



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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OKLAHOMA VETERANS COMMISSION ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF NEW INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

(OKLAHOMA CITY) – The Oklahoma Veterans Commission, the governing body for The Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs (ODVA) announced the appointment of retired Rear Admiral Greg Slavonic as the agency Interim Executive Director on Monday, March 13, 2023.

Slavonic, previously the Under Secretary of the U.S. Navy, 18th Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower and Reserve Affairs and former Executive Director of the Jim Thorpe Association, was appointed by the Commission on Friday. Slavonic also served three and a half years as the first Chief of Staff to United States Senator James Lankford of Oklahoma.

Prior to Slavonic's service on the Hill, he was a senior leader at the Computer Sciences Corporation where he planned and executed several nationwide U.S. Navy community outreach engagements. For the past 40 years, Slavonic has held various civilian senior level positions in the communications industry.

Slavonic enlisted the United States Navy in 1971 during the Vietnam War, and following his recruit training was ordered to the Navy Signalman "A" school at Newport, Rhode Island. Upon course completion he was then attached to aircraft carrier USS Constellation and participated in two western Pacific deployments in support of combat operations in Vietnam. Slavonic held four command assignments over the course of his distinguished 34-year career, serving in combat deployments to Vietnam, Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm, and Operation Iraqi Freedom. His final assignment was as the Navy's Sixth Special Assistant to Chief of Information (CHINFO) and Director of Public Affairs Program (Reserve). Slavonic also served as the co-chair for the design and building of the USS Oklahoma Memorial at Pearl Harbor to remember the 429 Sailors and Marines who served aboard the battleship and lost their lives on December 7, 1941.

"I am honored to be asked to serve as the interim Executive Director for ODVA." Slavonic said Friday afternoon. "I hold the more than 300,000 veterans who call Oklahoma home in the highest regard, and want to ensure they receive the best care and benefits which ODVA can provide. I also intend to make it a priority to deal with any potential cybersecurity issues involving the ODVA portal responsible for collecting our veterans' protected personal information." Slavonic went on to state, "In addition, I will ensure every employee of ODVA is treated with dignity and respect, and that the lines of communication are always open to the senior staff and myself. My commander's intent is to set the course and speed to right the ship and lay the proper foundation for success." When asked about the decision to appoint Slavonic, Commission Chair Robert Allen, Esq., a decorated, combat wounded Iraq War veteran who survived being shot in the head by an Iraqi sniper stated: "We are both excited and honored that Under Secretary Slavonic has agreed to join us as Executive Director of the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs. As a native Oklahoman, he has an impeccable record of public service and has risen to the very highest levels of the United States Military and Department of Defense, both while wearing the military

uniform on behalf of our nation and as a civilian public servant. We are looking forward to working closely with Secretary Slavonic to correct many of the Department's troublesome issues that have come to light in recent months. He is the right person, at the right time, and at the right place to lead this agency past all of its recent controversy. Oklahoma's veterans can rest assured that, working together as a team, ODVA and the Veterans Commission will work tirelessly to improve the services our veterans so richly deserve."

Slavonic is expected to meet with ODVA Central Office staff Monday morning.

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