

INSS Senior Staff Biography

James A. Schear Director, Research

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Dr. James A. Schear is Director of Research at the Institute for National Strategic Studies, National Defense University. Dr. Schear assumed his duties at INSS in March 2001.

Prior to joining the Institute, Dr. Schear served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Peacekeeping and Humanitarian Affairs from 1997-2001. In that capacity, he played a key role in developing and overseeing policy governing Department of Defense activities in the areas of foreign disaster relief, stabilization and peacekeeping operations, humanitarian assistance, negotiations on the laws of armed conflict, and crisis-action planning for complex contingencies. During his career, Dr. Schear has held research appointments at Harvard University, the Brookings Institution, the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, the International Institute for Strategic Studies and the Henry L. Stimson Center. From 1984-87, Dr. Schear served as Executive Officer of the Aspen Strategy Group, a bipartisan policy studies committee then co-chaired by LTG (ret.) Brent Scowcroft and Dr. William Perry. His previous public service includes work as a foreign affairs officer at the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (1978-81) and as an advisor to United Nations missions in Cambodia and Former Yugoslavia (1992-5).

Dr. Schear earned his Ph.D. in international relations from the London School of Economics and Political Science. He holds a Master's Degree from the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University, and a Bachelor of Arts Degree from American University's School of International Service. He has written and lectured widely on international security affairs. In 1999, he was awarded the Secretary of Defense Medal for Outstanding Public Service for his efforts during the Kosovo crisis.