

Robert Gates

Robert Gates is the 22nd and current United State Secretary of Defense. Prior to becoming Secretary of Defense, he served for 26 years in the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and on the National Security Council. Between working for the CIA and acting as Secretary of Defense, Gates was president of Texas A & M University.

Robert Gates is a native of Wichita, Kansas. He attended Wichita High School East and graduated with straight A's in 1961. Gates attained the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America. He is also a member of Scouting's National Honor Society, the Order of the Arrow.

After high school, Gates received a scholarship to attend the College of William and Mary. He graduated in 1965 with a degree in history. He then pursued a Master's degree from Indiana University and completed his doctorate in Russian and Soviet history at Georgetown University.

Secretary Gates has been awarded the National Security Medal, the Presidential Citizens Medal, has twice received the National Intelligence Distinguished Service Medal, and has three times received CIA's highest award, the Distinguished Intelligence Medal.

Gates married his wife, Becky, in 1967. They had known each other for three months when he proposed.