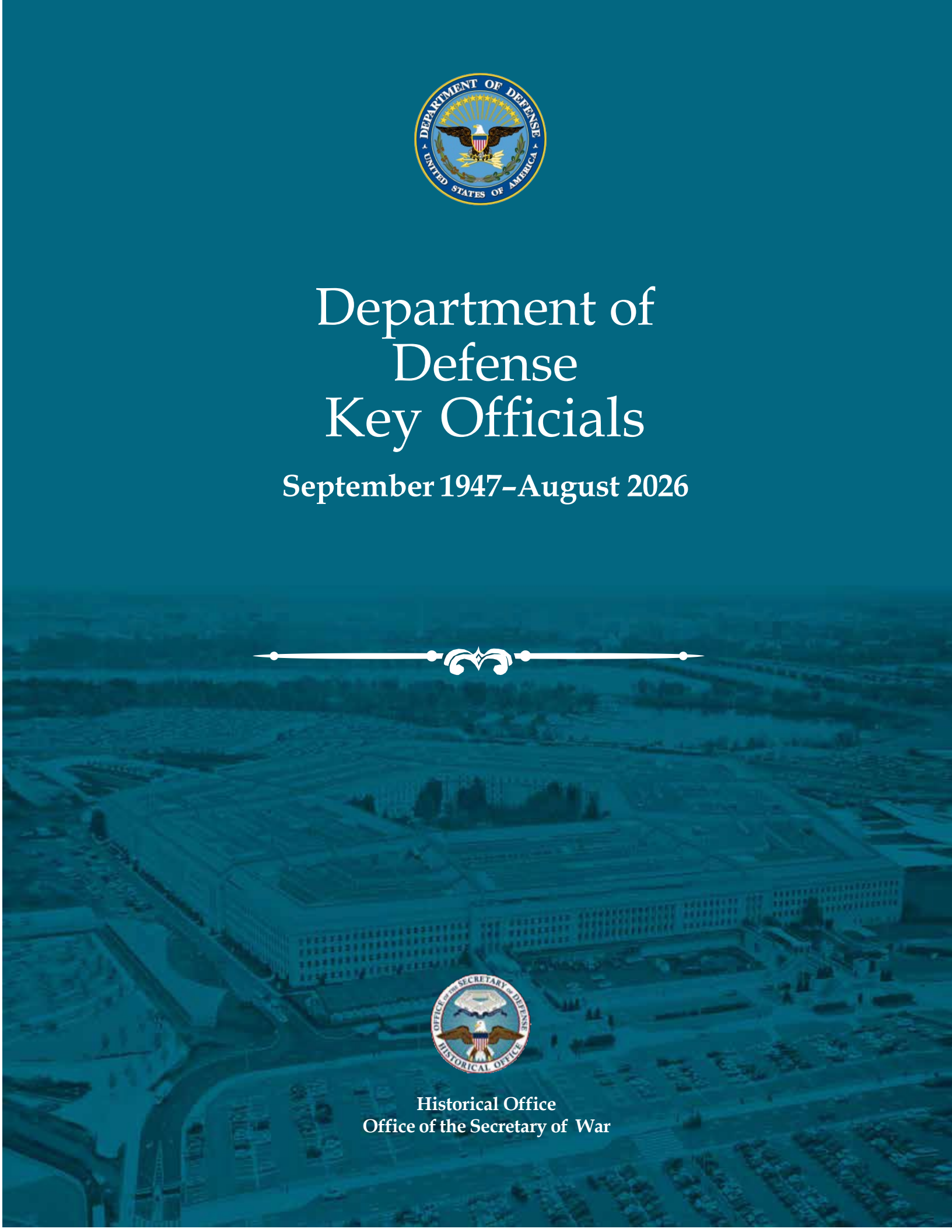
Department of Defense Key Officials

September 1947–August 2026



Historical Office
Office of the Secretary of War

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Introduction

Prepared by the Office of the Secretary of War Historical Office, Key Officials presents information about senior leaders, the positions they held, and the organization of the Department of Defense (DoD) since 1947. It is not comprehensive, nor is it a top-down listing of officials in order of precedence or reporting authority. This compilation includes presidentially appointed, Senate-confirmed (PAS) officials and certain non-PAS officials in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the military departments, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the combatant commands, and DoD agencies and field activities.

Titles of some official positions have been superseded by new titles or organizational changes indicated in the text. If an official position has a direct lineal predecessor with similar functions, the prior position is either included alongside the current position, or it is referenced elsewhere. Executive Order 14347, 5 September 2025, authorizes the Secretary of Defense to use the secondary titles "Department of War" and "Secretary of War" in official correspondence, public communications, ceremonial contexts, and non-statutory documents within the executive branch. Secondary titles also apply to subordinate officials in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. Statutory references to the Department of Defense, Secretary of Defense, and subordinate officers and components remain in effect until changed by law.

In most entries, the effective date of incumbency is either the swearing-in date or initial appointment date. DoD directives that establish the responsibilities and prescribe the functions of positions may appear months or sometimes years after those positions are occupied.

A position may remain vacant without an officeholder, ranging from days to years. In these cases, other officials, most often a deputy or first assistant, are appointed to serve in an "acting" or a "performing the duties of" capacity and are listed as such in this publication.

According to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, as amended, a deputy or first assistant, or other senior agency employee designated by the President, may temporarily perform the functions and duties of a PAS official in an acting capacity for no more than 210 days. If the Senate returns or rejects the President's nominee for a vacancy, or if the President withdraws the nominee from consideration, the period of performance for the acting official begins anew.

When a first assistant position or other executive office is vacant, or when a first assistant or deputy temporarily steps away from their position to serve in an acting capacity in another position, the vacancy may be occupied by a PAS official or senior agency employee "performing the duties of" the position. Such an employee may be delegated nonstatutory duties and functions of the position and is not subject to a limit on the length of time they perform such duties.

In many instances, a deputy or first assistant must remain in their Senate-confirmed position while serving in an acting capacity, giving the impression that an official holds two positions concurrently. To dispel that misconception, these dual-hatted officeholders are listed twice—under their Senate-confirmed position and their acting, nonconfirmed position. Similarly, a PAS official or senior agency employee "performing the duties of" a position in which there is a Senate-confirmed deputy, or first assistant are also listed.

This publication is current as of August 2026. Chronological gaps between officeholders may be due to a vacancy or the absence of sufficient documentation to establish temporary occupancy.

Report any errors to the Office of the Secretary of War Historical Office. Updates to this compilation are available at history.defense.gov.

I. Current Department of Defense Key Officials

Last updated on August 31, 2026. Not in order of succession or precedence.

Secretary of War ..... Peter B. Hegseth

Deputy Secretary of War ..... Stephen A. Feinberg

Secretary of the Army ..... Daniel P. Driscoll

Secretary of the Navy ..... Hung Cao (Acting)

Secretary of the Air Force ..... Troy E. Meink

Under Secretary of War (Research and Engineering) ..... Emil Michael

Deputy Under Secretary of War
(Research and Engineering) ..... James Mazol

Assistant Secretary of War
(Critical Technologies) ..... Michael Dodd

Assistant Secretary of War
(Mission Capabilities) ..... Jeremy Verbout (Performing the Duties Of)

Assistant Secretary of War
(Science and Technology) ..... Joseph Jewell

Under Secretary of War
(Acquisition and Sustainment) ..... Michael P. Duffey

Deputy Under Secretary of War
(Acquisition and Sustainment) ..... Dale Marks (Performing the Duties Of)

Assistant Secretary of War (Acquisition) ..... James A. Ruocco (Performing the Duties Of)

Assistant Secretary of War (Sustainment) ..... Brian Birdwell

Assistant Secretary of War
(Energy, Installations, and Environment) ..... Dale Marks

Assistant Secretary of War (Industrial Base Policy) ..... Michael Cadenazzi

Assistant Secretary of War ..... Michael Cadenazzi (Performing the Duties Of)
(International Armaments Cooperation)

Assistant Secretary of War
(Nuclear Deterrence, Chemical and Biological Defense
Policy and Programs) ..... Robert Kadlec

Under Secretary of War (Policy) ..... Elbridge A. Colby

Deputy Under Secretary of War (Policy) ..... Austin J. Dahmer (Performing the Duties Of)

Assistant Secretary of War (Cyber Policy)..... Katherine Sutton

Assistant Secretary of War (Indo-Pacific Security Affairs)..... John Noh

Assistant Secretary of War
(Homeland Defense and Americas' Security Affairs) ..... M. Roosevelt Ditlevson

Assistant Secretary of War
(International Security Affairs)..... Daniel Zimmerman

Assistant Secretary of War
(Strategy, Plans, and Forces)..... Rafael Leonardo (Performing the Duties Of)

Assistant Secretary of War (Space Policy)..... Marc Berkowitz

Under Secretary of War
(Comptroller/CFO)..... Jules W. Hurst III

Deputy Under Secretary of War
(Comptroller)..... Michael Powers

Under Secretary of War (Personnel and Readiness)..... Anthony J. Tata

Deputy Under Secretary of War
(Personnel and Readiness)..... Sean O'Keefe

Assistant Secretary of War (Health Affairs)..... Keith Bass

Assistant Secretary of War
(Manpower and Reserve Affairs)..... Timothy Dill

Assistant Secretary of War (Readiness)..... Maurice Todd

Under Secretary of War
(Intelligence and Security)..... Bradley Hansell

Deputy Under Secretary of War
(Intelligence and Security)..... Justin Overbaugh

Director, Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation..... Michael Payne

Director, Economic Defense Unit..... George K. Kollitides II

General Counsel..... Earl G. Matthews

Inspector General..... Platte Moring

Assistant Secretary of War (Legislative Affairs)..... Macon D. Hughes

Director of Administration and Management..... Robert G. Salesses

Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Officer..... Cameron Stanley

Chief Information Officer..... Kirsten Davies

Director of Operational Test and Evaluation.....Amy E. Henninger

Assistant to the Secretary of War (Public Affairs)..... Sean Parnell

Assistant Secretary of War
(Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict) ..... Derrick Anderson

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.....General John D. Caine, USAF

Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff .....General Christopher J. Mahoney, USMC

Chief of Staff of the Army .....General Christopher LaNeve, USA (Acting)

Chief of Naval Operations ..... Admiral Daryl L. Caudle, USN

Chief of Staff of the Air Force .....General Kenneth S. Wilsbach, USAF

Commandant of the Marine Corps .....General Eric Smith, USMC

Chief of Space Operations .....General B. Chance Saltzman, USAF

Chief of the National Guard Bureau.....General Stephen S. Nordhaus, USAF

Director of the Joint Staff.....Vice Admiral Paul C. Spedero Jr, USN

II. Secretaries of Defense

The National Security Act of 1947, Public Law (PL) 80-253, 26 July 1947, which provided for a National Military Establishment, created the position of Secretary of Defense. The National Security Act Amendments of 1949, PL 81-216, 10 August 1949, made the Secretary of Defense the head of the Department of Defense. The Secretary of Defense is the principal defense policy adviser to the President and exercises authority over the formulation of defense policy and all activities of the Department of Defense.

Congress passed PL 81-788 on 18 September 1950, waiving the restriction against nominating an active-duty commissioned officer in order for General George C. Marshall to serve as Secretary of Defense. This law was only effective for the duration of General Marshall's term as Secretary. General James N. Mattis received a similar waiver through PL 115-2, the Secretary of Defense Appointment Restriction Waiver, on 20 January 2017 as did General Lloyd J. Austin through PL 117-1 on 22 January 2021.

Secretary of Defense

James V. Forrestal ..... 17 September 1947–28 March 1949

- Born 15 February 1892; died 22 May 1949
- Served in the U.S. Navy during World War I
- Dillon, Read & Company, 1916–1940
- Under Secretary of the Navy, 1940–1944
- Secretary of the Navy, 1944–1947

Louis A. Johnson ..... 28 March 1949–19 September 1950

- Born 10 January 1891; died 24 April 1966
- Served in the U.S. Army, 1917–1919
- Founding partner, Steptoe & Johnson, 1912
- Cofounder and national commander, American Legion, 1932–1933
- Assistant Secretary of War, 1937–1940
- Returned to law practice 1940–1949

George C. Marshall ..... 21 September 1950–12 September 1951

- Born 31 December 1880; died 16 October 1959
- Commissioned in the U.S. Army in 1902
- U.S. Army Chief of Staff, 1939–1945
- Secretary of State, 1947–1949
- President, American Red Cross, 1949–1950

Robert A. Lovett ..... 17 September 1951–20 January 1953

- Born 14 September 1895; died 7 May 1986
- Served in the U.S. Navy as a pilot, 1917–1919
- Brown Brothers Harriman & Company, 1926–1940; 1946–1947; 1949–1950
- Special Assistant to the Secretary of War, 1940–1941
- Assistant to the Secretary of War for Air, 1941–1945
- Under Secretary of State, 1947–1949
- Deputy Secretary of Defense, 4 October 1950–16 September 1951

Charles E. Wilson ..... 28 January 1953–8 October 1957

- Born 18 July 1890; died 26 September 1961
- Engineer, Westinghouse Electric Company, 1909–1919
- General Motors Corporation, 1919–1952 (president, 1941–1952)

Neil H. McElroy ..... 9 October 1957–1 December 1959

- Born 30 October 1904; died 30 November 1972
- Procter & Gamble Company, 1925–1957 (president, 1948–1975)

Thomas S. Gates Jr ..... 2 December 1959–20 January 1961

- Born 10 April 1906; died 25 March 1983
- Served in the U.S. Naval Reserve, 1942–1945
- Drexel & Company, 1928–1953
- Under Secretary of the Navy, 1953–1957
- Secretary of the Navy, 1957–1959
- Deputy Secretary of Defense, 8 June 1959–1 December 1959

Robert S. McNamara ..... 21 January 1961–29 February 1968

- Born 9 June 1916; died 6 July 2009
- Served in the U.S. Army Air Forces, 1943–1946
- Ford Motor Company, 1946-1961 (president, 1960–1961)
- President, World Bank, 1968–1981

Clark M. Clifford ..... 1 March 1968–20 January 1969

- Born 25 December 1906; died 10 October 1998
- Served in the U.S. Naval Reserve, 1943–1946
- Assistant Naval Aide to the President, 1945–1946
- Naval Aide to the President, 1946
- Special Counsel to the President, 1946–1950
- Senior partner, Clifford & Miller, 1950–1968
- Senior partner, Clifford & Warnke, 1969–1991

Melvin R. Laird ..... 22 January 1969–29 January 1973

- Born 1 September 1922; died 16 November 2016
- Served in the U.S. Navy, 1942–1946
- U.S. Representative (R-WI), 1953–1969

Elliot L. Richardson ..... 30 January 1973–24 May 1973

- Born 20 July 1920; died 31 December 1999
- Served in the U.S. Army, 1942–1945
- Assistant Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, 1957–1959
- Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts, 1965–1967
- Under Secretary of State, 1969–1970
- Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, 1970–1973
- U.S. Attorney General, 1973–1973

James R. Schlesinger ..... 2 July 1973–19 November 1975

- Born 15 February 1929; died 27 March 2014
- Director of Strategic Studies, RAND Corporation, 1967–1969

- Assistant Director, Bureau of the Budget, 1969
- Assistant Director, Office of Management and Budget, 1970–1971
- Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission, 1971–1973
- Director of Central Intelligence, 1973
- Secretary of the Department of Energy, 1977–1979

Donald H. Rumsfeld.....20 November 1975–20 January 1977

- Born 9 July 1932; died 29 June 2021
- Served in the U.S. Navy, 1954–1957
- U.S. Representative (R-IL), 1963–1969
- Director, Office of Economic Opportunity, 1969–1970
- Counselor to the President, 1970–1973
- Director, Cost of Living Council, 1971–1973
- Ambassador to NATO, 1973–1974
- White House Chief of Staff, 1974–1975
- Chief executive officer, G. D. Searle & Company, 1977–1985
- Chairman and chief executive officer, General Instrument Corporation, 1990–1993
- Secretary of Defense, 20 January 2001–18 December 2006

Harold Brown .....21 January 1977–20 January 1981

- Born 19 September 1927; died 4 January 2019
- Staff member, Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, 1952–1960
- President, Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, 1960–1961
- Director, Defense Research and Engineering, 1961–1965
- Secretary of the Air Force, 1965–1969
- President, California Institute of Technology, 1969–1977

Caspar W. Weinberger .....21 January 1981–23 November 1987

- Born 18 August 1917; died 28 March 2006
- Served in the U.S. Army, 1941–1945
- Director, Office of Management and Budget, 1972–1973
- Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, 1973–1975
- General counsel, vice president, and director, Bechtel Corporation, 1975–1981

Frank C. Carlucci.....23 November 1987–20 January 1989

- Born 18 October 1930; died 3 June 2018
- Served in the U.S. Navy, 1952–1954
- Director, Office of Economic Opportunity, 1970–1972
- Under Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, 1972–1974
- Ambassador to Portugal, 1975–1978
- Deputy Director of Central Intelligence, 1978–1981
- Deputy Secretary of Defense, 4 February 1981–31 December 1982
- National Security Advisor, 1986–1987

William H. Taft IV (Acting).....20 January 1989–21 March 1989

- Deputy Secretary of Defense, 3 February 1984–22 April 1989; see bio in Section III

Richard B. "Dick" Cheney.....21 March 1989–20 January 1993

- Born 30 January 1941; died 3 November 2025
- Special Assistant to the Director, Office of Economic Opportunity, 1969–1970
- Deputy to the Presidential Counselor, 1970–1971
- Assistant Director of Operations, Cost of Living Council, 1971–1973
- Assistant to the President, 1975–1977
- U.S. Representative (R-WY), 1978–1989

Leslie "Les" Aspin.....20 January 1993–3 February 1994

- Born 21 July 1938; died 21 May 1995
- Served in the U.S. Army, 1966–1968
- Assistant professor of economics, Marquette University, 1968–1970
- U.S. Representative (D-WI), 1971–1993
- Chairman, House Armed Services Committee, 1985–1993

William J. Perry.....3 February 1994–23 January 1997

- Born 11 October 1927
- Served in the U.S. Army, 1946–1947
- Laboratory director, General Telephone (General Telephone and Electric after 1959), 1954–1964
- President, Electromagnetic Systems Laboratory Inc., 1964–1977
- Director, Defense Research and Engineering, 1977
- Under Secretary of Defense (Research and Engineering), 1977–1981
- Director, Stanford University Center for International Security and Arms Control, 1989–1993
- Deputy Secretary of Defense, 5 March 1993– 3 February 1994

William S. Cohen .....24 January 1997–20 January 2001

- Born 28 August 1940
- Assistant County Attorney, Penobscot County, Maine, 1968–1970
- Mayor of Bangor, Maine, 1971–1972
- U.S. Representative (R-ME), 1973–1979
- U.S. Senator (R-ME), 1979–1997

Donald H. Rumsfeld..... 20 January 2001–18 December 2006

- Secretary of Defense, 20 November 1975–20 January 1977; see bio in this section

Robert M. Gates.....18 December 2006–30 June 2011

- Born 25 September 1943
- Served in U.S. Air Force intelligence, 1967–1969
- Central Intelligence Agency, 1966–1974
- National Security Council staff, 1974–1979
- Central Intelligence Agency, 1979–1986
- Deputy Director of Central Intelligence, 1986–1989

- Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs and Deputy National Security Advisor, 1989–1991
- Director of Central Intelligence, 1991–1993
- Interim dean, George Bush School of Government and Public Service, Texas A&M University, 1999–2001
- President, Texas A&M University, 2002–2006

Leon E. Panetta ..... 1 July 2011–26 February 2013

- Born 28 June 1938
- Served in U.S. Army intelligence, 1964–1966
- U.S. Representative (D-CA), 1977–1993
- Director, Office of Management and Budget, 1993–1994
- White House Chief of Staff, 1994–1997
- Director of Central Intelligence, 2009–2011

Charles T. "Chuck" Hagel ..... 27 February 2013–17 February 2015

- Born 4 October 1946
- Served in the U.S. Army, 1967–1968
- Deputy Administrator, U.S. Veterans Administration, 1981–1982
- President and chief executive officer, Private Sector Council, 1990–1992
- President, McCarthy & Company, 1992–1996
- U.S. Senator (R-NE), 1996–2009

Ashton B. "Ash" Carter ..... 17 February 2015–20 January 2017

- Born 24 September 1954; died 24 October 2022
- Assistant Secretary of Defense (Nuclear Security and Counterproliferation), 1993–1994
- Chair, international and global affairs faculty and professor of science and international affairs, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, 2000–2009
- Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics), 2009–2011
- Deputy Secretary of Defense, 6 October 2011–3 December 2013
- Senior executive, Markle Foundation, 2014–2015
- Distinguished visiting fellow, Hoover Institution, Stanford University, 2014–2015

James N. Mattis ..... 20 January 2017–31 December 2018

- Born 8 September 1950
- Commissioned in the U.S. Marine Corps, 1971
- NATO Supreme Allied Commander for Transformation, 2007–2010
- Commander, U.S. Central Command, 2010–2013
- Davies Family Distinguished Visiting Fellow, Hoover Institution, 2014–2017

Patrick M. Shanahan (Acting) ..... 1 January 2019–23 June 2019

- Deputy Secretary of Defense, 19 June 2017–23 June 2019; see bio in section III

Mark T. Esper (Acting) ..... 24 June 2019–15 July 2019

Richard V. Spencer (Acting) ..... 15 July 2019–23 July 2019

- Secretary of the Navy, 3 August 2017–15 July 2019; see bio in section IV

Mark T. Esper .....23 July 2019–9 November 2020

- Born 26 April 1964
- Served in the U.S. Army, U.S. Army Reserve, 1986–2007
- Executive vice president, Global Intellectual Property Center, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 2008–2010
- Vice president for government relations, Raytheon Company, 2010–2017
- Secretary of the Army, 2017–2019
- Acting Secretary of Defense, 24 June 2019–15 July 2019

Christopher C. Miller (Acting).....9 November 2020–20 January 2021

- Performing the duties of Assistant Secretary of Defense (Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict), June–August 2020
- Director, National Counterterrorism Center, August–November 2020

David L. Norquist (Acting) .....20 January 2021–22 January 2021

- Deputy Secretary of Defense, 31 July 2019–9 February 2021; see bio in section III

Lloyd J. Austin III..... 22 January 2021–20 January 2025

- Born 8 August 1953
- Served in the U.S. Army, 1975–2016
- Chief of Staff, U.S. Central Command, 2005–2006
- Commander, XVIII Airborne Corps, U.S. Army, 2006–2009
- Director, Joint Staff, 2009–2010
- Commander, U.S. Forces-Iraq, 2010–2011
- Vice Chief of Staff, U.S. Army, 2012–2013
- Commander, U.S. Central Command, 2013–2016
- Director, Board of Directors, Raytheon Technologies Corporation, 2016–2021

Robert G. Salesses (Acting) ..... 20 January 2025–25 January 2025

- Deputy Director, Washington Headquarters Services, 2022–Present

Peter B. Hegseth ..... 25 January 2025–Present

- Born 6 June 1980
- Served in the Army National Guard, 2003–2014; 2019–2021
- Senior Fellow, Center of the American Experiment, 2011–2015
- Chief Executive Officer, Concerned Veterans for America, 2012–2015
- Co-host, Fox & Friends, 2016-2025

Secretary of War

Executive Order 14347, 5 September 2025, authorized the Secretary of Defense to use the secondary title "Secretary of War" and be recognized by that title in official correspondence, public communications, ceremonial contexts, and non-statutory documents within the executive branch.

Peter B. Hegseth .....5 September 2025–Present

III. Deputy Secretaries of Defense

Public Law 81-36, 2 April 1949, originally established this position as Under Secretary of Defense. PL 81-216, 10 August 1949, the 1949 amendments to the National Security Act of 1947, changed the title to Deputy Secretary of Defense.

PL 92-596, 27 October 1972, established a second Deputy position, with both Deputies performing duties as prescribed by the Secretary of Defense. The second Deputy position was not filled until December 1975. PL 95-140, 21 October 1977, the law establishing two Under Secretaries of Defense, abolished the second Deputy position.

By delegation, the Deputy Secretary of Defense has full power and authority to act for the Secretary of Defense and to exercise the powers of the Secretary on any and all matters for which the Secretary is authorized to act pursuant to the law.

Under Secretary of Defense

Stephen T. Early.....2 May 1949–9 August 1949

Deputy Secretary of Defense

Stephen T. Early.....10 August 1949–30 September 1950

- Born 27 August 1889; died 11 August 1951
- Served in the U.S. Army, 1917–1919
- Journalist, United Press, 1908–1913
- Journalist, Associated Press, 1913–1917 and 1920–1927
- Assistant to President Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1933–1945
- Under Secretary of Defense, 2 May 1949–9 August 1949, when the position title changed

Robert A. Lovett ..... 4 October 1950–16 September 1951

- Secretary of Defense, 17 September 1951–20 January 1953; see bio in section II

William C. Foster.....24 September 1951–20 January 1953

- Born 27 April 1897; died 16 October 1984
- Served in the U.S. Army, 1917
- Under Secretary of Commerce, 1946–1948
- Administrator, Economic Cooperation Administration, 1948–1951

Roger M. Kyes.....2 February 1953–1 May 1954

- Born 6 March 1906; died 13 February 1971
- Vice president, Empire Plow Company, 1932-1941
- Harry Ferguson, Inc., 1941-1947 (president, 1943-1947)
- General Motors Corporation, 1948-1953 and 1959-1970

Robert B. Anderson .....3 May 1954–4 August 1955

- Born 4 June 1910; died 14 August 1989
- General counsel and manager, W. T. Waggoner Estate, 1937–1952
- Secretary of the Navy, 1953–1954

- Secretary of the Treasury, 1957–1961

Reuben B. Robertson Jr.....5 August 1955–25 April 1957

- Born 27 June 1908; died 13 March 1960
- Served in the U.S. Army, 1942–1945
- Champion Paper and Fibre Company, 1930–1955 and 1957–1960 (president, 1950–1955 and 1957–1960)
- Vice chairman, Hoover Commission Committee on Business Organization of the Department of Defense, 1955

Donald A. Quarles .....1 May 1957–8 May 1959

- Born 30 July 1894; died 8 May 1959
- Served in the U.S. Army, 1917–1919
- Engineer, Western Electric Company, 1919–1925
- Bell Telephone Laboratories 1925-1952 (vice president, 1948–1952)
- President, Sandia Corporation; vice president, Western Electric Company 1952–1953
- Assistant Secretary of Defense (Research and Development), 1953–1955
- Secretary of the Air Force, 15 August 1955–30 April 1957

Thomas S. Gates Jr .....8 June 1959–1 December 1959

- Secretary of Defense, 2 December 1959–20 January 1961; see bio in section II

James H. Douglas Jr ..... 11 December 1959–24 January 1961

- Born 11 March 1899; died 24 February 1988
- Served in the U.S. Army, 1918, and U.S. Army Air Forces, 1942–1945
- Under Secretary of the Air Force, 1953–1957
- Secretary of the Air Force, 1 May 1957–11 December 1959

Roswell L. Gilpatric .....24 January 1961–20 January 1964

- Born 4 November 1906; died 15 March 1996
- Partner, Cravath, Swain & Moore, 1940–1951 and 1953–1961
- Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, 1951
- Under Secretary of the Air Force, 1951–1953

Cyrus R. Vance.....28 January 1964–30 June 1967

- Born 27 March 1917; died 12 January 2002
- Served in the U.S. Navy, 1942–1946
- Associate General Counsel, Senate Armed Services Preparedness Investigating Subcommittee, 1958
- Consulting Counsel, Senate Committee on Space and Aeronautics, 1958–1961
- General Counsel, Department of Defense, 1961–1962
- Secretary of the Army, 1962–1964

Paul H. Nitze.....1 July 1967–20 January 1969

- Born 27 March 1917; died 19 October 2004
- Dillon, Read & Company, 1929–1937
- Chief, Metals and Minerals Branch, Board of Economic Warfare, 1942-1943

- Director, then Vice Chairman, U.S. Strategic Bombing Survey, 1944–1946
- Deputy Director, Office of International Trade Policy, U.S. Department of State, 1946-1948
- Policy Planning Staff, U.S. Department of State, 1949–1953 (Director, 1950–1953)
- Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs), 1961–1963
- Secretary of the Navy, 29 November 1963–30 June 1967

David Packard..... 24 January 1969–13 December 1971

- Born 7 September 1912; died 26 March 1996
- Hewlett-Packard Company, 1939–1969 (president, 1947–1964, and chief executive officer, 1964–1969)

Kenneth Rush..... 23 February 1972–29 January 1973

- Born 17 January 1910; died 11 December 1994
- Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany, 1969–1972
- Deputy Secretary of State, 1973–1974

William P. Clements Jr.....30 January 1973–20 January 1977

- Born 13 April 1917; died 29 May 2011
- Member, Department of Defense Blue Ribbon Defense Panel, 1969–1970
- Governor of Texas, 1979–1983, 1987–1991

Robert F. Ellsworth..... 23 December 1975–10 January 1977

- Born 11 June 1926; died 9 May 2011
- Served in the U.S. Navy, 1944–1946 and 1950–1953
- U.S. Representative (R-KS), 1961–1967
- Ambassador to NATO, 1969–1974
- Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs), 1974–1975
- Filled position of "second" Deputy Secretary of Defense (see introductory note)

Charles W. Duncan Jr ..... 31 January 1977–26 July 1979

- Born 9 September 1926; died 18 October 2022
- Served in the U.S. Army Air Forces, 1944–1946
- Coca-Cola Company, 1964–1974 (president, 1971–1974)
- Secretary of Energy, 1979–1981

W. Graham Claytor Jr.....24 August 1979–16 January 1981

- Born 14 March 1912; died 14 May 1994
- Served in the U.S. Navy, 1941–1946
- Associate; Partner, Covington & Burling, 1938–1967
- President and chairman, Southern Railway Company, 1967–1977
- Secretary of the Navy, 1977–1979
- Acting Secretary of Transportation, 1979

Frank C. Carlucci..... 4 February 1981–31 December 1982

- Secretary of Defense, 23 November 1987–20 January 1989; see bio in section II

W. Paul Thayer .....12 January 1983–4 January 1984

- Born 23 November 1919; died 6 May 2010
- Served in the U.S. Navy, 1941–1945
- President, Chance Vought Aircraft, 1961–1965
- President, LTV Aerospace Corporation, 1965–1970
- Chairman and chief executive officer, LTV Corporation, 1970–1982

William H. Taft IV.....3 February 1984–22 April 1989

- Born 13 September 1945
- Executive Assistant to the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, 1973–1977
- General Counsel, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, 1973–1976
- General Counsel, Department of Defense, 1981–1984
- Acting Secretary of Defense, 20 January 1989–21 March 1989
- U.S. Permanent Representative to NATO, 1989–1992

Donald J. Atwood Jr .....24 April 1989–20 January 1993

- Born 25 May 1924; died 24 April 1994
- Served in the U.S. Army, 1943–1945
- Vice president and treasurer, Dynatrol Corporation, 1952–1959
- General Motors Corporation, 1959–1989 (executive vice president, 1984–1989; vice chairman of the board, 1987–1989)

William J. Perry .....5 March 1993–3 February 1994

- Secretary of Defense, 3 February 1994–24 January 1997; see bio in section II

John M. Deutch.....11 March 1994–10 May 1995

- Born 27 July 1938
- Systems Analyst, Office of the Secretary of Defense, 1961–1965
- Assistant professor of chemistry, Princeton University, 1967–1970
- Professor, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1970–1980
- Under Secretary of Energy, 1977–1980
- Provost, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1980–1993
- Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Technology), 1993–1994

John P. White .....22 June 1995–15 July 1997

- Born 27 February 1937; died 3 September 2017
- Senior vice president and member, board of trustees, RAND Corporation, 1968–1977
- Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower, Reserve Affairs, and Logistics), 1977–1978
- Deputy Director, Office of Management and Budget, 1978–1981
- Chairman, Commission on Roles and Missions of the Armed Forces, 1994–1995

John J. Hamre ..... 29 July 1997–31 March 2000

- Born 3 July 1950
- Congressional Budget Office, 1978–1984
- Professional Staff Member, Senate Armed Services Committee, 1984–1993

- Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), 1993–1997

Rudy deLeon.....31 March 2000–1 March 2001

- Born 28 August 1952
- Legislative Assistant, U.S. Senate, 1974–1977
- Professional Staff Member, House Armed Services Committee, 1985–1989
- Staff Director, House Armed Services Committee, 1989–1993
- Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense, 1993–1994
- Under Secretary of the Air Force, 1994–1997
- Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), 1997–2000

Paul D. Wolfowitz.....2 March 2001–13 May 2005

- Born 22 December 1943
- U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, 1973–1977
- Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Regional Programs), 1977–1980
- Director, Policy Planning, Department of State, 1981–1982
- Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, 1982–1986
- Ambassador to Indonesia, 1986–1989
- Under Secretary of Defense (Policy), 1989–1993
- Dean, Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, 1993–2001

Gordon R. England (Acting).....13 May 2005–3 January 2006

Gordon R. England.....4 January 2006–11 February 2009

- Born 15 September 1937
- Engineer, General Electric Company, 1961–1962
- Engineer, Honeywell Corporation, 1962–1966
- Program manager, Litton Industries, 1972–1973
- General Dynamics, 1966–1972; 1973–1995; 1997–2001 (executive vice
- president 1997–2001)
- Secretary of the Navy, 24 May 2001–24 January 2003; 1 October 2003–29 December 2005
- Deputy Secretary of Department of Homeland Security, 2003

William J. Lynn III .....12 February 2009–5 October 2011

- Born 1 January 1954
- Legislative counsel to Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA), 1987–1993
- Director, Program Analysis and Evaluation, 1993–1997
- Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), 1997–2001
- Senior vice president, government operations and strategy, Raytheon Company, 2002–2009

Ashton B. "Ash" Carter.....6 October 2011–3 December 2013

- Secretary of Defense, 17 February 2015–19 January 2017; see bio in section II

Christine H. Fox (Acting).....5 December 2013–30 April 2014

- Born 26 May 1955
- President, Center for Naval Analyses, 2004–2009

- Director, Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation, 2009–2013
- Assistant director, policy and analysis, Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory, 2014–

Robert O. Work ..... 5 May 2014–19 June 2017

- Born 17 January 1953
- Served in the U.S. Marine Corps, 1974–2001
- Vice president, Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments, 2002–2009
- Under Secretary of the Navy, 2009–2013
- President, Center for a New American Security, 2013–2014

Patrick M. Shanahan..... 19 June 2017–23 June 2019

- Born 27 June 1962
- The Boeing Company, 1986–2017 (Senior vice president, supply chain and operations, 2016–2017)
- Acting Secretary of Defense, 1 January 2019–23 June 2019

David L. Norquist (Performing the Duties Of)..... 1 January 2019–23 July 2019

Richard V. Spencer (Performing the Duties Of)..... 23 July 2019–30 July 2019

- Secretary of the Navy, 3 August 2017–15 July 2019; see bio in section IV

David L. Norquist..... 31 July 2019–9 February 2021

- Born 24 November 1966
- Presidential Management Fellow, Department of the Army, 1989–1995
- Director, Resource Management, U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command, 1995–1997
- Professional Staff Member, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, 1997–2002
- Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), 2002–2006
- Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security, 2006–2008
- Partner, Kearney & Company, 2008–2017
- Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), 2017–2019
- Performed the duties of the Deputy Secretary of Defense, 1 January 2019–23 July 2019

Kathleen H. Hicks ..... 9 February 2021–20 January 2025

- Born 25 September 1970
- Senior fellow, Center for Strategic and International Studies, 2006–2009
- Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Strategy, Plans, and Forces, 2009–2012
- Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, 2012–2013
- Senior vice president; Henry A. Kissinger Chair; Director, International Security Program, Center for Strategic and International Studies, 2013–2021
- Donald Marron Scholar, Kissinger Center for Global Affairs, Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, 2013–2021

Robert G. Salesses (Performing the Duties Of)..... 28 January 2025–14 March 2025

- Deputy Director, Washington Headquarters Services, 2022–Present

- Acting Secretary of Defense, 2025

Stephen A. Feinberg ..... 17 March 2025–Present

- Born 29 March 1960
- Co-founder, co-Chief Executive Officer and Chief Investment Officer, Cerberus Capital Management, 1992–2025
- Chair, Intelligence Oversight Board, 2018–2021
- Chair, President's Intelligence Advisory Board, 2018–2021

Deputy Secretary of War

Executive Order 14347, 5 September 2025, authorized the Deputy Secretary of Defense to use the secondary title "Deputy Secretary of War" and be recognized by that title in official correspondence, public communications, ceremonial contexts, and non-statutory documents within the executive branch.

