

DVS Acting Commissioner Steven Combs

Steven J. Combs serves as Acting Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS).

The son of an Air Force veteran, he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Foreign Affairs from the University of Virginia in 1990 and was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Air Force. He served 10 years in the U.S Air Force in operations and logistics, including a tour as a squadron commander at Rhein-Main Air Base, Germany. Other assignments took him to California, Korea, the United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia, and Nevada.

Following his military service, he earned Master's degrees in Business Administration and Public Policy from the College of William & Mary.

He joined DVS in April 2004 as the Director of Policy & Planning, where he led the Department's budget and legislative development initiatives and support for four citizen boards. He became the Deputy Commissioner in April 2015, where he supported the work of DVS Commissioner John L. Newby II, the directors of the Department's six service lines, and the 800+ employees of the Virginia Department of Veterans Services.

He was promoted to Chief Deputy Commissioner in June 2019, with responsibility for the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond and the agency's veterans care centers in Richmond and Roanoke. He is also responsible for the construction and opening of new veterans care centers in Fauquier County and Virginia Beach, as well as leadership and oversight of broader agency operations.

He was appointed Acting Commissioner in August 2019, to serve until a new Commissioner is appointed by Governor Northam.

He and his wife Brigitte live in Ashland, Virginia. They have six adult children, including daughters who are Navy and Air Force veterans. He is a member of the Military Officers Association of America, the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Air Force Association. In his spare time, he enjoys travel, reading, and the study of historic coast defense forts.