

Carter Bids Farewell to the Defense Department

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE (DEC. 2, 2013)

Claudette Roulo

WASHINGTON—Senior Defense Department, White House, and congressional leaders bade farewell to Deputy Defense Secretary Ash Carter today in a Pentagon ceremony marked by both laughter and tears.

Carter's final working day is Wednesday, but today's ceremony marked his official goodbye to the department.

Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff opened the ceremony by noting that an internet search for "Ashton," brought up the actor Ashton Kucher before Ashton Carter. While the two share a first name, he laughed, according to Politico, Carter is more famous for making "think-tanker's hearts flutter."

Carter "worked without glamor or fame behind the scenes to make sure through good management, common sense, and discipline that we are an organization that continues to adapt," during his tenure with the department, the general said.

"I think he's been called the most important, least known figure in Washington," Dempsey added.

Carter, who served as under secretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logistics from April 2009 until his appointment as deputy secretary in October 2011, had one moment of fame, the chairman said.

During the recent sequestration-related furloughs of Defense Department employees, the deputy secretary—exempt from furlough—returned a fifth of his pay in solidarity with furloughed workers.

"He became known as the superhero of sequestration," Dempsey said. "We did respect his willingness to put skin in the game, to be personally invested and to think big when many around him were thinking small."

Long after Carter departs, the nation will continue to benefit from his unflinching focus on mission, on facts, and what works, said White House Chief of Staff Denis McDonough. McDonough also delivered remarks from President Barack Obama, who called Carter's work "extraordinary."

In his two tours at the Defense Department, Carter served under 11 defense secretaries, among them former secretary Leon E. Panetta, who sent his regards in a note read by Jeremy Bash, Panetta's former chief of staff.

"I couldn't have done my job as secretary without you," Bash read. "You are the real deal—a brilliant and compassionate patriot who brings as much heart to the cause of running the DoD as you do to the bedside of a wounded service member."

The entire Defense Department has benefitted from Carter's leadership, said Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel.

"His career in public service is a model for all who aspire to real and effective public service," Hagel said.

The secretary noted that Carter's practical vision gave hope to those who strive for better things.

"Throughout his career, Ash Carter has shown again and again that he can translate his high ideals into better, more efficient, more effective ways of doing business for our department, for our people, and for our country," Hagel said. "In the course of those efforts, he's made a better world ... He is a reformer."

Hagel presented Carter with the Department of Defense Award for Distinguished Public Service with a gold palm, the highest civilian award presented by the secretary of defense. Carter also received the Joint Distinguished Civilian Service Award, the highest civilian award given by the DoD.

"It's been the greatest privilege of my life," Carter said of his time as deputy defense secretary. "Nobody accomplishes anything in this building without other people," he said, noting that he was blessed with a spectacular team of colleagues.

Carter spoke about his hopes for the future, starting with a chance to win in Afghanistan. "Winning is truly within our grasp," he said. A win means Afghanistan's people can have a decent, secure life, and America retains its reputation for keeping its commitments to its friends, he added.

"More broadly, I hope we continue to learn ever better ways to combat terrorism, because as long as there is human society, there will be the problem of the few against the many, the aberrant and twisted against the decent and tolerant civilized life."

"To leave behind the era of Iraq and Afghanistan and Osama bin Laden and face this department towards the challenges and opportunities that will define the future for ... our successors as soldiers and citizens."

Peace and prosperity will depend in the future on the pivotal stabilizing role of America's military, Carter said. And so, he added, he hopes to see the nation invest in new capabilities in cyber, special operations forces, space, intelligence, and more.

"And I hope to see us advance the numbers and capabilities of the alliances and partnerships that the U.S. only, because of the values it represents, has. Our challengers and antagonists have none."

Carter, as he has often done, again expressed strong views about the ongoing discord over the federal budget.

"We can fulfill our strategic destiny as the single most important provider of security to the world without the ever-increasing defense budgets we once enjoyed," he said. "But the turbulence surrounding governance in Washington is having serious effects.