Stephen A. Feinberg .....5 September 2025–Present

IV. Secretaries of the Military Departments

The National Security Act of 1947 established three military departments—the Department of the Army (a renaming of the War Department), the Department of the Navy (comprised of the Navy and Marine Corps), and the newly created Department of the Air Force. All three were executive departments headed by a Secretary. The National Security Act Amendments of 1949, PL 81-216, 10 August 1949, changed the status of each department from "executive" to "military," with each Secretary giving up their seats in the cabinet and the National Security Council. DoD Directive 5100.1, 31 December 1958, established two command lines: one for operational direction of the armed forces through the Joint Chiefs of Staff to the unified and specified commands, and the second for the direction of support activities through the Secretaries of the military departments.

Secretary of the Army

Kenneth C. Royall ..... 18 September 1947–27 April 1949

- Served in the U.S. Army, 1918–1919
- Senior partner, Ehringhaus, Royall, Gosney & Smith, 1937
- Senior partner, Royall, Gosney & Smith, 1938–1942
- Under Secretary of War, 1945–1947
- Secretary of War, 19 July 1947–17 September 1947

Gordon Gray ..... 20 June 1949–12 April 1950

- Served in the U.S. Army, 1942–1945
- President, Piedmont Publishing Company, 1937–1947
- Assistant Secretary of the Army, 1947–1949
- Under Secretary of the Army, 1949
- Special Assistant to the President, 1950
- President, University of North Carolina, 1950–1955
- Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs), 1955–1957
- Director, Office of Defense Mobilization, 1957–1958
- National Security Advisor, 1958–1961

Frank Pace Jr..... 12 April 1950–20 January 1953

- Served in the U.S. Army Air Forces, 1942–1946
- Assistant Director, Bureau of the Budget, 1948
- Director, Bureau of the Budget, 1949–1950

Robert T. Stevens..... 4 February 1953–20 July 1955

- Served in the U.S. Army, 1918; 1942–1945
- President, J. P. Stevens & Company, Inc., 1929–1942
- Chairman of the board, J. P. Stevens & Company, 1945–1953

Wilber M. Brucker..... 21 July 1955–20 January 1961

- Served with the National Guard,1916; and with the U.S. Army, 1917–1918
- Attorney, Saginaw County, Michigan, 1919–1927
- Governor of Michigan, 1930–1932
- General Counsel, Department of Defense, 1954–1955

Elvis J. Stahr ..... 24 January 1961–30 June 1962

- Served in the U.S. Army 1941–1945
- Associate, Mudge, Stern, Williams & Tucker, 1939
- Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Army, 1951–1952
- President, University of West Virginia, 1959–1961

Cyrus R. Vance.....5 July 1962–27 January 1964

- Deputy Secretary of Defense, 28 January 1964–30 June 1967; see bio in section III

Stephen Ailes.....28 January 1964–1 July 1965

- Assistant professor of law, West Virginia University, 1937–1940
- Counsel to U.S. Economic Mission to Greece, 1947
- Under Secretary of the Army, 1961–1964

Stanley R. Resor.....5 July 1965–30 June 1971

- Served in the U.S. Army, 1942–1945
- Associate; partner, Deveboise, Plimpton, Lyons & Gates, 1946–1965
- Under Secretary of the Army, 1965
- Under Secretary of Defense (Policy), 1978–1979

Robert F. Froehlke.....1 July 1971–14 May 1973

- Served in the U.S. Army, 1943–1946
- Assistant Secretary of Defense (Administration), 1969–1971

Howard H. Callaway.....15 May 1973–3 July 1975

- Served in the U.S. Army, 1949–1952
- U.S. Representative (R-GA), 1965–1967

Martin R. Hoffmann.....5 August 1975–13 February 1977

- Served in the U.S. Army, 1954–1956
- General Counsel, Department of Defense, 1974–1975

Clifford L. Alexander..... 14 February 1977–20 January 1981

- Assistant district attorney for New York County, 1959–1961
- Special Assistant to the President, 1964–1965
- Chairman, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, 1967–1969

Percy A. Pierre (Acting).....21 January 1981–30 January 1981

- Deputy to the Assistant to the President for Urban Affairs from 1969–1970
- Assistant Secretary of the Army (Research, Development and Acquisition), 1977–1981

John O. Marsh.....30 January 1981–13 August 1989

- Served in the U.S. Army, 1944–1947
- U.S. Representative (D-VA), 1963–1971
- Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), 1973–1974
- Assistant to the Vice President, 1974
- Counselor to the President, 1974–1977

Michael P. W. Stone.....14 August 1989–20 January 1993

- President, Sterling Vineyards, 1968–1982
- Director, U.S. Mission, Agency for International Development, Cairo, Egypt, 1982–1984
- Under Secretary of the Army, 1988–1989

John W. Shannon (Acting) .....20 January 1993–26 August 1993

- Under Secretary of the Army, 14 August 1989–23 November 1993

Gordon R. Sullivan (Acting) .....28 August 1993–21 November 1993

- Chief of Staff of the Army, 21 June 1991–20 June 1995

Togo D. West Jr .....22 November 1993–4 May 1997

- Served in the U.S. Army, 1969–1973
- Associate Deputy Attorney, Department of Justice, 1975–1976
- General Counsel, Department of the Navy, 1977–1979
- Special Assistant to the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Defense, 1979–1980
- General Counsel, Department of Defense, 1980–1981

Robert M. Walker (Acting) .....2 January 1998–2 July 1998

- Under Secretary of the Army, 13 November 1997–15 October 1998

Louis Caldera.....2 July 1998–20 January 2001

- Served in the U.S. Army, 1978–1983
- Attorney, O'Melveny & Myers, 1987–1990
- California State Assemblyman, 1992–1997
- Managing director and chief operating officer, Corporation for National Service, 1997–1998

Gregory R. Dahlberg (Acting) .....20 January 2001–4 March 2001

- Under Secretary of the Army, 23 May 2000–4 March 2001

Joseph W. Westphal (Acting).....5 March 2001–31 May 2001

- Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), 1998–2001

Thomas E. White .....31 May 2001–9 May 2003

- Served in the U.S. Army, 1967–1990

R. Les Brownlee (Acting) .....10 May 2003–18 November 2004

- Served in the U.S. Army, 1962–1984
- Professional Staff Member, Senate Armed Services Committee, 1987–2001
- Under Secretary of the Army, November 2001–December 2004

Francis J. Harvey .....19 November 2004–9 March 2007

- Westinghouse Corporation, 1969–1997 (Chief operating officer, Industries and Technology Group, 1996-1997)
- Vice chairman and director, Duratek, Inc., 1999–2004

Preston M. Geren (Acting).....9 March 2007–16 July 2007

Preston M. Geren.....16 July 2007–21 September 2009

- Attorney, private practice, 1999–2001

- U.S. Representative (D-TX), 1989–1997
- Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense, 2001–2005
- Acting Secretary of the Air Force, 29 July 2005–4 November 2005
- Under Secretary of the Army, 2006–2007
- Acting Secretary of the Army, 9 March 2007–16 July 2007

John M. McHugh.....21 September 2009–14 August 2015

- U.S. Representative (R-NY), 1992–2009

Eric K. Fanning.....18 May 2016–20 January 2017

- Special Assistant, Office of the Secretary of Defense, 1993–1996
- Senior vice president, strategic development, Business Executives for National Security, 2001–2007
- Deputy Director, Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction
- Proliferation and Terrorism, 2008–2009
- Deputy Under Secretary and Deputy Chief Management Officer, Department the Navy, 2009–2013
- Under Secretary of the Air Force, 2013–2015
- Acting Secretary of the Air Force, 21 June –20 December 2013

Robert M. Speer.....20 January 2017–2 August 2017

- Executive vice president, Global Intellectual Property Center, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 2008–2010
- Vice President, Raytheon Company, 2010–2017

Ryan McCarthy (Acting).....2 August 2017–16 November 2017

Mark T. Esper .....15 November 2017–23 July 2019

- Secretary of Defense, 23 July 2019–9 November 2020; see bio in section II

Ryan McCarthy (Performing the Duties Of) .....24 June 2019–15 July 2019

Ryan McCarthy (Acting).....23 July 2019–29 September 2019

Ryan McCarthy.....30 September 2019–20 January 2021

- Served in the U.S. Army, 1997–2002
- Vice president, global security policy, Lockheed Martin Corporation, 2013–2017
- Under Secretary of the Army and Chief Management Officer, U.S. Department of the Army, 2017–2019
- Acting Secretary of the Army, 3 August 2017–20 November 2017
- Acting Secretary of the Army, 24 June–15 July 2019; 23 July–30 September 2019

John E. Whitley (Acting).....20 January 2021–27 May 2021

- Acting Director, Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation, 2019–2020
- Performed the duties of Director, Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation, 2020

Christine Wormuth .....27 May 2021–20 January 2025

- Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Homeland Defense and Americas Security Affairs), 2009–2010
- Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Defense, 2010–2012
- Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Strategy, Plans, and Force Development), 2012–2013
- Under Secretary of Defense (Policy), 2014–2016
- Director, International Security and Defense Policy Center, RAND Corporation, 2018–2021

Mark F. Averill (Acting) ..... 20 January 2025–25 February 2025

- Administrative Assistant, Secretary of the Army, 2022–2025

Daniel P. Driscoll ..... 25 February 2025–Present

- Served in the U.S. Army, 2007–2011
- Associate, BlackArch Partners, 2014–2016
- Partner, 100watt, 2017–2021
- Chief Operating Officer, Flex Capital, 2021–2023

Secretary of the Navy

John L. Sullivan ..... 18 September 1947–24 May 1949

- Served in the U.S. Naval Reserve, 1918
- Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, 1940–1944
- Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Air, 1945–1946
- Under Secretary of the Navy, 1946–1947

Francis P. Matthews ..... 25 May 1949–30 July 1951

- Counsel for the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, 1933–1949
- Ambassador to Ireland, 1951–1952

Dan A. Kimball ..... 31 July 1951–3 February 1953

- Served in the U.S. Navy, 1969–1975
- Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs, 1985–1986
- Assistant to the President, 1986–1988

Robert B. Anderson ..... 4 February 1953–2 May 1954

- Deputy Secretary of Defense, 3 May 1954–4 August 1955; see bio in section III

Charles S. Thomas ..... 3 May 1954–31 March 1957

- Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Navy, 1942–1945
- Under Secretary of the Navy 1953–1953
- Assistant Secretary of Defense (Supply and Logistics), 1953–1954

Thomas S. Gates Jr ..... 1 April 1957–7 June 1959

- Secretary of Defense, 2 December 1959–20 January 1961; see bio in section II

William B. Franke ..... 8 June 1959–20 January 1961

- Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense, 1951–1952
- Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Financial Management), 1954–1957
- Under Secretary of the Navy, 1957–1959

John B. Connally ..... 25 January 1961–20 December 1961

- Served in the U.S. Navy, 1942–1946
- Governor of Texas, 1963–1969

Fred H. Korth.....4 January 1962–1 November 1963

- Served in the U.S. Army, 1942–1946
- Assistant Secretary of the Army, 1952–1953
- Consultant to the Secretary of the Army, 1953–1960

Paul H. Nitze.....29 November 1963–30 June 1967

- Deputy Secretary of Defense, 1 July 1967–20 January 1969; see bio in section III

Charles F. Baird (Acting) .....1 July 1967–31 August 1967

- Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Financial Management and Comptroller), 1966–1967
- Under Secretary of the Navy, 1 August 1967–20 January 1969

Paul R. Ignatius.....1 September 1967–24 January 1969

- Served in the U.S. Navy, 1943–1946
- Assistant Secretary of the Army (Installations and Logistics), 1961–1964
- Under Secretary of the Army, 1964
- Assistant Secretary of Defense (Installations and Logistics), 1964–1967

John H. Chafee .....31 January 1969–4 May 1972

- Served in the U.S. Marine Corps, 1942–1945, 1951–1952
- Governor of Rhode Island, 1963–1969

John W. Warner .....4 May 1972–8 April 1974

- Served in the U.S. Navy, 1944–1946, and U.S. Marine Corps, 1950–1952
- Under Secretary of the Navy, 1969–1972
- Administrator of the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration, 1974–1976

J. William Middendorf II.....10 June 1974–20 January 1977

- Served in the U.S. Navy, 1945–1946
- Ambassador to the Netherlands, 1969–1973

W. Graham Claytor Jr..... 14 February 1977–26 July 1979

- Deputy Secretary of Defense, 24 August 1979–16 January 1981; see bio in section III

Edward Hidalgo..... 27 July 1979–29 January 1981

- Served in the U.S. Navy, 1942–1946
- Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Navy, 1945–1946, 1965–1966
- Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Manpower, Reserve Affairs, and Logistics), 1977–1979

John F. Lehman Jr.....5 February 1981–10 April 1987

- National Security Council staff, 1969–1975
- Deputy Director, U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, 1975–1977

James H. Webb Jr. ..... 10 April 1987–23 February 1988

- Served in the U.S. Marine Corps, 1968–1972
- Assistant Secretary of Defense (Reserve Affairs), 1984–1987

William L. Ball III ..... 24 March 1988–15 May 1989

- Served in the U.S. Navy, 1969–1975
- Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs, 1985–1986
- Assistant to the President, 1986–1988

H. Lawrence Garrett III ..... 15 May 1989–26 June 1992

- Enlisted in the U.S. Navy, 1961; retired as Commander, 1981
- Assistant Counsel to the President, 1981
- Executive Assistant to the President and Chief Operating Officer, U.S. Synthetic Fuels Corporation, 1982
- Associate Counsel to the President of the United States, 1983–1986
- General Counsel, Department of Defense, 1986–1987
- Under Secretary of the Navy, 1987–1989

Sean O'Keefe (Acting) ..... 7 July 1992–16 December 1992

Sean O'Keefe ..... 16 December 1992–20 January 1993

- Department of Defense Comptroller, 1989–1992
- Acting Secretary of the Navy, 7 July 1992–16 December 1992

John H. Dalton ..... 22 July 1993–16 November 1998

- Served in the U.S. Navy, 1964–969
- Federal Home Loan Bank Board, 1979–1981

Richard Danzig ..... 16 November 1998–20 January 2001

- Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower, Reserve Affairs, and Logistics), 1978–1979
- Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower, Reserve Affairs, and Logistics), 1979–1981
- Under Secretary of the Navy, 1993–1997

Gordon R. England ..... 24 May 2001–24 January 2003

- Deputy Secretary of Defense, 4 January 2006–11 February 2009; see bio in section III

Hansford T. Johnson (Acting) ..... 7 February 2003–1 October 2003

- Served in the U.S. Air Force, 1959–1992
- Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Installations and Environment), 2001–2005

Gordon R. England ..... 1 October 2003–29 December 2005

- Deputy Secretary of Defense, 4 January 2006–11 February 2009; see bio in section III

Dionel M. Aviles (Acting) ..... 29 December 2005–3 January 2006

- Under Secretary of the Navy, 2004–2009, 8 October 2004–19 May 2009

Donald C. Winter.....3 January 2006–13 March 2009

- Program manager for space acquisition, tracking, and pointing programs, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, 1980–1983
- President and chief executive officer, TRW Systems, 2000–2002

B. J. Penn (Acting) .....13 March 2009–19 May 2009

- Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Energy, Installations, and Environment), 2005–2009

Raymond E. Mabus .....18 June 2009–19 January 2017

- Served in the U.S. Navy, 1970–1972
- Governor of Mississippi, 1998–2002
- Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, 1994–1996

Richard V. Spencer.....3 August 2017–15 July 2019

- Served in the U.S. Marine Corps, 1976–1981
- Governor of Mississippi, 1998–2002
- Managing director, Fall Creek Management, LLC, 2007–2017
- Performed the duties of Deputy Secretary of Defense, July 2019
- Acting Secretary of Defense, 15 July 2019–23 July 2019

Thomas B. Modly (Performing the Duties Of)..... 15 July 2019–30 July 2019

- Executive Director, Defense Business Board, 2002–2005
- Under Secretary of the Navy, 2017–2019

Richard V. Spencer.....31 July 2019–24 November 2019

Thomas B. Modly (Acting)..... 24 November 2019–7 April 2020

James McPherson (Acting) .....8 April 2020–29 May 2020

- General Counsel, Department of the Army, 2018–2020
- Under Secretary of the Navy, 2020

Kenneth J. Braithwaite .....29 May 2020–20 January 2021

- Served in the U.S. Navy, Navy Reserve, 1984–2011
- Senior Vice President and Executive Officer, VHA Pennsylvania, 2006–2011
- Vice Chief of Information, Office of the Secretary of the Navy, 2008–2011
- Senior Vice President, Vizient, Inc., 2011–2018
- U.S. Ambassador to Norway, 2018–2020

Thomas W. Harker (Acting).....20 January 2021–9 August 2021

- Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Financial Management and Comptroller), 2018–2021
- Performed the Duties Of Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller/CFO), 2020–2021

Carlos del Toro .....9 August 2021–20 January 2025

- President and CEO, SBG Technology Solutions, 2004–2021
- Senior Military Assistant, Office of the Secretary of Defense, 2002–2004

- Special Assistant to the Director, Office of Management and Budget, 1998–1999

Terence G. Emmert (Acting)..... 20 January 2025–25 March 2025

- Director, Adaptive Capabilities Office, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, 2023–2025

John C. Phelan .....25 March 2025–22 April 2026

- Co-founder, co-managing partner, MSD Capital, L.P., 1998–2022
- Founder, chairman, Rugger Management, LLC, 2022–2025

Hung Cao (Acting) .....22 April 2026–Present

- Under Secretary of the Navy, 2025–Present

Secretary of the Air Force

W. Stuart Symington ..... 18 September 1947–24 April 1950

- Served in the U.S. Army, 1918
- Chairman; Administrator, Surplus Property Board, 1945–1946
- Assistant Secretary of War for Air, 1946–1947

Thomas K. Finletter.....24 April 1950–20 January 1953

- Served in the U.S. Army, 1917–1919
- Special Assistant to the Secretary of State, 1941–1944
- Consultant to the U.S. delegation at the United Nations Conference in 1945
- Chairman, President's Air Policy Commission, 1947–1948
- Ambassador to NATO, 1961–1965

Harold E. Talbott .....4 February 1953–13 August 1955

- Served in the U.S. Army, 1918
- Aviation industry executive, 1911–1942

Donald A. Quarles .....15 August 1955–30 April 1957

- Deputy Secretary of Defense, 1 May 1957–8 May 1959; see bio in section III

James H. Douglas Jr .....1 May 1957–11 December 1959

- Deputy Secretary of Defense, 11 December 1959–24 January 1961; see bio in section III

Dudley C. Sharp ..... 11 December 1959–20 January 1961

- Served in the U.S. Navy, 1942–1945
- Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, 1955–1959
- Under Secretary of the Air Force, 1959–1959

Eugene M. Zuckert .....24 January 1961–30 September 1965

- Served in the U.S. Navy, 1944–1946
- Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of War for Air, 1946–1947
- Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, 1947–1952
- Member of the Atomic Energy Commission, 1952–1954

Harold Brown ..... 1 October 1965–15 February 1969

- Secretary of Defense, 21 January 1977–20 January 1981; see bio in section II

Robert C. Seamans Jr .....15 February 1969–14 May 1973

- Professor, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1941–1955
- Engineer, Radio Corporation of America, 1955–1958
- Associate and Deputy Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, 1969

John L. McLucas .....19 July 1973–12 November 1975

- Served in the U.S. Navy, 1943–1946
- Deputy Director, Defense Research and Engineering, 1962–1964
- Assistant Secretary General for Scientific Affairs, NATO, 1964–1966
- Under Secretary of the Air Force, 1969–1973

Thomas C. Reed.....2 January 1976–6 April 1977

- Served in the U.S. Air Force, 1956–1959
- Director, Telecommunications and Command and Control Systems, 1974–1975

John C. Stetson .....6 April 1977–18 May 1979

- Served in the U.S. Navy, 1945–1946
- Project manager, Foote Brothers Gear and Machine Company, 1949–1951
- President, Publishing Division, Houston Post Company, 1963–1970
- President, A. B. Dick Company, 1970–1977

Hans M. Mark..... 26 July 1979–9 February 1981

- Research associate, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1954–1955
- Head, Experimental Physics Division, Lawrence Radiation Laboratory, 1960–1964
- Chair, Department of Nuclear Engineering, University of California at Berkeley, 1964–1969
- Director, Ames Research Center, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, 1969–1977
- Under Secretary of the Air Force, 1977–1979
- Deputy Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, 1981–1984
- Director, Defense Research and Engineering, 1998– 2001

Verne Orr.....9 February 1981–30 November 1985

- Director of the California Department of Finance, 1970–1975
- Instructor, University of California, 1975–1980

Russell A. Rourke.....8 December 1985–7 April 1986

- Served in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, 1953–1985
- Administrative Assistant to Representative John R. Pillion (R-NY), 1960–1965
- Administrative Assistant to Representative Harry P. Smith III (R-NY), 1965–1974
- Deputy to the Presidential Counselor, 1974–1976
- Special Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs, 1976–1977

- Administrative Assistant to Representative Harold S. Sawyer (R-MI), 1977–1981
- Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), 1981–1985

Edward C. Aldridge Jr. (Acting) ..... 8 April 1986–8 June 1986

Edward C. Aldridge Jr ..... 9 June 1986–15 December 1988

- Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics), 10 May 2001–23 May 2003; see bio in section V

Donald B. Rice..... 22 May 1989–20 January 1993

- Served in the U.S. Army, 1965–1967
- Assistant Director, Office of Management and Budget, 1970–1972
- President and chief executive officer, RAND Corporation, 1972–1989
- Member, Defense Science Board, 1977–1983

Michael B. Donley (Acting)..... 20 January 1993–13 July 1993

- Secretary of the Air Force, 2 October 2008–21 June 2013; see bio in section IV

Sheila E. Widnall..... 6 August 1993–31 October 1997

- Professor of aerospace and astronautics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1970–1981
- Associate provost, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1992

F. Whitten Peters (Acting)..... 1 November 1997–1 August 1999

F. Whitten Peters..... 2 August 1999–20 January 2001

- Served in the U.S. Navy, 1969–1972
- Principal Deputy General Counsel, Department of Defense, 1995–1997
- Under Secretary of the Air Force, 1997–1999

James G. Roche ..... 1 June 2001–20 January 2005

- Served in the U.S. Navy, 1960–1983
- Democratic Staff Director, Senate Armed Services Committee, 1983-1984 [See AF bio]
- Northrup Grumman Corporation, 1984-2001 (corporate vice president and president, Electronic Sensors & Systems Sector, 1996–2001)

Peter B. Teets (Acting) ..... 20 January 2005–25 March 2005

- Director, National Reconnaissance Office, 2001–2005

Michael Montelongo (Acting) ..... 25 March 2005–28 March 2005

- Served in the U.S. Army, 1977–1996
- Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Financial Management and Comptroller), 2001–2005

Michael L. Dominguez (Acting)..... 28 March 2005–29 July 2005

- Served in the U.S. Army, 1975–1980
- Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Manpower and Reserve Affairs), 2001–2006

Preston M. Geren (Acting) ..... 29 July 2005–4 November 2005

- Secretary of the Army, 16 July 2007–21 September 2009; see bio in section IV

Michael W. Wynne ..... 4 November 2005–5 June 2008

- Served in the U.S. Air Force, 1966–1973
- General manager, space launch systems, Lockheed Martin Astronautics, 1994–1997
- Senior vice president, General Dynamics, 1997–1999
- Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Technology), 2001–2005
- Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics), 2003–2005

Michael B. Donley (Acting) ..... 9 June 2008–1 October 2008

Michael B. Donley ..... 2 October 2008–21 June 2013

- Professional Staff Member, Senate Armed Services Committee, 1981–1984
- National Security Council staff, 1984–1989
- Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Financial Management and Comptroller), 1989–1993
- Acting Secretary of the Air Force, 1993
- Director of Administration and Management, 2005–2008, 2021–

Eric K. Fanning (Acting) ..... 24 June 2013–19 December 2013

- Secretary of the Army, 18 May 2016–20 January 2017; see bio in section IV

Deborah Lee James ..... 20 December 2013–20 January 2017

- Assistant Secretary of Defense (Reserve Affairs), 1993–1998
- Vice president, international operations and marketing, United Technologies, 1999–2000
- Executive vice president and chief operating officer, Business Executives for National Security, 2000–2001
- Science Applications International Corporation, 2002–2013 (president, Technical and Engineering Sector, 2013)

Lisa Disbrow (Acting) ..... 20 January 2017–16 May 2017

- Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Financial Management) and Comptroller, 2014–2015
- Under Secretary of the Air Force, 24 February 2016–30 June 2017

Heather A. Wilson ..... 16 May 2017–31 May 2019

- Defense Planning Officer, Office of Defense Plans, U.S. Mission to NATO, 1987–1989
- National Security Council staff, 1989–1991
- U.S. Representative (R-NM), 1998–2009
- President, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, 2013–2017

Matthew P. Donovan (Acting) ..... 1 June 2019–2 November 2019

- Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), 26 March 2020–19 January 2021; see bio in section V

Barbara M. Barrett.....2 November 2019–20 January 2021

- Senior Adviser, U.S. Mission to the United Nations, 2006
- Ambassador to Finland, 2008–2009
- Chairman of the board, The Aerospace Corporation, 2013–2018

John P. Roth (Acting) ..... 20 January 2021–28 July 2021

- Deputy Comptroller (Program/Budget), Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), 2001–2017
- Performed the duties of Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller/CFO), 2014–2015
- Performed the Duties of Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller/CFO), 2017

Frank Kendall III ..... 28 July 2021–20 January 2025

- Served in the U.S. Army, 1967–1982, and Army Reserve, 1982–1999
- Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Strategic Defense Systems), 1986–1989
- Director of Tactical Warfare Programs, Office of the Secretary of Defense, 1989–1994
- Vice president of engineering, Raytheon Company, 1994-1996
- Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics), 2010–2012
- Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics), 2012–2017

Gary A. Ashworth (Acting).....20 January 2025–16 May 2025

- Performed the Duties Of Assistant Secretary of Defense (Acquisition), 2024–2025

Troy E. Meink.....16 May 2025–Present

- Director, Communications Directorate, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Networks and Information Integration), 2006–2008
- Director, Signals Intelligence Systems Acquisition, National Reconnaissance Office, 2008–2013
- Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force and Director, Executive Agent for Space Staff, 2013–2025

V. Under Secretaries and Deputy Under Secretaries of Defense

Public Law 95-140, 21 October 1977, disestablished the second Deputy Secretary of Defense position and created the position of Under Secretary of Defense at a level immediately below the Deputy Secretary of Defense. The Under Secretary of Defense (Policy) and the Under Secretary of Defense (Research and Engineering) were the two initial appointees to this rank, with the Under Secretary of Defense (Research and Engineering) replacing the Director of Defense Research and Engineering.

The National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2017, PL 114-328, 23 December 2016, reestablished an Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering and created an Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment. A 13 July 2018 memorandum from the Deputy Secretary of Defense finalized the organizational structures, roles, and responsibilities of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering and the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment.

Section 906 of the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2018, PL 115-91, 12 December 2017, renamed the Principal Deputy Under Secretaries of Defense to Deputy Under Secretaries of Defense.

Under Secretary of Defense (Research and Engineering)

The Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering serves as the principal staff assistant and adviser to the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Defense on all research and engineering matters, and as the chief technical officer of the Department with the mission of advancing technology and innovation.

Chairman, Research and Development Board

The National Security Act of 1947, PL 80-253, 26 July 1947, established the board. Reorganization Plan Number 6, 30 June 1953, dissolved it and divided its functions between the newly established Assistant Secretary of Defense (Research and Development) and Assistant Secretary of Defense (Applications Engineering).

Vannevar Bush ..... 30 September 1947–14 October 1948
Karl T. Compton ..... 15 October 1948–14 March 1950
William Webster ..... 15 March 1950–31 July 1951
Walter G. Whitman ..... 1 August 1951–29 June 1953

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Research and Development)

Donald A. Quarles ..... 1 September 1953–14 August 1955
Clifford C. Furnas ..... 1 December 1955–15 February 1957

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Applications Engineering)

Frank D. Newbury ..... 18 August 1953–17 March 1957

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Research and Engineering)

DoD Directive 5129.1, 18 March 1957, established the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Research and Engineering) to replace and combine the functions of the Assistant Secretary positions for Research and Development and Applications Engineering.

Frank D. Newbury ..... 18 March 1957–17 May 1957
Paul D. Foote ..... 10 September 1957–31 October 1958

Director of Defense Research and Engineering

The Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1958, PL 85-599, 6 August 1958, retitled the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Research and Engineering) as the Director of Defense Research and Engineering. The redesignated position came with increased authorities and represented an upgrade in rank above all assistant secretaries of defense.

Herbert F. York ..... 30 December 1958–30 April 1961

Harold Brown ..... 8 May 1961–30 September 1965

John S. Foster Jr. ..... 1 October 1965–21 June 1973

Malcolm R. Currie ..... 21 June 1973–20 January 1977

William J. Perry ..... 11 April 1977–21 October 1977

Under Secretary of Defense (Research and Engineering)

Public Law 95-140, 21 October 1977, created the position of Under Secretary of Defense (Research and Engineering). In 1986, the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition) succeeded the Under Secretary of Defense (Research and Engineering).

