

### **Robert Gates – Secretary of Defense**

Robert Gates was born in 1943. He received an undergraduate degree from William & Mary University, a master's degree from Indiana University, and a PhD from Georgetown University.

In 1966, Gates was recruited and hired by the Central Intelligence Agency. A year later, he joined the United States Air Force as a second lieutenant, and served two years in the Strategic Air Command as an intelligence officer. Following his military service, Gates rejoined the CIA, serving in various capacities. He also served on the National Security Council from 1974-79.

In 1987, Gates was nominated by President Reagan for CIA director, but withdrew his name after controversy surrounding his role in the Iran-Contra scandal. He was a national security adviser for the first President Bush from 1989-1991, when he did in fact become CIA director.

Gates left the CIA in 1993 and spent the following years as a professor, author, and commentator. In 1996 he wrote From the Shadows: The Ultimate Insider's Story of Five Presidents and How They Won the Cold War. In 2002, Gates became dean of Texas A & M University, where he served four years.

In 2006, following the midterm elections, Gates was nominated by President George W. Bush to succeed Donald Rumsfeld as Secretary of Defense. He was confirmed 95-2 by the U.S. Senate and currently holds the position.

Sources:

U.S. Department of Defense, *Dr. Robert M. Gates, Secretary of Defense*, at <http://www.defenselink.mil/bios/biographydetail.aspx?biographyid=115> (last visited Nov. 26, 2008).

*Bush Replaces Rumsfeld to Get 'Fresh Perspective'*, CNN.com, Nov. 8, 2006, at <http://www.cnn.com/2006/POLITICS/11/08/rumsfeld/index.html> (last visited Nov. 26, 2008).