"It injects inefficiencies into our programs and industry that we're striving to have deliver better buying power to the taxpayer for their dollars.

"It's unsafe, because it affects the readiness of the forces that would respond to contingencies.

"It's dispiriting to and unworthy of the patriots—military and civilian—who serve this government.

"Most seriously, it embarrasses us in front of friends and allies—and also potential opponents.

"A great and strong nation needs a working government," Carter said.

The uncertainty is purely the result of political gridlock, he added, and the service members and citizens of the nation deserve better.

Carter said he also hopes that the department continues its internal efforts to change the way it operates.

"All of this I hope for you, our amazing force represented by you here," he said.

Carter told the audience he has "complete confidence, that with President Obama, Secretary Hagel, and this superb leadership, the department will meet its management challenges and grasp all the right strategic opportunities ahead for your America.

General Officer Assignment

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NEWS RELEASE (DEC. 12, 2013)

The chief of staff, Air Force announced today the following assignment: Brig. Gen. Ferdinand B. Stoss, deputy director, nuclear operations, Headquarters U.S. Strategic Command, Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., to director, plans, programs and requirements, Headquarters Air Force Global Strike Command, Barksdale Air Force Base, La.

General Officer Assignment

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NEWS RELEASE (JAN. 8, 2014)

The chief of staff, Army announced the following assignments:

- Maj. Gen. Harold J. Greene, deputy for acquisition and systems management, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics and Technology), Washington, D.C., to deputy commanding general, Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan, Operation Enduring Freedom, Afghanistan.
- Brig. Gen. James H. Dickinson, commanding general, 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command, Fort Bliss, Texas, to deputy to the inspector general, Office of the Secretary of the Army, Washington, D.C.
- Brig. Gen. Donald G. Fryc, commandant, U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery School, U.S. Army Fires Center of Excellence, Fort Sill, Okla., to commanding general, 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command, Fort Bliss, Texas.
- Brig. Gen. John B. Morrison, Jr., commanding general, 7th Signal Command (Theater), Fort Gordon, Ga., to commanding general, U.S. Army Network Enterprise Technology Command, Fort Huachuca, Ariz.

General Officer Announcements

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NEWS RELEASE (JAN. 9, 2014)

Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel announced today that the president has made the following nominations:

- Air Force Col. Roy-Alan C. Agustin has been nominated for appointment to the rank of brigadier general. Agustin is currently serving as the command civil engineer and deputy director for installations and mission support, Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command, Robins Air Force Base, Ga.
- Air Force Col. Mark A. Baird has been nominated for appointment to the rank of brigadier general. Baird is currently serving as the senior materiel leader and director, Space Superiority Systems Directorate, Space and Missile Systems Center, Air Force Space Command, Los Angeles Air Force Base, Calif.
- Air Force Col. Stephen L. Davis has been nominated for appointment to the rank of brigadier general. Davis is currently serving as the assistant deputy director, nuclear,

Homeland Defense and Current Operations, J-33, Joint Staff, Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

- Air Force Col. Eric T. Fick has been nominated for appointment to the rank of brigadier general. Fick is currently serving as the program executive officer for intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance and special operations forces, Air Force Life Cycle Management Center, Air Force Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.
- Air Force Col. Paul H. Guemmer has been nominated for appointment to the rank of brigadier general. Guemmer is currently serving as the deputy director, strategy, policy and logistics, Headquarters U.S. Transportation Command, Scott Air Force Base, Ill.
- Air Force Col. Gregory M. Gutterman has been nominated for appointment to the rank of brigadier general. Gutterman is currently serving as the senior materiel leader and F-22 systems program director, Fighters and Bombers Directorate, Air Force Life Cycle Management Center, Air Force Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.
- Air Force Col. Thomas E. Murphy has been nominated for appointment to the rank of brigadier general. Murphy is currently serving as the deputy director, operations and plans, Headquarters U.S. Transportation Command, Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

General Officer Announcement

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NEWS RELEASE (JAN. 14, 2014)

Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel announced today that the president has made the following nomination: Army Lt. Gen. David D. Halverson, for reappointment to the rank of lieutenant general and for assignment as assistant chief of staff for Installation Management/commanding general, Installation Management Command, Washington, D.C. Halverson is currently serving as deputy commanding general/chief of staff, United States Army Training and Doctrine Command, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va.

