



VINCENT W. PATTON III, Ed.D.

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard, Retired

Dr. Vince Patton served as the 8th Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard from May 1998 until his retirement from more than 30 years of active service in November 2002. His illustrious career included staff and operational assignments throughout the country, both afloat and ashore throughout the United States along with a joint military service assignment in Cuba and Haiti. Among his numerous military awards includes the Distinguished Service Medal which is the nation's highest military peace time recognition for performance of duty.

As the service's top senior enlisted leader and ombudsman, he was the principal advisor to the Commandant of the Coast Guard, his directorates, and the Secretaries of Transportation and Defense, with primary focus on quality of life issues, career development, work environment and personnel matters affecting over 45,000 active duty, reserve, and civilian personnel service wide. He routinely addressed these specific issues before appropriate Senate and House committees in Congress, and the Commander in Chief, along with his senior enlisted counterparts of the other four armed services.

Dr. Patton received his doctorate of education degree from The American University, a master's degree in counseling psychology at Loyola University at Chicago, a B.S. in social work from Shaw College and a B.A. in communication from Pacific College. His extensive military education includes the Department of Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute, U. S. Army Sergeants Major Academy, and the Coast Guard Chief Petty Officers Academy.

After his retirement from the U.S. Coast Guard in 2002, he was assistant professor at University of California Berkeley teaching 'Philosophy of Ethics,' for two years, and was also a seminary student, at Graduate Theological Union, earning his Master of Theology in Applied Religious Studies and becoming an ordained minister. Soon after, he spent seven years with Military Advantage, a division of Monster Worldwide and the world's largest military membership organization known as 'Military.com,' in the capacity as Director of Government Partnership & Alliances; then four and a half years as executive director for the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association (AFCEA) Educational Foundation.

Currently, he is president & CEO of Warriors4Wireless (W4W), a nonprofit career development program designed exclusively for transitioning military servicemembers and veterans providing them a unique opportunity to become trained for careers in the wireless telecommunications industry.

In addition, he is actively involved with a number of other public service and nonprofit organizations serving on boards with the National Coast Guard Museum, U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps, U.S. Naval Institute, Northeast Maritime Institute and the Uniformed Services Benefit Association. He is also the President and National Commander of the 56,000 member Non Commissioned Officers Association (NCOA).