



## OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR PERSONNEL AND READINESS

### **Michael R. Odle**

Director, Department of Defense/Veterans Affairs Collaboration Office



Mr. Michael (Mike) Odle serves as the Director of the Department of Defense/Veterans Affairs Collaboration Office (DVCO). As such, he is the central point of contact within the Office of the Secretary of Defense for the White House, Congress, the Department of Veterans Affairs, Federal agencies, and stakeholders regarding Service member and Veteran programs. He regularly provides strategic communication, planning, and operational oversight in support of DoD/VA enhanced collaboration, coordination and established interagency goals.

Appointed to the Senior Executive Service in November 2015, Mr. Odle was the Veterans Health Administration's senior communications official responsible for executing the national policy, planning, management and evaluation of communications programs for the largest integrated health care system in the country, serving nearly nine million Veterans annually at over 1,200 health care sites. His office encompassed media engagement, digital media, advertising, internal information, history and nearly 150,000 volunteers serving America's Veterans. He worked to enhance communication with Veterans, Veteran Service Organizations, VA's dedicated volunteers, the news media, and the American public.

He has more than 20 years of accomplished public, legislative, intergovernmental affairs and marketing experience with the government, military, non-profit and private sector. He has held leadership positions with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Department of Interior and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Mr. Odle is an Air Force Veteran and currently serves as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Air Force Reserve, assigned to U.S. Southern Command, Doral, Fla. During his military career, Mr. Odle served as the Assistant Director, Military Compensation Policy in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower & Reserve Affairs), Pentagon; Senior Press Officer for the International Security Assistance Force in Kabul, Afghanistan; spearheaded the Multinational Public Affairs Office in Bangladesh during a United Nations peacekeeping support operation; and served as a Public Affairs Officer in Louisiana during critical phases of rescue and relief efforts during Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Mr. Odle received his bachelor's degree in hospitality and tourism with an emphasis in marketing from Black Hills State University, S.D. and a bachelor's degree in international business from the University of the Potomac, Washington, D.C. He earned a master's in international management from Western Sydney University, Australia. Mr. Odle is a recipient of the Defense Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, the Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, and the State of California Commendation Medal for crisis communications.