



Governor's Military Council Member Biographies

Chair

Vice Admiral Jody A. Breckenridge, United States Coast Guard (Retired)

Vice Admiral Jody A. Breckenridge served as Commander, Coast Guard Pacific Area until her retirement from the Coast Guard in 2010. Prior to this assignment, she served as the Director, Strategic Transformation Team where she was responsible for aligning and synchronizing the efforts to transform and modernize the Coast Guard. She has also served as the Commander of the 11th Coast Guard District, overseeing Coast Guard operations in the Southwest and the Eastern Pacific. During this time, the District stepped up its interagency collaboration, leading to record drug seizures including the largest maritime interdiction in US history and the arrest of the head of the Arellano Felix Drug Cartel.

Military Leadership

Major General Craig Cooning, United States Air Force (Retired)

Major General Cooning served as president of Network and Space Systems (N&SS) for The Boeing Company from July 2014 until recently where he oversaw 10,000 employees in 38 different states as part of six business areas providing global customers with space exploration, cybersecurity, missile defense, and satellite communications solutions. Previously, Cooning served as vice president and general manager of Boeing Space and Intelligence Systems, and chief executive officer of Boeing Satellite Systems International. Prior to joining Boeing Cooning was director of Space Acquisition in the Office of the Under Secretary of the Air Force where he provided acquisition support to the under secretary and program management direction to field organizations for the development and procurement of Air Force surveillance, communications, navigation and weather satellites; space launch systems; information warfare capabilities; ground-based strategic radars; communications and command centers; and sustainment for the nation's land-based strategic nuclear missile systems.

Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Hackleman, United States Air Force (Retired)

Lieutenant Colonel Hackleman serves as Assistant City Manager for the City of Santa Maria since 2021. He was Chief Operations Officer at Reach Central Coast from 2019 to 2021. Hackleman was Executive Director for the Home Builders Association from 2017 to 2019. He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1996 to 2017, reaching the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Hackleman earned a Master of Business Administration degree from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and a Master of Science degree in Logistics and Supply Chain Management from the Air Force Institute of Technology. Hackleman is a member of the International City and County Management Association.

Lieutenant General Edward Hanlon, Jr., United States Marine Corps (Retired)

During his 39 year career in the Marine Corps, Lt. Gen. Hanlon served in several senior positions including Commanding General of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Commanding General of Marine Corps Combat Development Command and Deputy Commandant for Combat Development, and U.S. Military Representative to the NATO Military Committee. Following his retirement from military service, he joined Raytheon in 2007 as President of Raytheon International, Inc. Europe. He now serves as President of TransAtlantic Insights LLC, a consultant entity focusing primarily on defense and security programs and products vital to the US and NATO/EU.

Major General Anthony L. Jackson, United States Marine Corps (Retired)

Major General Jackson served as the Commanding General, Marine Corps Installations West, with which he also served as co-chair of the Western Regional Council, tasked with coordinating renewable energy development within the Department of Defense and with other stakeholders. Previous assignments include Director of Operations and Logistics, U.S. Africa Command and Deputy Commanding General, U.S. Marine Forces Central Command. He has also served as a military advisor on national security and renewable energy to the Rockefeller Family Fund and Pew Charitable Trusts.

Rear Admiral James Johnson, United States Navy, (Retired), M.D.

Rear Admiral Johnson was the 2012 President of the San Diego Military Advisory Council (SDMAC). He retired from the Navy in 2005 as the Director of TRICARE Regional Operations West, where he oversaw five-year, \$10 billion health care contracts and integrated health care delivery system for more than 2 million beneficiaries in 21 states in the Western United States. During his career, Dr. Johnson also served as Chief Executive Officer of Naval Medical Center, San Diego, Medical Officer of the Marine Corps, and Principal Deputy for Clinical and Program Policy in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs.

Colonel Fred Meurer, United States Army (Retired) Colonel Meurer served as the Director of Public Works and Housing, Ft Ord, Ca. During his career he also served as the Operational Test Director for the Apache helicopter and for the Hellfire missile system, the Office of Military Personnel and in various overseas assignments to include in combat with the 1st Infantry Division. After retiring from the Army, he served as Public Works Director for the City of Monterey for 5 years, then served as City manager for 23 Years. During and after his time with the City of Monterey, he served on the Boards of various local and national non-profits dedicated to improving the mission effectiveness and mission capabilities of the national security activities located on the Central Coast of California. He is an independent consultant to Booz Allen Hamilton.

