

COMMITTEE TO REVIEW THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PRESUMPTION DECISION PROCESS

Meeting 1 Speaker Biosketches

Patricia Hastings, DO, MPH, is the VA Chief Consultant for Health Outcomes Military Exposures. She is an Emergency Physician and has completed a Disaster Medicine Fellowship with an emphasis in Public Health. She retired from the Army after 33 years of service at the rank of Colonel. Dr. Hastings is board certified in Emergency Medicine and has had a long and diverse career as a health provider. She entered the Army after medical school at the University of Osteopathic Medicine and Health Science in Des Moines, Iowa. She also worked as a paramedic and RN after graduating from nursing school. In her last military assignment, Dr. Hastings served as the Medical Director, Operations, Office of the Joint Staff Surgeon, Office of the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Peter D. Rumm M.D., M.P.H., F.A.C.P.M. is the VA Director of Policy, Health Outcomes of Military Exposures. He is an expert on environmental and military exposure topics and policy. He is a pediatrician and preventive medicine physician. Dr. Rumm graduated from the Medical College of Georgia and received his Master of Public Health from the University of Washington, concentrating in health services administration and epidemiology. He is a Fellow of the American College of Preventive Medicine (ACPM) and has served in leadership positions for the ACPM, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Association of Public Health Physicians. Dr. Rumm was formerly a Chief Medical Officer and State Epidemiologist in the Wisconsin Division of Public Health. He also previously served as an Associate Professor in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health and was the Director of the Center for Public Health Readiness and Communication at the Drexel School of Public Health in Philadelphia and held leadership positions at the Food and Drug Administration. Dr. Rumm has received a lifetime alumni achievement award from Columbus State University in Columbus Georgia, and has received a number of other local and international awards and recognitions for his work (including an Order of Malta award from the military health command of Italy). Dr. Rumm is a 2017 graduate of VA's Leadership VA program and the Health Care Leadership Development Program in 2022.

Jonathan M. Samet, M.D., M.S., is a pulmonary physician and epidemiologist, and is Interim Dean of the Colorado School of Public Health. Dr. Samet's research has focused on the health risks posed by the environment, including inhaled pollutants and tobacco. He has served on numerous committees concerned with public health and the environment, including the U.S. EPA Science Advisory Board and more than 25 committees of the National Academies, including chairing several of them, in particular Improving the Presumptive Decision-Making Process for Veterans. Dr. Samet has served as Editor and Author for Reports of the Surgeon General on Smoking and Health since 1984, receiving the Surgeon General's Medallion in 1990 and 2006 for these contributions. Dr. Samet received the 2004 Prince Mahidol Award for Global Health awarded by the King of Thailand, the Edward Livingston Trudeau Medal from the American Thoracic Society/American Lung Association, the Luther Terry Award for Distinguished Career from the American Cancer Society, and the Fries Prize for Health. He received the Alumni Award of Merit from the Harvard School of Public Health in 2001 and was

named Distinguished Alumnus of the Year by the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry in 2006. He was elected to the National Academy of Medicine in 1997 and received the David Rall Medal in 2015.

Simon Coon, Simon Coon joined the staff of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs in February 2016. He serves as a Professional Staff Member under Ranking Member Jon Tester. Simon manages the education, DOD-VA transition, and veteran's employment legislative portfolios for the committee, as well as Senator Tester's defense and foreign policy portfolios. Simon served for four years in the United States Marine Corps, has a BA in Political Science from Virginia Commonwealth University, and is currently enrolled in the Naval War College Fleet Seminar Program.

Lindsay Dearing, MPM, is a professional staff member for the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs Ranking Member Jerry Moran of Kansas. She joined the Committee in April 2019, and is responsible for the oversight of veterans issues related to DoD-VA transition and the veteran readiness and employment programs, as well as homelessness, veteran treatment courts, and toxic exposure. Prior to working for the committee, Lindsay worked as a Legislative Associate for the American Legion in Washington, D.C. Lindsay earned her Master in Policy Management degree at Georgetown University and her undergraduate degree in Human Services – Magna Cum Laude at the University of Arizona. She also served within the Wounded Warrior Fellowship Program in the U.S. House of Representatives. Lindsay served for 12 years in the Active Duty U.S. Army as an all-source intelligence analyst, a military intelligence instructor at Fort Huachuca, AZ, and as a jumpmaster with the 82nd Airborne Division. Between 2003 and 2015, she was deployed to Afghanistan for more than four years in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Lindsay was medically retired from the Army in 2015 as a Sergeant First Class (E7). Some of her decorations include the Knowlton Award, the Bronze Star Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, and the Combat Action Badge. Lindsay is an active participant in national veterans groups, including Team RWB and The American Legion, and is a lifetime member of the VFW.

Katherine Smith, currently serves as the Majority Staff Director for the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs (DAMA). Her portfolio covers Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability compensation, pension, life insurance, dependency and indemnity compensation, survivors' pension, burial benefits, and national cemeteries, as well as Arlington National Cemetery. Prior to her current role, she served as a Professional Staff Member, Legislative Aide, and Research Assistant for the DAMA Subcommittee. She has worked for the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs since June 2017. Ms. Smith received her Bachelor of Science in Economics and International Affairs from Florida State University.