



# Melissa Tune

Chief of Public Affairs



Melissa Tune serves as the Chief of Public Affairs for the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), the Department of Defense's official Combat Support Agency for countering weapons of mass destruction. In this capacity, she is the principal advisor to the DTRA Director and senior leadership on all strategic communication and media relations. A cornerstone of her leadership is ensuring that Department of War (DOW) messages are precisely articulated and intertwined within agency missions to provide direct, mission-oriented support to the warfighter. Her efforts ensure that DTRA's complex capabilities—from treaty verification to AI-driven threat assessment—are effectively communicated and operationally synchronized to protect forces on the front lines.

Ms. Tune's extensive record in government public affairs includes serving as the Chief of Public Affairs for the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization (JIEDDO), where she directed the global communication strategy for the high-priority mission of neutralizing IED threats and disrupting insurgent networks, a role defined by its immediate impact on warfighter safety and battlefield success. Additionally, she served within the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, Army G-8, where she created strategic messaging in support of the Army's multi-billion dollar equipping and modernization programs, ensuring soldiers remained the most lethal and well-equipped force in the world.

A retired U.S. Army Officer, Ms. Tune's military career is highlighted by multiple combat-theater deployments with U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) and a CONUS tour at the Pentagon as the Executive Officer to the Deputy Chief of Army Public Affairs. Prior to her civilian service, Ms. Tune was an accomplished broadcast journalist in top television markets, including seven years at NBC12 (WWBT-TV) in Richmond, Virginia, and as CBS's WRDW-TV "First at Five" co-anchor in Augusta, Georgia. An expert in media dynamics and tactical communication, she previously taught Advanced Media Training at the U.S. Army Combined Arms Center (CAC), where she prepared General Officers and senior military leaders for high-stakes national media engagements.

Ms. Tune holds a Master of Professional Studies in Public Relations and Corporate Communications from Georgetown University and a Bachelor of Arts in English from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech). She is an active member of the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) and the Army Public Affairs Association.