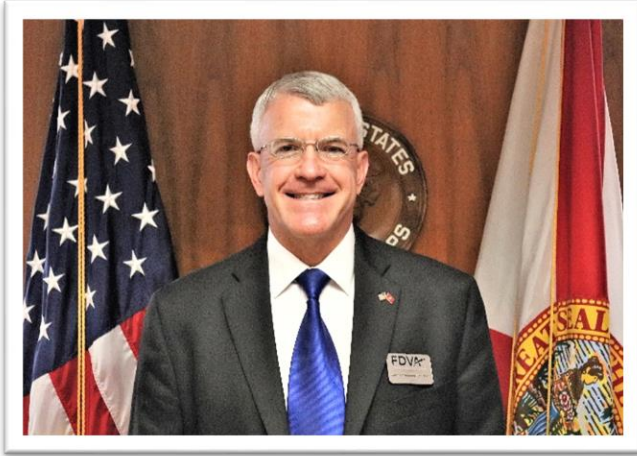




FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

*Honoring those who served U.S.*

## **James S. “Hammer” Hartsell**



Retired Marine Corps Major General James S. “Hammer” Hartsell was appointed Executive Director of the Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs by Gov. Ron DeSantis during the May 4, 2021 Cabinet Meeting. Florida’s three Cabinet Officers unanimously approved the appointment. FDVA is a 1,500-member constitutionally chartered State Veterans’ Affairs department with a \$160 million annual budget responsible for serving the nation’s third largest veteran population.

General Hartsell served in the United States Marine Corps with honor for 37 years of active and reserve duty, beginning as an enlisted Marine in 1981 and completing a distinguished and highly decorated military career as a Major General.

As a Lieutenant Colonel commanding the 4th Reconnaissance Battalion in 2001-2003, he was mobilized in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 1 and awarded the Meritorious Service Medal. In 2004, he was mobilized again and deployed for Operation Iraqi Freedom 2 as 1st Marine Division Senior Liaison to the Marine Expeditionary Force and awarded the Bronze Star and Combat Action Ribbon.

As a Colonel he was mobilized and deployed for Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan) as Senior Liaison to NATO Regional Command – South and was awarded the Legion of Merit and Combat Action Ribbon.

General Hartsell served as Commanding General of the 4th Marine Division comprised of 18,000 Sailors and Marines in 37 states and during his command deployed units and teams to five Continents in support of the Global War on Terror. He then served as U.S. Pacific Command Mobilization Assistant to the Commander, as J5 Strategy & Policy Director, and as Chief of Staff of the 360,000 participant United States Pacific Command and was awarded the Defense Superior Service Medal.

A very accomplished Marksman throughout his entire career, he was the first Marine Distinguished Shooter to achieve General Officer rank in over 60 years.

As Director of the Department of Defense Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies, General Hartsell worked under authority and direction of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy and personally engaged senior level U.S. and Foreign Military and Civilian government delegations in Washington, D.C. and abroad in the Indo-Pacific Theater.

A native of Florida, his 22-year civilian career in the Healthcare Industry included serving in Marketing, Product Management, U.S. and Global Business Development, Hospital Administration and Healthcare Leadership. Upon retirement from the Marine Corps, he moved back to his home state of Florida and joined the Pasco Sheriff's Office, where he launched the Future Operations Division.

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