William J. Perry ..... 21 October 1977–20 January 1981

- Secretary of Defense, 3 February 1994–24 January 1997; see bio in section II

Walter B. LaBerge (Acting) ..... 21 January 1981–10 March 1981

- Served in the U.S. Navy, 1943–1947
- Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Research and Development), 1973–1975
- Under Secretary of the Army, 1977–1980
- Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Research and Engineering), 1979–1981

James P. Wade Jr. (Acting) ..... 11 March 1981–6 May 1981

- See bio below

Richard D. DeLauer ..... 6 May 1981–30 November 1984

- Served in the U.S. Navy, 1943–1958
- Thompson Ramo Wooldridge Incorporated (TRW Inc., since 1965), 1958–1981 (executive vice president, 1970–1981)

James P. Wade Jr. (Acting) ..... 1 December 1984–5 July 1985

- Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Atomic Energy), 1978–1981
- Assistant Secretary of Defense (Development and Support), 1984–1985
- Assistant Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Logistics), 1985–1986

Donald A. Hicks ..... 2 August 1985–10 October 1986

- Physicist, Lawrence Radiation Laboratory, 1954–1956
- Head, Applied Physics Section, Aerospace Group, The Boeing Company, 1956–1961
- Northrop Corporation, 1961–1985 (senior vice president, marketing and technology (1979–1985)

Under Secretary of Defense (Research and Engineering)

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017, PL 114-328, 23 December 2016, amended chapter 4 of United States Code Title 10 by codifying as section 133(a) the position of Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering.

Michael D. Griffin ..... 20 February 2018–10 July 2020

- President and chief operating officer, In-Q-Tel, Inc., 2002–2004
- Director, Applied Physics Laboratory, Johns Hopkins University, 2004–2005
- Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, 2005–2009
- Chairman and chief executive officer, Shafer Corporation, 2012–2018

Michael Kratsios (Acting) ..... 13 July 2020–20 January 2021

- Chief Technology Officer of the United States, 2017–2021

Terence G. Emmert (Performing the Duties Of) .....20 January 2021–21 March 2021

- Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Materiel Readiness), 2013–2016

Barbara K. McQuiston (Performing the Duties Of)..... 21 March 2021–26 July 2021

- Special Assistant to the Director, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, 2009–2010

Heidi Shyu ..... 27 July 2021–20 January 2025

- Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology, 2012–2016
- Trustee, The Aerospace Corporation, 2016–2021

James G. Mazol (Performing the Duties Of).....22 January 2025–20 May 2025

- Policy Director, United States Senate Committee on Armed Services, 2023–2025

Emil Michael .....20 May 2025–Present

- Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense, 2009–2011
- Chief Operating Officer, Klout, 2012–2013
- President, Technology Advisory and Consulting Services, 2011–2017
- Chief Business Officer, Uber, 2013–2017

Under Secretary of War (Research and Engineering)

Executive Order 14347, 5 September 2025, authorized the use of the secondary title "Under Secretary of War" and permitted the officeholders to be recognized by that title in official correspondence, public communications, ceremonial contexts, and non-statutory documents within the executive branch.

Emil Michael .....5 September 2025–Present

Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Research and Engineering)

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018, PL 115-91, 12 December 2017, redesignated the position of Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense to Deputy Under Secretary of Defense. Effective 1 February 2018, section 137(a) of United States Code Title 10 was amended by designating one of six Deputy Under Secretaries of Defense as the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering.

Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Research and Engineering)

Lisa Porter ..... 2 October 2018–10 July 2020
Mark Lewis (Acting) ..... 13 July 2020–20 January 2021
JihFen Lei (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 20 January 2021–21 March 2021
Terence G. Emmert (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 21 March 2021–17 May 2021
Maynard Holliday (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 17 May 2021–27 July 2021
Barbara K. McQuiston (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 27 July 2021–22 February 2022
David Honey ..... 22 February 2022–20 January 2025
Patrick J. Witt (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 22 January 2025–20 May 2025
James G. Mazol (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 20 May 2025–1 July 2025
Joseph Morici (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 1 July 2025–29 December 2025
James G. Mazol ..... 29 December 2025–Present

Deputy Under Secretary of War (Research and Engineering)

Executive Order 14347, 5 September 2025, authorized the use of the secondary title "Deputy Under Secretary of War" and permitted the officeholders to be recognized by that title in official correspondence, public communications, ceremonial contexts, and non-statutory documents within the executive branch.

Joseph Morici (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 5 September 2025–29 December 2025
James G. Mazol ..... 29 December 2025–Present

Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Sustainment)

The Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment serves as the principal adviser to the Secretary on acquisition and sustainment matters in the Department of Defense.

Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition)

The Military Retirement Reform Act of 1986, PL 99-348, 1 July 1986, established the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition).

Richard P. Godwin ..... 30 September 1986–30 September 1987

- Served in the U.S. Navy, 1943–1946
- Atomic Energy Commission, 1947–1959 (Assistant Director, Division of Reactor Development, 1959)
- United States Maritime Administration, 1959–1961
- Bechtel, Inc., 1961–1986 (president, Bechtel Civil and Minerals, Inc., 1980–1986)

Vacant ..... 30 September 1987–18 December 1987

Robert B. Costello ..... 18 December 1987–12 May 1989

- Served in the U.S. Naval Reserve, 1944–1978
- General Motors Corporation, 1960–1986
- Assistant Secretary of Defense (Production and Logistics), 1987

Michael P.W. Stone (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 13 May 1989–11 August 1989

- Under Secretary of the Army, 1988–1989
- Secretary of the Army, 1989–1993; see bio in section IV

John A. Betti .....11 August 1989–31 December 1990

- Chrysler Corporation, 1952–1962
- Ford Motor Company, 1962–1989 (executive vice president, diversified products operations, 1988–1989)

Donald J. Yockey (Acting).....1 January 1991–20 June 1991

Donald J. Yockey .....20 June 1991–20 January 1993

- Served in the U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force, 1944–1966
- Rockwell International Corporation, 1966–1988 (corporate senior vice president, 1986–1988)
- Principal Deputy Under Secretary (Acquisition), 1990
- Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition), 1 January 1991–20 June 1991

Vacant .....20 January 1993–15 April 1903

John M. Deutch..... 15 April 1993–29 November 1993

- Deputy Secretary of Defense, 11 March 1994–10 May 1995; see bio in section III

Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Technology)

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1994, PL 103-160, 30 November 1993, changed the title to Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Technology).

John M. Deutch.....30 November 1993–11 March 1994

Vacant .....12 March 1994–2 October 1994

Paul G. Kaminski..... 3 October 1994–16 May 1997

- Special Assistant to the Under Secretary of Defense (Research and Engineering), 1977–1981

Vacant ..... 17 May 1989–9 November 1997

Jacques S. Gansler ..... 10 November 1997–5 October 1999

- Engineer, Raytheon Corporation, 1952–1962
- Singer Corporation, 1962–1970
- Vice president, business development, International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation, 1970–1972
- Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Materiel Acquisition), 1975–1977
- Executive vice president and director, The Analytical Sciences Corporation, 1977–1997

Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics)

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000, PL 106-65, 5 October 1999, redesignated the position as the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics).

Jacques S. Gansler ..... 5 October 1999–5 January 2001

David R. Oliver Jr. (Acting)..... 6 January 2001–9 May 2001

- Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Technology), 1998–2001

Edward C. Aldridge Jr ..... 11 May 2001–23 May 2003

- Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Strategic Programs), 1974–1976
- Director, Planning and Evaluation, 1976–1977
- Under Secretary of the Air Force, 1981–1986
- Secretary of the Air Force, 1986–1988

Michael W. Wynne (Acting) ..... 23 May 2003–19 December 2003

- Secretary of the Air Force, 4 November 2005–5 June 2008; see bio in section IV

Michael W. Wynne (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 20 December 2003–1 April 2005

Michael W. Wynne (Recess Appointment) ..... 1 April 2005–6 June 2005

Kenneth J. Krieg ..... 6 June 2005–20 July 2007

- Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense, 2001–2003
- Director, Program Analysis and Evaluation, 2003–2005

John J. Young Jr. (Acting) ..... 21 July 2007–20 November 2007

John J. Young Jr ..... 21 November 2007–20 January 2009

- Technical staff, Sandia National Laboratory, 1988–1993
- Professional Staff Member, Senate Appropriations Defense Subcommittee, 1993–2001
- Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development, and Acquisition), 2001–2005
- Director, Defense Research and Engineering, 2005–2007

Vacant ..... 21 January 2009–26 April 2009

Ashton B. "Ash" Carter ..... 27 April 2009–6 October 2011

- Secretary of Defense, 17 February 2015–19 January 2017; see bio in section II

Frank Kendall III (Acting) ..... 6 October 2011–24 May 2012

Frank Kendall III ..... 24 May 2012–20 January 2017

- Secretary of the Air Force, 28 July 2021– ; please see bio in section IV

James A. MacStravic (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 20 January 2017–31 July 2017

- Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense (Acquisition), 2017–2018

Ellen M. Lord ..... 2 August 2017–1 February 2018

- Textron Systems Corporation, 1984–2017 (president and chief executive officer, 2012–2017)

Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Sustainment)

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017, PL 114-328, 23 December 2016, disestablished the position of Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, and amended chapter 4 of United States Code Title 10 by codifying as section 133(b) the position of Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment.

Ellen M. Lord.....1 February 2018–20 January 2021

Stacy A. Cummings (Performing the Duties Of).....20 January 2021–3 August 2021

- Program executive officer, Defense Healthcare Management Systems, 2016–2019

Gregory M. Kausner (Performing the Duties Of) .....3 August 2021–7 February 2022

- Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, 2017–2020

Andrew Hunter (Performing the Duties Of).....7 February 2022–15 April 2022

- Chief of Staff, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, 2011–2012

William A. LaPlante .....15 April 2022–20 January 2025

- Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, 2013–2014
- Senior vice president and general manager, national security, The MITRE Corporation, 2017–2020
- President and CEO, Charles Stark Draper Laboratories, Inc., 2020–2022

Steven J. Morani (Performing the Duties Of).....22 January 2025–5 June 2025

- Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense (Sustainment), 2024–Present

Michael P. Duffey .....5 June 2025–Present

- Deputy Chief of Staff to the Secretary of Defense, 2018–2019
- Program Associate Director for National Security, Office of Management and Budget, 2019–2021
- Partner, Equinox Global Solutions, 2021–2025

Under Secretary of War (Acquisition and Sustainment)

Executive Order 14347, 5 September 2025, authorized the use of the secondary title "Under Secretary of War" and permitted the officeholders to be recognized by that title in official correspondence, public communications, ceremonial contexts, and non-statutory documents within the executive branch.

Michael P. Duffey .....5 September 2025–Present

Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Sustainment)

Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition)

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1987, PL 99-661, 14 November 1986, established a statutory position called Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition).

Milton Lohr..... 3 October 1988–12 May 1989

Vacant.....6 May 1989–4 October 1989

Robert C. McCormack (Performing the Duties Of)..... 4 October 1989–11 November 1989

Vacant ..... 11 November 1989–28 November 1989

Robert C. McCormack (Performing the Duties Of).....28 November 1989–12 March 1990

Donald J. Yockey .....12 March 1990–29 January 1991

Vacant.....30 January 1991–4 December 1991

Donald C. Fraser ..... 4 December 1991–13 January 1993

Vacant ..... 13 January 1993–18 November 1993

Noel Longuemare Jr ..... 18 November 1993–30 November 1993

Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Technology)

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1994, PL 103-160, 30 November 1993, changed the title to Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Technology).

Noel Longuemare Jr ..... 30 November 1993–8 June 1994

Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Technology)

DoD Directive 5134.6, 8 June 1994, established the position of Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Technology)

Noel Longuemare Jr ..... 8 June 1994–21 November 1997

Joseph J. Eash (Acting) ..... 22 November 1997–1 June 1998

David Oliver ..... 1 June 1998–25 May 2001

Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Technology)

DoD Directive 5134.13, 25 May 2000, reestablished the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology.

David Oliver ..... 25 May 2000–14 July 2001

Michael W. Wynne ..... 17 July 2001–3 November 2005

Vacant ..... 3 November 2005–1 March 2006

James I. Finley ..... 1 March 2006–20 January 2009

Shay Assad (Acting) ..... 19 January 2009–5 March 2010

Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics)

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010, PL 111-84, 28 October 2009, amended 10 USC 133(a) by striking Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology each place it appeared and replaced it with Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics). DoD Directive 5134.14, 29 December 2010, assigned responsibilities and functions.

Frank Kendall III ..... 5 March 2010–24 May 2012

Alan F. Estevez (Acting) ..... 4 June 2012–31 December 2012

Alan F. Estevez (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 1 January 2013–30 October 2013

Alan F. Estevez ..... 30 October 2013–20 January 2017

Vacant ..... 20 January 2017–1 February 2018

Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Sustainment)

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018, PL 115-91, 12 December 2017, redesignated the position of Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense to Deputy Under Secretary of Defense. Effective 1 February 2018, this law amended section 137(c) of United States Code Title 10 by designating one of six Deputy Under Secretaries of Defense as the Deputy Under Secretary of

Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment.

Vacant ..... 1 February 2018–16 January 2019
Alan R. Shaffer ..... 16 January 2019–20 January 2021
Gregory M. Kausner (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 20 January 2021–3 August 2021
Paul D. Cramer (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 3 August 2021–21 April 2023
Radha Plumb ..... 21 April 2023–8 April 2024
Deborah Rosenblum (Acting) ..... 8 April 2024–5 November 2024
Deborah Rosenblum (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 5 November 2024–20 January 2025
Brent G. Ingraham (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 22 January 2025–22 September 2025
Dale Marks (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 22 September 2025–Present

Deputy Under Secretary of War (Acquisition and Sustainment)

Executive Order 14347, 5 September 2025, authorized the use of the secondary title "Deputy Under Secretary of War" and permitted the officeholders to be recognized by that title in official correspondence, public communications, ceremonial contexts, and non-statutory documents within the executive branch.

Brent G. Ingraham (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 5 September 2025–22 September 2025
Dale Marks (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 22 September 2025–Present

Under Secretary of Defense (Policy)

Established by PL 95-140, 21 October 1977. DoD Directive 5111.1, 27 October 1978, described the position's responsibilities and mission. The Under Secretary of Defense (Policy) is the principal adviser to the Secretary of Defense for all matters pertaining to the formulation of national security and defense policy and the integration and oversight of DoD policy and plans to achieve national security objectives.

Under Secretary of Defense (Policy)

Stanley R. Resor ..... 14 August 1978–1 April 1979

- Secretary of the Army, 5 July 1965–30 June 1971; see bio in section IV

Vacant ..... 1 April 1979–24 October 1979
Robert W. Komer ..... 24 October 1979–20 January 1981

- Served in the U.S. Army, 1943–1946
- Intelligence analyst, Central Intelligence Agency, 1947–1961
- National Security Council staff, 1961–1965
- Ambassador to Turkey, 1968–1969

Vacant ..... 20 January 1981–2 April 1981
Fred C. Iklé ..... 2 April 1981–19 February 1988

- Professor, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1964–1967
- Social Science Department head, RAND Corporation, 1967–1973
- Director, U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, 1973–1977

Vacant ..... 20 February 1988–15 May 1989
Paul D. Wolfowitz ..... 15 May 1989–19 January 1993

- Deputy Secretary of Defense, 2 March 2001–13 May 2005; see bio in section III

Frank T. Wisner .....6 July 1993–20 May 1994

- Foreign Service Officer, 1961–1997
- Under Secretary of State for International Security Affairs, 1992–1993

Walter B. Slocombe (Acting).....20 May 1994–15 September 1994

Walter B. Slocombe.....15 September 1994–19 January 2001

- Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs), 1977–1979
- Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Policy Planning), 1979–1981
- Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Policy), 1993–1994

Vacant ..... 20 January 2001–26 February 2001

Christopher A. Williams (Performing the Duties Of).....27 February 2001–11 May 2001

- Foreign Policy Adviser, Senator Trent Lott (R-MS), 1998
- Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Policy Matters, 2001

Daniel Gallington (Performing the Duties Of).....11 May 2001–16 July 2001

- Special Assistant for Policy to the Secretary of Defense, 2001

Douglas J. Feith .....16 July 2001–8 August 2005

- National Security Council staff, 1981–1982
- Special Counsel to the Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs), 1982–1984
- Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Negotiations Policy), 1984–1986
- Managing attorney, Feith & Zell, PC, 1986–2001

Eric S. Edelman (Recess Appointment) ..... 9 August 2005–9 February 2006

Eric S. Edelman .....9 February 2006–20 January 2009

- Foreign Service Officer, 1992–2001; 2003–2005
- Ambassador to Finland, 1998–2001
- Principal Deputy Assistant to the Vice President for National Security Affairs, 2001–2003
- Ambassador to Turkey, 2003–2005

Vacant ..... 20 January 2009–9 February 2009

Michèle Flournoy .....9 February 2009–30 January 2012

- Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Strategy and Threat Reduction) and Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Strategy), 1993–1998
- Research professor, Institute for National Strategic Studies, National Defense University, 1998–2000
- Senior advisor, Center for Strategic and International Studies, 2000–2006
- President and cofounder, Center for a New American Security, 2007–2009

James N. Miller Jr. (Acting).....1 February 2012–23 May 2012

James N. Miller Jr.....24 May 2012–8 January 2013

- Professional Staff Member, House Armed Services Committee, 1988–1992
- Professor of Public Policy, Duke University, 1992–1997
- Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Requirements, Plans, and Counterproliferation Policy), 1997–2000
- Senior vice president, Center for a New American Security, 2007–2009
- Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Policy), 2009–2012

Michael Lumpkin (Acting) .....9 January 2014–23 June 2014

- Assistant Secretary of Defense (Special Operations/Low-Intensity Conflict), 2013–2016

Christine Wormuth .....23 June 2014–10 June 2016

- Secretary of the Army, 27 May 2021–2025; please see bio in section IV

Brian McKeon (Acting) .....11 June 2016–20 January 2017

- Chief counsel, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, 1997–2009
- Deputy National Security Advisor to Vice President Joseph R. Biden, 2009–2012
- Executive Secretary and Chief of Staff for the National Security Council, 2012–2014

Theresa Whelan (Performing the Duties Of).....20 January 2017–5 June 2017

- Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense (Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict), 2015–2017

Robert Story Karem (Acting)..... 7 June 2017–10 October 2017

- Middle East policy adviser, Vice President's National Security Council staff, 2005–2009
- National security adviser to House Majority Leaders, 2011–2015
- Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs) , 2017–2018

David J. Trachtenberg (Acting)..... 17 October 2017–3 January 2018

- Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Policy), 2001–2003
- Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Policy), 2017–2019

John C. Rood.....3 January 2018–28 February 2020

- Senior vice president, Lockheed Martin International
- Assistant Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security, 2006–2007
- Acting Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security, 2007–2009

James H. Anderson (Performing the Duties Of).....29 February 2020–8 June 2020

- Dean of Academics; Deputy Director, Marine Corps War College, 2012–2015
- Assistant Secretary of Defense (Strategy, Plans, and Capabilities), 2018–2019
- Performing the Duties of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Policy), 2019–2020
- Assistant Secretary of Defense (Strategy, Plans, and Capabilities), 2020

- Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Policy), 23 July 2019–24 April 2020
- Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Policy), 8 June 2020–10 November 2020

James H. Anderson (Acting) ..... 8 June 2020–10 November 2020

Anthony J. Tata (Performing the Duties Of)..... 10 November 2020–20 January 2021

- Served in U.S. Army, 1981–2009
- Chief growth officer, Air Data Solutions, 2019–2020
- Performed the duties of Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Policy), 2020

Amanda J. Dory (Performing the Duties Of) .....20 January 2021–28 April 2021

- Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Strategy), 2008–2011

Colin Kahl.....28 April 2021–17 July 2023

- National Security Advisor to the Vice President, 2014–2017
- Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Middle East), 2009–2011

Alexandra N. Baker (Acting) ..... 18 July 2023–26 April 2024

- Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Policy), 14 February 2022–Present

Amanda J. Dory (Acting).....27 April 2024–22 January 2025

- Director, Africa Center for Strategic Studies, National Defense University, 2022–2024

Alexander J. Velez-Green (Performing the Duties Of).....22 January 2025–9 April 2025

- Senior Policy Adviser, Center for National Defense, The Heritage Foundation, 2023–2025

Elbridge A. Colby.....9 April 2025–Present

- Co-founder, Marathon Initiative, 2019–2025
- Director, Defense Program, Center for a New American Security, 2018–2019
- Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Strategy and Force Development, 2017–2018

Under Secretary of War (Policy)

Executive Order 14347, 5 September 2025, authorized the use of the secondary title "Under Secretary of War" and permitted the officeholders to be recognized by that title in official correspondence, public communications, ceremonial contexts, and non-statutory documents within the executive branch.

Elbridge A. Colby.....5 September 2025–Present

Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Policy)

Director of Policy Review

DoD Directive 5130.2, 16 June 1977, created the position of Director of Policy Review. A Defense Department press release announced the appointment of the first Director of Policy Review in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, effective 10 June 1977.

Daniel J. Murphy ..... 10 June 1977–28 October 1978

Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Policy)

A 28 October 1978 memorandum from the Deputy Secretary of Defense redesignated the Director of

Policy Review as the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy.

Daniel J. Murphy ..... 28 October 1978–11 December 1978

Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Policy Review)

A 6 November 1978 memorandum from the Deputy Secretary of Defense redesignated the position as the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Policy Review) and transferred the Directorate for Security Plans and Programs, the Directorate for Information Security, and the Defense Investigative Program Office from the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Administration)/Assistant Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) to the redesignated position, effective 11 December 1978.

Daniel J. Murphy ..... 11 December 1978–20 January 1981

Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Policy)

The position's title reverted back to Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Policy) in January 1981.

Richard G. Stilwell ..... 20 January 1981–1 December 1984

Craig Alderman Jr. (Acting) ..... 1 March 1985–13 October 1985

Craig Alderman Jr ..... 13 October 1985–October 1989

Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Security Policy)

By October 1989, the position had been renamed to Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Security Policy).

Craig Alderman Jr ..... 1 October 1989–12 August 1992

Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Policy)

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 1992 and 1993, PL 102-190, 5 December 1991, established the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, which replaced the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Security Policy) as the first assistant to the Under Secretary of Defense (Policy).

I. Lewis Libby ..... 12 August 1992–10 January 1993

Vacant ..... 11 January 1993–31 May 1993

Walter B. Slocombe ..... 1 June 1993–6 July 1993

Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Policy)

Established by DoD Directive 5111.3, 6 July 1993 as the primary assistant to the Under Secretary of Defense (Policy).

Walter B. Slocombe ..... 6 July 1993–14 September 1994

Vacant ..... 15 September 1994–2 October 1994

Jan M. Lodal ..... 3 October 1994–30 September 1998

James M. Bodner ..... 1 October 1998–19 January 2001

Vacant ..... 20 January 2001–24 July 2001

Stephen A. Cambone ..... 25 July 2001–1 July 2002

Vacant ..... 2 July 2002–6 February 2002

Christopher Ryan Henry ..... 7 February 2003–30 September 2008

Peter Verga (Acting) ..... 1 October 2008–8 April 2009

James N. Miller Jr. ..... 8 April 2009–24 May 2012
Kathleen H. Hicks ..... 24 May 2012–2 July 2013
Elissa Slotkin (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 3 July 2013–28 July 2014
Brian McKeon ..... 28 July 2014–20 January 2017
Vacant ..... 20 January 2017–7 August 2017
Theresa Whelan (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 7 August 2017–18 October 2017
David J. Trachtenberg ..... 18 October 2017–12 December 2017

Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Policy)

Section 906 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018, PL 115-91, 12 December 2017, and codified at section 137(a) of United States Code title 10, retitled the position as Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Policy). DoD Directive 5111.03, 25 January 2017, updated the responsibilities and functions of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Policy) and acknowledged the title change.

David J. Trachtenberg ..... 12 December 2017–23 July 2019
James H. Anderson (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 23 July 2019–24 April 2020
Daniel Green (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 24 April 2020–3 August 2020
James H. Anderson ..... 8 June 2020–10 November 2020
Anthony J. Tata (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 3 August 2020–10 November 2020
Thomas Williams (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 10 November 2020–20 January 2021
Jennifer C. Walsh (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 20 January 2021–28 April 2021
Amanda J. Dory (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 29 April 2021–23 August 2021
Mara Karlin (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 23 August 2021–14 February 2022
Alexandra N. Baker ..... 14 February 2022–26 April 2024
Mara Karlin (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 4 January 2023–24 April 2023
Mara Karlin (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 18 July 2023–20 December 2023
Melissa G. Dalton (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 21 December 2023–29 May 2024
Cara L. Abercrombie (Acting) ..... 29 May 2024–22 November 2024
Cara L. Abercrombie (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 23 November 2024–20 January 2025
Amanda J. Dory (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 22 January 2025–15 March 2025
Austin J. Dahmer (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 15 March 2025–Present

Deputy Under Secretary of War (Policy)

Executive Order 14347, 5 September 2025, authorized the use of the secondary title "Deputy Under Secretary of War" and permitted the officeholders to be recognized by that title in official correspondence, public communications, ceremonial contexts, and non-statutory documents within the executive branch.

Austin J. Dahmer (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 5 September 2025–Present

Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller/Chief Financial Officer)

The Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller/Chief Financial Officer) is the principal staff assistant and adviser to the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Defense for budgetary and fiscal matters, including

financial management, audit administration, accounting policy, and budget formulation and execution.

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Comptroller)

The first Secretary of Defense, James Forrestal, assigned the comptroller function to one of three special assistants created by the National Security Act of 1947. The 1949 amendments to the National Security Act of 1947 established the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense (Comptroller).

Wilfred J. McNeil ..... 12 September 1949–1 November 1959
John M. Sprague (Acting) ..... 2 November 1959–1 December 1959
Franklin B. Lincoln ..... 2 December 1959–20 January 1961
Charles J. Hitch ..... 17 February 1961–31 August 1965
Vacant ..... 1 September 1965–9 September 1965
Robert N. Anthony ..... 10 September 1965–31 July 1968
Robert C. Moot ..... 1 August 1968–9 January 1973
Don R. Brazier (Acting) ..... 10 January 1973–20 June 1973
Terence E. McClary ..... 21 June 1973–31 August 1976
Fred P. Wacker ..... 2 September 1976–29 February 1980
Vacant ..... 1 March 1980–12 August 1980
Jack R. Borsting ..... 12 August 1980–31 December 1982
Vincent Puritano (Acting) ..... 1 January 1983–23 February 1983
Vincent Puritano ..... 24 February 1983–30 May 1984
John R. Quetsch (Acting) ..... 31 May 1984–14 August 1984
Robert W. Helm ..... 16 August 1984–1 October 1986

Department of Defense Comptroller

The Assistant Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) was designated Department of Defense Comptroller in 1986 by the Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act with the same status as an Assistant Secretary, although not so titled.

Robert W. Helm ..... 1 October 1986–1 September 1988
Vacant ..... 1 September 1988–17 October 1988
Clyde O. Glaister ..... 17 October 1988–22 May 1989
Sean O'Keefe ..... 22 May 1989–7 July 1992
Donald B. Shycoff (Acting) ..... 8 July 1992–12 March 1993
Vacant ..... 13 March 1993–26 October 1993
John J. Hamre ..... 26 October 1993–5 October 1994

Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller/CFO)

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1995, PL 103-337, 5 October 1994, raised the status of the Department of Defense Comptroller from the level of Assistant Secretary to that of Under Secretary. DoD Directive 5118.03, 20 April 2012, updated the responsibilities, functions, and authorities for this position.

John J. Hamre ..... 5 October 1994–29 July 1997

- Deputy Secretary of Defense, 29 July 1997–31 March 2000; see bio in section III

Alice Maroni (Acting) ..... 30 July 1997–18 November 1997

- Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), 1993–2000

William J. Lynn III ..... 19 November 1997–19 January 2001

- Deputy Secretary of Defense, 12 February 2009–5 October 2011; see bio in section III

Vacant ..... 20 January 2001–2 May 2001

Dov S. Zakheim ..... 3 May 2001–15 April 2004

- Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Planning and Resources), 1985–1987
- Vice president, System Planning Corporation, 1987–2001

Lawrence J. Lanzillotta (Acting) ..... 15 April 2004–27 July 2004

- Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Management Reform), 2002–2004

Tina W. Jonas ..... 28 July 2004–26 September 2008

- Senior Budget Examiner, Office of Management and Budget, 1991–1995
- Professional Staff Member, House Committee on Appropriations, 1995–2001
- Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Financial Management), 2001– 2002
- Assistant Director and Chief Financial Officer, Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2002–2004

Vacant ..... 26 September 2008–6 October 2008

Douglas Brook (Acting) ..... 6 October 2008–20 January 2009

- Assistant Secretary of the Army, 1990–1992
- Assistant Secretary of the Navy, 2007–2009

Vacant ..... 20 January 2009–9 February 2009

Robert F. Hale ..... 9 February 2009–27 June 2014

- Served in the U.S. Navy, 1969–1972
- Director, National Security Division, Congressional Budget Office, 1982–1994
- Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Financial Management and Comptroller), 1994–2001
- Executive director, American Society of Military Comptrollers, 2005–2009

Michael J. McCord ..... 27 June 2014–20 January 2017

- Professional Staff Member, Senate Armed Services Committee, 1987–2003
- Budget Analyst, House Committee on the Budget, 2003–2004
- Professional Staff Member, Senate Armed Services Committee, 2004–2009
- Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), 2009–2014

John P. Roth (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 20 January 2017–1 June 2017

- Acting Secretary of the Air Force, 20 January 2021–28 July 2021; see bio in section IV

David L. Norquist ..... 2 June 2017–30 July 2019

- Deputy Secretary of Defense, 31 July 2019–9 February 2021; see bio in section III

Elaine A. McCusker (Acting) ..... 31 July 2019–26 June 2020

- Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), 2017–2020

Thomas W. Harker (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 27 June 2020–20 January 2021

- Acting Secretary of the Navy, 2021; see bio in section IV

Douglas Glenn (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 20 January 2021–9 April 2021

- Deputy Chief Financial Officer, 2020–2021

Anne McAndrew (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 9 April 2021–3 June 2021

- Deputy Comptroller for Program Budget, 2018–

Michael J. McCord ..... 3 June 2021–20 January 2025

- Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), 2014–2017; bio appears with earlier listing

Bryn Woollacott MacDonnell (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 22 January 2025–8 August 2025

- National Security Advisor for Rep. Ken Calvert (R-CA), 2023–2025

Jules W. Hurst III (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 8 August 2025–20 May 2026

- Performed the Duties Of Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower and Reserve Affairs), 2025

Michael Powers (Acting) ..... 20 May 2026–11 August 2026

- Deputy Under Secretary of Defense Comptroller, 2025–Present

Jules W. Hurst III ..... 11 August 2026–Present

Under Secretary of War (Comptroller/CFO)

Executive Order 14347, 5 September 2025, authorized the use of the secondary title "Under Secretary of War" and permitted the officeholders to be recognized by that title in official correspondence, public communications, ceremonial contexts, and non-statutory documents within the executive branch.

Jules W. Hurst III (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 5 September 2025–20 May 2026

Michael Powers (Acting) ..... 20 May 2026–11 August 2026

Jules W. Hurst III ..... 11 August 2026–Present

Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller)

Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller)

Position established by law as one of five Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense positions in NDAA for FY 2010, PL 111-84 (28 October 2009).

Michael J. McCord ..... 22 June 2010–26 June 2014

John P. Roth (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 27 June 2014–22 December 2015

John C. Conger ..... 22 December 2015–20 January 2017

Vacant ..... 20 January 2017–1 August 2017

Elaine A. McCusker .....2 August 2017–12 December 2017

Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller)

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018, PL 115-91, 12 December 2017, redesignated the position of Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense to Deputy Under Secretary of Defense.

Elaine A. McCusker .....12 December 2017–6 June 2020

Vacant .....27 June 2020–11 August 2021

Kathleen Miller.....11 August 2021–20 January 2025

Anne McAndrew (Performing the Duties Of)..... 22 January 2025–23 December 2025

Michael Powers ..... 23 December 2025–Present

Art Miller (Performing the Duties Of).....21 May 2026–11 August 2026

Deputy Under Secretary of War (Comptroller)

Executive Order 14347, 5 September 2025, authorized the use of the secondary title "Deputy Under Secretary of War" and permitted the officeholders to be recognized by that title in official correspondence, public communications, ceremonial contexts, and non-statutory documents within the executive branch.

Anne McAndrew (Performing the Duties Of).....5 September 2025–23 December 2025

Michael Powers ..... 23 December 2025–Present

Art Miller (Performing the Duties Of).....21 May 2026–11 August 2026

Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness)

The Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) is the principal staff assistant and adviser to the Secretary of Defense for total force management; National Guard and reserve component affairs; health affairs; readiness and training; military and civilian personnel requirements; language training; dependent education; equal opportunity; morale, welfare, and recreation; and quality-of-life matters.

Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness)

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1994, PL 103-160, 20 November 1993, created the position. DoD Directive 5124.02, 17 March 1994, described the position's responsibilities and mission, which included the functions of the now-abolished Assistant Secretary of Defense (Force Management and Personnel), and established authority over the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Reserve Affairs) and the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs) (See Part VIII, Assistant Secretaries of Defense).