Major General Eldon P. Regua, United States Army (Retired)

Major General Regua last served as deputy commanding general (wartime), Eighth Army in Yongsan, Korea, responsible for non-combatant evacuation, and the reception, staging, and onward movement and integration of Soldiers and equipment into the Korean peninsula in time of hostilities. His 36-year military career includes assignments as Commanding General, 75th Mission Command Division and Commanding General, 104th Training Division. He also served as a Personnel Committee Chairperson for the Secretary of the Army Reserve Forces Policy Board. Following his retirement from military service, Major General Regua has served as the General Manager for Creation Technologies and board member for the Campbell Veteran's Memorial Foundation and RightStep Services, Inc.

Command Sergeant Major Roberta Santiago, United States Army Reserve (Retired)

Command Sergeant Major Santiago served more than 23 years as a "drilling reservist" in the Army Reserve retiring in 1999 as the Command Sergeant Major, 352nd Combat Support Hospital in Oakland, California. As the US Coast Guard Chief, Reserve Capabilities and Readiness Branch, Pacific Area Personnel Division in Alameda, California, Santiago had programmatic oversight of reserve mobilization, training and readiness and development and execution of the Coast Guard's reserve training budgets for its Pacific Area units. She retired in August 2019 after 43 years in federal civil service which included assignments as paralegal/legal secretary with the U.S. Attorney's Office; Manpower & Force Management Analyst & Program & Budget Analyst, U.S. Army; Fiscal Manager and Business Manager/Resource Manager U.S. Navy. Santiago served from February 2007 to March 2011 on the Defense Advisory Committee for Women in the Service (DACOWITS) where she was awarded the Office of the Secretary of Defense Medal for Exceptional Public Service due to her contributions to military women's recruitment, utilization in combat, retention, advancement, and well-being, women's health care in the deployed environment, support to families during deployment and employment of military spouses, school options for military children, and the care of the families of wounded warriors.

Civic Leadership

Mr. Thomas R. Berard

Thomas Berard retired in 2011 as the Executive Director of the Air Force Flight Test Center at Edwards Air Force Base, California. Prior to this assignment, he was the Executive Director and Deputy to the Commanding General of the White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico, where he was the first civilian to hold the position of Director. He has over thirty years of civil service experience in Developmental Test and Evaluation, including work on the B-1B and B-2 bombers and the F-15, T-38, F-22, and F-35 aircraft. Berard holds a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from California State University, Stanislaus, and a Master of Science in Electrical Engineering from California State University, Northridge.

Mr. Joseph A. Czyzyk

Joseph Czyzyk currently serves as Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Los Angeles-based Mercury Air Group. He was the 2011 Chairman of the Board of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce and has served as a member of the Board of Governors of the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC). He is a decorated U.S. Veteran, having volunteered for two tours of duty (1966-1969) with the U.S. Navy Mobile Construction Battalion (Seabees) in the U.S. and Republic of Vietnam. Czyzyk is a Board Member of the CEC/Seabee Historical Foundation and is on the Board of Directors of U.S. VETS.

Mr. Jeffrey Klein

Jeffrey Klein has 37 years of experience, 20 as a member of the Senior Executive Service, in the acquisition, operation and life cycle support of U.S. Navy surface ships, submarines, unmanned underwater vehicles, saturation diving systems, combat systems, C4ISR and information warfare systems. Klein last served as the Executive Director, Commander Naval Surface Forces. Previous assignments include Executive Director, Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command Installations & Logistics Directorate, Director of Specialty Engineering, Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City and Logistics & Financial Program Manager, Naval Sea Systems Command Deep Submergence Systems Program Office. He holds a Master of Science Degree in Engineering and a Bachelor of Chemical Engineering Degree from the Catholic University of America.

State Leadership**State Senator Bob Archuleta, Staff Sergeant, United States Army (Retired)**

Senator Archuleta currently represents the 32nd District in the California State Senate. He served with the 82nd Airborne Division and is the Chair of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs. He is the first Latino Army Veteran named to the position. Senator Archuleta served as a Presidential Appointee under the 44th President of the United States, Barack Obama as a member on the Board of Visitors to the United States Military Academy at West Point. The senator was the first Mexican-American to be appointed by any president to the board, and was immediately elected as co-chair. He also served on the Los Angeles County Military Veteran Affairs Commission, the United States Army Advisory Board for Military Recruitment, and the Los Angeles County Library Commission. He also served with the Montebello Police Department after attending Rio Hondo Police Academy.

