

Public Affairs*Assistant to the Secretary (Director, Office of Public Information)*

Position established by the secretary of defense on 14 July 1948.

Harold B. Hinton	19 July 1948-12 March 1949
William Frye	12 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 1952-18 November 1953

Position redesignated assistant secretary of defense (legislative and public affairs) as a result of Reorganization Plan No. 6 of 30 June 1953, which increased the number of assistant secretaries of defense, and Defense Directive 5122.1, 22 September 1953.

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative and Public Affairs)

Frederick A. Seaton	24 September 1953-20 February 1955
Robert Tripp Ross	15 March 1955-20 February 1957

Position abolished on 21 February 1957. Functions divided and transferred to assistant secretary of defense (public affairs) and assistant to the secretary of defense (legislative affairs). [See *Legislative Affairs*]

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs)

Position established by deputy secretary of defense memo, 21 February 1957. See Defense Directive 5105.13, 10 August 1957.

Murray Snyder	21 March 1957-20 January 1961
Arthur Sylvester	20 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
Thomas B. Ross	7 March 1977-20 January 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

Position title changed to assistant to the secretary of defense for public affairs on 22 January 1993. Confirmed by Defense Directive 5122.5, 2 December 1993.

Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs

Vernon A. Guidry, Jr.	22 January 1993-18 July 1993
Kathleen deLaski	19 July 1993-5 August 1994
Kenneth H. Bacon	20 September 1994-29 March 1996

Position title changed to assistant secretary of defense (public affairs) in Defense Directive 5122.5, 29 March 1996, after the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1995, PL 103-337, 5 November 1994, increased the number of assistant secretaries from 10 to 11.

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs)

Principal staff adviser and assistant to the secretary of defense for DoD public information, internal information, the Freedom of Information Act, mandatory declassification review and clearance of DoD information for public release, community relations, information training, and audiovisual matters. Exercises direction, authority, and control over American Forces Information Service.

Kenneth H. Bacon	29 March 1996-19 January 2001
Victoria Clarke	22 May 2001-20 June 2003
Lawrence Di Rita (Acting)	10 August 2003-