

Whitney Paul Allen, Jr.

Class of 93'

Biography

On August 4, 2021, Governor Andy Beshear appointed Lieutenant Colonel, USA (Retired) Whitney Allen as the seventh Commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Veteran Affairs. Whitney Allen is a retired Army Lieutenant Colonel with 25 years of combined military service. He enlisted in the Army Reserves in 1988 and later received his commission through the Tulane University ROTC program in 1994.

Commissioner Allen has served in various military organizations and locations around the world. His assignments include three combat tours in Afghanistan/Kuwait (2006-07, 2008-09, 2013-14), a peacekeeping mission in Bosnia (1996), a training exercise in the Kingdom of Jordan (2003), tour in Germany (1995-1998).

Commissioner Allen military awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal (one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, (OLC), Meritorious Service Medal (Silver OLC), Army Commendation Medal (two OLC), Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Medal (Bronze Star), Army Expeditionary Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Army Overseas Ribbon (#3 Device), North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Medal (Bronze Star), Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Army Meritorious Unit Award, Army Superior Unit Award, Airborne Badge, and the Military Intelligence Association Knowlton Award. He also received an award from the Afghanistan Minister of Interior for his work with Afghanistan's local police.

Commissioner Allen's formal education includes a Bachelor of Science in Physics from the Dillard University and a Master of Arts in Management and Leadership from Webster University. His military education include the U.S. Army War College Department of Distance Education Defense Strategy Course, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College (Intermediate Level Education), U.S. Naval War College CDE Command and Staff Program - Joint Professional Military Education Phase (Distance Education), 1st Infantry Division Military Transition Team Training Course, National Training Center Joint Observer Controller Academy OC Academy, Operations Research/System Analysis Military Application Course – ORSA MAC, Military Intelligence Captain's Career Course, Military Intelligence Signal Intelligence/Electronic Warfare Course, Combined Arms and Services Staff School – CAS3, Military Intelligence Advance Course, Military Intelligence Transition Course, Chemical Officer Basic Course, Airborne School, US Army Corps of Engineers Advance Individual Training and US Army Corps of Engineers Basic Training School.

Commissioner Allen is a member of Kentucky Veterans Hall of Fame, Louisville Week of Valor 2020 Honoree, Humana's Boots on the Ground Honoree, Louisville Business First 2019 "Salute to Veterans" honoree, Kentucky Colonel, Commonwealth Ambassador and holds membership/leadership positions in local and national veteran organizations including Veterans Community Alliance of Louisville (VCAL), the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. Military and Veterans Affairs Committee, and the NAACP Louisville Chapter's Military and Veterans Affairs Committee. He and his wife Yolanda have two daughters and currently reside in Louisville.