Edwin Dorn.....16 March 1994–7 July 1997

- Deputy director for research, Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, 1981–1990
- Assistant Secretary of Defense (Force Management and Personnel), 1993–1994

Frederick F. Y. Pang (Acting)..... 7 July 1997–4 August 1997

- Assistant Secretary of Defense (Force Management Policy), 1994–1997

Rudy deLeon.....5 August 1997–31 March 2000

- Deputy Secretary of Defense, 31 March 2000–1 March 2001; see bio in section III

Charles L. Cragin (Acting).....31 March 2000–23 May 2000

- Served in the U.S. Navy, 1951–1964
- Associate, Verrill & Dana, 1970–1974
- Partner, Verrill & Dana, 1974–1990
- Assistant Secretary of Defense (Reserve Affairs), 1998–2001

Bernard D. Rostker.....23 May 2000–19 January 2001

- Director, Selective Service System, 1979–1981
- Assistant Secretary of the Navy, 1994–1998
- Under Secretary of the Army, 1998–2000

Charles L. Cragin (Acting).....20 January 2001–31 May 2001

David S. C. Chu.....1 June 2001–20 January 2009

- Served in the U.S. Army, 1968–1970
- Director of Program Analysis and Evaluation, 1981–1988
- Assistant Secretary of Defense (Program Analysis and Evaluation), 1988–1993
- Director, RAND Washington Office, 1994–1998

Michael L. Dominguez (Acting)..... 20 January 2009–1 March 2009

- Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), 2006–2009

Thomas F. Hall (Acting) .....1 March 2009–1 April 2009

- Assistant Secretary of Defense (Reserve Affairs), 2002–2009

Gail McGinn (Performing the Duties Of).....1 April 2009–8 February 2010

- Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Plans), 2002–2010

Clifford L. Stanley.....9 February 2010–26 October 2011

- Served in the U.S. Marine Corps, 1969–2002
- President, Scholarship America, 2004–2009

Jo Ann Rooney (Acting)..... 27 October 2011–24 May 2012

- Chief counsel, The Lyons Companies, 1996–2002
- President, Spalding University, 2002–2010
- Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), 2011–2012

Erin C. Conaton .....24 May 2012–31 December 2012

- Professional Staff Member, House Armed Services Committee, 2001–2010
- Under Secretary of the Air Force, 2010–2012

Jessica L. Wright (Acting) .....1 January 2013–26 June 2014

Jessica L. Wright .....27 June 2014–31 March 2015

- Served in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard, 1975–2010
- Assistant Secretary of Defense (Reserve Affairs), 2012–2013

Brad R. Carson (Acting).....1 April 2015–4 September 2015

- U.S. Representative (D-OK), 2001–2005
- Under Secretary of the Army, 2014–2015

Brad R. Carson (Performing the Duties Of).....5 September 2015–5 January 2016

Vacant .....5 January 2016–9 April 2016

Peter Levine (Acting) ..... 11 April 2016–13 October 2016

- Associate, Crowell & Moring, 1983–1987
- Counsel to Senator Carl Levin (D-MI), 1995–1996
- Professional Staff Member, Senate Armed Services Committee, 1996–2015
- Deputy Chief Management Officer, Department of Defense, 2015–2016

Peter Levine (Performing the Duties Of)..... 13 October 2016–20 January 2017

Anthony Kurta (Performing the Duties Of).....20 January 2017–21 November 2017

- Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Military Personnel Policy), 2014–2019

Robert L. Wilkie .....21 November 2017–30 March 2018

- Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), 2006–2009
- Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), 2006–2009
- Vice president, CH2M Hill Companies Ltd., 2010–2015
- Senior Advisor, Senator Thom Tillis, 2015–2017

Stephanie Barna (Performing the Duties Of)..... 30 March 2018–25 October 2018

- Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense (Readiness and Force Management), 2014–2015
- Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower and Reserve Affairs), 2015–2016

James Stewart (Performing the Duties Of) .....25 October 2018–28 December 2019

- Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower and Reserve Affairs), 2018–2019

Matthew P. Donovan (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 28 December 2019–2 March 2020

Alexis L. Ross (Performing the Duties Of) .....2 March 2020–26 March 2020

- Deputy Assistant Secretary (Strategy and Acquisition Reform), Department of the Army, 2018–2019
- Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Secretary of Defense, 2019–2020

Matthew P. Donovan .....26 March 2020–20 January 2021

- Professional Staff Member, Senate Armed Services Committee, 2015–2017
- Majority Policy Director, Senate Armed Services Committee, 2017
- Under Secretary of the Air Force, 2017–2019
- Acting Secretary of the Air Force, 1 June 2019–2 November 2019

Virginia Penrod (Acting) .....20 January 2021–24 August 2021

- Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower and Reserve Affairs), 2018; 2019–2020

Gilbert R. Cisneros Jr .....24 August 2021–8 September 2023

- U.S. Representative (D-CA), 2019–2021

Ashish S. Vazirani (Acting) ..... 8 September 2023–10 September 2023

- Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), 13 July 2022–20 January 2025

Ashish S. Vazirani (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 10 September 2023–20 January 2025

Darin S. Selnick (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 22 January 2025–15 March 2025

- Senior Advisor to the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, 2018–2019

Jules W. Hurst III (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 15 March 2025–21 July 2025

- Performing the Duties of Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness, 2025

Anthony J. Tata ..... 21 July 2025–Present

- Director, Opportunity Hound, 2023–2025
- Performing the Duties of Under Secretary of Defense (Policy), 2020–2021

Under Secretary of War (Personnel and Readiness)

Executive Order 14347, 5 September 2025, authorized the use of the secondary title "Under Secretary of War" and permitted the officeholders to be recognized by that title in official correspondence, public communications, ceremonial contexts, and non-statutory documents within the executive branch.

Anthony J. Tata ..... 5 September 2025–Present

Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness)

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002, PL 107-107, 25 December 2001, established the position.

Charles S. Abell ..... 14 November 2002–16 July 2003

Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness)

DoD Directive 5124.08, 16 July 2003, added the word "Principal" to the official title.

Charles S. Abell ..... 16 July 2003–11 January 2006
Gail McGinn (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 12 January 2006–11 July 2006
Michael L. Dominguez ..... 11 July 2006–20 January 2009
William J. Carr (Acting) ..... 20 January 2009–8 February 2010
Lynn C. Simpson (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 8 February 2010–2 June 2011
Jo Ann Rooney ..... 2 June 2011–24 May 2012
Vacant ..... 24 May 2012–16 October 2012
Jessica Wright (Acting) ..... 16 October 2012–30 July 2014
Laura Junor ..... 31 July 2014–15 May 2015
Vacant ..... 16 May 2015–4 January 2016
Brad R. Carson (Acting) ..... 5 January 2016–27 February 2016
Brad R. Carson (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 28 February 2016–8 April 2016
Vacant ..... 9 April 2016–13 April 2016

Stephanie A. Barna (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 13 April 2016–31 July 2017

Vacant ..... 1 August 2017–11 December 2017

Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness)

Section 906 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018, PL 115-91, 12 December 2017, and codified at section 137(a) of United States Code Title 10, retitled the position to Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness). DoD Directive 5124.08, 3 April 2020, updated the responsibilities, relationships, and authorities of the position and documented the name change to Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness).

Vacant ..... 12 December 2017–30 July 2018

Stephanie A. Barna (Performing the Duties Of) .....31 July 2018–26 November 2018

Anthony Kurta (Performing the Duties Of)..... 26 November 2018–29 June 2019

William G. Bushman (Performing the Duties Of).....29 June 2019–20 January 2021

Julie Blanks (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 20 January 2021–13 July 2022

Ashish S. Vazirani ..... 13 July 2022–20 January 2025

Shawn Skelly (Performing the Duties Of).....11 September 2023–20 January 2025

Jules W. Hurst III (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 22 January 2025–15 March 2025

Timothy D. Dill (Performing the Duties Of)..... 15 March 2025–15 July 2025

Merlynn Carson (Performing the Duties Of).....15 July 2025–25 September 2025

Sean O'Keefe.....25 September 2025–Present

Deputy Under Secretary of War (Personnel and Readiness)

Executive Order 14347, 5 September 2025, authorized the use of the secondary title "Deputy Under Secretary of War" and permitted the officeholders to be recognized by that title in official correspondence, public communications, ceremonial contexts, and non-statutory documents within the executive branch.

Merlynn Carson (Performing the Duties Of).....5 September 2025–25 September 2025

Sean O'Keefe.....25 September 2025–Present

Under Secretary of Defense (Intelligence and Security)

The Under Secretary of Defense (Intelligence and Security) is the principal staff assistant and adviser to the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Defense for intelligence, counterintelligence, security, sensitive activities, and related matters.

Under Secretary of Defense (Intelligence)

The Bob Stump National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003, P.L. 107-314, 2 December 2002, established this position. DoD Directive 5143.01, 24 October 2014, detailed the position's responsibilities, functions, relationships, and authorities.

Stephen A. Cambone ..... 10 March 2003–31 December 2006

- Director, Strategic Defense Policy, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Policy), 1990–1993
- Senior fellow, Center for Strategic and International Studies, 1993–1998

- Director of research, Institute for National Strategic Studies, National Defense University, 1998–2000
- Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Policy), 2001–2002

Robert Andrews (Acting) ..... 1 January 2007–15 April 2007

- Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Special Operations), 2001–2002, 2005
- Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Counterintelligence), 2006–2007

James Clapper ..... 15 April 2007–9 August 2010

- Served in the U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Air Force, 1963–1995
- Director, Defense Intelligence Agency, 1991–1995
- Director, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, 2001–2006
- Director of National Intelligence, 2010–2017

Thomas A. Ferguson (Acting) ..... 9 August 2010–28 January 2011

- Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Intelligence), 2007–2013

Michael G. Vickers (Acting) ..... 28 January 2011–17 March 2011

Michael G. Vickers ..... 17 March 2011–30 April 2015

- Served in the U.S. Army, 1973–1986
- Senior vice president, Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments, 1996–2007
- Assistant Secretary of Defense (Special Operations/Low-Intensity Conflict and Interdependent Capabilities), 2007–2011

Marcel Lettre (Acting) ..... 1 May 2015–16 December 2015

Vacant ..... 17 December 2015–5 February 2016

Marcel Lettre ..... 5 February 2016–20 January 2017

- Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense, 2011–2013
- Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Intelligence), 2013–2015
- Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Intelligence), 1 May 2015–16 December 2015

Todd Lowery (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 20 January 2017–1 June 2017

- Senior Advisor to the Under Secretary of Defense (Intelligence) 2011–2014
- Performed the Duties of Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Intelligence), 2015–2017

Kari A. Bingen (Acting) ..... 2 June 2017–21 November 2017

- Policy Director, House Armed Services Committee, 2013–2017
- Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Intelligence), 2 June 2017–20 December 2019

Joseph D. Kernan ..... 21 November 2017–20 December 2019

- Served in the U.S. Navy, 1981–2013
- Deputy Commander, U.S. Southern Command, 2011–2013
- Vice president, SAP National Security Services Inc., 2013–2017

Under Secretary of Defense (Intelligence and Security)

Section 1621(a)(1) of PL 116-92, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020, 20 December 2019, redesignated the position as the Under Secretary of Defense (Intelligence and Security). DoD Directive 5143.01, incorporating Change 2, 6 April 2020, updated the position's description and acknowledged the name change to Under Secretary of Defense (Intelligence and Security). On 23 April 2023 the Deputy Secretary of Defense issued a memorandum designating the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security as the principal staff assistant for law enforcement, although with duties that do not encroach on the statutory duties and responsibilities of the Inspector General of the Department of Defense.

Joseph D. Kernan.....20 December 2019–10 November 2020

Ezra Cohen (Acting).....10 November 2020–20 January 2021

- Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense (Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict), 2020

David M. Taylor (Performing the Duties Of).....20 January 2021–3 June 2021

- Director for Defense Intelligence (Intelligence and Security Programs and Resources)

Ronald Moultrie.....3 June 2021–1 March 2024

- President and founder, Oceanus Security Strategies, LLC, 2015–2021
- Signals Intelligence Director, National Security Agency/Central Security Service, 2014–2015

Milancy Harris (Acting).....1 March 2024–20 January 2025

- Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Intelligence and Security), 3 January 2023–20 January 2025

Dustin Gard-Weiss (Performing the Duties Of).....22 January 2025–25 July 2025

- Performing the Duties of Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Intelligence and Security), 2024–Present

Bradley Hansell.....25 July 2025–Present

- Principal, Boston Consulting Group, 2019–2022
- Venture Partner, Outlander VC, 2022–2023
- Operating Partner, Windage Partners, 2023–2024

Under Secretary of War (Intelligence and Security)

Executive Order 14347, 5 September 2025, authorized the use of the secondary title "Under Secretary of War" and permitted the officeholders to be recognized by that title in official correspondence, public communications, ceremonial contexts, and non-statutory documents within the executive branch.

Bradley Hansell.....5 September 2025–Present

Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Intelligence and Security)

Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Intelligence)

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010, PL 111-84, 28 October 2009, established this position as one of five Principal Deputy Under Secretaries of Defense.

Thomas A. Ferguson.....1 April 2007–1 September 2013

Marcel Lettre ..... 1 November 2013–5 February 2016

Todd Lowery (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 5 February 2016–2 June 2017

Kari A. Bingen ..... 2 June 2017–12 December 2017

Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Intelligence)

Section 906 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018, PL 115-91, 12 December 2017, and codified at section 137(a) of United States Code Title 10, retitled the position to Deputy Under Secretary of Defense.

Kari A. Bingen ..... 12 December 2017–20 December 2019

Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Intelligence and Security)

Section 1621(b)(1) of PL 116-92, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020, 20 December 2019, redesignated the position as the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Intelligence and Security).

Kari A. Bingen ..... 20 December 2019–10 January 2020

Ralph Cacci (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 10 January 2020–20 January 2021

David M. Taylor (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 20 January 2021–3 January 2023

Milancy Harris ..... 3 January 2023–20 January 2025

Dustin Gard-Weiss (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 20 January 2025–25 July 2025

Vacant ..... 25 July 2025–23 September 2025

Justin Overbaugh ..... 23 September 2025–Present

Deputy Under Secretary of War (Intelligence and Security)

Executive Order 14347, 5 September 2025, authorized the use of the secondary title "Deputy Under Secretary of War" and permitted the officeholders to be recognized by that title in official correspondence, public communications, ceremonial contexts, and non-statutory documents within the executive branch.

Vacant ..... 5 September 2025–23 September 2025

Justin Overbaugh ..... 23 September 2025–Present

VI. Specified Officials

Congress has created several positions over time that today fall in rank between the Under Secretaries of Defense and Assistant Secretaries of Defense. These positions are all presidentially appointed, Senate-confirmed (PAS) and report directly to the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Defense.

Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation

The Weapons Systems Acquisition Reform Act (WSARA) of 2009 established the Director of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation (CAPE). The origins of the office date to 1961 with the establishment of the Office of Systems Analysis, which became the Office of Program Analysis and Evaluation in 1973. The Director is the principal staff assistant and adviser to the Secretary of Defense and other senior Defense officials for independent cost assessment and program evaluation, including review of cost estimates and analysis of alternatives to support military acquisition decisions.

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Systems Analysis)

DoD Directive 5141.1, 17 September 1965, established the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense (Systems Analysis).

Alain C. Enthoven .....10 September 1965–20 January 1969

Ivan Selin (Acting) .....31 January 1969–30 January 1970

Gardiner L. Tucker .....30 January 1970–30 March 1973

Director of Defense Program Analysis and Evaluation

By administrative action, on 11 April 1973, Secretary of Defense Elliot Richardson announced the position title changed to Director of Defense Program and Evaluation.

Leonard Sullivan.....21 May 1973–11 February 1974

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Program Analysis and Evaluation)

Position title changed to Assistant Secretary of Defense (Program Analysis and Evaluation) on 11 February 1974. The responsibilities and mission were described in DoD Directive 5141.1, 29 March 1974.

Leonard Sullivan..... 11 February 1974–23 February 1976

Edward C. Aldridge Jr. (Acting) .....23 February 1976–18 May 1976

Director for Planning and Evaluation

On 18 May 1976 Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld eliminated the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense (Program Analysis and Evaluation) and in its place established a Director for Planning and Evaluation.

Edward C. Aldridge Jr .....18 May 1976–11 March 1977

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Program Analysis and Evaluation)

On 28 April 1977, the position of Director for Planning and Evaluation became Assistant Secretary of Defense (Program Analysis and Evaluation). DoD Directive 5141.1, 29 November 1978, detailed the position's responsibilities and mission.

Russell Murray II.....28 April 1977–20 January 1981

Director, Program Analysis and Evaluation

By administrative action, Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger downgraded the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense (Program Analysis and Evaluation) to Director of Program Analysis and Evaluation in May 1981.

David S. C. Chu ..... 19 May 1981–13 July 1988

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Program Analysis and Evaluation)

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 1988 and 1989, PL 100-180, 4 December 1987, increased the number of Assistant Secretaries of Defense to 12 until 20 January 1989. Position redesignated Assistant Secretary of Defense (Program Analysis and Evaluation) on 13 July 1989.

David S. C. Chu ..... 13 July 1988–20 January 1993

Director of Program Analysis and Evaluation

By administrative action, Secretary of Defense Les Aspin downgraded the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense (Program Analysis and Evaluation) to Director, Program Analysis and Evaluation in 1993.

William J. Lynn III ..... 25 June 1993–19 November 1997
Robert R. Soule (Acting) ..... 20 November 1997–1 July 1998
Robert R. Soule ..... 1 July 1998–27 April 2001
Barry D. Watts ..... 1 May 2001–1 July 2002
Stephen A. Cambone ..... 1 July 2002–7 March 2003
Vacant ..... 8 March 2003–23 July 2003
Kenneth J. Krieg ..... 23 July 2003–6 June 2005
Bradley M. Berkson ..... 6 June 2005–3 April 2009

Director, Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation

The Weapons Systems Acquisition Reform Act (WSARA), P.L. 111-23, 22 May 2009, established the Director, Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation (CAPE) and transferred the staff of the former Program Analysis and Evaluation office to CAPE. The Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics) issued Directive-Type Memorandum 09-027 on 4 December 2009 to further implement those select requirements of WSARA applicable to the Director, Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation.

Christine H. Fox ..... 30 September 2009–28 June 2013
Scott Comes (Acting) ..... 1 July 2013–25 June 2014
Jamie Morin ..... 25 June 2014–20 January 2017
Robert Daigle ..... 20 January 2017–18 May 2019
E. Y. (Yisroel) Brumer (Acting) ..... 18 May 2019–16 August 2019
John E. Whitley (Acting) ..... 16 August 2019–13 March 2020
John E. Whitley (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 13 March 2020–4 May 2020
Joseph Nogueira (Acting) ..... 4 May 2020–3 August 2021
Susanna Blume ..... 3 August 2021–20 January 2025

Michael Payne (Acting) ..... 22 January 2025–14 January 2026
Michael Payne ..... 14 January 2026–Present

General Counsel of the Department of Defense

Position originated as the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legal and Legislative Affairs), one of three Special Assistants to the Secretary of Defense authorized by the National Security Act of 1947, PL 80-253, 26 July 1947. Reorganization Plan Number 6, 30 June 1953, established the position by title. DoD Directive 5145.01, 24 August 1953, established positional responsibilities and mission. The General Counsel serves as the chief legal officer of the Department of Defense, advising both the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Defense on all legal matters and services. The General Counsel also develops the Department's legislative program, establishes policy on specific legal problems, maintains the repository for all international agreements of the Department, and serves as Director of the Defense Legal Services Agency.

General Counsel

H. Struve Hensel ..... 17 August 1953–4 March 1954
Vacant ..... 4 March 1954–23 April 1954
Wilber M. Brucker ..... 23 April 1954–20 July 1955
Vacant ..... 20 July 1955–6 October 1955
Mansfield D. Sprague ..... 6 October 1955–27 February 1957
Robert Dechert ..... 28 February 1957–15 July 1959
Vacant ..... 15 July 1959–14 September 1959
J. Vincent Burke Jr ..... 14 September 1959–20 January 1961
Cyrus R. Vance ..... 29 January 1961–30 June 1962
John T. McNaughton ..... 5 July 1962–25 June 1964
Leonard Niederlehner (Acting) ..... 1 July 1964–19 September 1966
Vacant ..... 19 September 1966–3 October 1966
Paul C. Warnke ..... 3 October 1966–31 July 1967
Leonard Niederlehner (Acting) ..... 1 August 1967–17 August 1970
J. Fred Buzhardt Jr ..... 18 August 1970–4 January 1974
Leonard Niederlehner (Acting) ..... 5 January 1974–13 March 1974
Martin R. Hoffmann ..... 14 March 1974–5 August 1975
Leonard Niederlehner (Acting) ..... 6 August 1975–1 January 1976
Richard A. Wiley ..... 2 January 1976–15 January 1977
Leonard Niederlehner (Acting) ..... 16 January 1977–27 April 1977
Deanne C. Siemer ..... 28 April 1977–15 October 1979
Leonard Niederlehner (Acting) ..... 15 October 1979–1 February 1980
Togo D. West Jr ..... 1 February 1980–20 January 1981
Leonard Niederlehner (Acting) ..... 20 January 1981–1 April 1981
William H. Taft IV ..... 2 April 1981–2 February 1984

Leonard Niederlehner (Acting) ..... 2 February 1984–3 May 1984
Chapman B. Cox ..... 3 May 1984–16 December 1985
Vacant ..... 16 December 1985–5 February 1986
H. Lawrence Garrett III ..... 5 February 1986–6 August 1987
Leonard Niederlehner (Acting) ..... 6 August 1987–12 November 1987
Kathleen A. Buck ..... 12 November 1987–30 December 1988
Vacant ..... 1 January 1989–30 October 1989
Terrence O'Donnell ..... 30 October 1989–6 March 1992
Chester Paul Beach Jr. (Acting) ..... 7 March 1992–12 August 1992
David S. Addington ..... 12 August 1992–20 January 1993
John H. McNeill (Acting) ..... 20 January 1993–5 May 1993
Jamie S. Gorelick ..... 5 May 1993–17 March 1994
Stephen W. Preston (Acting) ..... 28 March 1994–29 September 1994
Judith A. Miller ..... 29 September 1994–7 November 1999
Douglas A. Dworkin (Acting) ..... 7 November 1999–14 June 2000
Douglas A. Dworkin ..... 14 June 2000–19 January 2001
Daniel J. Dell'Orto (Acting) ..... 20 January 2001–24 May 2001
William J. Haynes II ..... 24 May 2001–10 March 2008
Daniel J. Dell'Orto (Acting) ..... 10 March 2008–9 February 2009
Jeh C. Johnson ..... 9 February 2009–31 December 2012
Robert S. Taylor (Acting) ..... 1 January 2013–27 October 2013
Stephen W. Preston ..... 28 October 2013–1 June 2015
Robert S. Taylor (Acting) ..... 1 July 2015–12 June 2016
Jennifer M. O'Connor ..... 12 June 2016–20 January 2017
Paul S. Koffsky (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 20 January 2017–1 August 2017
William S. Castle (Acting) ..... 1 August 2017–13 July 2018
Paul C. Ney Jr ..... 13 July 2018–20 January 2021
Beth George (Acting) ..... 20 January 2021–31 July 2021
Caroline Krass ..... 31 July 2021–20 January 2025
Charles L. Young III (Acting) ..... 22 January 2025–31 July 2025
Earl G. Matthews ..... 31 July 2025–Present

Inspector General of the Department of Defense

The Department of Defense Authorization Act, 1983, PL 97-252, 8 September 1982, and DoD Directive 5106.1, 14 March 1983, established the Office of the Department of Defense Inspector General. The Inspector General's office replaced the office of Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Review and Oversight, established in April 1981 to check fraud, waste, and abuse in procurement. That position and the Defense Audit Service, created in 1976, were dissolved when the Office of the Inspector General began operations in May 1983.

The Inspector General is an independent official who coordinates policies and makes recommendations to further economy and efficiency in administration. The Inspector General keeps the Secretary of Defense and Congress informed about problems relating to the administration of programs and the possibility of corrective action following investigation.

Inspector General

Joseph H. Sherick ..... 2 May 1983–3 June 1986
Derek Vander Schaaf (Acting) ..... 3 June 1986–13 November 1987
June Gibbs Brown ..... 13 November 1987–20 October 1989
Derek Vander Schaaf (Acting) ..... 20 October 1989–28 November 1989
Susan J. Crawford ..... 28 November 1989–19 November 1991
Derek Vander Schaaf (Acting) ..... 19 November 1991–28 February 1995
Eleanor J. Hill ..... 1 March 1995–30 April 1999
Donald Mancuso (Acting) ..... 1 May 1999–3 January 2001
Robert Lieberman (Acting) ..... 3 January 2001–2 April 2002
Joseph E. Schmitz ..... 2 April 2002–9 September 2005
Thomas Gimble (Acting) ..... 9 September 2005–29 April 2007
Claude M. Kicklighter ..... 30 April 2007–2 July 2008
Gordon S. Heddell (Acting) ..... 2 July 2008–10 July 2009
Gordon S. Heddell ..... 10 July 2009–24 December 2011
Lynne M. Halbrooks (Acting) ..... 25 December 2011–26 September 2013
Jon T. Rymer ..... 26 September 2013–8 January 2016
Glenn A. Fine (Acting) ..... 10 January 2016–1 October 2019
Glenn A. Fine (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 1 October 2019–7 April 2020
Sean W. O'Donnell (Acting) ..... 8 April 2020–6 December 2022
Robert Storch ..... 6 December 2022–25 January 2025
Steven Stebbins (Acting) ..... 27 January 2025–22 December 2025
Platte Moring ..... 22 December 2025–Present

Inspector General of the Department of War

Executive Order 14347, 5 September 2025, authorized the use of the secondary title "Department of War" in official correspondence, public communications, ceremonial contexts, and non-statutory documents within the executive branch. It also permitted offices within the Department to utilize the secondary titles in their own names. An 11 March 2026 memorandum from the Director of Administration and Management directed that the Inspector General be referred to as the Inspector General of the Department of War.

Platte Moring ..... 11 March 2026–Present

VII. Assistant Secretaries of Defense

The number, titles, and duties of the Assistant Secretaries, with or without specific statutory designation, have changed over time in accordance with both congressional legislation and Department of Defense directives. The current Assistant Secretary positions are listed alphabetically by title, with their direct lineal predecessor positions (if any) listed chronologically. Former Assistant Secretary positions in a direct lineage leading to an Under Secretary position are listed with those Under Secretaries (see section VI).

Acquisition

Section 906(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010, PL 111-84, 28 October 2009, established this position to serve as the principal adviser to the Secretary of Defense and Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics) on matters relating to acquisition.

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Acquisition)

Katrina G. McFarland (Acting)..... 1 October 2011–24 May 2012
Katrina G. McFarland.....24 May 2012–20 January 2017
Dyke Weatherington (Performing the Duties Of)..... 20 January 2017–14 December 2017
James A. MacStravic (Acting) ..... 14 December 2017–18 February 2018
Kevin M. Fahey ..... 18 February 2018–20 January 2021
Dyke Weatherington (Performing the Duties Of).....20 January 2021–25 June 2021
Christopher C. O'Donnell (Performing the Duties Of) .....28 June 2021–28 February 2022
Tanya Skeen (Acting)..... 28 February 2022–20 December 2022
Tanya Skeen (Performing the Duties Of) .....20 December 2022–15 August 2023
Gary A. Ashworth (Performing the Duties Of).....15 August 2023–5 March 2024
Cara L. Abercrombie.....5 March 2024–20 January 2025
Gary A. Ashworth (Performing the Duties Of).....29 May 2024–20 January 2025
James A. Ruocco (Performing the Duties Of)..... 22 January 2025–Present

Assistant Secretary of War (Acquisition)

Executive Order 14347, 5 September 2025, authorized the use of the secondary title "Assistant Secretary of War" and permitted the officeholders to be recognized by that title in official correspondence, public communications, ceremonial contexts, and non-statutory documents within the executive branch.

James A. Ruocco (Performing the Duties Of).....5 September 2025–Present

Critical Technologies

Section 901(b) of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 increased the authorized number of Assistant Secretaries to 19. The Deputy Secretary of Defense established the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Critical Technologies in a memorandum of 12 July 2023. The Assistant Secretary is under the authority, direction, and control of the Under Secretary of Defense (Research and Engineering) as the principal adviser for science and technologies critical to national security. In addition, the Assistant Secretary is responsible for advising the Under Secretary

of Defense (Research and Engineering) on science and technology matters to ensure technological dominance against adversaries; assessing the development and utilization of critical technologies; supporting Department of Defense technology acquisition decision-making; and assessing and recommending updates to critical technology areas that warrant focused attention by the Department.

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Critical Technologies)

Maynard Holliday (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 24 July 2023–20 December 2024
Peter Highnam (Performing the Duties Of).....20 December 2024–24 September 2025
Michael Dodd 24-September 2025–Present

Assistant Secretary of War (Critical Technologies)

Executive Order 14347, 5 September 2025, authorized the use of the secondary title "Assistant Secretary of War" and permitted the officeholders to be recognized by that title in official correspondence, public communications, ceremonial contexts, and non-statutory documents within the executive branch.

Peter Highnam (Performing the Duties Of).....5 September 2025–24 September 2025
Michael Dodd 24-September 2025–Present

Cyber Policy

Section 901 of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023, PL 117-263, 23 December 2022, increased the number of assistant secretaries of defense to 19 and mandated the creation of Assistant Secretary of Defense for Cyber Policy. The position and the office were established on 20 March 2024. The Assistant Secretary is under the authority, direction, and control of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy as the principal advisor to the Secretary of Defense on all matters related to cyber activities that support or enable Department of Defense missions in, through, and from cyberspace.

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Cyber Policy)

Ashley Manning (Performing the Duties Of)..... 29 March 2024–1 August 2024
Michael Sulmeyer..... 1 August 2024–20 January 2025
Ashley Manning (Acting) ..... 22 January 2025–17 March 2025
Laurie Buckhout (Performing the Duties Of).....17 March 2025–5 September 2025
Austin J. Dahmer (Performing the Duties Of).....5 September 2025–24 September 2025
Katherine Sutton .....24 September 2025–Present

Assistant Secretary of War (Cyber Policy)

Executive Order 14347, 5 September 2025, authorized the use of the secondary title "Assistant Secretary of War" and permitted the officeholders to be recognized by that title in official correspondence, public communications, ceremonial contexts, and non-statutory documents within the executive branch.

Austin J. Dahmer (Performing the Duties Of).....5 September 2025–24 September 2025
Katherine Sutton .....24 September 2025–Present

Energy, Installations, and Environment

Section 902 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009, PL 110-417, 14 October 2008, established the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense (Operational Energy Plans and Programs). The Assistant Secretary's duties included leading, overseeing, and providing accountability for operational energy plans and programs within the Department of Defense and the military services, as well as establishing, coordinating, and implementing the Department's operational energy strategy and advising the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Defense on operational energy plans, programs, and policy. Section 903 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010, PL 111-84, 28 October 2009, further elaborated on the activities of this office.

On 19 December 2014, the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 merged this position with the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Installations and Environment). In addition to its previously established functions, the position gained responsibility for creating policies to improve facility energy efficiency, increasing renewable energy use on U.S. installations, promoting energy security, and managing environmental compliance, conservation, and clean-up programs.

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Operational Energy Plans and Programs)

Sharon E. Burke.....25 June 2010–9 May 2014
Thomas E. Morehouse Jr. (Acting)..... 9 May 2014–20 December 2014

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Energy, Installations, and Environment)

John C. Conger (Performing the Duties Of)..... 20 December 2014–20 January 2017
Lucian L. Niemeyer.....20 January 2017–20 January 2021
Vacant ..... 21 January 2021–10 February 2022
Paul D. Cramer (Performing the Duties Of)..... 10 February 2022–26 January 2023
Brendan Owens..... 26 January 2023–20 January 2025
Robert E. Thompson (Acting).....22 January 2025–10 June 2025
Dale Marks.....10 June 2025–Present

Assistant Secretary of War (Energy, Installations, and Environment)

Executive Order 14347, 5 September 2025, authorized the use of the secondary title "Assistant Secretary of War" and permitted the officeholders to be recognized by that title in official correspondence, public communications, ceremonial contexts, and non-statutory documents within the executive branch.

Dale Marks.....5 September 2025–Present

Health Affairs

Chairman, Armed Forces Medical Advisory Committee

In November 1948, Secretary of Defense James Forrestal established the Armed Forces Medical Advisory Committee, to be headed by a Chairman.

Dr. Charles P. Cooper..... 13 December 1948–2 January 1951

Chairman, Armed Forces Medical Policy Council

On 2 January 1951, Secretary of Defense George Marshall issued a directive creating the Armed Forces Medical Policy Council, to be headed by a Chairman. This directive abolished the Armed Forces

Medical Advisory Committee.

Dr. Richard L. Meiling ..... 5 January 1951–30 June 1951
Dr. William R. Lovelace ..... 1 July 1951–1 April 1952
Dr. Melvin A. Casberg ..... 1 April 1952–1 April 1953

Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Health and Medical)

DoD Directive 5136.4, 1 April 1953, created this position and also abolished the Armed Forces Medical Policy Council.

Dr. Melvin A. Casberg ..... 1 April 1953–2 August 1953

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health and Medical)

DoD Directive 5105.1, 30 June 1953, created the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health and Medical). Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara, through the Secretary's authority under the Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1958, PL 85-599, 6 August 1958, abolished the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health and Medical) on 31 January 1961, and transferred functions to the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower).

