

## **David A. Litts, OD, FAAO**

Dr. Litts is currently a Distinguished Scholar and Education Development Center and Director, Science and Policy, at the National Suicide Prevention Resource Center, a position he has held since 2002. Prior to this, he served as Special Advisor to the U.S. Surgeon General on suicide prevention. In this role, he monitored the progress on the 15 key recommendations in the 1999 Surgeon General's Call to Action to Prevent Suicide, to include completion of the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention. He also previously served as the Director, Surgeon General's Operations Group and Executive Director, Air Force Suicide Prevention Team at the Office of the Air Force Surgeon General. Dr. Litts was an Adjunct Professor at Pennsylvania College of Optometry from 1987-1988 and at the College of Optometry, Ferris State College from 1981-1983.

Dr. Litts received a Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry in 1976 from Hope College in Holland, Michigan, graduating magna cum laude. He received a Doctor of Optometry in 1980 from Illinois College of Optometry, graduating magna cum laude and as valedictorian. He was a Fellow with the American Academy of Optometry. Dr. Litts is the author of several publications and has received the following honors: Surgeon General's Exemplary Service Award (2003), Surgeon General's Exemplary Service Medal (2001), Defense Meritorious Service Medal (1995), Air Force Meritorious Service Medal (1987, 1991, 1993, and 1999), Secretary's Award for Distinguished Service (Department of Health and Human Services, 1999), and Air Force Commendation Medal (1984 and 1998).