



Defense Security Service

Office of Public Affairs
601 10th Street, Fort George G. Meade, Maryland 20755-5134
(301) 677-4173, Fax: (301) 677-4123
<http://www.dss.mil>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALEXANDRIA, VA. July 1, 2002 – Mr. William A. Curtis becomes Acting Director of the Defense Security Service



Mr. William A. Curtis, *Director for Information Technology (IT) Investment and Acquisition* in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Command, Control, Communications, and Intelligence (C3I), has been selected as *the Acting Director of the Defense Security Service* by Assistant Secretary of Defense (C3I), John P. Stenbit. Curtis replaces Charles J. Cunningham, Jr., Lt. Gen., USAF (Ret.), who held that position since June 1999, and retired Friday from Government Service.

Mr. Curtis will provide executive leadership and strategic guidance for the executive direction and control of the three core missions of DSS, personnel security investigations, industrial security, and security education and training programs (both personnel and industrial security), program policy, planning, development, execution and evaluation. Mr. Curtis will also be responsible for organizing DSS for maximum efficiency, effectiveness and economy; and development of appropriate management information systems. . "I am enthusiastic about the new position," he said. "I look forward to this new challenge. While I have much to learn about the security business, I am sure I can apply to DSS all that I've learned in the acquisition and IT fields."

From March 2000 to June 2002, Mr. Curtis was the *Director for Information Technology (IT) Investment and Acquisition* in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of

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Defense, Command, Control, Communications, and Intelligence (C3I). His responsibilities encompassed oversight for all ASD (C3I) Milestone Decision Authority major automation information systems and other selected acquisition programs, and ensuring the adherence to Clinger-Cohen Act requirements. He also oversaw the DoD IT System Registry, and IT Workforce improvement initiatives.

In March 1998 he was selected by the Pentagon leadership as the single Defense executive to organize and lead the Department's critical Year 2000 activities. He implemented a bold gameplan that provided focus, clarity, and direction to executing OSD oversight responsibilities of the 43 services and components. The initiatives demonstratively accelerated the rate of progress in achieving the Department's Year 2000 strategy.

Prior to coming to OSD he was with the Defense Information Systems Agency. He initially served as the Director for C4I Programs responsible for the Global Command and Control System (GCCS), the Defense Message System (DMS), the Defense Information System Network (DISN), Information Assurance (IA), and Electronic Commerce (EC) programs. He subsequently served as the Director for Procurement and Logistics where he spearheaded agency-wide acquisition reform and was the Source Selection Authority for major agency contracts.

Before joining the civil service in 1992 he served in the US Army as an Infantry Officer in a variety of key command and staff positions. As a Colonel, he commanded the US Army's Decision Systems Management Agency, which provided decision support and technical expertise to the Office of the Chief of Staff, Army. He also served as the program manager for US Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) Counter-Narcotics Command Management System. He served in Infantry assignments in Germany, Vietnam, and Korea.

His education includes dual Masters degrees in Operations Research and Analysis, and in Business Administration from Tulane University, and a Bachelors

degree in Electrical Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He is a graduate of the Armed Forces Staff and Army War Colleges.

For his work on Y2K he received the Secretary of Defense Medal of Meritorious Civilian Service. He has also been named to Federal Computer Week's Federal 100 in 1997, 1998 and 2000. His military awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, Combat Infantryman Badge, Ranger Tab, Parachutist Badge, and the Army General Staff Badge.