Dr. Melvin A. Casberg ..... 3 August 1953–27 January 1954
Dr. Frank B. Berry ..... 28 January 1954–31 January 1961

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health and Environment)

Position established on 23 June 1970 by DoD Directive 5136.1 after PL 91-121, 19 November 1969, designated an Assistant Secretary position for health affairs. On 22 January 1976 the position title changed to Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs).

Dr. Louis M. Rousselot ..... 22 July 1970–1 July 1971
Dr. Richard S. Wilbur ..... 27 July 1971–1 September 1973
Dr. James R. Cowan ..... 19 February 1974–22 January 1976

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs)

The Assistant Secretary is responsible for overall supervision of the health and medical affairs of DoD. Serves as the principal staff assistant and adviser to the Secretary of Defense for all DoD health policies, programs, and activities, exercising oversight of all DoD health resources. Reports to the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.

Dr. James R. Cowan ..... 22 January 1976–1 March 1976
Vernon McKenzie (Acting) ..... 2 March 1976–8 March 1976
Vacant ..... 8 March 1976–30 August 1976
Dr. Robert N. Smith ..... 30 August 1976–7 January 1978
Vernon McKenzie (Acting) ..... 8 January 1978–14 August 1979
Vacant ..... 14 August 1979–14 September 1979
Dr. John Moxley III ..... 14 September 1979–9 August 1981
Dr. John Beary (Acting) ..... 10 August 1981–24 September 1983
Vernon McKenzie (Acting) ..... 25 September 1983–17 November 1983
Dr. William Mayer ..... 18 November 1983–21 April 1989

David Newhall III (Acting) ..... 22 April 1989–16 March 1990
Dr. Enrique Mendez ..... 16 March 1990–20 January 1993
Dr. Edward D. Martin (Acting) ..... 20 January 1993–23 March 1994
Dr. Stephen C. Joseph ..... 23 March 1994–31 March 1997
Dr. Edward D. Martin (Acting) ..... 1 April 1997–28 February 1998
Gary Christopherson (Acting) ..... 1 March 1998–25 May 1998
Dr. Sue Bailey ..... 26 May 1998–14 August 2000
Dr. J. Jarrett Clinton (Acting) ..... 14 August 2000–29 October 2001
Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr ..... 29 October 2001–12 April 2007
Dr. S. Ward Casscells ..... 16 April 2007–29 April 2009
Ellen Embrey (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 29 April 2009–31 January 2010
Allen W. Middleton (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 1 February 2010–28 February 2010
Dr. Charles Rice (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 1 March 2010–6 September 2010
Dr. George P. Taylor Jr. (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 7 September 2010–22 December 2010
Dr. Jonathan Woodson ..... 22 December 2010–1 May 2016
Dr. Karen S. Guice (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 2 May 2016–20 January 2017
Dr. David J. Smith (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 20 January 2017–23 August 2017
Thomas P. McCaffery (Acting) ..... 23 August 2017–5 August 2019
Thomas P. McCaffery ..... 5 August 2019–20 January 2021
Dr. Terry Adirim (Acting) ..... 21 January 2021–19 December 2021
Dr. David J. Smith (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 19 December 2021–18 April 2022
Seileen Mullen (Acting) ..... 18 April 2022–23 February 2023
Dr. Lester Martinez-Lopez ..... 23 February 2023–31 October 2024
Seileen Mullen (Acting) ..... 31 October 2024–20 January 2025
Dr. Stephen L. Ferrara (Acting) ..... 22 January 2025–12 January 2026
Keith Bass ..... 12 January 2026–Present

Assistant Secretary of War (Health Affairs)

Executive Order 14347, 5 September 2025, authorized the use of the secondary title "Assistant Secretary of War" and permitted the officeholders to be recognized by that title in official correspondence, public communications, ceremonial contexts, and non-statutory documents within the executive branch.

Dr. Stephen L. Ferrara (Acting) ..... 5 September 2025–12 January 2026
Keith Bass ..... 12 January 2026–Present

Homeland Defense and Americas' Security Affairs

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Homeland Defense)

The Bob Stump National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003, PL 107-314, 2 December 2002, established the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense (Homeland Defense) to oversee

Department of Defense homeland defense activities. The Assistant Secretary reported to the Under Secretary of Defense (Policy).

Paul F. McHale ..... 7 February 2003–1 March 2007

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Homeland Defense and Americas' Security Affairs)

The September 2006 reorganization of the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Policy) redesignated the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Homeland Defense) as the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Homeland Defense and Americas' Security Affairs), responsible for the oversight of North and South American security issues. DoD Directive 5111.13, 16 January 2009, defined the responsibilities of the position, which included homeland defense activities, Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA), and Western Hemisphere security matters.

A 9 January 2015 Deputy Secretary of Defense memorandum transferred the responsibilities for the Americas' Security Affairs functions to the Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs). DoD Directive 5111.13, 23 March 2018, canceled the 2009 directive and transferred the homeland defense responsibilities, functions, and authorities to the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Homeland Defense and Global Security).

Paul F. McHale .....1 March 2007–20 January 2009

Peter Verga (Acting).....22 January 2009–1 June 2009

Paul N. Stockton .....1 June 2009–22 January 2013

Todd M. Rosenblum (Performing the Duties Of)..... 22 January 2013–23 September 2014

Eric B. Rosenbach .....23 September 2014–9 January 2015

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Global Security Affairs)

The September 2006 reorganization of the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Policy) established the new position of Assistant Secretary of Defense (Global Security Affairs), responsible for the oversight of the defense capabilities of U.S. partners and allies; coalition affairs; technology security policy; security cooperation; counternarcotics, counterproliferation, and detainee affairs; and prisoner of war/missing in action issues. DoD Directive 2060.02, 19 April 2007, established the Assistant Secretary's responsibilities for responding to weapons of mass destruction incidents.

Joseph A. Benkert..... 23 July 2008–20 January 2009

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Global Strategic Affairs)

By administrative action in 2009, the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense (Global Security Affairs) became Assistant Secretary of Defense (Global Strategic Affairs). To comply with Section 932 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014, PL 113-66, 26 December 2013, the Secretary of Defense designated the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Global Strategic Affairs) as the Defense Department Principal Cyber Adviser in July 2014.

A 9 January 2015 Deputy Secretary of Defense memorandum eliminated the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense (Global Strategic Affairs) and transferred cyber responsibilities to the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Homeland Defense and Global Security).

Michael Nacht.....18 May 2009–20 May 2010

Kenneth Handelman (Acting) .....21 May 2010–1 August 2011

Madelyn R. Creedon.....2 August 2011–23 July 2014

Vacant ..... 24 July 2014–23 September 2014

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Homeland Defense and Global Security)

In compliance with section 906 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010, PL 111-84, 28 October 2009, which limited the number of Assistant Secretaries of Defense, Deputy Secretary of Defense Robert Work issued a memorandum on 9 January 2015 that eliminated the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense (Global Strategic Affairs) and transferred responsibility for oversight of cyberspace, space, and policies to counter weapons of mass destruction to the new Assistant Secretary of Defense (Homeland Defense and Global Security). DoD Directive 5111.13, 23 March 2018, updated the responsibilities and functions, relationships, and authorities of the Assistant Secretary, who served under the authority, direction, and control of the Under Secretary of Defense (Policy).

Eric B. Rosenbach ..... 9 January 2015–6 July 2015

Vacant ..... 6 July 2015–5 November 2015

Thomas F. Atkin (Acting) ..... 5 November 2015–20 January 2017

Vacant ..... 20 January 2017–19 June 2017

Kenneth Rapuano ..... 19 June 2017–20 January 2021

Robert G. Salesses (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 20 January 2021–28 April 2021

Jennifer C. Walsh (Acting) ..... 29 April 2021–4 March 2022

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Homeland Defense and Hemispheric Affairs)

As part of a reorganization of the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Policy) in December 2021, the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense (Homeland Defense and Global Security) was renamed Assistant Secretary of Defense (Homeland Defense and Hemispheric Affairs). DoD Directive 5111.13, 31 October 2024, designated the Assistant Secretary, under the authority, direction, and control of the Under Secretary of Defense (Policy), as the principal civilian adviser to the Secretary of Defense and the Under Secretary of Defense (Policy) on all matters regarding the formulation of national security and defense strategy related to homeland defense activities; defense support of civil authorities; engagement with national security forces of partner countries on select transboundary threats; defense relationships with countries in the Western Hemisphere; and issues pertaining to the Arctic region.

Melissa G. Dalton ..... 4 March 2022–29 May 2024

Sarah R. Zimmerman (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 21 December 2023–29 May 2024

Sarah R. Zimmerman (Acting) ..... 29 May 2024–20 January 2025

Leigh Nolan (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 22 January 2025–28 January 2025

Rafael Leonardo (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 28 January 2025–21 April 2025

M. Roosevelt Ditlevson (Acting) ..... 21 April 2025–8 October 2025

Assistant Secretary of War (Homeland Defense and Hemispheric Affairs)

Executive Order 14347, 5 September 2025, authorized the use of the secondary title "Assistant Secretary of War" and permitted the officeholders to be recognized by that title in official correspondence, public communications, ceremonial contexts, and non-statutory documents within the executive branch.

M. Roosevelt Ditlevson (Acting) ..... 5 September 2025–8 October 2025

Assistant Secretary of War (Homeland Defense and Americas' Security Affairs)

An 8 October 2025 memorandum from the Director of Administration and Management redesignated the position as Assistant Secretary of War (Homeland Defense and Americas' Security Affairs).

M. Roosevelt Ditlevson (Acting) ..... 8 October 2025–2 December 2025
Joseph Humire (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 2 December 2025–26 May 2026
M. Roosevelt Ditlevson ..... 26 May 2026–Present

Indo-Pacific Security Affairs

The reorganization of the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Policy), announced in September 2006, resulted in the creation of the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense (Asian and Pacific Security Affairs). A Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense under the Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs) had performed the functions of the position prior to the reorganization. On 21 February 2019, the name of the position changed to Assistant Secretary of Defense (Indo-Pacific Security Affairs).

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Asian and Pacific Security Affairs)

Secretary of Defense Robert Gates established this position under the authority provided to him by United States Code, Title 10, section 138.

James J. Shinn ..... 19 December 2007–14 November 2008
Mitchell Shivers (Acting) ..... 14 November 2008–20 January 2009
Derek J. Mitchell (Acting) ..... 21 January 2009–13 May 2009
Wallace Gregson ..... 13 May 2009–1 April 2011
Peter R. Lavoy (Acting) ..... 2 April 2011–8 May 2012
Mark W. Lippert ..... 9 May 2012–24 April 2013
Vacant ..... 24 April 2013–1 May 2013
Peter R. Lavoy (Acting) ..... 1 May 2013–10 January 2014
Kelly Magsamen (Acting) ..... 10 January 2014–17 July 2014
David Shear ..... 17 July 2014–20 January 2017
David Helvey (Acting) ..... 20 January 2017–29 December 2017
Randall G. Schriver ..... 29 December 2017–20 February 2019

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Indo-Pacific Security Affairs)

On 21 February 2019, David Norquist, Performing the Duties of the Deputy Secretary of Defense, approved a request from the Under Secretary of Defense (Policy) to rename the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Asian and Pacific Security Affairs) to Assistant Secretary of Defense (Indo-Pacific Security Affairs).

The Assistant Secretary of Defense (Indo-Pacific Security Affairs) serves as the principal adviser to the Under Secretary of Defense (Policy) and the Secretary of Defense on international security strategy and policy issues involving the nations and international organizations of the Asia-Pacific region. It oversees security cooperation programs and foreign military sales programs in the regions under its supervision in close cooperation with U.S. Pacific Command and U.S. Central Command. The Assistant Secretary represents the Department of Defense in interagency policy deliberations and international negotiations related to the Asia-Pacific region.

Randall G. Schriver ..... 21 February 2019–31 December 2019
David Helvey (Acting) .....1 January 2020–29 July 2020
David Helvey (Performing the Duties Of)..... 30 July 2020–20 January 2021
David Helvey (Acting) .....20 January 2021–14 June 2021
Kenneth Handelman (Performing the Duties Of).....14 June 2021–25 July 2021
Ely Ratner ..... 25 July 2021–20 January 2025
John Noh (Performing the Duties Of).....22 January 2025–2 June 2025
Jedidiah Royal (Acting).....2 June 2025–29 December 2025
John Noh ..... 29 December 2025–Present

Assistant Secretary of War (Indo-Pacific Security Affairs)

Executive Order 14347, 5 September 2025, authorized the use of the secondary title "Assistant Secretary of War" and permitted the officeholders to be recognized by that title in official correspondence, public communications, ceremonial contexts, and non-statutory documents within the executive branch.

Jedidiah Royal (Acting).....5 September 2025–29 December 2025
John Noh ..... 29 December 2025–Present

Industrial Base Policy

The National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2011, PL 111-383, 7 January 2011, created the position of Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manufacturing and Industrial Base Policy, appointed by the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, to provide input on industrial base matters. This position was a noncareer appointment and did not require Senate confirmation.

As part of the 2018 reorganization of the Defense Department's acquisition offices, the manufacturing program fell under the responsibilities of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, and the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manufacturing and Industrial Base Policy became the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Industrial Policy.

Section 903 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021, PL 116-283, 1 January 2021, elevated the position of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Industrial Base Policy to that of an Assistant Secretary of Defense to advise the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment on industrial base policies. With the elevation in stature, the position now requires Senate confirmation. Section 903 also amended 10 USC 138 by increasing the number of Assistant Secretaries of Defense to 15.

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Industrial Base Policy)

Deborah Rosenblum (Performing the Duties Of).....8 December 2021–11 April 2023
Laura Taylor-Kale .....11 April 2023–20 January 2025
Vic S. Ramdass (Acting).....22 January 2025–23 September 2025
Michael Cadenazzi .....23 September 2025–Present

Assistant Secretary of War (Industrial Base Policy)

Executive Order 14347, 5 September 2025, authorized the use of the secondary title "Assistant Secretary of War" and permitted the officeholders to be recognized by that title in official

correspondence, public communications, ceremonial contexts, and non-statutory documents within the executive branch.

Vic S. Ramdass (Acting) ..... 5 September 2025–23 September 2025

Michael Cadenazzi ..... 23 September 2025–Present

International Armaments Cooperation

Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Armaments Cooperation

Section 903(b)(1) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026, PL 119-60, 18 December 2025, increased the number of Assistant Secretaries of Defense to 20, and Section 903(a)(2) mandated that one of the Assistant Secretaries be the Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Armaments Cooperation). The Assistant Secretary serves as the principal staff assistant and adviser to the Secretary of Defense, Deputy Secretary of Defense and the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Sustainment) for international armaments cooperation policy and matters relating to international defense sales, arms transfers, and agreements regarding acquisition, sustainment, and industrial base collaboration and coordination. The Assistant Secretary is under the authority, direction and control of the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Sustainment).

Michael Cadenazzi (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 23 December 2025–Present

Assistant Secretary of War (International Armaments Cooperation)

Executive Order 14347, 5 September 2025, authorized the use of the secondary title "Assistant Secretary of War" and permitted the officeholders to be recognized by that title in official correspondence, public communications, ceremonial contexts, and non-statutory documents within the executive branch.

Michael Cadenazzi (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 23 December 2025–Present

International Security Affairs

Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Foreign Military Affairs and Military Assistance)

Section 406(e) of the Mutual Defense Assistance Act of 1949, PL 81-329, 6 October 1949, authorized the President to appoint four officials to oversee the provisions of the act. The President approved the establishment of an assistant to the Secretary of Defense in the Defense Department. A 9 November 1949 Secretary of Defense memorandum established the position of Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Foreign Military Affairs and Military Assistance). A DoD Directive dated 25 November 1949 delegated oversight of the Director of the Office of Military Assistance in the Office of the Secretary of Defense to the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Foreign Military Affairs and Military Assistance).

Maj. Gen. James H. Burns, USA (Ret.) ..... 9 November 1949–19 December 1950

Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs)

A 19 December 1950 presidential memorandum redesignated the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Foreign Military Affairs and Military Assistance) as the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs). The Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs) had the authority to represent and speak for DoD on matters of policy and programs relating to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, military and economic assistance to allies, and mutual defense agreements. The Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs) inherited the suboffices and functions previously assigned to the Assistant to the Secretary (Foreign Military Affairs and Military Assistance) and exercised oversight of the new Office of North Atlantic

Treaty Affairs established by the Secretary of Defense.

Maj. Gen. James. H. Burns, USA (Ret.) ..... 13 January 1951–12 July 1951
Frank C. Nash ..... 29 August 1951–10 February 1953

Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs)

Position originally created by administrative authority of the Secretary of Defense in February 1953. Reorganization Plan Number 6, 30 June 1953, which authorized six new Assistant Secretaries of Defense, granted statutory standing to the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs). The Assistant Secretary reported to the Secretary of Defense until 1977, when the position reported to the newly established Under Secretary of Defense (Policy). The scope of the Assistant Secretary's responsibilities narrowed and changed over the years as other Assistant Secretary positions were established in the office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Policy), beginning with the Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Policy) in 1981.

Frank C. Nash ..... 11 February 1953–28 February 1954
H. Struve Hensel ..... 5 March 1954–30 June 1955
Vacant ..... 30 June 1955–14 July 1955
Gordon Gray ..... 14 July 1955–27 February 1957
Mansfield D. Sprague ..... 28 February 1957–3 October 1958
John N. Irwin II ..... 4 October 1958–20 January 1961
Vacant ..... 20 January 1961–29 January 1961
Paul H. Nitze ..... 29 January 1961–29 November 1963
William P. Bundy ..... 29 November 1963–14 March 1964
Vacant ..... 14 March 1964–1 July 1964
John T. McNaughton ..... 1 July 1964–19 July 1967
Vacant ..... 19 July 1967–1 August 1967
Paul C. Warnke ..... 1 August 1967–15 February 1969
Vacant ..... 15 February 1969–4 March 1969
G. Warren Nutter ..... 4 March 1969–30 January 1973
Lawrence Eagleburger (Acting) ..... 31 January 1973–10 May 1973
Robert C. Hill ..... 11 May 1973–5 January 1974
Ray Peet (Acting) ..... 6 January 1974–1 April 1974
Amos A. Jordan (Acting) ..... 2 April 1974–4 June 1974
Robert F. Ellsworth ..... 5 June 1974–22 December 1975
Amos A. Jordan (Acting) ..... 23 December 1975–5 May 1976
Eugene V. McAuliffe ..... 6 May 1976–1 April 1977
David E. McGiffert ..... 4 April 1977–20 January 1981
Vacant ..... 20 January 1981–4 April 1981
Francis J. West Jr ..... 4 April 1981–1 April 1983
Richard L. Armitage (Acting) ..... 2 April 1983–5 June 1983

Richard L. Armitage ..... 5 June 1983–5 June 1989
Vacant ..... 5 June 1989–26 June 1989
Henry S. Rowen ..... 26 June 1989–31 July 1991
Vacant ..... 7 July 1991–12 December 1991
James R. Lilley ..... 12 December 1991–20 January 1993

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Regional Security Affairs)

DoD Directive 5111.7, 6 July 1993, established the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Regional Security Affairs), which received some functions from the abolished position of Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs). The title of this position reverted to Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs) on 11 April 1994.

Charles Freeman ..... 6 July 1993–11 April 1994

Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs)

Charles Freeman ..... 11 April 1994–14 September 1994
Joseph S. Nye Jr. ..... 15 September 1994–16 December 1995
Frederick C. Smith (Acting) ..... 17 December 1995–29 March 1996
Franklin D. Kramer ..... 29 March 1996–16 February 2001
Vacant ..... 16 February 2001–16 July 2001
Peter W. Rodman ..... 16 July 2001–2 March 2007
Mary Beth Long (Acting) ..... 2 March 2007–21 December 2007
Mary Beth Long ..... 21 December 2007–20 January 2009
Michael Coulter (Acting) ..... 20 January 2009–3 April 2009
Alexander R. Vershbow ..... 7 April 2009–10 February 2012
Joseph McMillan (Acting) ..... 11 February 2012–23 May 2012
Derek H. Chollet ..... 24 May 2012–16 January 2015
Elissa S. Slotkin (Acting) ..... 19 January 2015–20 January 2017
Kenneth B. Handelman (Acting) ..... 20 January 2017–2 June 2017
Robert Story Karem ..... 2 June 2017–4 November 2018
Kathryn Wheelbarger (Acting) ..... 5 November 2018–1 June 2019
Kathryn Wheelbarger (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 2 June 2019–4 July 2020
Michael C. Ryan (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 5 July 2020–31 August 2020
Michael Cutrone (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 1 September 2020–20 January 2021
Laura Cooper (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 20 January 2021–9 February 2021
Mara Karlin (Acting) ..... 9 February 2021–17 August 2021
Laura Cooper (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 17 August 2021–13 December 2021
Ilan Goldenberg (Acting) ..... 13 December 2021–18 February 2022
Celeste Wallander ..... 18 February 2022–20 January 2025
Katherine E. Thompson (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 22 January 2025–8 July 2025

Daniel Zimmerman..... 8 July 2025–Present

Assistant Secretary of War (International Security Affairs)

Executive Order 14347, 5 September 2025, authorized the use of the secondary title "Assistant Secretary of War" and permitted the officeholders to be recognized by that title in official correspondence, public communications, ceremonial contexts, and non-statutory documents within the executive branch.

Daniel Zimmerman.....5 September 2025–Present

Legislative Affairs

Special Assistant (Legal and Legislative Affairs)

One of the three Special Assistants to the Secretary of Defense established by the National Security Act of 1947, PL 80-253, 26 July 1947. Handled legal and legislative affairs between 1947 and 1949.

Marx Leva.....18 September 1947–11 September 1949

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legal and Legislative Affairs)

Position assigned to one of three Assistant Secretaries authorized by the 1949 amendments to the National Security Act, PL 81-216, 10 August 1949, and retitled Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legal and Legislative Affairs).

Position abolished by Reorganization Plan Number 6, 30 June 1953, and functions divided and transferred to the General Counsel and the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative and Public Affairs). See section IX, Principal Staff Assistants, Public Affairs.

Marx Leva.....12 September 1949–1 May 1951
Daniel K. Edwards..... 3 May 1951–19 November 1951
Charles A. Coolidge.....20 November 1951–31 December 1952

Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs)

Position created by Deputy Secretary of Defense Reuben B. Robertson Jr. with a memorandum on 21 February 1957.

Clarence J. Hauck Jr..... 1 April 1957–1 April 1959
George W. Vaughan .....1 April 1959–1 March 1960
James D. Hittle..... 1 March 1960–1 November 1960
Vacant.....1 November 1960–25 January 1961
Norman S. Paul.....25 January 1961–30 June 1962
Vacant.....30 June 1962–8 August 1962
David E. McGiffert.....8 August 1962–30 June 1965
Vacant..... 30 June 1965–13 December 1965
Jack L. Stempler ..... 13 December 1965–4 January 1970
Richard G. Capen Jr.....5 January 1970–1 May 1971
Rady A. Johnson.....2 May 1971–10 March 1973
George L. J. Dalferes (Acting).....17 March 1973–17 April 1973

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs)

By administrative action, Secretary of Defense Elliot Richardson elevated the position of Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs) to Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs) on 11 April 1973.

John O. Marsh.....17 April 1973–15 February 1974
Vacant..... 16 February 1974–12 April 1974
John M. Maury .....12 April 1974–28 February 1976
Richard Fryklund (Acting).....1 March 1976–19 March 1976
William K. Brehm .....19 March 1976–20 January 1977

Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs)

By administrative action, Secretary of Defense Harold Brown redesignated the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs) as Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs) on 23 March 1977.

Jack L. Stempler .....23 March 1977–19 January 1981

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs)

By administrative action, Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger reestablished the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs). The Department of Defense issued Directive 5142.1 on 2 July 1982 describing the responsibilities and mission.

Russell A. Rourke.....6 May 1981–8 December 1985
M.D.B. Carlisle.....4 August 1986–28 April 1989
David J. Gribbin III.....22 May 1989–18 January 1993

Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs)

By administrative action, Secretary of Defense Les Aspin downgraded the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs) to an Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs).

Sandra K. Stuart.....1 August 1993–15 September 1994

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs)

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1994, PL 103-160, 30 November 1993, gave statutory standing to the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs). This is the principal staff assistant to the Secretary of Defense for DoD relations with members of Congress, the liaison for testimony at congressional hearings, and the coordinator of the Department's legislative program.

Sandra K. Stuart.....15 September 1994–27 February 1999
John K. Veroneau (Acting).....2 March 1999–10 November 1999
John K. Veroneau .....10 November 1999–16 February 2001
Vacant.....16 February 2001–4 May 2001
Powell A. Moore.....4 May 2001–1 December 2004
Daniel R. Stanley (Acting).....1 December 2004–30 June 2005

Daniel R. Stanley ..... 30 June 2005–1 February 2006
Robert L. Wilkie (Acting) ..... 1 February 2006–29 September 2006
Robert L. Wilkie ..... 29 September 2006–20 January 2009
Christian Marrone (Acting) ..... 20 January 2009–7 May 2009
Elizabeth L. King ..... 7 May 2009–31 December 2014
Michael J. Stella (Acting) ..... 2 January 2015–1 April 2015
Stephen Hedger ..... 1 April 2015–1 July 2016
Tressa Guenov (Acting) ..... 1 July 2016–20 January 2017
Pete Giambastiani (Acting) ..... 20 January 2017–31 July 2017
Robert R. Hood ..... 1 August 2017–24 July 2020
Ann T. Johnson (Acting) ..... 27 July 2020–20 January 2021
Ryan Reilly (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 20 January 2021–9 February 2021
Louis I. Lauter (Acting) ..... 9 February 2021–7 September 2021
Louis I. Lauter (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 7 September 2021–21 February 2022
Matthew Williams (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 21 February 2022–5 April 2022
Thomas J. Mancinelli (Acting) ..... 5 April 2022–28 November 2022
Rheanne Wirkkala ..... 28 November 2022–20 January 2025
Macon D. Hughes (Acting) ..... 22 January 2025–18 August 2025
Macon D. Hughes (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 18 August 2025–14 October 2025
Macon D. Hughes ..... 14 October 2025–Present

Assistant Secretary of War (Legislative Affairs)

Executive Order 14347, 5 September 2025, authorized the use of the secondary title "Assistant Secretary of War" and permitted the officeholders to be recognized by that title in official correspondence, public communications, ceremonial contexts, and non-statutory documents within the executive branch.

Macon D. Hughes (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 5 September 2025–14 October 2025
Macon D. Hughes ..... 14 October 2025–Present

Manpower and Reserve Affairs

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Administration and Public Affairs)

Position established as one of the three Assistant Secretary posts authorized by the National Security Act Amendments of 1949, PL 81-216, 10 August 1949.

Paul H. Griffith ..... 12 September 1949–15 November 1950

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower and Personnel)

Secretary of Defense George C. Marshall established this position in late 1950 when he abolished the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense (Administration and Public Affairs).

Anna M. Rosenberg ..... 15 November 1950–20 January 1953

Vacant ..... 21 January 1953–11 February 1953
John A. Hannah ..... 11 February 1953–31 July 1954
Vacant ..... 31 July 1954–24 September 1954
Carter L. Burgess ..... 24 September 1954–22 September 1955

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower, Personnel and Reserve)

On 22 September 1955, Secretary of Defense Charles Wilson redesignated the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower and Personnel) as Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower, Personnel, and Reserve).

Carter L. Burgess ..... 22 September 1955–22 January 1957
Vacant ..... 22 January 1957–19 April 1957
William H. Francis ..... 19 April 1957–24 May 1958
Vacant ..... 24 May 1958–15 July 1958
Charles O. Finucane ..... 15 July 1958–19 January 1961

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower)

DoD Directive 5120.27, 31 January 1961, redesignated the position as Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower).

Carlisle P. Runge ..... 17 February 1961–30 July 1962
Norman S. Paul ..... 8 August 1962–30 September 1965
Thomas D. Morris ..... 1 October 1965–31 August 1967
Vacant ..... 1 September 1967-21 December 1967
Alfred B. Fitt ..... 21 December 1967–31 December 1967

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower and Reserve Affairs)

The Reserve Forces Bill of Rights and Vitalization Act, PL 90-168, 1 January 1968, changed the title to Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower and Reserve Affairs).

Alfred B. Fitt ..... 1 January 1968–20 February 1969
Roger T. Kelley ..... 3 March 1969–1 June 1973
Carl W. Clewlow (Acting) ..... 1 June 1973–1 September 1973
William K. Brehm ..... 1 September 1973–18 March 1976
John F. Ahearne (Acting) ..... 18 March 1976-2 July 1976
David P. Taylor ..... 2 July 1976–12 February 1977

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower, Reserve Affairs and Logistics)

DoD Directive 5124.1, 20 April 1977, mandated that the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower, Reserve Affairs, and Logistics) assume all functions of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower and Reserve Affairs) and Assistant Secretary of Defense (Installations and Logistics). See section X, Former and Disestablished Positions; Supply, Logistics, and Installations.

John P. White ..... 12 May 1977–31 October 1978
Robert B. Pirie Jr ..... 17 June 1979–20 January 1981

Robert Stone (Acting).....20 January 1981–4 May 1981

Lawrence J. Korb.....4 May 1981–12 January 1984

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower, Installations and Logistics)

The Department of Defense Authorization Act, 1984, PL 98-94, 24 September 1983, changed the title of Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower, Reserve Affairs, and Logistics) to Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower, Installations, and Logistics). The reserve affairs functions transferred to the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Reserve Affairs) on 1 October 1983, and installations and logistics functions transferred to the new Assistant Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Logistics), which was established 5 July 1985.

Lawrence J. Korb.....12 January 1984–5 July 1985

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Force Management and Personnel)

DoD Directive 5124.2, 13 March 1985, established the position with a new title, Assistant Secretary of Defense (Force Management and Personnel). The position assumed manpower duties only on 5 July 1985.

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1994, PL 103-160, 30 November 1993, abolished the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense (Force Management and Personnel) and created the position of Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness). DoD Directive 5124.2, 17 March 1994, spelled out the Under Secretary's duties, including authority over the Assistant Secretaries for Health Affairs and Reserve Affairs.

Lawrence J. Korb.....5 July 1985–31 August 1985

Vacant..... 1 September 1985–7 December 1985

Chapman B. Cox..... 7 December 1985–8 July 1987

Vacant.....8 July 1987–3 February 1988

Grant S. Green .....3 February 1988–5 March 1989

David J. Armor (Acting).....6 March 1989–1 October 1989

Vacant ..... 1 October 1989–20 November 1989

Christopher Jehn .....20 November 1989–20 January 1993

Vacant.....20 January 1993–2 July 1993

Edwin Dorn.....2 July 1993–16 March 1994

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Force Management Policy)

By administrative authority, Secretary of Defense William Perry established the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Force Management) on 7 July 1994. DoD Directive 5124.5, 31 October 1994, changed the title to Force Management Policy. The new Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) took office in November 2002, abolishing this position.

Frederick F.Y. Pang .....11 October 1994–15 November 1997

Francis M. Rush Jr. (Acting) ..... 15 November 1997–12 November 1999

Alphonso Maldon Jr .....12 November 1999–19 January 2001

Gail McGinn (Acting) .....20 January 2001–8 May 2001

Charles S. Abell ..... 8 May 2001–14 November 2002

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Reserve Affairs)

Position mandated by the Department of Defense Authorization Act, 1984, PL 98-94, 24 September 1983, with functions transferred from the disestablished Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower, Reserve Affairs, and Logistics) on 1 October 1983. DoD Directive 5125.1, 12 January 1984, established this position's responsibilities and mission.

James H. Webb Jr. ..... 3 May 1984–15 February 1987
Vacant ..... 15 February 1987–26 October 1987
Stephen M. Duncan ..... 26 October 1987–20 January 1993
Vacant ..... 20 January 1993–1 June 1993
Deborah R. Lee ..... 1 June 1993–11 April 1998
Charles L. Cragin (Acting) ..... 12 April 1998–31 May 2001
Vacant ..... 31 May 2001–9 October 2002
Thomas F. Hall ..... 9 October 2002–8 April 2009
Vacant ..... 8 April 2009–25 June 2009
Dennis M. McCarthy ..... 25 June 2009–1 June 2011
David L. McGinnis (Acting) ..... 1 June 2011–24 May 2012
Jessica L. Wright ..... 24 May 2012–31 December 2012

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower and Reserve Affairs)

The Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015, PL 113-291, 19 December 2014, redesignated the position as the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower and Reserve Affairs).

Todd A. Weiler ..... 15 May 2016–20 January 2017
Stephanie Barna (Acting) ..... 20 January 2017–31 July 2018
Virginia Penrod (Acting) ..... 31 July 2018–12 October 2018
James Stewart ..... 12 October 2018–28 December 2019
Virginia Penrod (Acting) ..... 28 December 2019–25 July 2020
Virginia Penrod (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 26 July 2020–20 January 2021
Virginia Penrod (Acting) ..... 20 January 2021–2 May 2022
Thomas A. Constable (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 2 May 2022–1 April 2023
Grier Martin (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 1 April 2023–13 March 2024
Ronald T. Keohane ..... 13 March 2024–20 January 2025
Timothy D. Dill (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 22 January 2025–18 July 2025
Jules W. Hurst III (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 18 July 2025–11 August 2025
William G. Fitzhugh (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 11 August 2025–13 November 2025
Merlynn Carson (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 13 November 2025–29 December 2025
Timothy D. Dill ..... 29 December 2025–Present

Assistant Secretary of War (Manpower and Reserve Affairs)

Executive Order 14347, 5 September 2025, authorized the use of the secondary title "Assistant Secretary of War" and permitted the officeholders to be recognized by that title in official correspondence, public communications, ceremonial contexts, and non-statutory documents within the executive branch.

