



Dr. Gerald W. Parker
Deputy Assistant to the Secretary of Defense
For Chemical and Biological Defense



Dr. Gerald W. Parker serves as the Deputy Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Chemical and Biological Defense. In this role, Dr. Parker is responsible for Chemical and Biological Defense Program oversight throughout the Department of Defense and integration with our interagency and international partners. My primary goal is steering the enterprise in countering current and emerging biological and chemical threats to protect U.S. Service members and civilians at home and abroad.

Prior to joining the Department of Defense in November 2010, Dr. Parker served as the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response at the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) since July 2005. While at DHHS, Dr. Parker provided leadership in coordinating HHS-wide efforts with respect to preparedness for and response to public health and medical emergencies, and served as a focal point for operational and policy coordination with the White House, other federal departments, Congress, state and local officials, private sector leaders, and international authorities responsible for emergency medical preparedness and the protection of the civilian population from acts of terrorism and other public health emergencies. Dr. Parker also served at the Department of Homeland Security from April 2004 to July 2005, and he was a 2009 recipient of the Distinguished Executive Presidential Rank Award.

Prior to his selection into the Senior Executive Service in April 2004, Dr. Parker had 26 years of distinguished active U.S. Army service as a researcher, team leader, division director, program director, and laboratory Commander from 1977 to 2004.

During his military career, Dr. Parker held a variety of positions including Assistant Deputy for Research and Development, Director for the Medical Chemical and Biological Defense Research Program, and Deputy Director for the Combat Casualty Research Program at the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command. Dr. Parker is a former Commander and Deputy Commander of the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases.

Dr. Parker graduated from Texas A&M University with a Bachelors of Science in Veterinary Medicine and with a degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. He holds a Doctorate in Physiology from Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas and a Masters of Science in Resourcing the National Strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

Dr. Parker is married to the former Denise Joy Sonnen, and they have three sons, Jamison Parker (23), Jeramie Parker (21), and Jonathon Parker (18). They reside in Middletown, Maryland.