



Robert M. Gates

22nd Secretary of Defense

Robert M. Gates served as the 22nd secretary of defense (2006-2011). He is the only secretary of defense in U.S. history to be asked to remain in office by a newly elected president. Dr. Gates served eight U.S. presidents across both parties. On Gates's last day in office, President Barack Obama awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom, America's highest civilian honor.

Before becoming secretary of defense in 2006, he was the president of Texas A&M University, one of the nation's largest universities.

He served in the CIA for nearly 27 years, culminating his service as director of Central Intelligence from 1991 to 1993. He is the only career officer in CIA's history to rise from entry-level employee to director. He spent nearly nine years on the National Security Council at the White House, serving four administrations across both parties.

Dr. Gates has been awarded the National Security Medal, the Presidential Citizens Medal, has received the National Intelligence Distinguished Service Medal three times, and has received CIA's highest award three times, the Distinguished Intelligence Medal.

Dr. is currently a principal at the consulting firm, Rice, Hadley, Gates & Manuel, LLC, with former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and former National Security Advisor Stephen Hadley. Additionally, he is Chancellor of William & Mary, his alma matter. He has served on various public boards, to include Starbucks, the NCAA, the American Council on Education, and the Boy Scouts of America. Gates has authored four books, covering his experiences at CIA and at the Pentagon, leadership, and U.S. nonmilitary instruments of power.