

# FACT SHEET

## **BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

**EDWARD R. REESE, Jr.**  
National Service Director  
Disabled American Veterans

Edward R. Reese, a disabled combat veteran of the Persian Gulf War, was appointed National Service Director for the 1.3 million-member Disabled American Veterans (DAV) in June 2002. Mr. Reese works at DAV National Service & Legislative Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

As National Service Director, Mr. Reese manages all activities of the DAV's National Service Program, which employs more than 400 professional National Service Officers (NSOs) and support staff in 88 offices throughout the United States and in Puerto Rico who directly and tirelessly represent veterans and their families with claims for benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense. With outlays of \$42-million dollars in 2007, these direct hands-on services make up the largest item in the DAV's budget for program services. Between January 1, 2007, and December 31, 2008, our NSOs and TSOs, all wartime service-connected disabled veterans, represented more than a quarter of a million veterans and their families in their claims for VA benefits, obtaining more than \$2.9 billion dollars for them in new and retroactive benefits.

A life member of DAV Chapter 10, Arlington, Va., Mr. Reese joined the DAV professional staff in 1995 as a member of Class II at the DAV National Service Officer Training Academy at Denver Colorado. Following graduation, he was assigned as an NSO Trainee at the National Service Office in Washington, D.C. In September 1996, he was promoted to NSO Supervisor of the DAV National Service Office in Reno, Nev., and transferred to the DAV National Service Office in Oakland, Calif. in September 1997, where he served as NSO Supervisor. Mr. Reese was appointed Associate National Service Director in May 1999, Assistant National Service Director in August 2000 and Deputy National Service Director in August 2001.

A native of Bristol, Va., Mr. Reese enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1984, and was an Airborne Infantry Rifle Squad Leader in the 82nd Airborne Division during the Persian Gulf War. Following the war, he served as an elite "Black-Hat" instructor in the Air Movement Operations Course and Jump Master Course at Fort Bragg, N.C. Mr. Reese suffered a disabling back injury while conducting a night parachute jump in an airfield seizure training operation at Fort Bragg.

Mr. Reese is a 1984 graduate of Virginia High School, in Bristol. He also attended Fayetteville Technical Community College and Kaplan College for Professional Studies earning his Paralegal Degree. A father of three children, Mr. Reese and his wife, Belenda, reside in Stafford, Va.