

Denotes an *Acting Secretary of Defense*

No. ↕		Secretary of Defense ↕	Took office ↕	Left office ↕	Time in office ↕	Party ↕	State of residence ↕	President serving under ↕
23		Leon Panetta (born 1938)	July 1, 2011	February 26, 2013	1 year, 240 days	Democratic	California	Barack Obama (Dem)
24		Chuck Hagel (born 1946)	February 27, 2013	February 17, 2015	1 year, 355 days	Republican	Nebraska	Barack Obama (Dem)
25		Ash Carter (born 1954)	February 17, 2015	January 20, 2017	1 year, 338 days	Democratic	Massachusetts	Barack Obama (Dem)
26		Jim Mattis (born 1950)	January 20, 2017	January 1, 2019	1 year, 345 days	Independent	Washington	Donald Trump (Rep)
–		Patrick M. Shanahan (born 1962) <i>Acting</i>	January 1, 2019	June 23, 2019	173 days	Independent	Washington	Donald Trump (Rep)
–		Mark Esper (born 1964) <i>Acting</i>	June 24, 2019	July 15, 2019	21 days	Republican	Virginia	Donald Trump (Rep)
–		Richard V. Spencer (born 1954) <i>Acting</i>	July 15, 2019	July 23, 2019	8 days	Republican	Wyoming	Donald Trump (Rep)
27		Mark Esper (born 1964)	July 23, 2019	November 9, 2020	1 year, 109 days	Republican	Virginia	Donald Trump (Rep)
–		Christopher C. Miller (born 1965) <i>Acting</i>	November 9, 2020	January 20, 2021	72 days	Republican	Iowa	Donald Trump (Rep)
–		David Norquist (born 1966) <i>Acting</i>	January 20, 2021	January 22, 2021	2 days	Republican	Massachusetts	Joe Biden (Dem)
28		Lloyd Austin (born 1953)	January 22, 2021		4 days	Independent	Georgia	Joe Biden (Dem)