

Biography of Mr. Peter M. Velz

Mr. Peter M. Velz is the Deputy Special Coordinator for Afghanistan in the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Policy (OUSDP) and provides Department leadership with advice on and oversight of all defense matters pertaining to Afghanistan. He previously served as the Director for Afghanistan in the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Afghanistan, Pakistan and Central Asia) beginning January 2013. From December 2003 to January 2008, he served as an Iraq country director in OUSDP.

From January 2008 to January 2013 Mr. Velz was on the staff of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics and Technology) as the Director of Acquisition Program Protection Policy. In this position, he created and led the Army Defense Industrial Base Cyber Security Office. He also served as an advisor for Secretary of the Army task forces on restructuring the Army acquisition organization and on transforming Headquarters, Department of the Army.

Mr. Velz worked in the private sector from 1999 to 2003 and before then served for more than a decade at the Central Intelligence Agency as an economic analyst. In May 2018 he retired as a Captain following 30 years of service as a Navy Reserve intelligence officer.

Mr. Velz was awarded the Department of Defense Spirit of Service Award, the Secretary of Defense Medal for Meritorious Civilian Service (Bronze Palm), the Office of Secretary of Defense Exceptional Civilian Service Award, the Department of the Army's Superior Civilian Service Award and Commander's Award for Excellence, and numerous Intelligence Community civilian awards and commendations. His military decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (with Gold Star in lieu of second award) and Joint Service Commendation Medal.

Mr. Velz holds an M.A. in Economics from the University of Connecticut and a B.B.A. in Economics from Temple University.