William G. Fitzhugh (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 5 September 2025–13 November 2025
Merlynn Carson (Performing the Duties Of)..... 13 November 2025–29 December 2025
Timothy D. Dill ..... 29 December 2025–Present

Mission Capabilities

Section 901(b) of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 increased the authorized number of Assistant Secretaries to 19. The Deputy Secretary of Defense established the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Science and Technology in a memorandum of 12 July 2023. The Assistant Secretary is under the authority, direction, and control of the Under Secretary of Defense (Research and Engineering) as the principal adviser for science and technology matters, including overseeing Department of Defense technical infrastructure, engineering, and scientific capabilities, and science and technology defense investments; developing the Department's annual strategic science and technology investment strategy; conducting periodic reviews of science and technology investments to ensure progress of departmental goals; and serving as the senior official and advocate for laboratory infrastructure and the Department's science and technology workforce.

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Mission Capabilities)

Thomas Browning (Performing the Duties Of)..... 24 July 2023–20 January 2025
Marcia Holmes (Performing the Duties Of)..... 22 January 2025–29 December 2025
James Caggy ..... 29 December 2025–11 May 2026
Jeremy Verbout (Performing the Duties Of) .....11 May 2026–Present

Assistant Secretary of War (Mission Capabilities)

Executive Order 14347, 5 September 2025, authorized the use of the secondary title "Assistant Secretary of War" and permitted the officeholders to be recognized by that title in official correspondence, public communications, ceremonial contexts, and non-statutory documents within the executive branch.

Marcia Holmes (Performing the Duties Of).....5 September 2025–29 December 2025
James Caggy ..... 29 December 2025–11 May 2026
Jeremy Verbout (Performing the Duties Of) .....11 May 2026–Present

Nuclear Deterrence, Chemical, and Biological Defense Policy and Programs

Chairman, Military Liaison Committee

The Atomic Energy Act of 1946, PL 79-585, 1 August 1946, established the Military Liaison Committee. The Secretaries of War and the Navy designated a Chairman until Congress amended the Atomic Energy Act in 1949, PL 81-347, 11 October 1949, and mandated that the President appoint a Chairman, with the advice and consent of the Senate, as well as committee members.

Lt. Gen. Lewis H. Brereton, USAF ..... 17 July 1947–30 March 1948

Donald F. Carpenter ..... 8 April 1948–21 September 1948
William Webster ..... 22 September 1948–30 September 1949
Robert LeBaron ..... 1 October 1949–1 August 1954

Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Atomic Energy)

From 13 April 1953, the Chairman of the Military Liaison Committee also served as Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Atomic Energy). The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1987, PL 99-661, 14 November 1986, abolished the Military Liaison Committee and established the Nuclear Weapons Council, but the position of Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Atomic Energy) continued. The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 1988 and 1989, PL 100-180, 4 December 1987, formally established the position.

Robert LeBaron ..... 13 April 1953–1 August 1954
Herbert B. Loper ..... 9 August 1954–14 July 1961
Gerald W. Johnson ..... 15 July 1961–16 September 1963
Vacant ..... 16 September 1963–2 January 1964
William J. Howard ..... 2 January 1964–15 June 1966
Vacant ..... 15 June 1966–3 October 1966
Carl Walske ..... 3 October 1966–15 April 1973
Donald R. Cotter (Acting) ..... 15 April 1973-16 October 1973
Donald R. Cotter ..... 16 October 1973–17 March 1978
Vacant ..... 18 March 1978–7 August 1978
James P. Wade Jr. ..... 8 August 1978–14 June 1981
James P. Wade Jr. (Acting) ..... 15 June 1981–5 June 1982
Richard Wagner ..... 6 June 1982–1 April 1986
Vacant ..... 1 April 1986–18 October 1986
Robert B. Barker ..... 18 October 1986–29 May 1992
John Birely (Acting) ..... 29 May 1992–6 May 1993
Vacant ..... 6 May 1993–1 June 1993
Harold P. Smith Jr ..... 1 June 1993–10 March 1996

Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Nuclear, Chemical and Biological Defense Programs)

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1996, PL 104-106, 10 February 1996, redesignated the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Atomic Energy) as Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Nuclear, Chemical, and Biological Defense Programs), effective 22 February 1996. Section 905 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009, PL 110-417, 14 October 2008, modified the status of this position to be the equivalent to that of an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

Harold P. Smith Jr ..... 11 March 1996–31 January 1998
Jacques S. Gansler (Acting) ..... 1 February 1998–5 January 2001
Vacant ..... 5 January 2001–15 November 2001

Dale E. Klein ..... 15 November 2001–30 June 2006
Arthur T. Hopkins (Acting) ..... 30 June 2006–8 July 2008
Frederick S. Celec ..... 8 July 2008–19 May 2009

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Nuclear, Chemical and Biological Defense Programs)

Section 901 of the Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011, PL 111-383, 4 January 2011, changed the title of Assistant to the Secretary of Defense to Assistant Secretary of Defense.

Andrew C. Weber ..... 19 May 2009–17 October 2014
Vacant ..... 17 October 2014–1 January 2015
Arthur T. Hopkins (Acting) ..... 1 January 2015–21 November 2017
Guy B. Roberts ..... 21 November 2017–2 April 2019
Alan R. Shaffer (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 2 April 2019–20 January 2021
Brandi Vann (Acting) ..... 20 January 2021–3 August 2021
Deborah Rosenblum ..... 3 August 2021–20 January 2025
Brandi Vann (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 8 April 2024–21 May 2025

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Nuclear Deterrence, Chemical and Biological Defense Policy and Programs

Section 1621 of the Service Member Quality of Life Improvement and National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2025, PL 118-159, 23 December 2024, amended 10 USC 138(b)(4) designating one of the Assistant Secretaries of Defense as the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Nuclear Deterrence, Chemical and Biological Defense Policy and Programs), the principal adviser to the Secretary of Defense on nuclear deterrence policies, operations, and associated programs. A 21 May 2025 Deputy Secretary of Defense memorandum officially established the new position, which assumed the prior authorities and responsibilities of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Nuclear, Chemical and Biological Defense Programs). The Assistant Secretary of Defense (Nuclear Deterrence, Chemical and Biological Defense Policy Programs) reports to the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Sustainment) on all matters relating to sustainment and modernization of American nuclear forces and programs, and reports to the Under Secretary of Defense (Policy) on the development of strategic policy guidance for nuclear weapons employment. The Assistant Secretary also oversees the Director of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, who serves under the authority, direction, and control of the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Sustainment) through the Assistant Secretary.

Brandi Vann (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 21 May 2025–26 May 2025
Drew Walter (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 26 May 2025–29 December 2025
Robert Kadlec ..... 29 December 2025–Present

Assistant Secretary of War (Nuclear Deterrence, Chemical and Biological Defense Policy and Program

Executive Order 14347, 5 September 2025, authorized the use of the secondary title "Assistant Secretary of War" and permitted the officeholders to be recognized by that title in official correspondence, public communications, ceremonial contexts, and non-statutory documents within the executive branch.

Drew Walter (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 5 September 2025–29 December 2025

Robert Kadlec ..... 29 December 2025–Present

Readiness

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Readiness and Force Management)

The Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011, PL 111-383, 1 January 2011, increased the number of Assistant Secretaries of Defense from 12 to 16. Deputy Secretary of Defense William Lynn issued a memorandum on 23 May 2011 establishing the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Readiness and Force Management) responsible for ensuring readiness of the Total Force and recommending civilian and military personnel policy and military community and family policy. The Assistant Secretary also supervised the Department of Defense Education Activity and the Defense Commissary Agency. DoD Directive 5124.09, 12 June 2014, canceled the May 2011 memorandum and designated the Assistant Secretary as the principal adviser to the Secretary of Defense and Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) on all matters relating to civilian and military personnel policies, readiness of the force, military community and family policy, Total Force planning and requirements, and transition policy. The Assistant Secretary served under the authority, direction, and control of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness).

Frederick E. Vollrath (Performing the Duties Of)..... 26 March 2012–18 April 2013

Frederick E. Vollrath ..... 18 April 2013–15 June 2014

Stephanie Barna (Acting) ..... 15 June 2014–June 2015

Vacant ..... June 2015–15 November 2015

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Readiness)

In accordance with a 4 December 2013 Secretary of Defense memorandum on the reorganization of the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel & Readiness), Deputy Secretary of Defense Robert Work issued a memorandum on 20 March 2015 that redesignated the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Readiness and Force Management) as the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Readiness). DoD Directive 5124.11, 6 September 2019, designated the responsibilities, functions, relationships, and authorities of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Readiness) as the principal adviser to the Secretary of Defense and Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) on all matters related to the readiness of the Total Force. The Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) and the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) exercise authority, direction, and control over the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Readiness).

Daniel Feehan (Performing the Duties Of)..... 15 November 2015–20 January 2017

Elizabeth Van Winkle (Performing the Duties Of)..... 20 January 2017–9 November 2017

Veronica B. Daigle (Acting)..... 9 November 2017–27 April 2018

Veronica B. Daigle (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 27 April 2018–4 September 2018

Vacant ..... 4 September 2018–27 June 2019

Veronica B. Daigle ..... 27 June 2019–31 January 2020

Thomas A. Constable (Acting)..... 1 February 2020–29 July 2021

Shawn Skelly ..... 29 July 2021–20 January 2025

Peter Belk (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 11 September 2023–20 January 2025

Jules W. Hurst III (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 22 January 2025–16 July 2025

Peter Belk (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 16 July 2025–23 February 2026

Maurice Todd ..... 23 February 2026–Present

Assistant Secretary of War (Readiness)

Executive Order 14347, 5 September 2025, authorized the use of the secondary title "Assistant Secretary of War" and permitted the officeholders to be recognized by that title in official correspondence, public communications, ceremonial contexts, and non-statutory documents within the executive branch.

Peter Belk (Performing the Duties Of) .....5 September 2025–23 February 2026

Maurice Todd ..... 23 February 2026–Present

Science and Technology

Section 901(b) of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 increased the authorized number of Assistant Secretaries to 19. The Deputy Secretary of Defense established the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Mission Capabilities in a memorandum of 12 July 2023. The Assistant Secretary is under the authority, direction, and control of the Under Secretary of Defense (Research and Engineering) as the principal adviser for mission engineering analysis of disruptive technologies and concepts that improve U.S. warfighting capabilities. The Assistant Secretary oversees and advocates for joint mission engineering; analyzes recommended technologies that eliminate or disrupt adversary kill chains; and oversees and advocates for new methods, policies, and alternate acquisition pathways to move innovative technologies and prototypes from the laboratory to the field.

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Science and Technology)

Steven Wax (Performing the Duties Of)..... 24 July 2023–12 March 2024

Aprille J. Ericsson..... 12 March 2024–20 January 2025

Michael J. Holthe (Acting)..... 22 January 2025–18 August 2025

Michael J. Holthe (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 18 August 2025–1 December 2025

Jacob Glassman (Performing the Duties OF)..... 1 December 2025–23 December 2025

Joseph Jewell ..... 23 December 2025–Present

Assistant Secretary of War (Science and Technology)

Executive Order 14347, 5 September 2025, authorized the use of the secondary title "Assistant Secretary of War" and permitted the officeholders to be recognized by that title in official correspondence, public communications, ceremonial contexts, and non-statutory documents within the executive branch.

Michael J. Holthe (Performing the Duties Of) .....5 September 2025–1 December 2025

Jacob Glassman (Performing the Duties Of)..... 1 December 2025–23 December 2025

Joseph Jewell ..... 23 December 2025–Present

Space Policy

Position established by the United States Space Force Act (Subtitle D of the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2020, PL 116-92, 20 December 2019) and implemented by the 29 October 2020 Deputy Secretary of Defense memorandum. Reporting through the Under Secretary of Defense (Policy), the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Space Policy) represents the Secretary of Defense in interagency deliberations and international discussions on space-related matters and develops, coordinates, and oversees implementation of U.S. government and Department of Defense policy on

space and space warfighting.

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Space Policy)

Justin Johnson (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 29 October 2020–20 January 2021
John Hill (Performing the Duties Of) .....20 January 2021–7 March 2022
John Plumb .....7 March 2022–19 May 2024
Vipin Narang (Acting).....19 May 2024–10 August 2024
John Hill (Acting)..... 10 August 2024–11 August 2024
John Hill (Performing the Duties Of) .....11August 2024–2 June 2025
Robert Brose (Performing the Duties Of).....2 June 2025–5 January 2026
Marc Berkowitz ..... 5 January 2026–Present

Assistant Secretary of War (Space Policy)

Executive Order 14347, 5 September 2025, authorized the use of the secondary title "Assistant Secretary of War" and permitted the officeholders to be recognized by that title in official correspondence, public communications, ceremonial contexts, and non-statutory documents within the executive branch.

Robert Brose (Performing the Duties Of).....5 September 2025–5 January 2026
Marc Berkowitz ..... 5 January 2026–Present

Strategy, Plans, and Capabilities

A 9 January 2015 Deputy Secretary of Defense memorandum established the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense (Strategy, Plans, and Capabilities) in accordance with section 906 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010, as amended, PL 111-84, 28 October 2009, which eliminated all non-presidentially appointed, Senate-confirmed Deputy Under Secretaries of Defense. The Assistant Secretary of Defense (Strategy, Plans, and Capabilities) replaced and assumed the responsibilities of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Strategy, Plans, and Forces). The Assistant Secretary of Defense (Strategy, Plans, and Capabilities) gained responsibility for advising the Secretary of Defense and the Under Secretary of Defense (Policy) on the development of national security and defense strategy, military planning, budgeting, and various force development, force management, and corporate processes. This position also assumed responsibility for security cooperation and nuclear and missile defense policy missions that were previously managed by the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Special Operations/ Low-Intensity Conflict) and Assistant Secretary of Defense (Global Strategic Affairs).

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Strategy, Plans, and Capabilities)

Robert Scher .....9 January 2015–20 January 2017
Thomas Harvey (Acting).....20 January 2017–30 August 2018
James H. Anderson .....30 August 2018–20 July 2019
Victorino Mercado (Performing the Duties Of) .....20 July 2019–2 March 2020
James H. Anderson .....3 February 2020–8 June 2020
Victorino Mercado.....8 June 2020–20 January 2021
Melissa G. Dalton (Acting) .....20 January 2021–17 August 2021
Mara Karlin..... 17 August 2021–20 December 2023

Melissa G. Dalton (Performing the Duties Of).....23 August 2021–14 February 2022
Madeline Mortelmans (Performing the Duties Of) .....4 January 2023–24 April 2023
Madeline Mortelmans (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 18 July 2023–20 December 2023
Madeline Mortelmans (Acting)..... 21 December 2023–19 July 2024
Madeline Mortelmans (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 19 July 2024–20 January 2025
Austin J. Dahmer (Performing the Duties Of)..... 22 January 2025–15 March 2025
Madeline Mortelmans (Acting).....15 March 2025–21 April 2025
Rafael Leonardo (Performing the Duties Of) .....21 April 2025–Present

Assistant Secretary of War (Strategy, Plans, and Capabilities)

Executive Order 14347, 5 September 2025, authorized the use of the secondary title "Assistant Secretary of War" and permitted the officeholders to be recognized by that title in official correspondence, public communications, ceremonial contexts, and non-statutory documents within the executive branch.

Rafael Leonardo (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 5 September 2025–8 October 2025

Assistant Secretary of War (Strategy, Plans, and Forces)

An 8 October 2025 memorandum from the Director of Administration and Management redesignated the position as the Assistant Secretary of War (Strategy, Plans and Forces).

Rafael Leonardo (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 8 October 2025–Present

Sustainment

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000, PL 106-65, 5 October 1999, created the position of Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Logistics and Materiel Readiness as a second Deputy Under Secretary reporting to the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics). Congress intended to emphasize the importance of these functions by making this position the top adviser to the Secretary of Defense and the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics) on logistics and materiel readiness issues.

Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Logistics and Materiel Readiness)

Roger W. Kallock .....15 September 2000–19 January 2001
Vacant..... 20 January 2001–17 July 2001
Diane Morales.....17 July 2001–2 January 2004
Vacant..... 2 January 2004–1 February 2004
Bradely Berkson (Acting) ..... 1 February 2004–8 August 2005
Phillip Jackson Bell .....8 August 2005–28 April 2009

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Logistics and Materiel Readiness)

Position retitled from Deputy Under Secretary of Defense to Assistant Secretary of Defense (Logistics and Materiel Readiness) by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010, PL 111-84, 28 October 2009, as part of an overall effort to limit the number of Deputy Under Secretary positions.

Alan F. Estevez ..... 8 August 2011–29 October 2013
Paul D. Peters (Acting).....30 October 2013–16 December 2015

David J. Berteau ..... 16 December 2015–26 March 2016

Vacant ..... 27 March 2016–20 July 2016

Kristin French (Acting) ..... 20 July 2016–16 October 2016

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Sustainment)

As part of the restructuring of the acquisition, technology, and logistics functions as mandated by section 901 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017, PL 114-328, 23 December 2016, the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense for Logistics and Materiel Readiness was replaced with the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense for Sustainment.

Robert H. McMahon ..... 17 October 2018–22 November 2019

Peter Potochney (Acting) ..... 23 November 2019–30 March 2020

William Jordan Gillis ..... 30 March 2020–20 January 2021

Paul D. Cramer (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 20 January 2021–2 August 2021

Steven J. Morani (Acting) ..... 2 August 2021–25 May 2022

Christopher Lowman ..... 25 May 2022–30 September 2024

Steven J. Morani (Acting) ..... 30 September 2024–28 July 2025

Leigh E. Method (Acting) ..... 28 July 2025–26 May 2026

Brian Birdwell ..... 26 May 2026–Present

Assistant Secretary of War (Sustainment)

Executive Order 14347, 5 September 2025, authorized the use of the secondary title "Assistant Secretary of War" and permitted the officeholders to be recognized by that title in official correspondence, public communications, ceremonial contexts, and non-statutory documents within the executive branch.

Leigh E. Method (Acting) ..... 5 September 2025–26 May 2026

Brian Birdwell ..... 26 May 2026–Present

VIII. Principal Staff Assistants

The following positions report directly to the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Defense and include Office of the Secretary of Defense Directors or equivalents. The position descriptions note whether the post is presidentially appointed, Senate-confirmed (PAS), or a Secretary of Defense appointment that does not require Senate confirmation.

Administration

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Administration)

By administrative action, Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara established the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense (Administration) on 1 July 1964. DoD Directive 5110.1, 11 July 1964, outlined the new Assistant Secretary's responsibilities as the principal staff assistant for administration, management, and organization.

Solis Horwitz ..... 1 July 1964–29 January 1969

Robert F. Froehlke ..... 30 January 1969–30 June 1971

David O. Cooke (Acting) ..... 30 June 1971–3 November 1971

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Administration)

By administration action, Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird redesignated the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense (Administration) as the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Intelligence) on 3 November 1971. The administrative functions of the former assistant secretary position were transferred to the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) and placed under a Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Administration.

David O. Cooke ..... 4 November 1971–23 May 1988

Director of Administration and Management

DoD Directive 5105.53, 24 May 1988, established the office of the Director of Administration and Management to coordinate Department-wide administrative and organizational matters. This position also functioned as the Director of Washington Headquarters Services, established by DoD Directive 5110.4, 1 October 1977. The dual roles lasted until January 2004 when the Director of Washington Headquarters Services became a separate position.

David O. Cooke ..... 24 May 1988–22 June 2002

Raymond F. DuBois (Assumed Duties)..... 1 October 2002–18 June 2003

Raymond F. DuBois ..... 18 June 2003–1 May 2005

Michael B. Donley..... 9 May 2005–21 June 2008

Michael L. Rhodes (Acting)..... 21 June 2008–25 March 2010

Michael L. Rhodes..... 25 March 2010–11 July 2014

Director of Administration

After an Office of the Secretary of Defense organizational review, the Deputy Secretary of Defense, in an 11 July 2014 memorandum, consolidated the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Intelligence Oversight) and the Director of Administration and Management into the Office of the Deputy Chief Management Officer. The Director for Administration and Management became Director of Administration, a career-reserved Senior Executive Service position reporting to the Deputy Chief Management Officer. The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017, signed into law

on 23 December 2016, disestablished the Deputy Chief Management Officer and created the Chief Management Officer.

Michael L. Rhodes..... 11 July 2014–25 January 2019
Sajeel Ahmed (Acting)..... 25 January 2019–12 December 2019
Thomas Muir (Acting)..... 19 December 2019–11 January 2021

Director of Administration and Management

The William M. "Mac" Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021, PL 116-283, 1 January 2021, disestablished the Chief Management Officer. As part of the redistribution of the Chief Management Officer's duties, the Deputy Secretary of Defense issued an 11 January 2021 memo reestablishing the Office of the Director of Administration and Management. The Director of Administration and Management acquired the Directorates for Oversight and Compliance, and Administration and Organizational Policy, which had been part of the Office of the Chief Management Officer. The Director of Administration and Management regained direction and control over the Washington Headquarters Services and the Pentagon Force Protection Agency. The Deputy Secretary of Defense's memo also stated that DoD Directive 5105.53, published in February 2008 and outlining the Director of Administration and Management's roles and responsibilities, remained in effect as the chartering directive.

Thomas Muir (Interim).....11 January 2021–3 May 2021
Michael B. Donley.....3 May 2021–1 September 2023
Sajeel Ahmed (Acting).....1 September 2023–14 September 2023
Jennifer C. Walsh .....15 September 2023–11 May 2025
Robert G. Salesses .....12 May 2025–Present

Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Officer

Section 238(b) of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2018, PL 115-232, 13 August 2018, mandated that the Secretary of Defense designate a senior official with principal responsibility for coordinating activities relating to the development and demonstration of artificial intelligence and machine learning for the department. An 8 December 2021 memorandum from the Deputy Secretary of Defense directed that the new position of Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Officer be established effective 1 February 2022. The position and the Office of the Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Officer became fully operational on 1 June 2022. The Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Officer serves as the principal staff assistant for accelerating the Department of Defense's adoption of data, analytics, and artificial intelligence, and as the intervening supervisor between the Defense Digital Service and the Offices of the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Defense consistent with DoD Directive 5105.87, 5 January 2017.

Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Officer

John Sherman (Acting).....4 February 2022–6 June 2022
Craig Martell.....6 June 2022–9 April 2024
Radha Plumb.....9 April 2024–20 January 2025
Margaret Palmieri (Acting).....20 January 2025–21 April 2025
Douglas Matty ..... 21 April 2025–17 December 2025
Andrew Mapes (Acting)..... 17 December 2025–12 January 2026
Cameron Stanley ..... 12 January 2026–Present

Chief Information Officer

Chief Information Officer

The Information Technology Management Reform Act of 1996 (passed as part of the NDAA for FY 1996, PL 104-106) created the position of Chief Information Officer. In 2003 the newly designated Assistant Secretary of Defense for Networks and Information Integration (see entry in part X; Former and Disestablished Positions; Command, Control, Communications, and Intelligence) assumed the duties of the Defense Department's chief information officer. An 11 January 2012 memorandum signed by the Deputy Secretary of Defense abolished the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense (Networks and Information Integration). Its authorities, responsibilities, personnel, and resources were transferred to the now-reinstituted position of Chief Information Officer, which initially did not require Senate confirmation. DoD Directive 5144.02, issued 22 April 2013, authorized the Chief Information Officer as a principal staff assistant to the Secretary of Defense, and gave the Secretary appointment authority. Section 909 of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2018, PL 115-91, amended United States Code Title 10, section 142(a) by requiring the Chief Information Officer to be appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate.

Terry Halvorsen ..... 21 May 2014–28 February 2017
John Zangardi (Acting) ..... 1 March 2017–9 December 2017
Essye B. Miller (Acting) ..... 10 December 2017–6 May 2018
Dana Deasy ..... 7 May 2018–20 January 2021
John Sherman (Acting) ..... 20 January 2021–16 September 2021
Kelly Fletcher (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 16 September 2021–17 December 2021
John Sherman ..... 17 December 2021–1 July 2024
Leslie Beavers (Acting) ..... 1 July 2024–3 March 2025
Katie Arrington (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 3 March 2025–23 December 2025
Kirsten Davies ..... 23 December 2025–Present

Operational Test and Evaluation

Position established by the Department of Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1984, PL 98-94, 24 September 1983, and by DoD Directive 5141.2, 2 April 1984. The Director is the principal staff assistant and adviser to the Secretary of Defense on operational and live fire test and evaluation matters. The Director is responsible for issuing test and evaluation policies and procedures, providing independent assessments and budgetary recommendations to the Secretary of Defense, and reviewing and analyzing the results of tests and evaluations conducted for each major DoD acquisition program.

Director of Operational Test and Evaluation

John E. Krings ..... 18 April 1985–30 June 1989
Charles E. Adolph (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 12 July 1989–22 November 1989
Robert C. Duncan ..... 22 November 1989–20 January 1993
Lee H. Frame (Acting) ..... 21 January 1993–30 September 1994
Philip E. Coyle III ..... 3 October 1994–19 January 2001
Lee H. Frame (Acting) ..... 20 January 2001–17 July 2001
Thomas P. Christie ..... 17 July 2001–31 January 2005

David W. Duma (Acting) ..... 1 February 2005–26 July 2006
Charles E. McQueary .....27 July 2006–31 May 2009
David W. Duma (Acting) .....1 June 2009–22 September 2009
J. Michael Gilmore .....23 September 2009–20 January 2017
David W. Duma (Acting) .....20 January 2017–16 November 2017
Robert F. Behler.....16 November 2017–20 January 2021
Raymond D. O'Toole (Acting)..... 20 January 2021–20 December 2021
Nikolas H. Guertin..... 20 December 2021–20 December 2023
Raymond D. O'Toole (Acting) ..... 20 December 2023–8 April 2024
Douglas C. Schmidt.....8 April 2024–20 January 2025
Raymond D. O'Toole (Acting) .....22 January 2025–27 May 2025
Carroll P. Quade (Performing the Duties Of).....27 May 2025–23 March 2026
Amy E. Henninger..... 23 March 2026–Present

Public Affairs

Assistant to the Secretary (Office of Public Information)

Position was established by the Secretary of Defense on 2 July 1948.

Harold B. Hinton ..... 19 July 1948–12 March 1949
William Frye ..... 12 March 1949–31 March 1949

Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Director, Office of Public Information)

The Secretary of Defense established position of Director for the Office of Public Information on 31 March 1949.

William Frye..... 31 March 1949–19 February 1950
Osgood Roberts (Acting)..... 20 February 1950–24 January 1951
Clayton Fritchey .....25 January 1951–1 June 1952
Andrew H. Berding .....1 July 1952–21 September 1953

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative and Public Affairs)

Reorganization Plan Number 6, 30 June 1953, increased the number of Assistant Secretaries of Defense and authorized an Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative and Public Affairs). DoD Directive 5122.1, 22 September 1953, transferred functions, personnel and records of legislative offices and the Office of Public Information under the direction and control of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative and Public Affairs).

Frederick A. Seaton .....15 September 1953–20 February 1955
Robert Tripp Ross.....15 March 1955–20 February 1957
Murray Snyder ..... 21 March 1957–10 August 1957

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs)

DoD Directive 5105.13, 10 August 1957, abolished the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative and Public Affairs) and divided and transferred its functions between the Assistant Secretary of Defense

(Public Affairs) and Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs). See Section VII, Assistant Secretaries of Defense, Legislative Affairs.

Murray Snyder ..... 10 August 1957–20 January 1961
Arthur Sylvester ..... 29 January 1961–3 February 1967
Philip G. Goulding ..... 28 February 1967–20 January 1969
Daniel Z. Henkin (Acting) ..... 20 January 1969–25 May 1969
Daniel Z. Henkin ..... 25 May 1969–20 January 1973
Jerry W. Friedheim (Acting) ..... 20 January 1973–13 April 1973
Jerry W. Friedheim ..... 13 April 1973–20 September 1974
William Beecher (Acting) ..... 21 September 1974–11 February 1975
Joseph Laitin ..... 12 February 1975–19 December 1975
William I. Greener Jr ..... 21 December 1975–31 July 1976
M. Alan Woods ..... 6 August 1976–21 January 1977
Vacant ..... 21 January 1977–7 March 1977
Thomas B. Ross ..... 7 March 1977–20 January 1981
John Goldsmith (Acting) ..... 21 January 1981–22 May 1981
Henry E. Catto Jr ..... 22 May 1981–16 September 1983
Benjamin Welles (Acting) ..... 17 September 1983–1 November 1983
Mary Lou Sheils (Acting) ..... 2 November 1983–22 November 1983
Michael I. Burch ..... 23 November 1983–22 June 1985
Fred Hoffman (Acting) ..... 23 June 1985–1 October 1985
Robert B. Sims ..... 18 October 1985–20 September 1987
Fred Hoffman (Acting) ..... 21 September 1987–2 February 1988
J. Daniel Howard ..... 3 February 1988–21 March 1989
Louis A. Williams ..... 22 May 1989–20 January 1993

Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs)

By administrative action, Secretary of Defense Les Aspin changed the title of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs) to the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs) on 22 January 1993. DoD Directive 5122.5, 2 December 1993, described the responsibilities and mission.

Vernon A. Guidry Jr ..... 22 January 1993–18 July 1993
Kathleen deLaski ..... 19 July 1993–5 August 1994
Vacant ..... 6 August 1994–20 September 1994
Kenneth H. Bacon ..... 20 September 1994–29 March 1996

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs)

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1995, PL 103-337, 5 October 1994, increased the number of Assistant Secretaries from 10 to 11. The position subsequently reverted to the title Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs) on 29 March 1996 through DoD Directive 5122.5.

Kenneth H. Bacon ..... 29 March 1996–19 January 2001
Clifford Bernath (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 20 January 2001–22 May 2001
Victoria Clarke ..... 22 May 2001–20 June 2003
Vacant ..... 21 June 2003–10 August 2003
Lawrence Di Rita (Acting) ..... 10 August 2003–22 September 2005
Vacant ..... 23 September 2005–5 January 2006
J. Dorrance Smith ..... 5 January 2006–20 January 2009
Price Floyd (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 21 January 2009–10 February 2010
Douglas B. Wilson ..... 11 February 2010–31 March 2012
George Little (Acting) ..... 1 April 2012–8 October 2012

Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs)

A 9 October 2012 memorandum from the Secretary of Defense retitled the position to Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs). Appointed by the Secretary of Defense, the officeholder serves as the Secretary's principal adviser for strategic communications, community engagement, media relations, and visual information.

George Little ..... 9 October 2012–15 November 2013
Vacant ..... 16 November 2013–18 December 2014
Brent Colburn ..... 18 December 2014–20 January 2017
Capt. Jeff Davis (Acting) ..... 20 January 2017–5 April 2017
Dana W. White ..... 5 April 2017–31 December 2018
Charles E. Summers Jr. (Acting) ..... 1 January 2019–15 April 2019
Jonathan Hoffman ..... 15 April 2019–20 January 2021
Rear Adm. John Kirby, USN ..... 20 January 2021–5 June 2022
Gordon Trowbridge (Acting) ..... 6 June 2022–9 September 2022
Christopher Meagher ..... 9 September 2022–20 January 2025
Jonathan L. Ullyot (Acting) ..... 20 January 2025–3 February 2025
Sean Parnell ..... 3 February 2025–Present

Assistant to the Secretary of War (Public Affairs)

Executive Order 14347, 5 September 2025, authorized the use of the secondary title "Assistant to the Secretary of War" and permitted the officeholders to be recognized by that title in official correspondence, public communications, ceremonial contexts, and non-statutory documents within the executive branch.

Sean Parnell ..... 5 September 2025–Present

Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict

The creation of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict) was mandated by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1987, PL 99-661, 14 November 1986, and officially established by DoD Directive 5138.3 on 4 January 1988. The Assistant Secretary of Defense originally reported to the Under Secretary of Defense (Policy).

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict)

Charles S. Whitehouse ..... 13 July 1988–12 July 1989
Seth Cropsey (Acting) ..... 13 July 1989–18 October 1989
James R. Locher ..... 19 October 1989–19 January1993
Alberto R. Coll (Acting) ..... 20 January 1993–18 November 1993
H. Allen Holmes ..... 18 November 1993–30 April 1999
Brian E. Sheridan ..... 7 May 1999–12 January 2001
Vacant ..... 12 January 2001–12 October 2001
Thomas A. White (Acting) ..... 12 October 2001–25 April 2003
Vacant ..... 25 April 2003–25 July 2003
Thomas W. O'Connell ..... 25 July 2003–17 April 2007

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Special Operations/Low-Intensity Conflict and Interdependent Capabilities)

Position renamed Assistant Secretary of Defense (Special Operations/Low-Intensity Conflict and Interdependent Capabilities) as part of the reorganization of the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Policy) announced in September 2006. Major responsibilities of the office were realigned to include strategic capabilities, force transformation, and major budget programs, in addition to special operations and low-intensity conflict.

