

DR. WILLIAM BRUCE ROPER

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EMPLOYMENT:

**Director, Strategic Capabilities Office (SCO)
Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD)**



PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE: In 2012, Dr. Roper was tasked by Deputy Secretary of Defense (DSD) Ashton Carter to stand up the Strategic Capabilities Office to provide lower-cost alternatives for shaping and countering emerging threats. Rather than maturing new technologies, SCO partners with Services and Agencies to apply existing systems in innovative and unconventional ways—accelerating near-term options for fielding. This approach enabled SCO’s rapid tenfold growth—from \$50M in PB14 to \$529M in PB16—generating over 12 projects that DSD Carter called “potentially game-changing”. Currently focused on a variety of systems for the Rebalance to Asia (i.e.; electromagnetic railguns) Dr. Roper is a member of the Deputy’s Management Action Group for Asia-Pacific and the Department’s Long-Range Research and Development Planning Program. He is also a term member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Prior to directing SCO, Dr. Roper served as the Acting Chief Architect at the Missile Defense Agency (MDA) where he developed and fielded over 11 new systems, including the current European Defense architecture, advanced unmanned airborne vehicles (UAVs), and classified programs. Before this, he analyzed national security issues at MIT Lincoln Laboratory—including asymmetric threats, test evaluation, and space—and also served as a missile defense advisor to the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics (USDAT&L). His awards include the Secretary’s Award for Excellence (Asia-Pacific Rebalance), DSD Letter of Commendation, USDAT&L Award for Excellence (Innovation), MDA’s Innovation Award, MDA’s Technology Award (UAVs), and MDA’s Contractor Employee of the Year.

EDUCATION: Both a Truman and Rhodes Scholar, Dr. Roper graduated with highest honor from Georgia Tech with bachelor's and master's in physics and a doctorate in mathematics from Oxford University, where he specialized in String Theory.