



Dr. Robert S. Walker
Assistant Deputy Minister
Department of National Defence &
Chief Executive Officer of Defence
R & D Canada



Dr. Robert S. Walker

Dr. Robert Walker is the Assistant Deputy Minister (Science and Technology) of the Department of National Defence and the Chief Executive Officer of Defence R&D Canada. In his capacity, he leads Defence R&D Canada, which consists of a national network of six defence research centres with an annual budget of \$350 million and a staff of 1700 people in programs addressing a broad range of defence technologies. Defence R&D Canada provides national leadership in defence and security S&T, and provides scientific advice and products to the Canadian Forces and the Department of National Defence. The defence and security S&T network extends beyond the Defence Research Centres to encompass partnerships with Canadian industry, universities, and allied defence S&T organizations.

Dr. Walker was born in Nova Scotia and received his B. Sc (Honours Physics) from Acadia University in 1973. Dr. Walker also received a Master's degree (Engineering Physics, 1975) and a Ph.D. (Electrical Engineering, 1977) from McMaster University. His graduate studies were in the area of semiconductor material research. Dr. Walker is a graduate of the National Defence College (June 1992).

Throughout his 30-year career at Defence R&D Canada, Dr. Walker has served in a number of senior appointments. From 1998 to 2005 as Director General Research and Development Programs, he was mandated to provide central coordination and strategic planning for the R&D Program through interface with DRDC's client groups in the Canadian Forces and with external partners, in addition to managing several key national and international programs. From 1995 to 1998, he was the Director General of Defence R&D Canada Valcartier and the Scientific Advisor Land for the Department of National Defence. Prior to this appointment, he spent one year as the Deputy Director General at DRDC Valcartier. From 1990 to 1994, Dr. Walker was responsible for the direction of development activities aimed at improving the Canadian Forces' exploitation of information technologies, terrestrial and space-based communications, space-based surveillance and command and control systems in his capacity as Director, R&D Communications and Space at DRDC Headquarters. In the earlier part of his DRDC career, Dr. Walker spent 13 years at Defence R&D Canada Atlantic. During his tenure in Atlantic, he conducted research in the general area of underwater acoustic signal processing and sonar system design for undersea warfare and served as Head of the Signal Processing Section.

In his capacity as Assistant Deputy Minister (Science and Technology), Dr. Walker is the principal Canadian representative to the Technology Cooperation Program (TTCP) and was recently elected Chairman of the NATO Research and Technology Board (RTB) effective April 2009. He also provides departmental input to national issues in science and technology by sitting on a number of interdepartmental committees of assistant deputy ministers.

Dr. Walker's achievements have been recognized by the Deputy Minister of National Defence in 2003 with a DM Commendation, by the international community in 2001 with a TTCP Personal Achievement Award and by DRDC in 2005 for the Agency Performance Excellence Award.