
Brig. Gen. (ret) Marianne Watson

General Watson serves as Director of Outreach for **Center for America** (CFA) and Vice Chair of the Campaign Advisory Council of **American Jobs for America's Heroes**, a national nonprofit campaign to encourage employers to post jobs for National Guard Members and veterans.



In her role as Director of Outreach and one of CFA's senior leaders, General Watson works with business associations, military organizations, nonprofits, state and federal agencies to develop ways to expand our collaboration in support of increased employment opportunities for veterans, National Guard members and Reservists.

Until her retirement from the National Guard in December 2013, General Watson served as the Director of Manpower and Personnel, (J-1), at the National Guard Bureau in Arlington, Virginia. In this role she was Chief Human Resources Officer shaping joint policy and programs for the Army and Air National Guards. She had the primary responsibility of leading a National Guard Joint Manpower, Programs, and Policy Team collaborating with a network of strategic partners, fostering and enabling a resilient operational reserve, and advocating for National Guard Service Members, Families and Veterans by leveraging resources and programs across the spectrum of public and private stakeholders.

General Watson received her commission and was selected as the Honor Graduate of the Virginia National Guard Military Academy Officers Candidate School Class 31 at Ft. A.P. Hill. She has served full time as a Company Commander, Detachment Commander in the Virginia Army National Guard and Battalion Executive Officer in the Minnesota Army National Guard. General Watson has served at the National Guard Bureau since 1987. She served as the Officer Management Branch Chief, Personnel Division and later as the Chief, Army National Guard Personnel Division.

General Watson deployed to Bagram, Afghanistan as the Chief, National Guard Affairs. Upon her return she served as the Army National Guard G1 (Director of Personnel) for approximately three years.

General Watson earned a Masters Degree in National Security Strategy at the National Defense University, Fort McNair in 2005. She earned a Masters of Business Administration from Averett University in 1996 and graduated in 1991 from National Louis University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree, Management.

She also serves as a member of the Advisory Council of the Purdue Military Family Research Institute.

Email: MWatson@CenterForAmerica.org

For more information, contact:
Steve Nowlan, Center for America
201-513-0379

SteveNowlan@CenterForAmerica.org
www.CenterForAmerica.org
www.CFAawards.org

