

## **SPeD Conferral Ceremony**

**April 1, 2011**

**Mr. Stan Sims**

Last year, when I was sitting on the OSD staff, and I was the security, director of the security directorate, and head of policy, and we had, and we had our annual security manager's conference, I think it was then that I said that security was a growth industry, OK. And we talked about the events of 9/11, and how the information age changed security for the department and our nation. And I told many of the people in the audience there that if you were, if you are a security professional, if you consider yourself a security professional, then you ought to be excited about this program. This program is a major part of the security community future.

So what is SPeD? You know, security professional education development. It is DoD's initiative to professionalize the security workforce. Professionalize the security workforce. It means that the department has put some stake in what the security professionals do for this department. And the SPeD program, as I am the director of the Defense Security Service, and DSS is, by the instructions, that's produced by the undersecretary, it assigns DSS as the functional manager for the execution and maintenance of security training within the Department of Defense. So SPeD is not really just a certification program. I don't want anybody to leave here thinking this is just a certification program. No, it's more than that. It's really a holistic approach on how we're going to do security training and professionalizing our security community. It's about training, it's about education, it's about career path development and planning. It's about a continuing education through seminars and conferences and going to school and taking tests. It's all about all of that. And also, it's about the certification. It's also about transferable skills throughout the Department of Defense.

So if someone needs DSS or DLA or the Army or the Air Force, they go to any one of the other components and they say I'm a security professional and they've got their certification, that component knows what they have in that individual. That's powerful.

For our nation, what does this program give us? Defense security standards. It drives professional accountability. Professional accountability. And it also moves DoD and national security plans and objectives for developing our workforce. Developing our workforce. You.