

# Defence Secretary Robert Gates

**Sep 25, 1943:** **Robert Michael Gates**  
born Wichita, Kansas

**1966-1974:** CIA intelligence analyst

**1974:** Awarded doctorate from  
Georgetown University

**1974-1979:** Joins **National Security  
Council** staff – backs military  
assistance to mujahideen following  
Soviet invasion of Afghanistan

**1981-1982:** Director of executive  
staff for CIA director

**1982-1986:** Deputy director  
for intelligence, chair of  
**National Intelligence  
Council** from 1983

**1986-1989:** Deputy  
director of CIA. Career  
dogged by controversy  
over **Iran-Contra affair**  
and CIA's role in secret  
arms sales to Tehran –  
nomination as CIA director withdrawn  
by President **Ronald Reagan** in 1987

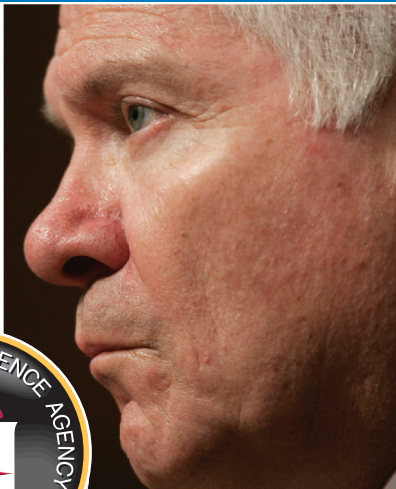
**1989:** Deputy assistant to president  
for national security affairs

**1989-1991:** Assistant to president  
and deputy for national security affairs

**1991-1993:** Appointed CIA director  
by President **George Bush Snr**, only  
career officer in CIA history to rise  
from entry-level position to director

Picture: Associated Press

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**1999-2001:** Interim dean of  
**George Bush School of  
Government and Public  
Service** at Texas A&M University

**2002-present:** President of Texas  
A&M University

**2005:** Turns down offer from  
President **George W. Bush** to  
become "intelligence czar"

**Nov 8, 2006:** Bush nominates Gates  
to serve as **Secretary of Defence**,  
replacing **Donald Rumsfeld**

**Dec 6:** Senate votes overwhelmingly  
to confirm Gates who pledges to  
consider new options in Iraq