

Department of Defense Key Officials

1947-2004



**Historical Office
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Introductory Note

This compilation, prepared by the Historical Office, Office of the Secretary of Defense, presents information about the organization of the Department of Defense and its key officials since its establishment in 1947. Officials are listed in accordance with their status within the department, for the most part; the assistant secretaries and equivalent-level officials are listed according to organizational function.

The table of contents and text include the names of some offices that have been superceded by new names or organizations. The text indicates all instances where this has occurred.

In most entries the effective date of incumbency is the initial swearing-in date. Officials assume office after being sworn in, usually followed by a ceremonial swearing in, days or weeks later. Dates of Department of Defense directives confirming establishment of positions and prescribing functions usually follow appointments by months and sometimes years. Offices are often without a permanent appointee for periods ranging from days to years. During many of these periods there are acting officials in charge. In other instances there is no indication of an acting official and a time gap is evident. For the most part, acting officials have been de facto rather than formally designated.

The rank of statutory officials within the Office of the Secretary of Defense is established at the Executive Level as follows: Level I--Secretary of Defense; Level II--Deputy Secretary of Defense and Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics); Level III--Under Secretary of Defense (Policy), Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller/Chief Financial Officer), Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), Under Secretary of Defense (Intelligence), Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Technology), Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Logistics and Materiel Readiness); Level IV--Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Policy), Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), Director of Defense Research and Engineering, Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs), Assistant Secretary of Defense (Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict), Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs), Assistant Secretary of Defense (Reserve Affairs), Assistant Secretary of Defense (Homeland Defense), Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Policy), Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs), Assistant Secretary of Defense (Networks and Information Integration), General Counsel, Director of Operational Test and Evaluation, and the Inspector General; Level V--Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Nuclear and Chemical and Biological Defense Programs).

This edition corrects errors that appeared in the 2000 edition and brings the information up to date. Please call to the attention of the OSD Historical Office (703-588-7890) any errors that appear in this publication.