Jun. 12, 2004

War on Terror

Transformation

**News Products** 

Press Resource:

**Images** 

Websites Updated



## DONALD H. RUMSFELD

## **Secretary of Defense**



Donald H. Rumsfeld was sworn in as the 21st <u>Secretary of Defense</u> on January 20, 2001. Before assuming his present post, the former Navy pilot had also served as the 13th Secretary of Defense, White House Chief of Staff, U.S. Ambassador to NATO, U.S. Congressman and chief executive officer of two Fortune 500 companies.

Secretary Rumsfeld is responsible for directing the actions of the Defense Department in response to the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. The war is being waged against a backdrop of major change within the Department of Defense. The department has developed a new defense strategy and replaced the old model for sizing forces with a newer approach more relevant to the 21st century. Secretary Rumsfeld proposed and the President approved a significant reorganization of the worldwide command structure, known as the Unified Command Plan, that resulted in the establishment of the U.S. Northern Command and the U.S. Strategic Command, the latter charged with the responsibilities formerly held by the Strategic and Space Commands which were disestablished.



The Department also has refocused its space capabilities and fashioned a new concept of strategic det that increases security while reducing strategic nuclear weapons. To help strengthen the deterrent, the defense research and testing program has been reorganized and revitalized, free of the restraints of the treaty.

Mr. Rumsfeld attended Princeton University on academic and NROTC scholarships (A.B., 1954) and the U.S. Navy (1954-57) as an aviator and flight instructor. In 1957, he transferred to the Ready Reservontinued his Naval service in flying and administrative assignments as a drilling reservist until 1975. transferred to the Standby Reserve when he became Secretary of Defense in 1975 and to the Retired I with the rank of Captain in 1989.

In 1957, he came to Washington, DC to serve as Administrative Assistant to a Congressman. After a san investment banking firm, he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from Illinois in 1962 age of 30, and was re-elected in 1964, 1966, and 1968.

Mr. Rumsfeld resigned from Congress in 1969 during his fourth term to join the President's Cabinet. I 1969 to 1970, he served as Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity and Assistant to the President 1971 to 1972, he was Counsellor to the President and Director of the Economic Stabilization Pr 1973, he left Washington, DC, to serve as U.S. Ambassador to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in Brussels, Belgium (1973-1974).

In August 1974, he was called back to Washington, DC, to serve as Chairman of the transition to the Presidency of Gerald R. Ford. He then became Chief of Staff of the White House and a member of the President's Cabinet (1974-1975). He served as the 13th U.S. Secretary of Defense, the youngest in the

history (1975-1977).

From 1977 to 1985 he served as Chief Executive Officer, President, and then Chairman of G.D. Searl worldwide pharmaceutical company. The successful turnaround there earned him awards as the Outst Chief Executive Officer in the Pharmaceutical Industry from the Wall Street Transcript (1980) and Fi World (1981). From 1985 to 1990 he was in private business.

Mr. Rumsfeld served as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of General Instrument Corporation from to 1993. General Instrument Corporation was a leader in broadband transmission, distribution, and accontrol technologies. Until being sworn in as the 21st Secretary of Defense, Mr. Rumsfeld served as Coffithe Board of Gilead Sciences, Inc., a pharmaceutical company.

Before returning for his second tour as Secretary of Defense, Mr. Rumsfeld chaired the bipartisan U.S Missile Threat Commission, in 1998, and the U.S. Commission to Assess National Security Space Management and Organization, in 2000.

During his business career, Mr. Rumsfeld continued his public service in a variety of Federal posts, ir

- Member of the President's General Advisory Committee on Arms Control (1982 1986);
- Special Presidential Envoy on the Law of the Sea Treaty (1982 1983);
- Senior Advisor to the President's Panel on Strategic Systems (1983 1984);
- Member of the U.S. Joint Advisory Commission on U.S./Japan Relations (1983 1984);
- Special Presidential Envoy to the Middle East (1983 1984);
- Member of the National Commission on Public Service (1987 1990);
- Member of the National Economic Commission (1988 1989);
- Member of the Board of Visitors of the National Defense University (1988 1992);
- Member of the Commission on U.S./Japan Relations (1989 1991); and
- Member of the U.S. Trade Deficit Review Commission (1999 2000).

While in the private sector, Mr. Rumsfeld's civic activities included service as a member of the Nation Academy of Public Administration and a member of the boards of trustees of the Gerald R. Ford Four the Hoover Institution at Stanford University, and the National Park Foundation, and as Chairman of Eisenhower Exchange Fellowships, Inc.

In 1977, Mr. Rumsfeld was awarded the nation's highest civilian award, the Presidential Medal of Fre

