

**Thomas Hinton** currently serves as Senior State Liaison in the Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Military Community & Family Policy). He is responsible, with his colleagues in the Defense State Liaison Office, for strategic planning, legislative analysis, outreach and education directed to the nation's Governors, State Legislators, other state officials, and state-based military components to address numerous issues impacting Service members and their families, particularly as those needs intersect with state policy. Most recently, he was principal staff in the development, with the Council of State Governments, of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children.

Previous to his work at Defense, Mr. Hinton was Director of State Relations for The Heritage Foundation in Washington, D.C, where he managed Heritage's strategic outreach and communication to state and local governments on a variety of public policy issues, including Education, Health Care, and Taxes.

From 2001 – 2004, he was the managing editor of State Electronic Policy Update, and CapitolExchange.Org, a "one-stop resource" for research, news and information, specifically designed for state policymakers.

Mr. Hinton has served as a policy and political researcher and advisor to state and local officials for nearly 25 years, including work for both non-profit and for-profit organizations.

Mr. Hinton was senior vice president of T-3/Family Companies of Gas City, Indiana, where he directed the firm's government relations and public affairs. Simultaneously, he was administrative director of the United States Fireworks Safety Council, where he worked extensively with state and local government on policy initiatives, pioneering a state relations effort previously non-existent in the industry.

He has been an adviser for numerous state and local political campaigns, a leader in social and family policy advocacy, a frequent speaker on issues affecting the family, federalism, and education, and an award-winning chamber of commerce executive. He was elected twice to local office.

Recently listed in *Who's Who in America*, Mr. Hinton holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion, Indiana, which gave him their alumni award for distinguished achievement in political science in 2001. Mr. Hinton and his wife, Mary Anne, live in Northern Virginia and are the parents of 10 children, and the grandparents of one – so far.