

DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE
Washington, DC 20511

February 22, 2010

**Statement by the Director of National Intelligence
Mr. Dennis C. Blair**

Earlier today, Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, with my concurrence, announced that DIA Deputy Director Letitia A. Long will be the next director of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency. Ms. Long, whose transition is expected in summer 2010, will be the first woman to head a major intelligence agency.

Ms. Long's historic appointment reflects her 32 years of exceptional government service, including more than two decades in the Intelligence Community. She is highly respected throughout the Intelligence Community and Department of Defense. Her strong leadership skills and understanding of the entire intelligence enterprise will ensure that NGA continues to deliver outstanding information to policymakers and operators in support of our national security objectives.

I congratulate current NGA Director VADM Murrett for his outstanding leadership these past four years.

###