Michael G. Vickers ..... 23 July 2007–17 March 2011
Michael Lumpkin (Acting) ..... 18 March 2011–21 October 2011

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict)

The title reverted to Assistant Secretary of Defense (Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict) with Change 2 to DoD Directive 5110.10, dated 21 October 2011. Assisted the Under Secretary of Defense (Policy) in developing policy and plans for low-intensity conflict activities and special operations, including civil affairs and psychological operations.

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017, PL 114-328, 23 December 2016, mandated that the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict report directly to the Secretary of Defense. An 18 November 2020 memorandum by the Acting Secretary of Defense implemented the law, and designated the ASD as the principal staff assistant to the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Defense for special operations policy and administration. This memorandum also removed the ASD from the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Policy) and enhanced the ASD's roles and responsibilities. The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict exercises authority, direction, and control over administrative matters relating to the organization, training, and equipping of special operations forces, and has a budgetary role and responsibility similar to those of the Secretaries of the Military Departments.

Michael Lumpkin (Acting) ..... 21 October 2011–19 December 2011
Michael G. Sheehan ..... 20 December 2011–25 August 2013
Vacant ..... 25 August 2013–19 November 2013
Michael Lumpkin ..... 19 November 2013–26 July 2015
Theresa Whelan (Acting) ..... 26 July 2015–30 May 2017

Caryn Hollis (Performing the Duties Of).....30 May 2017–1 August 2017
Mark E. Mitchell (Acting).....2 August 2017–20 December 2017
Owen O. West.....20 December 2017–22 June 2019
Mark E. Mitchell (Acting)..... 23 June 2019–1 November 2019
Thomas Alexander (Acting).....2 November 2019–20 January 2020
Thomas Alexander (Performing the Duties Of).....21 January 2020–18 June 2020
Christopher C. Miller (Performing the Duties Of) .....19 June 2020–7 August 2020
Ezra Cohen (Acting).....10 August 2020–4 December 2020
Joseph Tonon (Acting) ..... 4 December 2020–20 January 2021
Joseph McMenamin (Performing the Duties Of).....20 January 2021–12 August 2021
Christopher Maier.....12 August 2021–20 January 2025
Colby C. Jenkins (Performing the Duties Of) ..... 22 January 2025–25 August 2025
Richard Tilley (Acting) ..... 25 August 2025–29 December 2025
Derrick Anderson ..... 29 December 2025–Present

Assistant Secretary of War (Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict)

Executive Order 14347, 5 September 2025, authorized the use of the secondary title "Assistant Secretary of War" and permitted the officeholders to be recognized by that title in official correspondence, public communications, ceremonial contexts, and non-statutory documents within the executive branch.

Richard Tilley (Acting) .....5 September 2025–29 December 2025
Derrick Anderson ..... 29 December 2025–Present

IX. Former and Disestablished Positions

This section includes positions that have been abolished and those that were once ranked at an Assistant Secretary or Director level but have since had their rank reduced.

Civil Defense

Reorganization Plan Number 1 of 1958, 1 July 1958, transferred to the President the civil defense functions formerly assigned to the Federal Civil Defense Administration. The President delegated these functions to the Secretary of Defense by Executive Order 10952, 20 July 1961. Position created 31 August 1961 and abolished 1 April 1964. The Office of Civil Defense moved to the Secretary of the Army in 1964. The Defense Civil Preparedness Agency then assumed responsibility for civil defense. When Reorganization Plan Number 3, 19 June 1978, led to the dissolution of this agency on 15 July 1979, the director of the new Federal Emergency Management Agency assumed responsibility for civil defense.

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Civil Defense)

Steuart L. Pittman ..... 20 September 1961–1 April 1964

Command, Control, Communications, and Intelligence

Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Telecommunications)

By administrative action, Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird established the position of Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Telecommunications) on 21 May 1970.

Louis A. deRosa ..... 1 August 1970–1 May 1971

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Telecommunications)

Position established on 11 January 1972 by DoD Directive 5135.1 after PL 92-215, 22 December 1971, authorized an increase in the number of Assistant Secretaries of Defense from eight to nine. This position replaced the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Telecommunications). DoD Directive 5135.1, 17 January 1974, abolished this position and transferred functions to the Director, Telecommunications and Command and Control Systems.

Eberhardt Rechtin (Acting) ..... 14 January 1972–15 February 1972

Eberhardt Rechtin ..... 15 February 1972–29 September 1973

David L. Solomon (Acting) ..... 30 September 1973–17 January 1974

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Intelligence)

By administrative action on 3 November 1971, Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird redesignated the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Administration) as the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Intelligence). On 20 July 1976, the position received an additional designation of Director of Defense Intelligence. Secretary of Defense Harold Brown abolished the position on 11 March 1977.

Albert C. Hall ..... 9 November 1971–25 March 1976

Director, Telecommunications and Command and Control Systems

Position created by DoD Directive 5135.1, 17 January 1974.

David L. Solomon (Acting) ..... 17 January 1974–18 February 1974

Thomas C. Reed.....19 February 1974–2 January 1976

Richard Shriver..... 10 February 1976–20 January 1977

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Command, Control, Communications and Intelligence)

DoD Directive 5137.1, 11 March 1977, replaced both the Director, Telecommunications and Command and Control Systems and the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Intelligence)/Director of Defense Intelligence with the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Command, Control, Communications and Intelligence), or ASD(C3I). Effective 21 October 1977, the ASD(C3I) also served as the Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering.

Gerald P. Dinneen.....4 April 1977–20 January 1981

Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Command, Control, Communications, and Intelligence)

The position of Assistant Secretary of Defense became the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Command, Control, Communications, and Intelligence in March 1981.

Donald C. Latham .....26 July 1981–16 August 1984

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Command, Control, Communications, and Intelligence)

The Department of Defense Authorization Act, 1984, PL 98-94, 24 September 1983, mandated the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense (Command, Control, Communications, and Intelligence), as the principal staff officer to the Secretary of Defense for the National Communications System. Officially reestablished as an Assistant Secretary of Defense by DoD Directive 5137.1, 2 April 1985. DoD Directive 5137.1, 12 February 1992, set responsibilities for establishing and implementing information management policies. The ASD(C3I) directed the Defense Information Systems Agency, the Defense Intelligence Agency, and the Defense Security Service.

Donald C. Latham .....16 August 1984–6 July 1987

Thomas P. Quinn (Acting).....18 July 1987–23 May 1988

Gordon A. Smith.....24 May 1988–12 May 1989

Thomas P. Quinn (Acting)..... 13 May 1989–19 November 1989

Duane Andrews .....20 November 1989–20 January 1993

Vacant.....21 January 1993–10 June 1993

Emmett Paige Jr.....10 June 1993–23 May 1997

Joan A. Dempsey (Acting).....23 May 1997–18 July 1997

Anthony M. Valletta (Acting)..... 18 July 1997–20 February 1998

Arthur L. Money (Sr. Civilian Official).....20 February 1998–5 October 1999

Arthur L. Money.....5 October 1999–7 April 2001

Linton Wells II (Acting)..... 8 April 2001–7 August 2001

John P. Stenbit.....7 August 2001–8 May 2003

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Networks and Information Integration)

On 8 May 2003, the title of Assistant Secretary of Defense (Command, Control, Communications, and

Intelligence) changed to Assistant Secretary of Defense (Networks and Information Integration). An 11 January 2012 memorandum signed by the Deputy Secretary of Defense abolished the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense (Networks and Information Integration) and transferred its authorities, responsibilities, personnel, and resources to the Chief Information Officer.

John P. Stenbit.....8 May 2003–6 March 2004
Linton Wells II (Acting).....6 March 2004–14 November 2005
John Grimes.....14 November 2005–30 April 2009
Cheryl Roby (Acting).....1 May 2009–26 October 2010
Teresa M. Takai.....26 October 2010–11 January 2012

Management

Deputy Chief Management Officer

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, PL 110-81, 28 January 2008, established the position as the principal staff assistant to the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Defense for management and improvement of DoD business operations. DoD Directive 5105.82, 17 October 2008, officially established the positional responsibilities and functions.

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017, PL 114-328, 26 December 2016, disestablished the position of Deputy Chief Management Officer, creating the position of Chief Management Officer in its place. The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018, PL 115-91, 21 December 2017, allowed the individual serving as the Deputy Chief Management Officer to become the Chief Management Officer as of 1 February 2018.

Elizabeth A. McGrath.....22 June 2010–30 November 2013
Kevin Scheid (Acting).....1 December 2013–23 May 2014
David Tillotson III (Acting).....27 May 2014–8 November 2017
John H. Gibson II.....8 November 2017–1 February 2018
Lisa W. Hershman.....3 April 2018–1 December 2018

Chief Management Officer

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017, PL 114-328, 23 December 2016, established the position as the third-highest ranking civilian in the Department of Defense and the principal advisor to the Secretary of Defense on all business operations of the Department. The Chief Management Office had the authority to direct the Secretaries of the military departments and the heads of all other elements of the Department on matters for which it had responsibility, including business transformation, business planning and processes, performance management, and business information technology management and improvement activities.

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021, PL 116-283, 1 January 2021, disestablished the position of Chief Management Officer. The Deputy Secretary of Defense's 11 January 2021 memorandum realigned the Office of the Chief Management Officer's responsibilities, functions, and resources of the Directorate for Oversight and Compliance and the Directorate for Administration and Organizational Policy to the reestablished position of Director of Administration and Management.

John H. Gibson II.....1 February 2018–30 November 2018
Lisa W. Hershman (Acting).....1 December 2018–5 July 2019
Lisa W. Hershman (Performing the Duties Of).....6 July 2019–30 December 2019

Lisa W. Hershman ..... 30 December 2019–19 January 2021

Net Assessment

Director of Net Assessment

Position established in 1973 to serve as the principal staff assistant and adviser to the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Defense on net assessment matters. According to Defense Directive 5111.11, the Director shall develop and coordinate net assessments of the standing, trends, and future prospects of U.S. military capabilities and military potential in comparison with those of other countries or groups of countries so as to identify emerging or future threats or opportunities for the United States. By administrative action, Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth disestablished the Office of Net Assessment and the position of Director on 13 March 2025.

Andrew Marshall ..... 16 November 1973–5 January 2015
Andrew May (Acting) ..... 6 January 2015–12 May 2015
James H. Baker ..... 13 May 2015–13 March 2025

Policy and Plans

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Policy and Plans)

Position established by DoD Directive 5111.6, 15 July 1993, and disestablished on 15 March 1994 when the incumbent left office.

Graham Allison ..... 6 August 1993–15 March 1994

Privacy, Civil Liberties, and Transparency

Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Intelligence Oversight)

Established by DoD Directive 5148.11, 1 December 1982, to replace the position of Inspector General for Intelligence, the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Intelligence Oversight reported directly to the Deputy Secretary of Defense and exercised oversight of all intelligence activities in the Department of Defense. DoD Directive 5148.11, 21 May 2004, designated this position as a principal staff assistant and adviser to the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Defense.

In August 2014, as part of the Secretary of Defense's reorganization efforts, the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Intelligence Oversight's functions and responsibilities transferred to the Office of the Deputy Chief Management Officer, and in February 2018, to the Office of the Chief Management Officer, as the Department of Defense senior intelligence oversight official.

Werner E. Michel 1983–1993
Charles A. Hawkins Jr. ..... 1994–26 March 1995
Walter Jajko ..... 26 March 1995–26 October 1997
Vacant ..... 1 November 1997–16 August 1998
George B. Lotz II ..... 16 August 1998–31 May 2005
Vacant ..... 1 June 2005–1 September 2005
William Dugan (Acting) ..... 1 September 2005–26 September 2009
Michael H. Decker ..... 27 September 2009–28 February 2014
Michael Goodroe ..... 1 March 2014–August 2014

Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Intelligence Oversight)

After section 901 of the William M. "Mac" Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021, PL 116-283, 2 January 2021, abolished the position of Chief Management Officer, the Deputy Secretary of Defense reestablished the position of Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Intelligence Oversight in an 11 January 2021 memorandum. DoD Directive 5148.11, 24 April 2013, still in effect according to the 11 January 2021 memorandum, designated the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Intelligence Oversight as the principal staff assistant and adviser to the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Defense for intelligence oversight in the Defense Department, inspecting all intelligence or intelligence-related activities conducted by any Defense Department components to ensure these activities complied with federal law, executive orders, presidential directives, intelligence community directives, and Defense Department issuances.

Mark Dupont (Interim) ..... 11 January 2021–1 September 2021

Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Privacy, Civil Liberties, and Transparency)

The Deputy Secretary of Defense's 1 September 2021 memorandum redesignated the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Intelligence Oversight as the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Privacy, Civil Liberties, and Transparency. All personnel, functions, and resources of the former Chief Management Officer related to privacy, civil liberties, and transparency, and regulatory matters previously transferred to the Director for Administration and Management realigned to the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Intelligence Oversight and shifted upon redesignation to the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Privacy, Civil Liberties, and Transparency. The Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Privacy, Civil Liberties, and Transparency is the Principal Staff Assistant to the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Defense on privacy, civil liberties, and transparency matters.

A 16 October 2025 memorandum from the Secretary of Defense demoted the position as a Principal Staff Assistant.

Joo Y. Chung ..... 1 September 2021–19 May 2025

Michael Kremlacek (Acting) ..... 19 May 2025–16 October 2025

Assistant to the Secretary of War (Privacy, Civil Liberties, and Transparency)

Executive Order 14347, 5 September 2025, authorized the use of the secondary title "Assistant to the Secretary of War" and permitted the officeholders to be recognized by that title in official correspondence, public communications, ceremonial contexts, and non-statutory documents within the executive branch. A 16 October 2025 memorandum from the Secretary of War demoted the position as a Principal Staff Assistant.

Michael Kremlacek (Acting) ..... 5 September 2025–16 October 2025

Research and Engineering

Deputy Director of Defense Research and Engineering

The Deputy Director of Defense Research and Engineering was designated an Assistant Secretary of Defense from 19 May 1961 to 15 July 1965 and reported to the Director of Defense Research and Engineering (see Research and Engineering lineage in section VI).

John H. Rubel ..... 19 May 1961–15 June 1963

Eugene G. Fubini ..... 3 July 1963–15 July 1965

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Research and Technology)

DoD Directive 5129.3, 25 January 1984, established the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Research and

Technology), reporting to the Under Secretary of Defense (Research and Engineering) and then, beginning in 1986, to the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition).

Robert S. Cooper .....6 August 1984–6 July 1985

Robert C. Duncan .....5 August 1986–21 December 1987

Director, Defense Research and Engineering

The Military Retirement Reform Act of 1986, PL 99-348, 1 July 1986, reestablished the position of Director of Defense Research and Engineering (previous establishment ran from 1958 to 1977 and appears in section VI as part of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering lineage). In December 1987 the position was filled after the abolishment of the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense (Research and Technology). The Director of Defense Research and Engineering reported to the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics).

Robert C. Duncan .....21 December 1987–20 November 1989

Charles M. Herzfeld .....12 March 1990–8 May 1991

Charles Adolph (Performing the Duties Of) .....8 May 1991–3 December 1991

Victor Reis .....3 December 1991–30 May 1993

Anita Jones.....1 June 1993–23 May 1997

George Singlay (Acting).....23 May 1997–1 July 1998

Hans M. Mark.....1 July 1998–10 May 2001

Ronald M. Sega .....4 August 2001–3 August 2005

John J. Young Jr.....2 November 2005–1 June 2008

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Research and Engineering)

The Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011, PL 111-383, 7 January 2011, redesignated the Director of Defense Research and Engineering as the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Research and Engineering), with responsibility for providing strategic guidance and coordination for science and technology investment across the Department.

Alan R. Shaffer (Acting) .....1 December 2012–26 June 2015

Stephen P. Welby (Acting).....27 June 2015–25 February 2016

Stephen P. Welby..... 25 February 2016–20 January 2017

Mary Miller (Acting).....20 January 2017–February 2018

Security Policy

Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Policy)

In April 1981, by administrative action, Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger created the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Policy). DoD Directive 5133.1, 27 September 1985, detailed the positional responsibilities and functions, including disarmament, arms control, and all political-military activity involving NATO, non-NATO European countries, and the Soviet Union. In 1993 Secretary of Defense Les Aspin abolished this position and transferred some functions to the new Assistant Secretary of Defense (Nuclear Security and Counterproliferation). Position abolished in 1993, with some functions transferred to the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Nuclear Security and Counterproliferation).

Richard N. Perle ..... 5 August 1981–8 May 1987

Ronald F. Lehman ..... 18 February 1988–11 May 1989

Stephen J. Hadley ..... 23 June 1989–20 January 1993

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Nuclear Security and Counterproliferation)

Position established by DoD Directive 5111.5 on 6 July 1993 to replace the Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Policy) as the principal staff assistant and adviser to the Under Secretary of Defense (Policy) and the Secretary of Defense on reducing and countering nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and missile threat to the United States, arms control, threat reduction and counterproliferation.

Ashton B. "Ash" Carter ..... 30 June 1993–13 June 1994

Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Policy)

On 13 June 1994, the title of Assistant Secretary of Defense (Nuclear Security and Counterproliferation) reverted to Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Policy). DoD Directive 5111.5, 22 March 1995 detailed the responsibilities and functions of the position.

Position abolished in 1998, with responsibilities and functions transferred to the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Strategy and Threat Reduction). A 20 July 2001 Deputy Secretary of Defense memorandum reestablished the position. DoD Directive 5111.14, 22 March 2005 assigned responsibilities and functions.

Position abolished in 2006 with responsibilities reassigned to other Assistant Secretaries of Defense.

Ashton B. "Ash" Carter ..... 13 June 1994–14 September 1996

Franklin C. Miller (Acting) ..... 14 September 1996–15 June 1998

Lisa Bronson (Acting) ..... 1 August 2001–6 August 2001

Jack D. Crouch II ..... 6 August 2001–31 October 2003

Peter C. W. Flory ..... 2 August 2005–1 December 2006

Strategy and Threat Reduction

By administrative action, Secretary of Defense Les Aspin established the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense (Strategy, Requirements, and Resources) on 6 July 1993. The title subsequently changed to Assistant Secretary of Defense (Strategy and Requirements) per DoD Directive 5111.8 on 22 March 1995, and then to Assistant Secretary of Defense (Strategy and Threat Reduction) per DoD Directive 5111.8 on 3 February 2000. The positions were responsible for defense strategy and ensuring that the Department's resource allocation, force structure development, weapons acquisition planning, and budgeting process supported the strategy. Position abolished in August 2001 with the reinstatement of the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Policy).

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Strategy, Requirements, and Resources)

Edward L. Warner ..... 1 June 1993–22 March 1995

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Strategy and Requirements)

Edward L. Warner ..... 22 March 1995–3 February 2000

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Strategy and Threat Reduction)

Edward L. Warner ..... 3 February 2000–29 September 2000

Supply, Logistics, and Installations

Chairman, Munitions Board

The National Security Act of 1947, PL 80-253, 26 July 1947, established this position. Reorganization Plan Number 6, 30 June 1953, abolished the Munitions Board. The Secretary of Defense transferred the Munitions Board's functions to the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Applications Engineering) and the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Supply and Logistics).

Thomas J. Hargrave ..... 30 September 1947–20 September 1948
Donald J. Carpenter ..... 21 September 1948–30 June 1949
Hubert E. Howard ..... 25 November 1949–18 September 1950
John D. Small ..... 16 November 1950–20 January 1953

Director of Installations

Position created by PL 82-534, 14 July 1952, which authorized military and naval construction. Reorganization Plan Number 6, 30 June 1953, abolished the position and transferred its functions to the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Properties and Installations).

Frank Creedon ..... 25 August 1952–29 June 1953

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Properties and Installations)

Franklin G. Floete ..... 3 August 1953–4 March 1956
Floyd S. Bryant ..... 2 May 1956–20 January 1961

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Supply and Logistics)

Position established after Reorganization Plan Number 6, 30 June 1953, abolished the Munitions Board.

Charles S. Thomas ..... 5 August 1953–2 May 1954
Thomas P. Pike ..... 3 May 1954–27 June 1956
E. Perkins McGuire ..... 28 December 1956–20 January 1961

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Installations and Logistics)

DoD Directive 5126.22 established this position on 30 January 1961 by combining the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Supply and Logistics) and the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Properties and Installations). DoD Directive 5124.1, 20 April 1977, abolished this position, transferring acquisition functions to the Director of Defense Research and Engineering (see section VI, Research and Engineering) and the installations and logistics functions to the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower, Reserve Affairs, and Logistics).

Thomas D. Morris ..... 29 January 1961–11 December 1964
Paul R. Ignatius ..... 23 December 1964–31 August 1967
Thomas D. Morris ..... 1 September 1967–1 February 1969
Barry J. Shillito ..... 2 February 1969–1 February 1973
Hugh McCullough (Acting) ..... 1 February 1973–21 June 1973
Arthur I. Mendolia ..... 21 June 1973–31 March 1975
John J. Bennett (Acting) ..... 1 April 1975–9 February 1976

Frank A. Shrontz..... 10 February 1976–19 January 1977

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Development and Support)

Established by DoD Directive 5129.4, 25 November 1984, and abolished after the establishment of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Logistics) in 1985.

James P. Wade Jr.....6 August 1984–5 July 1985

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Logistics)

Position announced on 29 January 1985 and authorized by DoD Directive 5128.1, 19 November 1985.

James P. Wade Jr.....5 July 1985–3 November 1986

Robert B. Costello .....13 March 1987–15 April 1987

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Production and Logistics)

This position replaced the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Logistics) in April 1987. This position served as the principal staff assistant to the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Technology). It also coordinated with the Under Secretary of Defense (Policy) on agreements with foreign countries. As a result of the reorganization of the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Technology), an Assistant Secretary of Defense (Economic Security) replaced the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Production and Logistics) as per a 19 May 1993 memorandum.

Robert B. Costello .....15 April 1987–17 December 1987

Jack Katzen.....28 March 1988–8 January 1990

Colin McMillan .....5 March 1990–11 December 1992

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Economic Security)

Position established on 7 September 1993, replacing the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Production and Logistics), and reporting to the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Technology). DoD Directive 5134.7, 5 April 1996, cancelled this position.

Joshua Gotbaum .....20 May 1994–25 December 1995

X. Joint Chiefs of Staff

The Joint Chiefs of Staff, in existence since 1942, gained statutory sanction in the National Security Act of 1947, PL 80-253, 26 July 1947.

The 1949 amendments to the National Security Act of 1947, PL 81-216, 10 August 1949, established the position of Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to be appointed from the regular officers of the Armed Services for a term of two years with eligibility for a second two-year term.

In 1952, PL 82-416 authorized the Commandant of the Marine Corps to meet with the JCS as a coequal whenever any matter of concern to the Marine Corps was under consideration. Subsequently, PL 95-485, the Department of Defense Appropriation Authorization Act, 1979, 20 October 1978, made the Commandant a permanent and fully participating member of the JCS.

Reorganization Plan Number 6, 30 June 1953, made the selection and tenure of members of the Joint Staff subject to the approval of the Chairman and gave him management control of the Joint Staff.

Public Law 90-22, the Armed Forces Appropriation Authorization, 1968, 5 June 1967, set the terms of the Chiefs of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps at four years, with provision for possible reappointment for four years in time of war or emergency.

The Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1986, PL 99-433, 1 October 1986, prescribed the most important changes in the JCS organization since 1947.

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020, PL 116-92, 20 December 2019, created the U.S. Space Force under the direction of a Chief of Space Operations within the Department of the Air Force.

The Chief of Space Operations, a four-star General and full member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, serves as the principal uniformed adviser to the Secretary of the Air Force on Space Force activities, presides over the Office of the Chief of Space Operations, and transmits plans and recommendations to the Secretary of the Air Force.

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

General Omar N. Bradley, USA ..... 16 August 1949–15 August 1953
Admiral Arthur W. Radford, USN ..... 16 August 1953–15 August 1957
General Nathan F. Twining, USAF ..... 16 August 1957–30 September 1960
General Lyman L. Lemnitzer, USA ..... 1 October 1960–30 September 1962
General Maxwell D. Taylor, USA ..... 1 October 1962–1 July 1964
General Earle G. Wheeler, USA ..... 3 July 1964–2 July 1970
Admiral Thomas H. Moorer, USN ..... 3 July 1970–1 July 1974
General George S. Brown, USAF ..... 2 July 1974–20 June 1978
General David C. Jones, USAF ..... 21 June 1978–18 June 1982
General John W. Vessey Jr., USA ..... 19 June 1982–30 September 1985
Admiral William J. Crowe Jr., USN ..... 1 October 1985–30 September 1989
General Colin L. Powell, USA ..... 1 October 1989–30 September 1993
Admiral David E. Jeremiah, USN (Acting) ..... 1 October 1993–24 October 1993
General John M.D. Shalikashvili, USA ..... 25 October 1993–30 September 1997

General Henry H. Shelton, USA ..... 1 October 1997–30 September 2001
General Richard B. Myers, USAF ..... 1 October 2001–30 September 2005
General Peter Pace, USMC ..... 1 October 2005–30 September 2007
Admiral Michael G. Mullen, USN ..... 1 October 2007–30 September 2011
General Martin E. Dempsey, USA ..... 1 October 2011–25 September 2015
General Joseph F. Dunford Jr., USMC ..... 26 September 2015–30 September 2019
General Mark Milley, USA ..... 30 September 2019–29 September 2023
General Charles Q. Brown, USAF ..... 29 September 2023–21 February 2025
Admiral Christopher W. Grady, USN (Acting) ..... 21 February 2025–14 April 2025
General John D. Caine, USAF ..... 14 April 2025–Present

Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

General Robert T. Herres, USAF ..... 6 February 1987–28 February 1990
Admiral David E. Jeremiah, USN ..... 1 March 1990–28 February 1994
Admiral William A. Owens, USN ..... 1 March 1994–29 February 1996
General Joseph W. Ralston, USAF ..... 1 March 1996–1 March 2000
General Richard B. Myers, USAF ..... 2 March 2000–1 October 2001
General Peter Pace, USMC ..... 2 October 2001–12 August 2005
Admiral Edmund P. Giambastiani, USN ..... 13 August 2005–27 July 2007
General James E. Cartwright, USMC ..... 2 September 2007–3 August 2011
Admiral James A. Winnefeld Jr., USN ..... 4 August 2011–31 July 2015
General Paul J. Selva, USAF ..... 31 July 2015–31 July 2019
General John E. Hyten, USAF ..... 21 November 2019–20 November 2021
Vacant ..... 21 November 2021–19 December 2021
Admiral Christopher W. Grady, USN ..... 20 December 2021–1 October 2025
General Christopher J. Mahoney, USMC ..... 1 October 2025–Present

Chief of Staff of the Army

General Dwight D. Eisenhower, USA ..... 19 November 1945–6 February 1948
General Omar N. Bradley, USA ..... 7 February 1948–15 August 1949
General J. Lawton Collins, USA ..... 16 August 1949–14 August 1953
General Matthew B. Ridgway, USA ..... 15 August 1953–29 June 1955
General Maxwell D. Taylor, USA ..... 30 June 1955–30 June 1959
General Lyman L. Lemnitzer, USA ..... 1 July 1959–30 September 1960
General George H. Decker, USA ..... 1 October 1960–30 September 1962
General Earle G. Wheeler, USA ..... 1 October 1962–2 July 1964
General Harold K. Johnson, USA ..... 3 July 1964–2 July 1968
General William C. Westmoreland, USA ..... 3 July 1968–30 June 1972

General Bruce Palmer Jr., USA (Acting)..... 1 July 1972–11 October 1972
General Creighton W. Abrams, USA ..... 12 October 1972–4 September 1974
General Fred C. Weyand, USA ..... 3 October 1974–30 September 1976
General Bernard W. Rogers, USA ..... 1 October 1976–21 June 1979
General Edward C. Meyer, USA..... 22 June 1979–21 June 1983
General John A. Wickham Jr., USA..... 22 June 1983–22 June 1987
General Carl E. Vuono, USA ..... 23 June 1987–21 June 1991
General Gordon R. Sullivan..... 22 June 1991–19 June 1995
General Dennis J. Reimer, USA..... 20 June 1995–20 June 1999
General Eric K. Shinseki, USA..... 21 June 1999–11 June 2003
General Peter J. Schoomaker, USA ..... 1 August 2003–10 April 2007
General George W. Casey Jr., USA ..... 11 April 2007–6 September 2011
General Raymond T. Odierno, USA ..... 7 September 2011–14 August 2015
General Mark Milley, USA ..... 14 August 2015–9 August 2019
General James C. McConville, USA ..... 9 August 2019–4 August 2023
General Randy George, USA (Acting) ..... 4 August 2023–21 September 2023
General Randy George, USA..... 21 September 2023–2 April 2026
General Christopher LaNeve, USA (Acting) ..... 2 April 2026–Present

Chief of Naval Operations

Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, USN..... 15 December 1945–15 December 1947
Admiral Louis Denfeld, USN ..... 16 December 1947–2 November 1949
Admiral Forrest P. Sherman, USN..... 3 November 1949–22 July 1951
Admiral William M. Fechteler, USN..... 16 August 1951–16 August 1953
Admiral Robert B. Carney, USN ..... 17 August 1953–17 August 1955
Admiral Arleigh A. Burke, USN..... 18 August 1955–1 August 1961
Admiral George W. Anderson Jr., USN..... 2 August 1961–1 August 1963
Admiral David L. McDonald, USN..... 2 August 1963–1 August 1967
Admiral Thomas H. Moorer, USN..... 2 August 1967–1 July 1970
Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt Jr., USN..... 2 July 1970–1 July 1974
Admiral James L. Holloway III, USN ..... 2 July 1974–1 July 1978
Admiral Thomas B. Hayward, USN..... 2 July 1978–30 June 1982
Admiral James D. Watkins, USN..... 1 July 1982–30 June 1986
Admiral Carlisle A.H. Trost, USN..... 1 July 1986–29 June 1990
Admiral Frank B. Kelso II, USN ..... 1 July 1990–23 April 1994
Admiral Jeremy M. Boorda, USN ..... 24 April 1994–16 May 1996
Admiral Jay L. Johnson, USN (Acting)..... 17 May 1996–4 August 1996

Admiral Jay L. Johnson, USN.....5 August 1996–21 July 2000
Admiral Vernon E. Clark, USN..... 22 July 2000–22 July 2005
Admiral Michael G. Mullen, USN.....23 July 2005–29 September 2007
Admiral Gary Roughead, USN .....30 September 2007–23 September 2011
Admiral Jonathan W. Greenert, USN.....24 September 2011–18 September 2015
Admiral John M. Richardson, USN.....18 September 2015–22 August 2019
Admiral Michael M. Gilday, USN.....22 August 2019–14 August 2023
Admiral Lisa Franchetti, USN (Acting) .....14 August 2023–2 November 2023
Admiral Lisa Franchetti, USN ..... 2 November 2023–21 February 2025
Admiral James W. Kilby, USN (Acting)..... 21 February 2025–25 August 2025
Admiral Daryl L. Caudle, USN ..... 25 August 2025–Present

Chief of Staff of the Air Force

General Carl Spaatz, USAF ..... 26 September 1947–29 April 1948
General Hoyt S. Vandenberg, USAF .....30 April 1948–29 June 1953
General Nathan F. Twining, USAF .....30 June 1953–30 June 1957
General Thomas D. White, USAF .....1 July 1957–30 June 1961
General Curtis E. LeMay, USAF .....30 June 1961–31 January 1965
General John P. McConnell, USAF ..... 1 February 1965–31 July 1969
General John D. Ryan, USA .....1 August 1969–31 July 1973
General George S. Brown, USAF.....1 August 1973–30 June 1974
General David C. Jones, USAF.....1 July 1974–20 June 1978
General Lew Allen Jr., USAF .....1 July 1978–30 June 1982
General Charles A. Gabriel, USAF.....1 July 1982–30 June 1986
General Larry D. Welch, USAF.....1 July 1986–30 June 1990
General Michael J. Dugan, USAF .....1 July 1990–17 September 1990
General John M. Loh, USAF (Acting) ..... 18 September 1990–27 October 1990
General Merrill A. McPeak, USAF.....27 October 1990–25 October 1994
General Ronald R. Fogleman, USAF .....26 October 1994–2 October 1997
General Michael E. Ryan, USAF..... 2 October 1997–6 September 2001
General John J. Jumper, USAF .....6 September 2001–2 September 2005
General T. Michael Moseley, USAF .....2 September 2005–1 August 2008
General Norton A. Schwartz, USAF.....12 August 2008–10 August 2012
General Mark A. Welsh III, USAF.....10 August 2012–24 June 2016
General David Goldfein, USAF.....1 July 2016–4 August 2020
General Charles Q. Brown, USAF.....4 August 2020–29 September 2023
General David W. Allvin, USAF (Acting)..... 29 September 2023–2 November 2023

General David W. Allvin, USAF ..... 2 November 2023–3 November 2025
General Kenneth S. Wilsbach, USAF.....3 November 2025–Present

Commandant of the Marine Corps

General Lemuel C. Shepherd Jr. was the first Commandant to sit with the Joint Chiefs of Staff (beginning in 1952) on matters of concern to the Marine Corps. General Louis H. Wilson, per PL 95-485, 20 October 1978, was the first Commandant to serve as a full member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

General Alexander A. Vandegrift, USMC ..... 1 January 1944–31 December 1947
General Clifton B. Cates, USMC..... 1 January 1948–31 December 1951
General Lemuel C. Shepherd Jr., USMC..... 1 January 1952–31 December 1955
General Randolph McCall Pate, USMC..... 1 January 1956–31 December 1959
General David M. Shoup, USMC..... 1 January 1960–31 December 1963
General Wallace M. Greene Jr., USMC..... 1 January 1964–31 December 1967
General Leonard F. Chapman Jr., USMC..... 1 January 1968–31 December 1971
General Robert E. Cushman Jr., USMC .....1 January 1972–30 June 1975
General Louis H. Wilson, USMC .....1 July 1975–30 June 1979
General Robert H. Barrow, USMC .....1 July 1979–30 June 1983
General Paul X. Kelley, USMC .....1 July 1983–30 June 1987
General Alfred M. Gray Jr., USMC..... 1 July 1987–1 July 1991
General Carl E. Mundy Jr., USMC.....1 July 1991–30 June 1995
General C.C. Krulak, USMC .....1 July 1995–30 June 1999
General James L. Jones Jr., USMC.....1 July 1999–13 January 2003
General Michael W. Hagee, USMC.....13 January 2003–13 November 2006
General James T. Conway, USMC.....14 November 2006–22 October 2010
General James F. Amos, USMC.....22 October 2010–17 October 2014
General Joseph F. Dunford Jr., USMC ..... 17 October 2014–24 September 2015
General Robert Neller, USMC.....24 September 2015–11 July 2019
General David Berger, USMC ..... 11 July 2019–10 July 2023
General Eric Smith, USMC (Acting).....10 July 2023–21 September 2023
General Eric Smith, USMC.....22 September 2023–Present
Lieutenant General Karsten S. Heckl, USMC (Acting)..... 30 October 2023–3 November 2023
General Christopher J. Mahoney, USMC (Acting).....3 November 2023–5 March 2024

Chief of Space Operations

The Chief of Space Operations, a four-star General and full member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, serves as the principal uniformed adviser to the Secretary of the Air Force on Space Force activities, presides over the Office of the Chief of Space Operations, and transmits plans and recommendations to the Secretary of the Air Force.

