

Melissa Tune

Chief of Public Affairs, Defense Threat Reduction Agency



Ms. Melissa Tune is currently the Chief of Public Affairs for the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA). Melissa has close to a decade of service as a government civilian and is a retired U.S. Army Officer. Melissa's military service is inclusive of both active duty and reserve service, where she gained over 17 years of DOD and U.S. Army public affairs experience.

Concurrently with her military service, Melissa worked in commercial television news close to 20 years in top markets across the country as a local news anchor and reporter. Melissa worked in Richmond, VA, Washington, DC, Georgia and other major markets. For seven years, she worked at Virginia's powerhouse NBC station, WWBT-TV, where she covered the Virginia General Assembly and was the Tri-Cities Beat Reporter while serving as one of the station's anchor fill-ins. Her last television assignment was the "First at Five" 5pm co-anchor and reporter in Augusta, Georgia.

Melissa has twice deployed with the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) as a Forward Media Relations Officer and as the PAO for the Chief of Staff, U.S. Central Command. Melissa's next active duty assignment was with the Department of Army Headquarters, Office of the Chief, Army Public Affairs (OCA) at the Pentagon where she served as Executive Officer to the Deputy Chief of Army Public Affairs. Melissa's military career culminated at the former Joint Forces Command, Joint Public Affairs Support Element in Suffolk, Virginia.

Throughout her career, Melissa has produced on camera video projects, narrated voice overs and has worked joint public affairs projects for the White House, the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), The American Forces Network and Soldier's Radio and Television. Melissa has a background in teaching Advanced Media Training for U.S. Army senior leaders at the U.S. Army Combined Arms Center (CAC) at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas where she trained General Officers on media preparation techniques. Her military assignments carried her to the Middle East, Germany, Korea, Sweden and London, England, where she served in various military staff positions from the brigade level to the Department of Army Headquarters.

Melissa transitioned careers from television news into Government Public Affairs in 2012. Prior to joining DTRA, Melissa served as the Chief of Public Affairs for the Joint IED Defeat Organization. Melissa is a graduate of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) where she earned a Bachelor's Degree of Arts in English and a minor in Communication Studies. She also holds a Master's Degree in Public Relations and Corporate Communications from Georgetown University. She serves on the board of the Army Public Affairs Association and is a member of the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA).