

Major General Gary S. Patton

Principal Director (Military Personnel Policy)



Major General Gary Patton assumed the duties of Principal Director, Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Personnel Policy on 7 July 2011.

As the Principal Director, he is responsible for the Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal Implementation Team. Additionally, he assists and advises on recruiting, retention, compensation, travel, and human resource management for the 1.4 million active duty military members of the U.S. Armed Services.



A 1979 graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point with a Bachelor of Science Degree, Major General Patton also holds a Master of Science Degree in Journalism from the University of Kansas and a Master of Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College.

Major General Patton's career spans more than 32 years of service as an infantry officer, including command at multiple levels and 45 months of combat duty this decade in Operations IRAQI FREEDOM and ENDURING FREEDOM. His career highlights include: Commander, 2nd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, Korea, later Fort Carson, CO, and Operation IRAQI FREEDOM, Iraq; Chief of Staff, 25th Infantry Division (Light), Schofield Barracks, HI and Operation IRAQI FREEDOM, Iraq; Director for Manpower and Personnel, the Joint Staff, Washington, DC; and Commander, 3rd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, NC.

Most recently, he served as the Deputy Commander for Programs, Combined Security Transition Command, and Deputy Commander for Army, NATO Training Mission, Operation ENDURING FREEDOM, Afghanistan, with responsibility for training, manning, and equipping the Afghan National Army.

His awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster), Legion of Merit (with Oak Leaf Cluster), Bronze Star Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster), Purple Heart, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (with 7 Oak Leaf Clusters), Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster), Combat Infantry Badge, Expert Infantry Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, and the Ranger Tab.

He is married with three children and resides in Burke, VA.