



Department of Veterans Affairs

Senior Executive Biography

Christopher O'Connor, MA

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Legislative Affairs

Christopher E. O'Connor has been designated to perform the duties of Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Legislative Affairs effective May 23, 2016. He previously served as Acting and then Interim Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Legislative Affairs since June 23, 2014. He began his career with the Department of Veterans Affairs in 2010 as Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Legislative Affairs. He supports the Secretary of Veterans Affairs by advancing pro-Veteran legislation to improve the lives of Veterans, their Families, and Survivors. His responsibilities also include: coordinating the Department's activities with Members of Congress and committees of jurisdiction, maintaining responsive and effective communications with Congress, international, state, county, municipal, and tribal governments, and being the Department's liaison with the Government Accountability Office (GAO).



Prior to joining the VA, he served over thirty years in the U.S. Marine Corps. His last assignment was as Commanding Officer of Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. A Marine pilot, Mr. O'Connor served in operational units throughout the world and flew both helicopters and jet aircraft. He had the privilege of commanding Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463 and served as the Assistant Wing Commander of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing in Okinawa, Japan. His staff assignments include duty as Deputy Director of the Office of Asian and Pacific Affairs in the Office of the Secretary of Defense and as the Deputy Legislative Assistant to the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

CAREER CHRONOLOGY:

- 2015 – Present Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Legislative Affairs, VA
- 2009 – 2015 Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Legislative Affairs, VA
- 2006 – 2009 Commanding Officer, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, California
- 2004 – 2006 Deputy Legislative Assistant to the Commandant of the Marine Corps
- 2003 – 2004 Assistant Wing Commander, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, Okinawa, Japan
- 2002 – 2004 Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, Okinawa, Japan

EDUCATION:

- 2000 U.S. Air Force Air War College Non Resident Program
- 1996 MA in Organizational Management, George Washington University, Washington DC
- 1993 U.S. Marine Corps Command and Staff College
- 1979 BA in History, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY

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