



Biography

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Ambassador Henry F. Cooper **Director, Strategic Defense Initiative Organization** **July 10, 1990 - January 20, 1993**

Ambassador Henry F. Cooper is the Director of the Strategic Defense Initiative Organization, Department of Defense, Washington, D.C. He was appointed to this position by President Bush on July 10, 1990, and is the first civilian Director.

The Ambassador was born on November 8, 1936, in Augusta, Georgia. He was awarded a bachelor of science degree from Clemson University in 1958, and a master of science in 1960. He received his doctorate from New York University in 1964.

Ambassador Cooper taught Engineering Mechanics at Clemson University between 1958 and 1960, while studying for his master's degree there. From 1960 to 1964, he conducted independent research as a member of the technical staff of the world-renowned Bell Telephone Laboratories.

After his stint at Bell Labs in 1964, Ambassador Cooper served as 1st Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force and then as scientific advisor to the Air Force Weapons Laboratory until 1972. From 1972 to 1980, he served as a member of the Senior Technical Staff and program manager at R&D Associates. In 1980, he was named Deputy to the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force with programmatic oversight responsibilities for all Air Force strategic and space systems, a position he held until 1982. Between 1982 and 1983, Ambassador Cooper returned to R&D Associates, serving as the Deputy Director of the Nuclear Effects Division.

In November 1983, Ambassador Cooper was appointed by President Reagan to serve as the Assistant Director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. In that capacity he was responsible for backstopping all bilateral negotiations with the Soviet Union related to strategic and theater nuclear matters and chaired the Assistant Secretary-level interagency group responsible for developing U.S. Space Arms Control policy options. In March 1985, he was appointed by President Reagan as Ambassador and Deputy U.S. Negotiator at the Defense and Space Talks with the Soviet Union. In 1987, he was named Chief United States Negotiator at the Defense and Space Talks with the Soviet Union. From December 11, 1989, until being named Director of SDIO, Ambassador Cooper served as Senior Vice President for Strategic Planning at JAYCOR. He assumed his present position on July 10, 1990.

Ambassador Cooper is a nationally recognized expert on nuclear weapon effects, strategic systems, and policy and arms control matters. He has served as chairman, member, or consultant for numerous national-level committees, panels, and working groups in these areas.

Ambassador Cooper is the author of over one hundred publications on applied systems analysis, targeting analysis, strategic policy, intelligence, and arms control. He is a past or present member of ASME, ASCE, AIAA, AAAS, MORS Board of Directors, U.S. Strategic Institute, IISS, New York Academy of Science, American Men of Science, Who's Who in the West, Who's Who in Aviation and Aerospace, Tau Beta Pi, Phi Kappa Phi, Phi Eta Sigma and Sigma Xi, Board of Church and Society for California, Arizona and Hawaii Conference of the United Methodist Church, and Board of Advisors to the Clemson University College of Engineering.



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