

Boeing Statement on New US Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta

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ST. LOUIS, July 1, 2011 -- Leon Panetta today became the United States' 23rd secretary of defense, succeeding Robert Gates, who had served in the position since December 2006. The Boeing Company today issued the following statement regarding Panetta's appointment:

"We congratulate Secretary Panetta on his new assignment, and look forward to a continuation of the open dialogue between the Department of Defense and industry on how we can best meet the needs of the warfighter while identifying efficiencies, reducing costs and ensuring the health of the U.S. defense industrial base," said Dennis Muilenburg, president and CEO, Boeing Defense, Space & Security. "Secretary Panetta is a leader of the highest caliber, dedicating more than four decades to public service, including time as a U.S. representative, director of the Office of Management and Budget, White House chief of staff and, most recently, director of the CIA. Because of this experience and his proven ability to deliver results, we have complete confidence he will guide the department through the challenging geopolitical environment facing the nation. We also thank Robert Gates for his leadership and positive contributions. He has left an indelible mark on the department and the way government and industry work together, and his courage and legacy will be honored for years to come."

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Contact:

Doug Holmes
Boeing Defense, Space & Security
Office: 703-465-3318
Mobile: 610-207-6595
william.d.holmes@boeing.com

Dan Beck
Boeing Defense, Space & Security
Office: 703-414-6447
Mobile: 562-243-7082
daniel.c.beck@boeing.com