Senior Executive Service Announcements

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NEWS RELEASE (JAN. 15, 2014)

Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel announced the following appointment and reassignments:

- Joseph K. Sikes has been assigned as the director, science and technology for installations and environment, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics), Washington, D.C. Sikes previously served as the director, facilities energy and privatization, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics), Washington, D.C.
- Matthew P. Dubois has been appointed to the Senior Executive Service and has been assigned as deputy assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs (materiel and fa-

ilities), Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), Arlington, Va. Dubois previously served as director of materiel, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, Arlington, Va.

AF Acquisition Chief Nominee Testifies

SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS (JAN. 17, 2014)

Ed Gulick

WASHINGTON—Dr. Bill LaPlante testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee Jan. 16 during his nomination hearing to be the next assistant secretary of the Air Force for acquisition.

“I’ve spent over 28 years around systems technologies, acquisition programs; touching all aspects of those programs for all Services,” he said. “This experience along with my time on the Defense Science Board offers firsthand impressions of Defense acquisition.”

Many of those years were spent at Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory in Laurel, Md., and eight more spent as the department head for the University’s Global Engagement Department before moving to MITRE as the Missile Defense Portfolio director.

“In all that time I’ve formed impressions and opinions on the challenges of acquisition,” LaPlante said. “I come from a community that desperately wants to make a difference; a community that wants to find the game-changing technology needed by the warfighter and get it into production; a community that wants to invent a clever way to do contracting so that we finish a development contract on time—I come from a community that just wants to make a difference.”

During the hearing, LaPlante was questioned by committee members on the time it takes to develop and field weapon systems, the importance of science and technology investment, and how to speed up cyber acquisition.

In his response on the importance of science and technology during a drawdown, he highlighted how the U.S. military has used technological superiority as an advantage in all conflicts and that the military must continue research or risk losing the advantage.

On cyber acquisition, LaPlante stressed the Service must learn what the vulnerabilities are in our weapon systems and work to reduce risks, a task that may sound simple but is actually very difficult. He said resiliency must be built into

systems, but the time required to design and acquire a weapon system makes that difficult.

“A problem two years ago is not a problem today, and what’s a problem today we couldn’t have imagined two years ago,” LaPlante said. “So, anything that will help us build resiliency and get the compliance part of the system to be much quicker would be very helpful.”

If confirmed, LaPlante will follow Sue Payton who left the position in April 2009. LaPlante currently serves as the principal deputy, assistant secretary of the Air Force for acquisition.

General Officer Assignments

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NEWS RELEASE (JAN. 23, 2014)

The chief of staff, Army announced the following assignments:

- Brig. Gen. Peggy C. Combs, commandant, U.S. Army Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear School, U.S. Army Maneuver Support Center of Excellence, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., to commanding general, U.S. Army Cadet Command and Fort Knox, Fort Knox, Ky.
- Brig. Gen. Maria R. Gervais, deputy commanding general, U.S. Army Cadet Command, Fort Knox, Ky., to commandant, U.S. Army Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear School, U.S. Army Maneuver Support Center of Excellence, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

General Officer Assignments

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NEWS RELEASE (JAN. 24, 2014)

The chief of staff, Air Force announced the following assignments:

- Maj. Gen. John B. Cooper, director, logistics, Deputy Chief of Staff, Logistics, Installations and Mission Support, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Pentagon, Washington, D.C., to director, logistics, Headquarters Air Combat Command, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va.
- Brig. Gen. Kathryn J. Johnson, director, system integration, Deputy Chief of Staff, Logistics, Installations and Mission Support, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Pentagon, Washington, D.C., to director, logistics, Deputy Chief of Staff, Logistics, Installations and Mission Support, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Pentagon, Washington, D.C.
- Col. Paul W. Tibbets IV, who has been selected for the grade of brigadier general, deputy director, operations, Headquarters Air Force Global Strike Command, Barksdale Air Force Base, La., to deputy director, nuclear opera-



Dr. William A. LaPlante is the principal deputy, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Acquisition), Washington, D.C.

