

Gordon S. Heddell

Former Inspector General, Department of Defense

Gordon Heddell was nominated by President Barack Obama and confirmed by the United States Senate to be Inspector General of the Department of Defense in July 2009. Before that, Mr. Heddell served as the Acting Inspector General at Defense (designated by President George W. Bush) for one year.

In conjunction with his role as Defense Inspector General, Mr. Heddell served as a key member of the Executive Committee of the Federal Council of Inspectors General, chaired the Information Technology Committee, served as Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Public Inquiry, and served as Chairman of the Defense Council on Integrity and Efficiency. Mr. Heddell also served as the Chair (established by the National Defense Act 2009) of the Interagency Coordination Group of Inspectors General for the Realignment of U.S. Marine Forces from Okinawa to Guam.

Mr. Heddell was Nominated by President William J. Clinton and confirmed by the U.S. Senate in December 2000 to be Inspector General of the Department of Labor. He served there for over eight years leading efforts to combat labor racketeering and organized crime in the workplace, fraud against the Foreign Labor Certification Program, weaknesses in the Mine Safety and Health Administration, and oversight of all the programs and operations of the Department.

From July 2008, until July 2009, by designation of President George W. Bush, Mr. Heddell served simultaneously as the Inspector General at both the Labor and Defense Departments.

Before serving as inspector general, Mr. Heddell served as a special agent in the United States Secret Service for over two decades, rising to Assistant Director.

Mr. Heddell graduated number one from his Secret Service Treasury Federal Law Enforcement Academy class.

Mr. Heddell began his government service in the United States Army, serving for four years. After graduation from flight school, he served as a Chief Warrant Officer, Rotary Wing Aviator.

After retirement from the Department of Defense in December 2011, Mr. Heddell worked for Consulting Firm Booz Allen Hamilton in McLean, VA, for 14 months. While there, his title was Senior Executive Advisor.

In July 2013, Mr. Heddell returned to the Office of Inspector General at the U.S. Department of Labor at the Acting Secretary and the White House's request. He served as the Deputy Inspector General for Operations and Acting Inspector General for approximately four months until a permanent person could be nominated and confirmed by the Senate.

In January 2014, Mr. Heddell established "The Gordon Heddell Group, Inc", a small consulting firm providing information and support to business organizations regarding government operations. Today, Mr. Heddell continues his work as a private consultant, mainly giving pro bono advice to non-government organizations such as the Project on Government Oversight.

Mr. Heddell is the recipient of the prestigious Meritorious Presidential Rank Award for outstanding government service; and the Secretary of Defense Medal for Exceptional Public Service, the Department's highest civilian award. Mr. Heddell graduated from the University of Illinois, where he received his Master's Degree in Legal Studies. Before that, he received his Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from the University of Missouri. Mr. Heddell is a recipient of the Alumni Achievement Awards from both Universities. Mr. Heddell also was selected to be a Woodrow Wilson Public Service Fellow from 1994-2000.

Mr. Heddell led an initiative to create major partnerships between the Secret Service and two inner city Washington, D.C. public schools.

Mr. Heddell is a resident of Lumberville, Pennsylvania, where he lives with his wife, Nancy.