



Cole Lyle

Director

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The American Legion National Headquarters
Washington, D.C.

Cole T. Lyle currently serves as Director of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation (VA&R) Division in the American Legion, directly leading a team of 40 in the Washington, D.C. office, and thousands of volunteers nationwide. Cole's team provides subject matter expertise and recommendations for the White House, VA, and Congress on Health Policy, Claims and Benefits, Memorial Affairs, and Service Officer Accreditation. In 2025, the VA&R Division submitted [x] testimonies to Congress, reviewed [x] pieces of legislation, and led service officer training and accreditation for over 3,000 volunteer service officer which led to \$29.5B in total disability compensation awarded to veterans. Cole is also the staff lead for the Legion's Be The One program, aiming to reduce veteran suicide through peer-support, crisis intervention training, and strategic partnerships.

Prior to his work in veteran advocacy, Cole served as a Special Assistant at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, where he served as a liaison for VA to Congress, gathering information and identifying issues that would affect the agency in its mission to provide healthcare and benefits to veterans.

Before VA, Cole worked as a Military Legislative Assistant in the U.S. Senate, handling billions of dollars in defense and VA appropriations and providing oversight of military training, operations, budgets, and acquisitions.

In his advocacy work, Cole has appeared on FOX News, CNN, NPR, Washington Post, and authored a regular column discussing veteran policy at the Dallas Morning News. He was awarded "Advocate of the Year" in 2025 by the U.S. Forces in Business Association.

A U.S. Marine Corps and Afghanistan veteran, Cole earned a master's degree from the U.S. Army War College, a Certificate in Non-Profit Management from Harvard Business School, and a bachelor's degree from Texas A&M University.