Dr. John R. Harvey

From 2009 until retiring in 2013, Dr. John R. Harvey served as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Chemical, and Biological Defense Programs, initially under then Undersecretary Ash Carter. He was Dr. Carter's "go to" person for the 2010 Nuclear Posture Review, as well as for interactions with the Department of Energy on joint oversight of the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile. Dr. Harvey provided oversight to DoD acquisition programs to sustain and modernize nuclear weapons delivery systems and systems for their command and control.

From 2001-2009, Dr. Harvey directed the Policy Planning Staff of the National Nuclear Security Administration where he advised the Administrator on major policy and program decisions. He carried out studies and analyses relating to NSC-directed policy reviews, the work of the Nuclear Weapons Council, external advisory boards, and interagency working groups. He led development of the Strategic Planning Guidance that each year informs NNSA's program, planning, and budgeting process. Dr. Harvey was "point" for NNSA on the 2001 Nuclear Posture Review, the drafting of Presidential Directive NSPD-28 addressing the command, control, safety and security of U.S. nuclear forces, and the work of the Congressional Commission on the Strategic Posture of the United States.

From 1995-2001, Dr. Harvey served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear Forces and Missile Defense Policy where he developed and oversaw implementation of U.S. policy governing strategic and theater nuclear forces and ballistic missile defense. This included development of U.S. nuclear weapons employment policy, oversight of the Single Integrated Operational Plan (SIOP), interactions with allies on nuclear weapons matters including serving as the U.S. representative to the NATO High Level Group, and participation in program and budget reviews of U.S. nuclear forces and systems for their command and control. He was the Secretary's principal advisor and point of contact with other agencies and with Congress regarding the CTBT. He formulated U.S. policy on ballistic missile defense, provided direction to system developers, and oversaw efforts to provide shared early warning of missile attack to U.S. allies, friends and partners.

From 1989-1995, Dr. Harvey directed the Science Program at Stanford University's Center for International Security and Arms Control. He led research efforts on the proliferation of mass destruction weapons and delivery systems, the safety and security of U.S. nuclear forces, and the implications of advanced conventional weapons for regional security. He also lectured on arms control and national security in the academic program at Stanford.

From 1978-1990, Dr. Harvey was staff physicist at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, initially in Z-Division where he carried out assessments of the Soviet nuclear weapons program. He also served as Project Manager for Advanced Strategic Missile Systems, where he directed systems studies addressing effectiveness, safety, and security of nuclear warheads for Small ICBM and alternative basing options for the Peacekeeper ICBM, and as Deputy Program Leader for START and INF Verification. From 1982 to 1985, Dr. Harvey was assigned to the Strategic Arms Control Policy Office in the Department of Defense as a technical advisor to the START negotiations with the Soviet Union.

Dr. Harvey received his BA in physics from Rutgers University and his MS and PhD degrees in experimental elementary particle physics from the University of Rochester. He is the author or co-author of numerous scientific and technical papers.

Since retiring from government service, Dr. Harvey consults with the Institute for Defense Analysis, the Los Alamos National Laboratory, the National Institute for Public Policy, the Center for Strategic and International Studies, the U.S. Strategic Command Strategic Advisory Group's Panel on Nuclear Weapons Command and Control, the Defense Science Board and NNSA's Defense Programs Advisory Committee. He holds a TS/SCI clearance with DoD and a Q clearance with DOE. He and his wife, Sarah Mendelson, are working to increase the length and duration of their exercise swims. In parallel, he is striving to reduce his golf handicap to the low double digits.