U.S. Air Force photo

tions (J3N), Headquarters U.S. Strategic Command, Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

PEO Aviation Changes Leadership

ARMY NEWS SERVICE (JAN. 27, 2014)

Sofia Bledsoe

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala.—The Program Executive Office for Aviation changed leadership during a change of charter ceremony Jan. 24.

Maj. Gen. William “Tim” Crosby relinquished the charter to Brig. Gen. Bob Marion, who was promoted in a ceremony earlier in the morning. Crosby, who served as PEO for Aviation since 2008, retired today after almost 35 years of military service. Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology Heidi Shyu presided over both ceremonies.

“We have marked changes of leadership with ceremonies to pay tribute to the outgoing leader and impress upon the new leader,” said Shyu during the ceremony. “He must build on the legacy of his predecessors’ achievements and lead his team through these turbulent times.”

Operations in Iraq and Afghanistan over the past decade increased the demand for aviation assets and made it clear that Army aviation is the critical enabler on the battlefield.

Shyu recognized Crosby for his determined leadership over the years, emphasizing that it is because of his guidance that there is a solid trust and inseparable link between Army aviation and the ground forces they support.

“Our aviation systems are the most admired in the world. Everybody wants what we have,” said Shyu.

During Crosby’s tenure, the Army fielded approximately 1,070 rotary wing aircraft and 3,070 Unmanned Aircraft Systems across the Services. He championed acquisition streamlining and reform, and led the Army’s first Soldier-Focused Logistics Management Team, revolutionizing the acquisition process; and established a single point of oversight and accountability, and presented one face to the soldier. SFL evolved into what is now known as Life Cycle Management.

“It really boils down to having great people,” said Crosby. He attributed the success of PEO Aviation to the workforce, adding, “Soldiers may not know your faces, but they know that they have a product they can trust.”

During his tenure, Crosby championed several principal modernization efforts, including the CH-47F Chinook, AH-64E Apache, UH-60M Black Hawk, the unprecedented growth of Army UAS, whose rapid addition to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan led to innovations such as communications relay and the use of manned-unmanned teaming—a revolutionary game changer in the battlefield.

“Tim recognized the need to build into our acquisition strategies the ability to upgrade as technology progresses and led his large, complex portfolio and team with both discipline and a great spirit and humor,” said Shyu. “PEO Aviation has the best and most well managed portfolio in the Army. I can always depend on Tim for getting the job done and giving me the unblemished truth of things.”

Marion assumed responsibility as the Army’s top aviation acquisition officer responsible for purchasing and managing the life cycle of all of the Army’s aviation weapon systems and equipment—rotary wing, fixed wing, and unmanned aircraft systems—and providing executive-level management to more than 3,000 military, government civilian, and contractor employees. He is charged with an annual average budget of more than \$7.5 billion, the largest procurement budget in the Army.

“Bob is an excellent choice to lead this program executive office and build on its achievements,” said Shyu. Shyu came to know Marion well during his most recent assignment as her assistant deputy for acquisition and systems manage-

ment. He is also familiar to PEO Aviation, having served most recently as the project manager for Cargo Helicopters where he had a number of achievements, including the successful negotiation of the second CH-47F Chinook multi-year contract.

“My commitment is to continue with the tradition of taking care of soldiers,” said Marion. “I promise to bring the same passion and dedication to serving soldiers and providing thorough analysis in my decision making. You can count on this organization because of the culture Maj. Gen. Crosby has established.”

