

Biography

Defense Threat Reduction Agency



Dr. Robert S. Pope



Dr. Robert Pope, a member of the Senior Executive Service (SES), is the Director of the Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR) Directorate for the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA). In his role as the Director, he executes the CTR mission of working with international partners to eliminate weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and related materials, including delivery systems, to provide safe and secure storage for materials of concern, and to detect and prevent WMD proliferation or the spread of especially dangerous diseases.

Dr. Pope was promoted to SES in November 2017 following his retirement from the U.S. Air Force after more than 26 years of active military service. In his final military assignment, he served in three positions at DTRA, culminating as the Deputy Director of the Operations, Readiness, and Exercises Directorate, leading three departments including CTR, to innovate, develop, and execute global counter WMD solutions. Previous positions include Deputy Director of the CTR Department and Chief of CTR's Program Integration Division.

In his earlier military assignments, Dr. Pope was the Chief of the Nuclear Development Branch at the Air Force Technical Application Center's Technical Operations Division, developing new radiochemical procedures to support U.S. monitoring of international nuclear weapons treaties. He was the Chief, Long-Range Strategy and Policy, Headquarters, United States Air Forces in Europe (USAFE), where he developed transformational concepts to meet the Command's evolving theater missions. As USAFE's Chief of Counterproliferation Plans and Policy, he developed the Command's guidance to counter WMD, including defensive measures, counterforce operations, and consequence management. He was the Chief of Research and Assessment for the Directorate of Public Affairs and Directorate of Strategic Communication, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force in the Pentagon, where he led social science research to assess the quantitative and qualitative effects of Air Force messages. He served in several positions at Headquarters U.S. Central Command, culminating as Deputy Chief of the Security Cooperation Division, guiding security cooperation efforts across the Central Command Area of Responsibility.

Dr. Pope holds a Bachelor of Science in Physics from Michigan State University in Lansing, a Master of Science in Nuclear Weapon Effects Physics from the Air Force Institute of Technology, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, a Doctor of Philosophy in Physics from the Air Force Institute of Technology, and a Master of Military Operational Art and Science from the Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama. He was also a National Defense Fellow in the International Security Program of the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard's Kennedy School, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

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