



Department of Veterans Affairs
Office of Inspector General

News Release

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VA Office of Inspector General Leaders Receive 2021 Presidential Rank Award—Meritorious Executive

WASHINGTON – Larry Reinkemeyer, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Office of Inspector General’s (OIG’s) Assistant Inspector General for Audits and Evaluations, and Roy Fredrikson, Principal Deputy Counselor to the Inspector General, have each been awarded the Fiscal Year 2021 Presidential Rank Award—Meritorious Executive. The award is one of the most prestigious honors conferred to the career Senior Executive Service (SES) by the President of the United States.

The Meritorious Executive award recognizes the extraordinary achievements by career executives in federal service. In addition to effecting meaningful change, nominees must demonstrate the highest level of leadership acumen. Only five percent of career SES may receive this honor in a nomination year.

As the Assistant Inspector General for Audits and Evaluations, Mr. Reinkemeyer formulates audit policies, programs, plans, and special initiatives within the framework of relevant legislation, policy, regulations, budget, and administration. He directs the VA OIG’s national audit and evaluation program, which oversees VA’s budget of nearly \$246 billion. Since his June 2016 appointment, under Mr. Reinkemeyer’s leadership, Audits and Evaluations has published more than 220 reports with over 900 recommendations that identified approximately \$9.9 billion in potential monetary benefits. The reports spanned all aspects of VA operations. Among his many notable projects, Mr. Reinkemeyer spearheaded a review of Veteran Benefits Administration’s home loan guaranty funding fee refunding process, which resulted in refunds of more than \$400 million to veterans.

“Mr. Reinkemeyer’s rigor and dedication to the OIG mission have been indispensable to the management and oversight of one of the largest, most complex portfolios of any cabinet-level department,” said VA Inspector General Michael J. Missal.

Mr. Fredrikson is currently the Principal Deputy Counselor to the Inspector General, having first been appointed the Deputy Counselor to the Inspector General in February 2015. During Mr. Fredrikson’s time at the OIG, he has helped transform the OIG’s Office of the Counselor from an office of five attorneys to a more appropriately resourced team of 35 subject matter experts,

including 18 attorney-advisors. Mr. Fredrikson and his staff take part in all OIG operations—investigations, audits, inspections, and other reviews—and are principally responsible for representing the OIG in administrative litigation, overseeing the agency’s information release office, and providing employee relations advice and support to OIG management. In FY 2021 alone, Mr. Fredrikson and his staff provided support for the VA OIG’s 337 publications, which yielded a total monetary impact of about \$5 billion.

One highlight of Mr. Fredrikson’s career involved overseeing the preaward review for a drug used to treat chronic hepatitis C infection, the most common blood-borne infection in the United States, which can lead to liver cancer if left untreated. Through recommendations to VA contracting officers, the review identified \$5.7 billion in potential cost savings for hepatitis C drugs.

“Mr. Fredrikson’s tireless efforts have had an astounding impact on VA, the OIG, and millions of veterans across the nation,” said Inspector General Missal.

The VA OIG conducts oversight of VA and its programs and operations, providing independent and objective reporting to the VA Secretary and the Congress for the purpose of preventing and detecting fraud and abuse, and bringing about positive change in the integrity, efficiency, and effectiveness of VA. To report potential criminal activity, fraud, waste, mismanagement, or other abuse, contact the VA OIG hotline at www.va.gov/oig/hotline/default.asp or call (800) 488-8244.