

Colonel (US Army Retired) Jeffrey S. Yarvis, PhD, LCSW, BCD, ACSW

Presenter Biography



Colonel (US Army Retired) Jeffrey S. Yarvis, PhD, LCSW, BCD, ACSW is currently a high-reliability organization functional subject matter expert and executive leader coach to the Veterans Health Administration High Reliability Organization Support Team and contractor to the Veterans Health Administration Office of Healthcare Transformation, Pharos Group Inc. & Victory Leadership Consulting, LLC., and Senior Professor of Practice at the Tulane University School of Social Work. He is a 35-year veteran leader in veteran affairs, executive medicine, clinician, life-long educator and well-published social work and military scholar in the field of psychological trauma with over 120 peer reviewed publications and recently published a book with Oxford University Press called “Combat Social Work.”

A transformational leader, Dr. Yarvis has built, transformed, restored, and grown large organizations and optimized their performance using high reliability principles. He has been recognized for his award-winning labor relations efforts, collaborations between agencies and restoration of failing programs. He has been described by his students, superiors, and subordinates as a visionary, honest, ethical, big-hearted, “real,” and a servant leader who inspires teamwork, coalition building and mission success. He is an unconventional leader that gets things done with an infectious passion. His ability to leverage his skills and translate them to any setting makes him the ideal candidate for the most challenging leadership environments. COL Yarvis was the first social worker in the history of the U.S. Army to command a medical brigade, combat support hospital, and hospital center.

Awards include: 2022 DSW Faculty of the Year-Tulane University, 2021 NASW Social Work Pioneer, Researcher of the Year-Texas A&M University-Central Texas, DiversityMBA.org-Top 50 Executives Under 50, AMSUS Uniformed and US Army Social Worker of the Year, ISTSS Mental Health Professional of the Year, Military Alpha Designator as a Military Scholar in Social Work, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal and Combat Action Badge for leadership under fire, and Fellow of the APA.

Colonel Yarvis earned a PhD in Social Work from the University of Georgia, MSW in Clinical Social Work from Boston College, MS in Executive Leadership from Norwich University, M.Ed. in the Integrated Study of Curriculum & Instruction from Cambridge College, MSS in National Strategic Studies from The U.S. Army War College, and a BA in Psychology and Criminal Justice from Indiana University.