



1st Deputy Assistant Secretary of DOD

1st Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security from December 2003 to January 20, 2017, appointed by President Barack Obama. He was appointed by President Obama to the General Council of the Department of Defense from 2000 through 2012.

Under Secretary Johnson's leadership, DHS was responsible for counterterrorism, cybersecurity, aviation security, border security, port security, maritime security administration and enforcement of anti-immigration laws, protection of our national leadership protection of critical infrastructure, detection of and protection against chemical, biological and nuclear threats in the homeland, and response to disasters. In 2010, Johnson also re-authored a DOD gag rule that paved the way for the repeal by Congress of the Don't Ask, Don't Tell law that prohibited gays from serving openly in the U.S. military.

From October 1998 to January 2003, Johnson served in the Clinton Administration as General Counsel of the Department of the Air Force. From 1990 through 1998, Secretary Johnson was an Assistant United States Attorney in the Southern District of New York, where he prosecuted public corruption cases.

Secretary Johnson is a native New Yorker and a graduate of the New York University Law School. He has been a corporate lawyer with the New York City-based law firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkin, & Wharton & Garrison.

Secretary Johnson is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and a Fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers. He graduated from Syracuse College in 1978 and Columbia Law School in 1982. He also holds a law honorary degree.