



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Honoring those who served U.S.

JAMES S. HARTSELL

Retired Marine Corps Maj. Gen. James S. “Hammer” Hartsell is Deputy Executive Director of the Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs. The agency operates a network of seven state veterans’ homes and provides statewide outreach to connect Florida’s more than 1.5 million veterans with their earned services, benefits and support. He was appointed to his present position in April 2019.

Hartsell served as an Enlisted Marine in the Reserves from 1981-83, and then was commissioned as an officer serving on Active Duty from 1983-1994. He then transitioned to the Reserves where he was mobilized for the following Operations; Iraqi Freedom I - 2003, Iraqi Freedom II - 2004, and Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan – 2009-10.

As a General Officer he served as the Deputy Commanding General (Mobilization) I Marine Expeditionary Force and 1st Marine Brigade, as the Commanding General of the 4th Marine Division, and as the Mobilization Assistant to the Commander of the United States Pacific Command (USPACOM) where he served as the J5 Strategic Plans & Policy, the Chief of Staff, and as the Director of the Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies.

The general’s awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star and Combat Action Ribbons for combat in both Iraq and Afghanistan. He is also a Marine Corps Distinguished Pistol Shooter.

His civilian career while serving in the Reserves was focused on the health care industry with U.S. and global business responsibilities in the orthopedic implant business, in hospital administration, and in health care leadership. Most recently he served as the Director of Future Operations for the Pasco County Sheriff’s Office.

(As of April 2019)