



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Contact: (703) 808-5050**

**Release #08-14**  
**November 24, 2014**

**Terry Duncan, Director of NRO's Communications Systems Directorate,  
Awarded Highest Civilian Service Award from Department of Defense**

Mr. Terry Duncan was honored with the Department of Defense Distinguished Civilian Service Award on November 7, 2014, at the Pentagon. Mr. Duncan was noted for distinguished civilian service from October 2011 through May 2014 as the Director of NRO's Communications Systems Directorate. This award is the highest civilian award given by the Department of Defense.

"I'm honored to receive the distinguished civilian service award from the Department of Defense," Mr. Duncan said. "The NRO workforce takes pride in supporting our warfighters, and my award would not be possible without their dedication and collaborative support of NRO's mission."

Mr. Duncan was recognized for "significantly decreasing information technology and mission transportation costs." According to the award citation, "His efforts directly resulted in a budget reduction of \$600 million over the Future Years Defense Program which ensured that the NRO could close its top-line budget under sequestration. This freed up vital resources to focus on the high priority missions of the NRO, the Intelligence Community, and the Department of Defense.

Mr. Duncan transformed the NRO's communication infrastructure and revolutionized the way that mission data gathered by the NRO collection satellites were delivered to the ground for processing and dissemination to joint warfighters, the Intelligence Community, and Department of Defense leaders. The distinctive accomplishments of Mr. Duncan reflect great credit upon himself and the Department of Defense."

The award ceremony was hosted by Jessica L. Wright, Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, who paid tribute to eight people who distinguished themselves from more than 800,000 other Defense Department employees in winning the top civilian employee award.



"You lead with integrity, you lead with critical thinking, and you lead with passion," Wright said to the civilian award winners during the ceremony where she presented the 59th annual Department of Defense Distinguished Civilian Service Awards and the 10th annual David O. Cooke Excellence in Public Administration Award.

Wright noted the eight Distinguished Civilian Service Award recipients' contributions toward innovation and efficiency in electronic commerce, advanced stealth technologies, and customer service, among others. "Thank you for the support you give our men and women of the armed forces," she said.

The Distinguished Civilian Service Award was created 59 years ago to recognize a small number of employees whose careers reflect exceptional devotion to duty and extremely significant contributions in policy, science, technology, and administrative fields.

-NRO-

The NRO is a joint Department of Defense–Intelligence Community organization responsible for developing, launching, and operating America's intelligence satellites to meet the national security needs of our nation.