



BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

WILLIAM B. ROPER, JR.

Dr. Will Roper is the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics. As the Air Force's Service Acquisition Executive, Dr. Roper is responsible for and oversees Air Force research, development, and acquisition activities totaling an annual budget of over \$40 billion for over 465 acquisition programs. In this position, Dr. Roper serves as the principal advisor to the Secretary and Chief of Staff of the Air Force for research and development, test, production, and modernization efforts within the Air Force. In addition to his Air Force responsibilities, Dr. Roper is the Service Acquisition Executive for the Joint Strike Fighter. Dr. Roper also serves on the DoD's Cloud Executive Steering Group.

Before assuming his current position, Dr. Roper was the founding Director of the Pentagon's Strategic Capabilities Office (SCO). Established in 2012, the SCO imagines new—often unexpected and game-changing—uses of existing government and commercial systems: extending their shelf-life and restoring surprise to the military's playbook. Since 2012, SCO has grown from \$50M/year to the current \$1.5B/year request in President's 2018 budget with projects spanning new concepts such as hypervelocity artillery, multi-purpose missiles, autonomous fast-boats, smartphone-navigating weapons, big-data-enabled sensing, 3D-printed systems, standoff arsenal planes, fighter avatars, and fighter-dispersed swarming micro-drones which formed the world's then-largest swarm of 103 systems. During his tenure as SCO Director, Dr. Roper served on the Department's 2018 National Defense Strategy Steering Group and Defense Modernization Team.

Previously, Dr. Roper served as the Acting Chief Architect at the Missile Defense Agency (MDA) where he developed 11 new systems, including the current European Defense architecture, advanced drones, and classified programs. Before this, he worked at MIT Lincoln Laboratory and served as a missile defense advisor to the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics (USD/AT&L).

EDUCATION

2001 Bachelor of Science in Physics, Georgia Institute of Technology
2002 Master of Science in Physics, Georgia Institute of Technology
2010 Doctorate in Mathematics, Oxford University

CAREER CHRONOLOGY

1. January 2006 – June 2010, Missile Defense Advisor, MIT Lincoln Laboratory, Washington, D.C.
2. August 2010 – August 2011, Member, Missile Defense Advisory Committee, Missile Defense Agency, Washington D.C.
3. June 2010 – August 2012, Acting Chief Architect, Missile Defense Agency, Washington D.C.
4. August 2012 – February 2018, Director, Strategic Capabilities Office, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Washington, D.C.
5. February 2018 – present, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisitions, Technology and Logistics, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.

MAJOR AWARDS AND HONORS

Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service
Secretary of Defense's Award for Excellence
USD/AT&L Award for Innovation
MDA's Contractor of the Year
MDA's Innovation and Technology Awards
Rhodes Scholar

(Current as of February 2018)