General John W. Raymond, USAF .....20 December 2019–2 November 2022

General B. Chance Saltzman, USAF ..... 2 November 2022–Present

Chief of the National Guard Bureau

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012, PL 112-81, 31 December 2011, made the Chief of the National Guard Bureau a member of the Joint Chiefs. The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, PL 110-181, 28 January 2008, made the National Guard Bureau a DoD joint activity.

Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, USA ..... 11 April 2003–17 November 2008
General Craig R. McKinley, USAF ..... 3 January 2012–6 September 2012
General Frank J. Grass, USA ..... 7 September 2012–3 August 2016
General Joseph L. Lengyel, USAF ..... 3 August 2016–3 August 2020
General Daniel Hokanson, USA ..... 3 August 2020–3 August 2024
Lt. Gen. Jonathan Stubbs, USA (Acting) ..... 3 August 2024–15 October 2024
General Steven S. Nordhaus, USAF ..... 15 October 2024–Present

Director of the Joint Staff

The 1947 National Security Act, PL 80-253, 26 July 1947, established the position of Director of the Joint Staff. Although not a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Director was appointed by the Joint Chiefs of Staff to perform such duties as directed by the Joint Chiefs. With the passage of the 1949 National Security Act Amendments, PL 81-216, 10 August 1949, and the creation of the position of Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Chairman, after consultation with the other members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff appointed the Director. Reorganization Plan Number 6, 30 June 1953, made the selection of the Director by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and his tenure, subject to the approval of the Secretary of Defense.

Maj. Gen. Alfred M. Gruenther, USA ..... 17 September 1947–19 September 1949
Vice Adm. Arthur C. Davis, USN ..... 20 September 1949–1 November 1951
Lt. Gen. Charles P. Cabell, USAF ..... 2 November 1951–23 April 1953
Lt. Gen. Frank F. Everest, USAF ..... 24 April 1953–18 March 1954
Lt. Gen. Lemuel Mathewson, USA ..... 19 March 1954–14 March 1956
Vice Adm. Bernard L. Austin, USN ..... 15 March 1956–31 March 1958
Lt. Gen. Oliver S. Picher, USAF ..... 1 April 1958–31 March 1960
Lt. Gen. Earle G. Wheeler, USA ..... 1 April 1960–24 February 1962
Vice Adm. Herbert D. Riley, USN ..... 25 February 1962–23 February 1964
Lt. Gen. David A. Burchinal, USAF ..... 24 February 1964–31 July 1966
Lt. Gen. Andrew J. Goodpaster, USA ..... 1 August 1966–31 March 1967
Lt. Gen. Berton E. Spivy Jr., USA ..... 1 April 1967–31 July 1968
Vice Adm. Nels C. Johnson, USN ..... 1 August 1968–19 July 1970
Lt. Gen. John W. Vogt, USAF ..... 20 July 1970–7 April 1972
Rear Adm. Mason B. Freeman, USN (Acting) ..... 8 April 1972–11 June 1972
Lt. Gen. George M. Seignious II, USA ..... 12 June 1972–31 May 1974
Vice Adm. Harry D. Train II, USN ..... 1 June 1974–30 June 1976

Lt. Gen. Ray B. Sitton, USAF ..... 1 July 1976–30 June 1977
Vice Adm. Patrick J. Hannifin, USN ..... 1 July 1977–20 June 1978
Lt. Gen. John A. Wickham Jr., USA ..... 21 June 1978–22 June 1979
Vice Adm. Carl Thor Hanson, USN ..... 23 June 1979–30 June 1981
Lt. Gen. James E. Dalton, USAF ..... 1 July 1981–30 June 1983
Lt. Gen. Jack N. Merritt, USA ..... 1 July 1983–30 June 1985
Vice Adm. Powell F. Carter Jr., USN ..... 1 July 1985–14 August 1987
Lt. Gen. Robert W. RisCassi, USA ..... 15 August 1987–30 November 1988
Lt. Gen. Hansford T. Johnson, USAF ..... 1 December 1988–20 September 1989
Maj. Gen. Gene A. Deegan, USMC (Acting) ..... 21 September 1989–26 September 1989
Lt. Gen. Michael P. C. Carns, USAF ..... 27 September 1989–16 May 1991
Lt. Gen. Henry Viccellio Jr., USAF ..... 17 May 1991–1 December 1992
Vice Adm. Richard C. Macke, USN ..... 1 December 1992–17 July 1994
Maj. Gen. Charles T. Robertson Jr., USAF (Acting) ..... 18 July 1994–24 July 1994
Lt. Gen. Walter Kross, USAF ..... 25 July 1994–12 July 1996
Maj. Gen. Carlton W. Fulford Jr., USMC ..... 13 July 1996–13 September 1996
Vice Adm. Dennis C. Blair, USN ..... 14 September 1996–12 December 1998
Vice Adm. Vernon E. Clark, USN ..... 13 December 1998–26 July 1999
Lt. Gen. Carlton W. Fulford, USMC ..... 27 July 1999–14 July 2000
Vice Adm. Scott A. Fry, USN ..... 15 July 2000–15 October 2001
Lt. Gen. John P. Abizaid, USA ..... 16 October 2001–23 January 2003
Lt. Gen. George W. Casey, USA ..... 24 January 2003–15 October 2003
Vice Adm. Timothy J. Keating, USN ..... 16 October 2003–20 October 2004
Lt. Gen. Norton A. Schwartz, USAF ..... 21 October 2004–29 August 2005
Lt. Gen. Walter Sharp, USA ..... 30 August 2005–22 June 2008
Maj. Gen. Stephen A. Goldfein, USAF (Acting) ..... 23 June 2008–10 August 2008
Lt. Gen. Stanley A. McChrystal, USA ..... 11 August 2008–11 June 2009
Rear Adm. Bruce E. Grooms, USN (Acting) ..... 12 June 2009–8 August 2009
Lt. Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III, USA ..... 9 August 2009–13 July 2010
Vice Adm. William E. Gortney, USN ..... 14 July 2010–8 August 2012
Lt. Gen. Curtis M. Scaparrotti, USA ..... 9 August 2012–11 August 2013
Lt. Gen. David Goldfein, USAF ..... 12 August 2013–31 July 2015
Lt. Gen. William C. Mayville Jr., USA ..... 1 August 2015–30 July 2017
Lt. Gen. Kenneth F. McKenzie, USMC ..... 31 July 2017–28 February 2019
Vice Adm. Michael M. Gilday, USN ..... 1 March 2019–17 July 2019
Lt. Gen. Glen D. VanHerck, USAF (Acting) ..... 18 July 2019–26 September 2019

Lt. Gen. Glen D. VanHerck, USAF ..... 27 September 2019–3 August 2020
Rear Adm. William D. Byrne Jr., USN (Acting) ..... 3 August 2020–30 September 2020
Lt. Gen. Andrew P. Poppas, USA ..... 1 October 2020–2 June 2022
Lt. Gen. James J. Mingus, USA ..... 2 June 2022–3 January 2024
Lt. Gen. Douglas A. Sims II, USA ..... 3 January 2024–4 August 2025
Maj. Gen. Stephen E. Liszewski, USMC (Acting) ..... 4 August 2025–5 December 2025
Vice Adm. Frederick W. Kacher, USN ..... 5 December 2025–26 February 2026
Vacant ..... 26 February 2026–16 July 2026
Vice Adm. Paul C. Spedero Jr, USN ..... 16 July 2026–Present

XI. Combatant Commands

Current Commands

U.S. Africa Command (Kelley Barracks, Stuttgart, Germany)

Established 1 October 2008

General Dagvin R.M. Anderson, USAF ..... 15 August 2025–Present

U.S. Central Command (MacDill AFB, Tampa, FL)

Established 1 January 1983

Admiral Bradley Cooper, USN ..... 8 August 2025–Present

U.S. European Command (Stuttgart-Vaihingen, Germany)

Established 1 August 1952

General Alexus G. Grynkewich, USAF ..... 4 July 2025–Present

U.S. Northern Command (Peterson AFB, CO)

Established 1 October 2002

General Gregory M. Guillot, USAF ..... 5 February 2024–Present

U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (Camp H. M. Smith, HI)

Established as U.S. Pacific Command, 1 January 1947.

Section 1251 of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019, PL 115-232, 13 August 2018, changed the name to United States Indo-Pacific Command. Executive Order 14347, 5 September 2025, authorized the use of secondary titles. A 16 June 2026 Secretary of War memorandum authorized the use of the secondary title United States Pacific Command in official correspondence, public communications, ceremonial contexts, and non-statutory documents within the Department of War.

Admiral Samuel J. Paparo, USN .....3 May 2024–Present

U.S. Southern Command (Miami, FL)

Established 6 June 1963

General Francis L. Donovan, USMC ..... 5 February 2026–Present

U.S. Space Command (Peterson AFB, CO)

Originally established 23 September 1985. Merged with USCINSTRAT to form Strategic Command in October 2002. Re-established as a geographic combatant command on 29 August 2019.

General Stephen N. Whiting, Space Force ..... 10 January 2024–Present

U.S. Special Operations Command (MacDill AFB, Tampa, FL)

Established 16 April 1987

Admiral Frank Bradley, USN .....3 October 2025–Present

U.S. Strategic Command (Offutt AFB, NE)

Established 1 June 1992

Admiral Richard Correll, USN ..... 5 December 2025–Present

U.S. Transportation Command (Scott AFB, IL)

Established 1 July 1987

General Randall Reed, USAF ..... 4 October 2024–Present

U.S. Cyber Command (Fort Meade, MD)

Established as a unified combatant command on 4 May 2018. Commander of USCYBERCOM also serves as Director, National Security Agency, and Chief, Central Security Service.

Lieutenant General William Hartman, USAF (Acting)..... 3 April 2025–Present

Disestablished Commands

U.S. Aerospace Defense Command

Disestablished 19 December 1986.

U.S. Alaskan Command

Disestablished 30 June 1975.

U.S. Atlantic Command

Redesignated U.S. Joint Forces Command 1 October 1999. Disestablished 31 August 2011.

U.S. Continental Air Defense Command

Disestablished 30 June 1975.

U.S. Far East Command

Disestablished 1 July 1957.

U.S. Joint Forces Command

Disestablished 4 August 2011.

U.S. Forces Command

Disestablished as a Specified Command 1 October 1993; became an Army Command.

U.S. Military Airlift Command

Terminated as a Specified Command 30 September 1988.

U.S. Naval Forces, Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean

Disestablished 1 December 1963.

U.S. Northeast Command

Disestablished 1 September 1956.

U.S. Readiness Command

Disestablished 30 September 1987.

U.S. Strategic Air Command

Disestablished 1 June 1992.

U.S. Strike Command

Disestablished 31 December 1971.

XII. Defense Agencies

Current Defense Agencies

Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency

Public Law 85-325, 12 February 1958, authorized the Secretary of Defense or his designee to perform advanced research of a military nature. DoD Directive 5105.15, 7 February 1958, established the Advanced Research Projects Agency. DoD Directive 5105.41, 23 March 1972, changed the name to Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency. On 15 March 1993, the name reverted to Advanced Research Projects Agency per a memorandum from Deputy Secretary of Defense William Perry. Section 908 of PL 104-106, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1996, 10 February 1996, restored the agency's name to Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency. A Deputy Secretary of Defense memorandum, 13 July 2018, placed it under the authority, direction, and control of the Under Secretary of Defense (Research and Engineering).

Director ..... Stephen Winchell

Defense Commissary Agency

Established 9 November 1990 by DoD Directive 5105.55.

Director ..... John E. Hall

Defense Contract Audit Agency

By administrative action, Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara created the agency on 8 January 1965, placing it under the authority of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Comptroller). DoD Directive 5105.36, 8 June 1978, formally established responsibilities and mission. DoD Directive 5105.36, 28 February 2002, updated the agency's responsibilities, functions, authorities, and relationships under the authority, direction, and control of the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller)/Chief Financial Officer.

Director ..... Jennifer Desautel

Defense Contract Management Agency

Originally known as the Defense Contract Management Command within the Defense Logistics Agency. Renamed and established independently on 27 March 2000. DoD Directive 5105.64, 27 September 2000, established the purpose and mission. A Deputy Secretary of Defense memorandum, 13 July 2018, placed the agency under the authority, direction, and control of the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Sustainment).

Director ..... Vice Adm. Stephen Tedford, USN

Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency

Established as the Defense Investigative Service by DoD Directive 5105.42, 18 April 1972, and operational as of 1 October 1972. In November 1997 the Secretary of Defense issued a Defense Reform Initiative, which changed the name to Defense Security Service. DoD Directive 5105.42, 13 May 1999, assigned responsibilities and mission and placed it under the authority of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (C3I). DoD Directive 5105.42, 3 August 2010, assigned authority, direction and control to the Under Secretary of Defense (Intelligence). Executive Order 13869, 24 April 2019, changed the name to Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency and transferred responsibility for conducting background investigations from the Office of Personnel Management's National Background Investigations Bureau to this agency.

Director ..... Joseph Tonon

Defense Finance and Accounting Service

Established by DoD Directive 5118.5, 26 November 1990, and placed under the direction, authority, and control of the Department of Defense Comptroller. DoD Directive 5118.05, 20 April 2012, updated the mission, responsibilities, functions, relationships, and authorities of the agency, and placed it under the authority, direction, and control of the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller)/Chief Financial Officer.

Director .....Jonathan Witter

Defense Health Agency

Established 1 October 2013 by DoD Directive 5136.13. Assumed the responsibilities of the previous Tricare Management Activity, which had been in operation pursuant to DoD Directive 5136.12, May 31, 2001.

Director ..... Vice Adm. Darin K. Via, USN

Defense Information Systems Agency

Established as the Defense Communications Agency on 12 May 1960 by DoD Directive 5105.19. DoD Directive 5105.19, 25 June 1991, renamed the agency the Defense Information Systems Agency. DoD Directive 5105.19, 25 July 2006, updated the mission, responsibilities, functions, relationships, and authorities of DISA under the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Networks and Information Integration)/ DoD Chief Information Officer. DoD Directive 5144.02, 21 November 2014, assigned the Chief Information Officer authority, direction, and control over the Director, Defense Information Systems Agency.

Director .....Lt. Gen. Paul T. Stanton, USA

Defense Intelligence Agency

Established by DoD Directive 5105.21, 1 August 1961, and began operations on 1 October 1961. DoD Directive 5105.21, 18 March 2008, revised the agency's responsibilities and mission, and placed it under the authority, direction, and control of the Under Secretary of Defense (Intelligence).

Director .....Lt. Gen. James H. Adams, USMC

Defense Legal Services Agency

Established by DoD Directive 5145.4, 12 August 1981, under the direction authority, and control of the General Counsel, who also served as Director of the agency. DoD Directive 5145.04, 16 April 2012, revised the agency's responsibilities and mission.

Director .....Earl G. Matthews

Defense Logistics Agency

By administrative action, Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara established the Defense Supply Agency. DoD Directive 5105.22, 6 November 1961, defined the agency's responsibilities and mission. By administrative action, the agency's name changed to Defense Logistics Agency, effective 1 January 1977. A Deputy Secretary of Defense memorandum, 13 July 2018, placed it under the authority, direction, and control of the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Sustainment).

Director ..... Lt. Gen. Mark T. Simerly, USA

Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency

Established by DoD Directive 5110.10, 16 July 1993, as the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Office. The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1996, PL 104-106, 10 February 1996,

mandated that DoD establish an office for missing persons. On 15 August 1996, the Under Secretary of Defense (Policy) redesignated the office as the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office. On 30 January 2015, the Defense POW/Missing Personnel office merged with the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command to form the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency.

A 10 April 2026 memorandum from the Director of Administration and Management changed the Director's reporting authority from the Under Secretary of War (Policy) to the Under Secretary of War (Personnel and Readiness).

Director ..... Kelly McKeague

Defense Security Cooperation Agency

Established as the Defense Security Assistance Agency by DoD Directive 5105.38, 11 August 1971. A Deputy Secretary of Defense memorandum, 20 May 1998, directed that the agency's name change to Defense Security Cooperation Agency effective 1 October 1998. DoD Directive 5105.65, 31 October 2000, described the agency's responsibilities and mission. The Director is under the authority, direction, and control of the Under Secretary of Defense (Policy).

A 7 November 2025 memorandum from the Secretary of War directed the realignment of the Defense Security Cooperation Agency from the Under Secretary of War (Policy) to the Under Secretary of War (Acquisition and Sustainment) and instructed the Under Secretary of War (Acquisition and Sustainment) to devise an implementation plan for the Deputy Secretary of War's approval within 60 days. A 6 February 2026 memorandum from the Deputy Secretary of War approved the plan for the realignment of authority, direction and control of the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, from the Under Secretary of War (Policy) to the Under Secretary of War (Acquisition and Sustainment).

Director ..... Michael F. Miller

Defense Threat Reduction Agency

The November 1997 Defense Reform Initiative mandated merging several Defense organizations and programs into one entity. The Secretary of Defense consolidated the Defense Technology Security Administration, the Defense Special Weapons Agency, the On-Site Inspection Agency, and elements in the Office of the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Chemical, and Biological Defense Programs to form the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, effective 1 October 1998. The new agency's director reported to the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Technology) until a Deputy Secretary of Defense memorandum, 13 July 2018, placed it under the authority, direction, and control of the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Sustainment).

Director ..... Maj. Gen. Lyle K. Drew, USAF (Acting)

Missile Defense Agency

Chartered as the Strategic Defense Initiative Organization on 24 April 1984 but designated as a Defense agency by DoD Directive 5141.5, 21 February 1986. On 13 May 1993 Secretary of Defense Les Aspin changed the organization's name to the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization. DoD Directive 5134.9, 14 June 1994, defined the responsibilities and mission. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld renamed the organization the Missile Defense Agency in January 2002. Section 205 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018, PL 115-91, 12 December 2017, and a Deputy Secretary of Defense memorandum, 13 July 2018, placed it under the authority, direction, and control of the Under Secretary of Defense (Research and Engineering).

Director ..... Lt. Gen. Heath A. Collins, USAF

National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency

Began operations on 1 October 1996 as the National Imagery and Mapping Agency (NIMA). Established by DoD Directive 5105.60, 11 October 1996, and the National Imagery and Mapping Agency Act of 1996. Succeeded the Defense Mapping Agency, the Central Imagery Office, the Defense Dissemination Program Office, and the National Photographic Interpretation Center. NIMA was redesignated the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency in NDAA FY04, PL 108-136, 24 November 2003. The Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence exercises authority, direction, and control on behalf of the Secretary of Defense over the Director, NGA. DoD Directive 5105.60, 29 July 2009.

Director ..... Lt. Gen. Michele H. Bredenkamp, USA

National Reconnaissance Office

Established on 6 September 1961 as a covert organization by DoD and the Central Intelligence Agency to manage the National Reconnaissance Program. Declassified DoD Directive TS 5105.23, 27 September 1964, defined the organization's responsibilities and mission. The Defense Department acknowledged the agency's existence on 18 September 1992. DoD Directive 5105.23, 28 June 2011, mandated that the office's Director report to the Under Secretary of Defense (Intelligence).

Director ..... Roger Mason

National Security Agency

Established on 5 December 1952. DoD Directive 5100.20, 23 December 1971, consolidated the service cryptologic agencies as the Central Security Service within the National Security Agency. The National Security Agency director also served as the Chief of the Central Security Service. DoD Directive 5100.20, 26 January 2010, stated that the Under Secretary of Defense (Intelligence) would exercise authority, direction, and control over the Director, National Security Agency/Chief, Central Security Service. With the establishment of the U.S. Cyber Command as a subordinate unified command in June 2009 and its elevation to a combatant command in May 2018, the National Security Agency director now serves as the Chief of the Central Security Service and U.S. Cyber Command commander.

Director .....General Joshua M. Rudd, USA

Pentagon Force Protection Agency

Established on 3 May 2002 to succeed the Defense Protective Service. DoD Directive 5105.68, 5 December 2013, updated on 22 May 2019, placed the agency under the authority, direction, and control of the Director of Administration and Management.

Director .....Chris Bargery

Space Development Agency

Established by a memorandum signed by the Acting Secretary of Defense on 12 March 2019. The agency unifies and integrates the Defense Department's space development efforts, monitors the Department's threat-driven future space architecture, and accelerates new military space capabilities necessary to ensure U.S. technological and military advantages in space.

Director .....Gurpartap Sandhoo

Technology Support Office

Section 191 of United States Code Title 10 authorizes the Secretary of Defense to establish an agency within the Department of Defense for the performance of a supply or service activity. A 14 April 2026 Deputy Secretary of War memorandum approved the establishment of the Technology Support Office

and the position of Director. The Technology Support Office is responsible for establishing, in coordination with the Department of War Special Access Program Central Office, a common security portfolio to enable integrated partnership with Department components and non-Department entities; establishing and managing Department databases for relevant commercial support; executing research, development, testing and evaluation activities in collaboration with the Under Secretary of War (Research and Engineering); prioritizing Department analytic and targeting objectives on behalf of the Defense intelligence enterprise; and delivering end-to-end Department solutions to include requirements, aggregate risk analysis, concept of operations development, mission planning, and approval. The Director is under the authority, direction, and control of the Under Secretary of War (Intelligence and Security).

Director .....William Nelson (Acting)

Disestablished Defense Agencies

Ballistic Missile Defense Organization

Succeeded by the Missile Defense Agency, January 2002.

Central Imagery Office

Duties assumed by the National Imagery and Mapping Agency, 1 October 1999.

Defense Audiovisual Agency

Disestablished 30 September 1985.

Defense Audit Service

Dissolved 2 November 1982 when role assumed by Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Review and Oversight).

Defense Business Transformation Agency

Disestablished 30 June 2011 with duties assigned to different organizations.

Defense Civil Preparedness Agency

Transferred to Federal Emergency Management Agency by Reorganization Plan Number 3, 19 June 1978.

Defense Communications Agency

Succeeded by the Defense Information Systems Agency, 25 June 1991.

Defense Investigative Service

Duties assumed by the Defense Security Service, May 1999.

Defense Mapping Agency

Disestablished 1 October 1996, with its functions transferred to the National Imagery and Mapping Agency.

Defense Nuclear Agency

Name changed to Defense Special Weapons Agency, 26 June 1996; functions assumed by the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, 1 October 1998.

Defense Security Assistance Agency

Succeeded by the Defense Security Cooperation Agency, 1 October 1998.

Defense Special Weapons Agency

Succeeded by the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, 1 October 1998.

XIII. Department of Defense Field Activities

Defense Innovation Unit

Secretary of Defense Ashton B. Carter established the Defense Innovation Unit Experimental (DIUx) in August 2015 to improve DoD access to cutting-edge commercial technologies and technical talent. The Director reported to the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics) through the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Research and Engineering). DoD Directive 5105.85, 5 July 2016, placed the DIUx under the authority, direction, and control of the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Defense. A Deputy Secretary of Defense memorandum dated 3 August 2018 renamed DIUx as the Defense Innovation Unit. DoD Directive 5105.85, 23 November 2018, placed the agency under the authority, direction, and control of the reestablished Under Secretary of Defense (Research & Engineering). A Secretary of Defense memorandum dated 4 April 2023 reverted the DIU and the Director as a direct report to the Secretary of Defense. The Under Secretary of Defense (Research & Engineering) retained all organizational and management responsibilities assigned to that office by the 2018 Directive. Section 913 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024, Public Law 118-31, 22 December 2023, codified the Defense Innovation Unit and mandated the appointment of a Director by the Secretary of Defense to serve as a principal staff assistant to the Secretary of Defense on all matters related to the responsibilities of the agency. A 9 January 2026 Secretary of War memorandum redesignated the Defense Innovation Unit as a field activity. The Director coordinates strategy, resources, and portfolio matters with the Under Secretary of War (Research and Engineering).

Director ..... Owen West

Defense Media Activity

Established on 1 January 2008 by DoD Directive 5105.74 to consolidate several military departments' media organizations, including the Soldiers Media Center, Naval Media Center, Marine Corps News, Air Force News Service, and American Forces Information Service into a single field activity. It also includes the *Stars and Stripes* newspaper and the Defense Information School. The Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs) exercises authority, direction, and control over the agency.

Director ..... Col. Richard McNorton, USA (Acting)

War Media Activity

Executive Order 14347, 5 September 2025, authorized the use of the secondary title "Department of War" in official correspondence, public communications, ceremonial contexts, and non-statutory documents within the executive branch. A 9 February 2026 memorandum from the Director of Administration and Management redesignated the Defense Media Activity as the Department of War Information Activity. A 6 May 2026 memorandum from the Director of Administration and Management redesignated the Department of War Information Activity to War Media Activity.

Director ..... Col. Richard McNorton, USA (Acting)

Defense Technical Information Center

Originally established in 1945 as the Air Documents Research Center to collect German technical documents on aeronautical subjects, the center evolved into the Defense Technical Information Center in 1979. It became a Department of Defense Field Activity in 2004 under the authority, direction, and control of the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics), reporting to the Director of Defense Research and Engineering. A Deputy Secretary of Defense memorandum, 13 July 2018, placed the agency under the authority, direction, and control of the Under Secretary of Defense (Research and Engineering), reporting through the Director of Defense Research and Engineering (Research and Technology).

Administrator.....Silvana Rubino-Hallman

Defense Technology Security Administration

Established by the Deputy Secretary of Defense on 10 May 1985 as a field activity. In 1998 the Defense Threat Reduction Agency absorbed its functions. On 31 August 2001, the Deputy Secretary of Defense signed a memorandum reestablishing the agency under the authority, direction, and control of the Under Secretary of Defense (Policy).

A 7 November 2025 memorandum from the Secretary of War directed the realignment of the Defense Technology Security Administration from the Under Secretary of War (Policy) to the Under Secretary of War (Acquisition and Sustainment) and instructed the Under Secretary of War (Acquisition and Sustainment) to devise an implementation plan for the Deputy Secretary of War's approval within 60 days. A 6 February 2026 memorandum from the Deputy Secretary of War approved the plan for the realignment of authority, direction and control of the Director, Defense Technology Security Administration, from the Under Secretary of War (Policy) to the Under Secretary of War (Acquisition and Sustainment).

Director.....Michael Laychak

Department of Defense Education Activity

Established by DoD Directive 1342.20, 19 October 2007, under the authority, direction, and control of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness).

Director.....Paul Craft

Department of War Education Activity

Executive Order 14347, 5 September 2025, authorized the use of the secondary title "Department of War" in official correspondence, public communications, ceremonial contexts, and non-statutory documents within the executive branch. A 23 June 2026 memorandum from the Director of Administration and Management redesignated the Department of Defense Education Activity as the Department of War Education Activity.

Director.....Paul Craft

Department of Defense Human Resources Activity

Established by DoD Directive 5100.87, 29 June 1998, merging the Department of Defense Civilian Personnel Management Service and the Defense Manpower Data Center. Operates under the authority, direction, and control of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness).

Director.....Jeffrey Register

Department of War Personnel Readiness Management Agency

Executive Order 14347, 5 September 2025, authorized the use of the secondary title "Department of War" in official correspondence, public communications, ceremonial contexts, and non-statutory documents within the executive branch. A 23 June 2026 memorandum from the Director of Administration and Management redesignated the Department of Defense Human Resources Activity as the Department of War Personnel Readiness Management Agency.

Director.....Jeffrey Register

Department of Defense Test Resource Management Center

Established by DoD Directive 5105.71, 8 March 2004, under the authority, direction, and control of the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics). A Deputy Secretary of Defense memorandum, 13 July 2018, placed it under the authority, direction, and control of the Under

Secretary of Defense (Research and Engineering).

Director .....George Rumford

Department of War Test Resource Management Center

Executive Order 14347, 5 September 2025, authorized the use of the secondary title "Department of War" in official correspondence, public communications, ceremonial contexts, and non-statutory documents within the executive branch. A 9 February 2026 memorandum from the Director of Administration and Management redesignated the Department of Defense Test Resource Management Center as the Department of War Test Resource Management Center.

Director .....George Rumford

Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation

Established by DoD Directive 3030.1, 29 November 1978. The Director of the Office of Economic Adjustment also serves as the executive director of the Economic Adjustment Committee. DoD Directive 3030.01, 5 March 2006, placed the office under the authority, direction, and control of the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics), reporting through the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Energy, Installations, and Environment). A memorandum from the Deputy Secretary of Defense, 13 July 2018, revised the office's reporting structure, placing it under the authority, direction, and control of the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Sustainment), and under the purview of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Sustainment). Section 905 of the William M. "Mac" Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021, PL 116-283, 1 January 2021, changed the name to Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation.

Director .....Patrick J. O'Brien

Strategic Capabilities Office

Deputy Secretary of Defense Ashton B. Carter established the Strategic Capabilities Office (SCO) in August 2012 with a Director designated to report directly to the Secretary of Defense. DoD Directive 5105.86, 14 November 2016, codified the Director as the Principal Staff Assistant and adviser to the Secretary of Defense and Deputy Secretary of Defense under the authority, direction and control of the Secretary of Defense and reporting directly to the Deputy Secretary of Defense. A 13 July 2018 Deputy Secretary of Defense memorandum reorganized the Defense Department's acquisition structure as mandated by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017, PL 114-328, 23 December 2016, as amended by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018, PL 115-91, 12 December 2017. The 13 July memorandum placed SCO and its Director under the authority, direction, and control of the Under Secretary of Defense (Research and Engineering), effective 25 June 2018. An 18 December 2019 Secretary of Defense memorandum and section 233 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020, PL 116-92, 20 December 2019, realigned the SCO Director's reporting authority to the Deputy Secretary of Defense, although for administrative purposes it remained in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Research and Engineering). A 6 January 2025 Deputy Secretary of Defense memorandum removed SCO from the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering and designated the SCO Director as a Principal Staff Assistant to the Secretary of Defense, under the authority, direction, and control of the Deputy Secretary of Defense. SCO gained independent responsibility for its own administration and management within the Office of the Secretary of Defense. A 9 January 2026 Secretary of War memorandum redesignated the Strategic Capabilities Office as a field activity and rescinded the designation of the Director as a principal staff assistant.

Director .....Jay Dryer

Washington Headquarters Services (WHS)

Established by DoD Directive 5110.4, 1 October 1977. The Director of the Washington Headquarters Services oversees a broad range of administrative, management, and common support services, including human resources, facilities and facility operations, financial management, acquisition and contracting, and executive services for the Secretary of Defense. The Director also provides oversight of designated DoD-wide statutory and regulatory programs, supporting DoD components and other federal entities as directed and assigned. DoD Directive 5110.04, 27 March 2013, updated the mission, responsibilities, functions, relationships, and authorities of the organization. The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021, PL 116-283, 1 January 2021, placed the Washington Headquarters Services under the authority, direction, and control of the Director of Administration and Management.

Director .....Regina F. Meiners