

**Committee on the Mental Health Effects of Toxic Exposures
Among Veterans**

**Committee Meeting 1 – Open Session
February 22, 2024
Washington, DC**

Speaker Biographies

Patricia R. Hastings, DO, MPH, FACEP, RN, 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. At her retirement, Dr. Hastings was awarded the Defense Superior Service Medal for many accomplishments and contributions to military medicine in the areas of trauma, medical ethics and global health policy issues including responses to Ebola, Zika, MERS-CoV and bioterrorism preparedness/response.

Peter D. Rumm, MD, MPH, FACPM, Health Outcomes Military Exposures (HOME) Director of Policy, is an expert on environmental and military exposure topics and policy. He is a pediatrician and preventive medicine physician who came to VA from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), whose roles included deputy division director in pre-market divisions dealing with the regulation and safety of medical devices. 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 (AAP), and the American Association of Public Health Physicians (AAPHP). Dr. Rumm was formerly a Chief Medical Officer and State Epidemiologist in the Wisconsin Division of Public Health. During his time in Wisconsin, Dr. Rumm was a special CDC employee serving on the National Advisory Committee on Children and Terrorism. He then 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. During his time at Drexel, Dr. Rumm also served on the Board of Directors of the Mercy Health Care System in that area, and has served on many other boards or committees including the National Advisory Committee on Children and Terrorism. Dr. Rumm's other former professional positions include: 1) Chief, Division of Epidemiology, The Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine in Landstuhl, Germany; and 2) Officer in Charge, Fort Clayton and other Canal Zone Health Care Clinics, Panama. He also served as a part-time editor for the Office of the U.S. Surgeon General during part of his time at FDA. 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.

Aaron Schneiderman, PhD, MPH, RN, serves as Director of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Epidemiology Program. Dr. Schneiderman has nearly three decades of experience in the areas of occupational and environmental safety and health research. His work with VA's War Related Illness and Injury Study Center (WRIISC) in Washington, D.C. included both clinical work and research with Veterans in the areas of health risk communication, perception of environmental exposures, and physical and psychological health concerns. Dr. Schneiderman earned his Master of Public Health and Doctor of Philosophy from the Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health. He earned a Bachelor of Science in nursing with honors from the University of Maryland at Baltimore School of Nursing.