4 Districts and 56 Regional Offices. She has oversight of VA's Transition Assistance Program at over 300 installations worldwide for Active Duty, Reserve, and National Guard personnel, across all branches of Service. She previously served as the Director, Force Resiliency for the Department of the Navy, overseeing sexual assault, sexual harassment and suicide prevention and response programs for the United States Marine Corps and Navy. She received the Department of the Navy Superior Civilian Service Award in 2022 and the Meritorious Civilian Service Award in 2019.

CAREER CHRONOLOGY:

2022-Present Deputy Director, Outreach, Transition and Economic Development, Washington, DC
2019–2021 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:

Navy Strategic Thinking Course, Darden School of Business, University of Virginia
Department of the Navy Executive Leadership Development Program, UNC at Chapel Hill
Master's Degree in Education from the University of Florida
Education Specialist Degree from the University of Florida
Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology from the University of Florida