
David J. Trachtenberg



The Honorable David J. Trachtenberg is Vice President of the National Institute for Public Policy, a nonprofit research center located in Fairfax, Virginia. He was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on October 17, 2017 as Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy and served in this capacity until his retirement from government service in July 2019. From October 2017 until January 2018, he also served as the Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, the principal civilian advisor to the Secretary of Defense on defense policy matters. His duties spanned a range of regional and functional portfolios, including homeland defense, space, cyber, nuclear and missile defense policy, technology security policy, and strengthening security cooperation activities with allies, friends and partners abroad. He was also the senior Department of Defense civilian official responsible for developing, coordinating, and overseeing compliance with DoD policy regarding civilian casualties resulting from military operations.

Prior to his confirmation, Mr. Trachtenberg was an independent consultant on national security issues. From July 2008 to October 2017 he was President and Chief Executive Officer of Shortwaver Consulting, LLC. He has more than 40 years of experience in the national security policy field and has worked at senior levels in the Executive and Legislative branches of government. During his tenure at the Pentagon over two administrations, he served under five confirmed or acting Secretaries of Defense.

From October 2005 to September 2007, he was Vice President and head of the Strategic Analysis Division at CACI-National Security Research, providing strategic advice and oversight of CACI-NSR's support to private sector customers. Prior to NSR's merger with CACI in October 2005, he was Senior Vice President for Homeland Security at National Security Research, Inc. From August 2003 to March 2005, he served as NSR's Senior Vice President for Corporate Support.

Prior to joining NSR, Mr. Trachtenberg was Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Policy with responsibility for issues relating to NATO, Europe, Russia and Eurasia, technology security, counterproliferation, missile defense, nuclear forces, and arms control. From October 2001 to April 2002, and again from May to July 2003, he also served as the acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Forces Policy, heading the office responsible for the 2001 Nuclear Posture Review. He also represented the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy at meetings of the Nuclear Weapons Council. He headed numerous interagency delegations abroad in support of the President's direction to the Secretary of Defense to encourage international cooperation on missile defense, leading discussions with Russia on this topic. He was appointed to his OSD position as a member of the Senior Executive Service by Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld in October 2001. He is also a two-time recipient of the Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service, the highest honorary award presented by DoD to private citizens.

From 1995-2001, Mr. Trachtenberg was a Professional Staff Member with the House Committee on Armed Services (HASC) in Washington, D.C. As head of the Committee's policy staff, he was responsible for numerous defense policy issues, including ballistic missile defense, arms control, the "Nunn-Lugar" Cooperative Threat Reduction program, counter-terrorism, Bosnia and Kosovo, Iraq and the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM), technology transfer, China, export controls, and proliferation. In addition, he was the staff lead for the HASC Special Oversight Panel on Terrorism. He co-authored the HASC investigative report on the June 1996 terrorist bombing of Khobar Towers in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, and was the lead investigator and author of the HASC staff report on the U.S.S.

Cole attack. He also helped draft the legislation creating the independent Commission to Assess the Ballistic Missile Threat to the United States (a.k.a. the "Rumsfeld Commission").

Formerly, Mr. Trachtenberg was National Security Senior Analyst and Member of the Technical Staff at The Analytic Sciences Corporation (TASC) in Arlington, VA, where he provided analytic and research support to the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization and executive support to the Chairman of the BMD Advisory Committee - the senior independent DoD advisory group on all matters relating to ballistic missile defense acquisition, system development, and technology. At TASC, he established the TASC Arms Control and Proliferation Analysis Center and worked on counterproliferation issues for the Air Force and the Defense Airborne Reconnaissance Office.

Prior to joining TASC, Mr. Trachtenberg was Senior Defense Analyst of the Committee on the Present Danger in Washington, D.C. He was a consultant to the President's General Advisory Committee on Arms Control and Disarmament and was a Research Associate with the Institute for Foreign Policy Analysis, Inc. He holds an A.B. in International Relations from the University of Southern California and a M.S. degree in Foreign Service from Georgetown University, knows Russian and French, and is a member of several national honor societies and defense-related professional organizations. An avid boater and shortwave radio enthusiast, he is also a longtime member of the U.S. Air Force Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS), a volunteer network of civilian amateur radio operators who provide communications support to the Department of Defense and the armed forces.

Mr. Trachtenberg has served on a number of government and private sector advisory boards reviewing U.S. defense posture, including the Defense Science Board Task Force on Missile Defense Information Policy and the Defense Science Board Task Force on Nuclear Capabilities. He was also a member of the U.S. Nuclear Strategy Forum, which was established to contribute to a more robust understanding by Congress and the general public of matters related to U.S. strategic policy. In addition, he supported the work of the congressionally chartered Commission to Assess the Threat to the United States from Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP) Attack (a.k.a. "EMP Commission"), receiving a Distinguished Service Award for his efforts.

Mr. Trachtenberg has testified before multiple congressional committees, been widely published, and been featured on television and radio, including on C-SPAN and the Voice of America. His articles on arms control, nuclear forces and capabilities, missile defense, public diplomacy, and non-lethal weapons, have appeared in *RealClear Defense*, *The Hill*, *Defense News*, *Roll Call*, *Joint Force Quarterly*, *Strategic Studies Quarterly*, *National Review Online*, *Jane's Defence Weekly*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, *Armed Forces Journal*, and other publications. He has also contributed articles and chapters to various books and journals, including *Comparative Strategy*, published by the National Institute for Public Policy; *Tailored Deterrence: Influencing States and Groups of Concern*, published by the USAF Counterproliferation Center; *National Security Policy Proceedings*, published by the Center for Security Policy; and *American National Security Policy: Essays in Honor of William R. Van Cleave*, published by National Institute Press. He also co-authored "Toward a New 'New Look': U.S. Nuclear Strategy and Forces for the Third Atomic Age," published by the American Enterprise Institute's Center for Defense Studies, and *Understanding American Nuclear Weapons Policy and Strategy: A Citizen's Guide to the Nuclear Posture Review and the Role of Nuclear Weapons in the 21st Century*, published by the U.S. Nuclear Strategy Forum. His recent book is *The Lawgivers' Struggle: How Congress Wields Power in National Security Decision Making*, published by National Institute Press.

Mr. Trachtenberg is also an adjunct professor teaching graduate seminars in nuclear deterrence and strategy and the role of Congress in national security policy at the Fairfax, Virginia campus of Missouri State University's Defense and Strategic Studies Program.