



Defense Intelligence Office Marks 10 Years of Progress

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Ten years ago this month, an entry in the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal 2003 created a position in the Defense Department that for the first time harnessed and focused the department's diverse intelligence assets.

Today, Michael G. Vickers is the third undersecretary of defense for intelligence in an office whose 500 combined personnel are boosting the department's ability to tackle conventional and emerging national security threats and its work as a partner with those in the broader intelligence community.

"The silent professionals in the intelligence community are really some of the most dedicated and hardest working people I have ever met and are really committed to trying to protect this country and rarely get the recognition they deserve for the great work that they do to protect this country," Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta said at a dinner last night, held to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the position.

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