Crosby received several awards during his retirement ceremony, including the Distinguished Service Medal, the Order of Saint Michael Gold Award, a congratulatory letter from the commander-in-chief, and the Presidential Certificate of Appreciation. He received several letters of appreciation from congressional and state representatives, which were presented to him at his retirement dinner on Jan. 22.

The Program Executive Office for Aviation is the Army manager for eight project offices including: Apache Attack Helicopters, Utility Helicopters, Cargo Helicopters, Armed Scout Helicopters, Unmanned Aircraft Systems, Fixed Wing Aircraft, Aviation Systems, and Non-Standard Rotary Wing Aircraft. The organization’s primary responsibility is to efficiently and effectively manage cost, schedule and performance of the Army’s aviation assets.

Established in 1987, PEO Aviation’s top priority is to reduce the burden on the soldier, enabling the unit commanders to complete their missions successfully, focus on training, and take care of their people.

President to Nominate Several to Key DoD Positions

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE (JAN. 31, 2014)

Terri Moon Cronk

WASHINGTON—President Barack Obama has announced his intent to nominate four people to key Defense Department positions, all of which require Senate confirmation.

They are:

- Miranda A. A. Ballentine, to be assistant secretary of the Air Force for installations, environment, and logistics;
- Michael McCord, to be undersecretary of Defense (controller);
- Brian P. McKeon, to be principal deputy undersecretary of Defense for policy; and
- Christine E. Wormuth, to be undersecretary of defense for policy.

Ballentine is the director of sustainability, renewable energy, sustainable facilities, and stakeholder engagement for Wal-Mart Stores Inc., a position she has held since 2008. Since 2001, Ballentine has served as a guest lecturer at Duke University, George Washington University and Kenan-Flagler School of Business. She has a bachelor's degree from Colorado State University and a master's of business administration degree from George Washington University.

McCord is presently the principal deputy undersecretary of defense (comptroller), a position he has held since 2009. From 1987 to 2004, McCord served in a number of roles on the Senate Armed Services Committee. He has a bachelor's degree from Ohio State University and a master's degree from the University of Pennsylvania.

McKeon is deputy assistant to the president, executive secretary of the National Security Council, and chief of staff for the National Security Staff at the White House, a position he has served in since 2012. McKeon served as the deputy national security advisor to the vice president from 2009 to 2012.

He was on the Presidential Transition's State Department Agency Review Team, and served as the deputy staff director and chief counsel at the Senate Foreign Relations Committee from 1997 to 2009, serving under then-Sen. Joe Biden. He previously was a law clerk to U.S. District Judge Robert Doumar. McKeon has a bachelor's degree from the University of Notre Dame and a law degree from Georgetown University Law Center.

Wormuth is deputy undersecretary of defense (strategy, plans, and forces) a position she has held since 2012. Be-

fore coming to DoD, Wormuth was special assistant to the president for national security affairs and senior director for defense policy on the National Security Staff from 2010 to 2012.

Previously, she served as principal deputy assistant secretary of defense for homeland defense and Americas' security affairs in the office of the secretary of defense from 2009 to 2010.

Before joining the administration, she was a senior fellow in the international security program at the center for strategic and international studies from 2004 to 2009. Wormuth received her bachelor's degree from Williams College and a master's degree in public policy from the School of Public Affairs, University of Maryland.

Presidential Nomination

OFFICE OF FEDERAL PROCUREMENT POLICY NEWS (FEB. 3, 2014)

Jeff Zients

Today, President Obama nominated Joe Jordan to be the Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy. Joe brings to the role private sector management experience as well as public sector experience as associate administrator for Government Contracting and Business Development at the Small Business Administration. "Having worked closely with former Administrator Dan Gordon and Acting Administrator Lesley Field, Joe has a keen understanding of the terrain. I look forward to working with him in this new role as we continue to build on the important work of the past three years to make sure our procurement system delivers for the American taxpayers."

Zients is acting director of the Office of Management and Budget.