Mr. Samuel Assefa, Director, Governor's Office of Planning and Research

Appointed by Governor Newsom on September 15, 2021, Director Assefa most recently served as the Director of the Seattle Office of Planning and Community Development since 2016. He was Senior Urban Designer for the Department of Community Planning and Sustainability for the City of Boulder from 2010 to 2016, Director of Land Use and Planning Policy for the Department of Planning and Development and Deputy Chief of Staff for Economic and Physical Development for the Chicago Mayor's Office from 2004 to 2010 and Senior Urban Designer for SmithGroup JJR from 2002 to 2004. Assefa was Director of Special Projects for the San Francisco Department of Planning and Development from 1999 to 2002 and Senior Urban Designer for SMWM Architecture and Planning from 1993 to 1999. Assefa earned a Master of City Planning degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Major General Matthew P. Beevers, Adjutant General, California Military Department

Major General Beevers serves as Adjutant General of California, leading the largest, most frequently deployed National Guard force in the United States, with an authorized strength of more than 23,000 personnel. He is responsible for the operation of the state Military Department; consisting of the California Army and Air National Guard, State Military Reserve, and California Youth and Community Programs. He deployed to Afghanistan, where his assignments included Director of Strategic Communications, Combined Forces Command, Afghanistan.

Mr. Wade Crowfoot, Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency

Appointed by Governor Newsom on May 26, 2023, Secretary Crowfoot has served as Secretary since 2019 and advises Governor Newsom as a member of his cabinet, leading efforts to conserve California's environment and natural resources. Secretary Crowfoot oversees an agency of over 25,000 employees spread across 26 departments, commissions, and conservancies. His agency is charged with stewarding California's forests and natural lands, rivers and water supplies, and coast and ocean. It also protects natural places, wildlife and biodiversity, and helps oversee the state's world-leading clean energy transition. Secretary Crowfoot is leading efforts to achieve Governor Newsom's ambitious environmental vision, including a commitment to conserve 30 percent of California's land and coastal waters by 2030. He oversees billions of dollars of public investment to protect people and natural places from climate change impacts, and has led efforts to navigate California's record-breaking droughts, floods, and wildfires. Secretary Crowfoot has also initiated a new era of partnerships with California Native American Tribes and is shifting how the agency operates to better support all California residents and communities. Secretary Crowfoot has been on the frontlines of environmental leadership throughout his career. He served in Governor Jerry Brown's Administration as deputy cabinet secretary and senior advisor to the Governor, driving climate action. He led the non-profit Water Foundation to build water resilience across the American West. He spearheaded efforts to establish and defend California's landmark climate change policies as West Coast regional director for the Environmental Defense Fund. As an environmental advisor to then-San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom, he helped establish many first-in-the-nation urban environmental policies. Secretary Crowfoot received a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a master's degree from the London School of Economics.

Ms. Yana Garcia, Secretary, California Environmental Protection Agency

Appointed by Governor Newsom on May 26, 2023, Secretary Garcia has served as Secretary for Environmental Protection since August 2022. As Secretary, Yana oversees the state's efforts to fight climate change, protect air and water quality, regulate pesticides and toxic substances, achieve the state's recycling and waste reduction goals, and advance environmental justice. As a member of the Governor's cabinet, she advises the Governor on environmental policy. Since 2021, Garcia has served as Special Assistant Attorney General advising California Attorney General Rob Bonta on the California Department of Justice's legal and policy matters pertaining to the environment, land law and natural resources including climate, transportation, energy, and housing. She was Deputy Secretary for Environmental Justice, Tribal Affairs and Border Relations at CalEPA from 2019 to 2021 and had been CalEPA's Assistant Secretary for Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs from 2017 to 2019. During her tenure at CalEPA, Garcia led three Environmental Justice Task Force Initiatives in the communities of Pomona, Imperial County and Stockton. She also led the program that delivered more than \$1 million in Environmental Justice Small Grants to 28 organizations to combat pollution, improve health outcomes and increase public engagement in some of California's most pollution-burdened communities. Prior to her state service, Garcia litigated environmental cases on behalf of several client groups across the state and across the country, as an attorney at Earthjustice in the California regional office in San Francisco. Garcia was also a staff attorney at Communities for a Better Environment, serving in Huntington Park and Oakland. Her legal practice areas have focused on environmental justice issues, civil rights, land use, toxics and chemical disclosure, oil and gas extraction, and crude transport.

