



Department of Veterans Affairs

Senior Executive Biography

Thomas J. Murphy

Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Benefits, Performing the Duties of Under Secretary for Benefits

Thomas J. Murphy was appointed Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Benefits and is performing the duties of Under Secretary for Benefits in the Department of Veterans Affairs effective June 24th, 2016. In this position, he leads more than 20,000 employees in the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) in the delivery of non-medical benefits programs for Veterans, including disability compensation, pension and fiduciary, education, home loan guaranty, life insurance, vocational rehabilitation and employment, and transition, employment and economic impact. Through a nationwide network of 56 regional offices, special processing centers, and VBA Headquarters, he oversees the execution of nearly \$96B in direct benefits to Veterans and their dependents.



Prior to this appointment, Mr. Murphy served as Acting Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Benefits from February 2016 to June 2016. From August 2010 to February 2016, Mr. Murphy served as the Director of Compensation Service. In this position, he was responsible for the development and implementation of policies and procedures related to the administration of VA disability and death compensation programs, which paid \$66.38 billion dollars in benefits in fiscal year 2015 to over 4.5 million eligible Veterans and dependents. Before serving as Director of Compensation Service, Mr. Murphy served as the Director of the San Juan, Puerto Rico Regional Office and was responsible for administering VA benefits and services to over 151,000 Veterans and beneficiaries living in Puerto Rico, Vieques, Culebra, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Programs included compensation, pension, insurance, home loans, and vocational rehabilitation.

Mr. Murphy joined the Veterans Benefits Administration from The Home Depot, where he was a Director of Merchandise Planning. In this position, he directed the merchandise planning of the hardware department in over 1,950 stores with over \$8.5 billion in annual sales. Prior to joining The Home Depot, Mr. Murphy was a Senior Tactical Planning Manager for Qwest Communications, responsible for common systems growth of the local telephone network in 5 western states. Earlier in his career, Mr. Murphy worked for ten years in the Department of Defense in a variety of positions, including Logistics Manager, Administrative Officer, Training Manager, Staffing Specialist, and Chief of Employee Services.

Mr. Murphy retired from the military as a Major after 15 years of service in the Colorado National Guard and 6 years of service with the Marine Corps Reserve. His military assignments included Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, Battalion Operations Officer, Battery Commander, and Battery Fire Direction Officer.

Mr. Murphy and his wife reside in the Washington, DC Metropolitan Area.

CAREER CHRONOLOGY:

June 2016 – Present Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Benefits
February 2015 – June 2016: Acting Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Benefits
August 2010 – Present: Director, Compensation Service
August 2009 – July 2010: Director, San Juan Regional Office

EDUCATION:

1994 Masters of Business Administration, University of Colorado
1986 Bachelor of Science, Human Resource Management, Colorado Christian University