



## **New Fellow Spotlight: Brigadier General John Bartrum Chief Executive Officer Brightstar Innovations Group, LLC**

The CEO of Brightstar Innovations Group, LLC, John J. Bartrum, is a Capitol Hill veteran and retired federal Senior Executive Service career official with over 30 years of federal appropriations, healthcare, life science, defense, veterans and regulatory experience. An Air Force Brigadier General, John is the Reserve Mobilization Assistant to the Air Force Deputy Surgeon General.

In his previous federal positions, he advised both parties in the majority as a senior professional staffer to the US House Appropriations Committee from 2009 to 2017. In this role, he was responsible for policy and funding issues relating to the National Institutes of Health and its 27 institutes, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Agency, among others; and the pharmaceutical and life sciences sector more broadly. While in the House of Representatives

position, he was instrumental in developing the Ebola supplemental budget, which included designing the infectious disease hospital network, as well as the emergency management and public health response to the Zika virus and Superstorm Sandy. Before joining the House Appropriations Committee, he was an Associate Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) as its Budget Director.

John previously served in the National Security Division of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in the Executive Office of the President, responsible for advising on key activities in the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs, including wartime supplemental requests for medical, research and healthcare operations.

In addition to his substantial general government operations and healthcare experience, John has over 30 years of military experience in both active duty and as a reserve officer. Brigadier General Bartrum, a combat veteran, is the senior Air Force Reserve Medical Service Corps (Healthcare Executive) officer. As the mobilization assistant to the Deputy Surgeon General of the Air Force, he assists in the leadership for a \$6.1 billion health system involving a 44,000-person integrated health care delivery system serving 2.6 million beneficiaries at 76 Air Force military treatment facilities worldwide.

John was a Partner in the law firm of Squire Patton Boggs where he advised numerous Corporate clients on federal government policy and operational issues related to health/life sciences, biomedical, veterans/defense, education/training, and general government issues. John currently is a founding board member of biomedical start-up.

### **What are you most looking forward to as a NAPA Fellow?**

The opportunity to participating in solving complex government challenges.

### **What inspires you during these challenging times?**

The resiliency of the American population to continue to move forward during this public health emergency. In my mobilized military position, as part of the whole of government response to COVID, I am fortunate to observe ingenuity, innovation, and generosity of so many people and organizations in and out of government to address respond to this challenge.

### **What do you enjoy most about the work you do?**

The opportunity to work in diverse teams over the past 36 years.

## **Who or what inspired you to work in public service?**

The Air Force values of Service Before Self.

## **Which of the Academy's Grand Challenges resonate most with you?**

Modernize & Reinvigorate the Public Service.

## **What advice can you give to folks beginning careers in public service?**

Transformational innovation starts with a clear understanding of a problem not a solution. Innovation occurs at two different levels, breakthrough and incremental, always seek out breakthrough while making incremental progress through using new technologies, processes, and models to improve how you service the public.

## **What is the first concert you attended?**

The rolling stones.