State Senator Shannon Grove

Senator Grove currently represents the 16th District in the California Senate, where she serves as the Vice-Chair for the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs and as a member for the Senate Committee on Health. After graduating from high school, Senator Grove served overseas in the United States Army and is the first woman veteran to serve in the California Legislature, where she was elected to serve as State Assemblymember for the 34th District from 2010-2016. In addition to her state service, Senator Grove also serves as CEO of Continental Labor and Staffing Resources, which serves Bakersfield and Ridgecrest.

Ms. Dee Dee Myers, Director, Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development

Appointed in 2019 as Director of the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz), Director Myers also serves as a Senior Advisor to Governor Newsom. An author and former co-host of a political talk show, Ms. Myers also served as White House Press Secretary for the Clinton Administration and has extensive experience in strategic communications, public affairs and corporate governance.

Ms. Lourdes Castro Ramirez, Secretary, California Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency

Appointed by Governor Newsom on May 26, 2023, Secretary Castro Ramírez has served as Secretary of the California Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency since March 2, 2020. She leads and oversees 12 entities, including 40 boards and bureaus, collectively responsible for the preservation and expansion of safe, affordable housing, efforts to prevent and end homelessness, protect consumers, and safeguard California's civil rights laws. Since 2020, the Agency and departments have delivered more than \$31 billion in funding to expand rental and homeownership housing opportunities and more than \$11 billion in homelessness solutions; partnered with state agencies to develop a Statewide Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness; and strengthened consumer protections through the licensing, regulation, education and enforcement of over four million businesses, professionals and financial institutions. Under the leadership of Secretary Castro Ramírez, the Agency and departments have launched new initiatives to advance diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility through policies and programs to combat hate and discrimination, create greater access to state programs, increase meaningful community engagement and partnerships, and promote healthy and thriving California communities. Secretary Castro Ramírez currently serves on the California Strategic Growth Council, the California Housing Finance Agency Board, the Governor's Military Council, and co-chairs the California Interagency Council on Homelessness. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond, she led the state's response and recovery efforts to keep people housed and served on the Governor's Task Force on Business and Jobs Recovery to rebuild a more equitable, sustainable, and resilient economy. Secretary Castro Ramírez has held notable and prominent positions including her appointment by former President Barack Obama to lead the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Public and Indian Housing; President and CEO of the San Antonio Housing Authority; Director at the LA City Housing Authority overseeing rental assistance and resident development programs; and serving as University Health System Foundation President in San Antonio.

State Senator Richard Roth, Major General, United States Air Force (Retired)

Senator Roth currently represents the 31st District in the California State Senate, which includes March Air Reserve Base. He retired in 2007 from 32 years of military service in the United States Air Force Judge Advocate General's Corps, where he served as Mobilization Assistant to The Judge Advocate General of the U.S. Air Force, overseeing more than 900 Reserve judge advocates and paralegals assigned to more than 200 offices at every level of command. He also has over 30 years of experience in the practice of labor and employment law, having worked as an attorney with the National Labor Relations Board and various Riverside-based firms.

Ms. Lindsey Sin, Secretary, California Department of Veterans Affairs (CALVET)

Appointed by Governor Newsom on May 26, 2023, as Secretary of CALVET, she has served in several roles at CalVet since 2011, including Deputy Secretary of Communications and Deputy Secretary of Women Veterans Affairs. Sin is the first woman to serve as Secretary of CalVet since the appointment of Virginia Mae Days as Director in 1975. After graduating from high school in her hometown of Sacramento, Lindsey enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served from 1997 until 2005 as a Cryptologic Technician Interpretive in the Arabic language. She completed two flight tours in Rota, Spain during which time she deployed in support of Operations Northern Watch, Southern Watch, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom, and achieved the rank of Petty Officer First Class with Naval Aviation and Naval Aircrew designations. After separating from the Navy, Lindsey returned to Sacramento and worked as the Lead Certifying Official for veterans services at American River College. She continued her work with veterans at Sacramento State as the Veterans Benefit Advisor and Certifying Official, focusing on developing programs for student veterans.

Mr. Rhys Williams, Chief Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom

Appointed by Governor Newsom on May 26, 2023. Mr. Williams currently serves in the Governor's Office as the Chief Deputy Cabinet Secretary and Senior Advisor on Emergency Management. In this role, he is responsible for leading the team managing and coordinating state government operations and policy on public safety, disaster management, homeland security, infrastructure, and climate and the environment on behalf of the Governor. He previously served as Chief of Staff to then-Lieutenant Governor Newsom, and a senior staffer for two state senate leaders. Williams holds a Master of Science in Economics Degree in International Relations from the University of Wales in Aberystwyth, and a Bachelor's Degree in Politics from the University of Exeter, in the United Kingdom.