

James B. Petro, Ph.D., M.S.S.I.
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Dr. James Petro is the Principal Director for Chemical and Biological Defense at the Department of Defense (DoD). Dr. Petro supports the Deputy Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Chemical and Biological Defense in providing strategic guidance, oversight, and coordination of DoD's chemical and biological defense programs.

Prior to joining the Department of Defense, Dr. Petro was the Director for Biological Threat Reduction and Counterterrorism Policy in the Office of the WMD Coordinator on the National Security Staff. In this capacity, he supported the development of policies targeted to address biological threats and oversaw and coordinated their implementation across the Federal government. Dr. Petro led the development of President Obama's *National Strategy for Countering Biological Threats* as well as a number of Presidential Policy Directives and Executive Orders pertinent to addressing biological threats.

Dr. Petro previously served as Director for Health, Biological, and Chemical Defense Policy at the White House Homeland Security Council (HSC) where he supported the development of policies to prepare for and respond to acts of bioterrorism and naturally occurring infectious diseases including novel influenza strains and SARS. While at HSC, Dr. Petro led the development of a number of Presidential Directives and Executive Orders, including the Nation's first Strategies for Domestic Chemical Defense and Medical Countermeasures against Weapons of Mass Destruction.

Prior to serving at the White House, Dr. Petro was Chief, Knowledge Integration Program Office within the Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Directorate where he led the Department's technical research and laboratory programs to identify, characterize, prioritize and mitigate hazards posed by chemical, biological, radiological and explosive threats. Dr. Petro has also served in the Defense Intelligence Agency, where he directed a suite of programs that assess and counter chemical and biological weapons threats.

Dr. Petro received a Ph.D. in Microbiology and Immunology from Vanderbilt University and a Master's of Science in Strategic Intelligence from the National Defense Intelligence College. He has published in a number of peer-reviewed journals including *Science*, *Studies in Intelligence*, and *Biosecurity and Bioterrorism*. Dr. Petro is a recipient of the National Security Staff's Outstanding Service Award, the Defense Intelligence Agency's Meritorious Civilian Service Medal, the Central Intelligence Agency's Studies in Intelligence Award and the Director of National Intelligence's Galileo Award.