



Fact Sheet: Ash Carter, Nominee for Secretary of Defense

The Secretary of Defense is the principal defense policy advisor to the President and oversees the Department of Defense and our nation's military around the world. The Secretary of Defense plays a critical role in protecting our nation against existing and emerging threats, supporting our troops, veterans, and their families, and ensuring the readiness and technological advantage that makes the U.S. military the strongest military in the world. Dr. Ash Carter is eminently qualified for the position, having previously served in the second and third highest ranking posts in the Department of Defense and as the four time recipient of the Distinguished Service Medal at the Department of Defense. Dr. Carter has strong bipartisan support, and was unanimously confirmed by the Senate Armed Services Committee.

The Secretary of Defense is Critical to Safeguarding Our National Security

The Secretary of Defense is the principal defense advisor to the President: The Secretary of Defense is the principal defense policy advisor to the President and oversees the Department of Defense and our nation's military around the world. The Secretary of Defense oversees 2.4 million military and civilian personnel, including 1.4 million men and women on active duty in the various military services. The Secretary of Defense also oversees a budget of \$554 billion per year, including overseas contingency operations to counter terrorist threats posed by organizations like ISIL and Al-Qaeda.

The Secretary of Defense oversees our military in every corner of the world, which operates 24 hours a day and 7 days a week: Our military service members and civilians operate in every time zone 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and in every climate, with over 450,000 employees overseas, both afloat and ashore. The Defense Department also manages more than 5,000 different locations and sites, which when added together comprise over 30 million acres of land. The U.S. DOD is our nation's largest employer.

The Secretary of Defense is responsible for countering threats, supporting our troops, and making sure our service members have the equipment they need: The Secretary of Defense plays a critical role in protecting our nation against existing and emerging threats, supporting our troops, veterans, and their families, and ensuring the readiness and technological advantage that makes the U.S. military the strongest military in the world.

Ash Carter Is Extraordinarily Well-Qualified to Serve as the Secretary of Defense

Carter has already served in the second and third highest positions at the Department of Defense, among other roles at DoD: Dr. Carter most recently served as

the Deputy Secretary of Defense from October 2011 to December 2013. The Deputy Secretary of Defense is the second highest position in the DoD and serves as the chief operating officer of the department, overseeing a budget of more than \$550 billion per year, 2.4 million military and civilian personnel, and managing global 24/7 operations. Previously, Dr. Carter served as Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics from April 2009 until October 2011. As Under Secretary, Dr. Carter led the Department's efforts to accelerate the fulfillment of urgent operational needs; increase the Department's buying power; and strengthen the nation's defenses against emerging threats. During the Clinton Administration, Dr. Carter was Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Policy.

Carter is a highly decorated public servant: Over the course of his career in public service, Dr. Carter has four times been awarded the Department of Defense Distinguished Service Medal. For his contributions to intelligence, Dr. Carter was awarded the Defense Intelligence Medal.

Carter has also made exceptional contributions in business and academia: Prior to his most recent government service, Dr. Carter was chair of the International and Global Affairs faculty at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government and Co-Director of the Preventive Defense Project. Dr. Carter was also Senior Partner at Global Technology Partners, a member of the Aspen Strategy Group, a member of the Board of Trustees of the MITRE Corporation and the Advisory Boards of MIT's Lincoln Laboratories and the Draper Laboratory, and an advisor to Goldman Sachs. From 1990 until 1993, Dr. Carter was Director of the Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, and Chairman of the Editorial Board of International Security. Previously, he held positions at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment, and Rockefeller University.

Carter has served on various advisory boards critical to national security policy formulation: Dr. Carter is a member of the President's Management Council and the National Council on Federal-Labor-Management Relations. He has previously served on the White House Government Accountability and Transparency Board, the Defense Science Board, the Defense Policy Board, the Secretary of State's International Security Advisory Board, and the Congressional Commission on the Strategic Posture of the United States.

Dr. Carter is also a highly regarded science and technology expert: Dr. Carter is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Academy of Diplomacy and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the American Physical Society. Dr. Carter earned bachelor's degrees in physics and in medieval history from Yale University, summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, and received his doctorate in theoretical physics from Oxford University, where he was a Rhodes Scholar.

Ash Carter's nomination has strong bipartisan support.

On February 10, 2015, Dr. Carter's nomination was reported favorably by a unanimous, bipartisan vote of 25 – 0 by the members of the Senate Armed Services Committee.