OPERA – fiche sociographique - défense

Prénom, Nom:



George J. Tenet

Contact:

Catégorie : Exécutif

Démocrate

Dates de naissance / décès :

5 janvier 1953

Lieu de naissance :

New York City, NY

Genre: Male

Lieu de résidence (si DC avant l'accession à un poste retenu, avec si possible l'année de l'emménagement à DC):

Formation:

BA/BS	BS in foreign service, Georgetown U, 1976
MA/MS	Master of International Affairs, Columbia Un., 1978
PhD	
Law degree (JD)	
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Autre	

Profession initiale:

¹ n'est pas une formation mais un programme pour entrer dans l'armée W. Genieys, Operationalizing Programmatic Elites Research in America, OPERA : ANR-08-BLAN-0032.

Carrière:

1985 – 86: legis. asst. to Sen. H. John Heinz III, Senate Select Com. on Intelligence, Washington

1986 – 89: designee to vice chair Sen. Patrick J. Leahy, Senate Select Com. on Intelligence, Washington

1989 – 93 : dir. oversight of arms control negotiations Soviet Union/US, Senate Select Com. on Intelligence, Washington

1993: staff dir. to chmn. Senator David Boren, Senate Select Com. on Intelligence, Washington

1993 – 95: mem. presdl. transition team, Nat. Security Coun., Washington

1995 – 96 : dep. dir., CIA, Washington

1995 – 97: spl. asst. to pres., sr. dir. intelligence programs, Nat. Security Coun., Washington

1996 – 97 : acting dir., CIA, Washington

1997 - 2004 : dir., CIA, Washington

2004 – 2007: disting. prof. in practice of diplomacy, Edmund Walsh Sch. Fgn. Svc. Georgetown U., Washington

2004 – 2007 : sr. rsch. assoc. Inst. Study of Diplomacy, Edmund Walsh Sch. Fgn. Svc. Georgetown U., Washington

2004- : Sr. rsch. assoc. Inst. for the Study of Diplomacy, Washington

2005-: bd. dirs. L-1 Identity Solutions, Inc. (formerly Viisage Tech. Inc.)

2005-08: Guidance Software, Inc.

2006-08: ind. non-exec. dir. Qineti Q Group plc

2008-: bd. dirs. QinetiQ N. Am.

2008 -: mng. dir., Allen & Co. LLC, NYC

Sources biblio/bio, articles, divers.

George John Tenet (born January 5, 1953) was the <u>Director of Central Intelligence</u> (DCI) for the United States <u>Central Intelligence Agency</u>, and is Distinguished Professor in the Practice of Diplomacy at <u>Georgetown University</u>.

Tenet held the position as the DCI from July 1997 to July 2004, making him the second-longest-serving director in the agency's history—behind <u>Allen Welsh Dulles</u>—as well as one of the few DCIs to serve under two <u>U.S.</u> <u>presidents</u> of opposing <u>political parties</u>.

In February 2008, he became a managing director at the merchant bank Allen & Company.

Background

Tenet was born in Flushing, Queens, New York, the son of Greek immigrants Evangelia and John Tenet. His father was a Greek born in modern-day southern Albania, his mother was a Greek from Greece, Epirus. His father worked in a coal mine in France before arriving in the United States. Tenet was raised in Little Neck, Queens, where he and his brother Bill worked as busboys in their family's diner (later renamed Scobee Diner). He attended Public School 94, Louis Pasteur Junior High School 67, and Benjamin N. Cardozo High

School (he was a classmate of Ron Jeremy and actor Reginald VelJohnson). Tenet graduated from Georgetown University in 1976 with a Bachelor of Science degree in foreign service and received a Master of International Affairs degree from Columbia University in 1978.

Tenet is married to Stephanie Glakas-Tenet. They have one son. [citation needed]

Early career

Tenet became research director of the American Hellenic Institute from 1978 to 1979^[8] and worked for the Solar Energy Industries Association until 1982. He then began working for the Senate, first as a legislative assistant and later as Legislative Director to former Senator H. John Heinz III of Pennsylvania (1982–1985). He was a staff member of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (SSCI) from 1985–1988, then Staff Director of the SSCI from 1988–1993. Later, Tenet joined President-elect Bill Clinton's national security transition team. Clinton appointed Tenet Senior Director for Intelligence Programs at the National Security Council (1993–1995). [10][11]

CIA career

Tenet was appointed <u>Deputy Director of Central Intelligence</u> in July 1995. After <u>John Deutch</u>'s abrupt resignation in December 1996, Tenet served as acting director. This was followed by the reluctant withdrawal of <u>Anthony Lake</u>, after it became apparent to Lake that his nomination had been successfully blocked by <u>Republicans</u> in <u>Congress</u>. Tenet was then officially appointed Director on July 11, 1997, after a unanimous confirmation vote in the Senate. While the Director of Central Intelligence has been replaced by an incoming administration since <u>Jimmy Carter</u> replaced DCI <u>George H. W. Bush</u>, Tenet served through the end of the <u>Clinton administration</u> and well into the term of <u>George W. Bush</u>. In 1999 the Director declined to reveal the overall budget for intelligence operations (including the CIA) which was a departure from his release the previous two years. This led to criticism from government transparency experts. [13]

Tenet embarked on a mission to regenerate the CIA, which had fallen on hard times since the end of the Cold War. The number of agents recruited each year had fallen to an all-time low, a 25% decline from the Cold War peak. Tenet appealed to the original mission of the agency, which had been to "prevent another Pearl Harbor". The trick was to see where danger might come from in the post-Cold War world. Tenet focused on potential problems such as "the transformation of Russia and China", "rogue states" like North Korea, Iran and Iraq, and terrorism. [14]

1999 Bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade

Main article: US bombing of the People's Republic of China embassy in Belgrade

On May 7, 1999, during the Kosovo War, U.S. bombers struck the Chinese embassy in Belgrade with five JDAM precision guided bombs, killing three Chinese reporters and injuring 20 others. The United States claimed the attack was accidental. In testimony before a congressional committee, Tenet later admitted the strike was the only one in the campaign organized and directed by his agency, though he still claimed it was not deliberate. Later analysis has suggested that a 100-yard error in a military targeting database maintained by the Pentagon was not corrected or updated in a timely manner and that other systems intended to prevent such incidents failed to perform as expected. As a result of this and other incidents, systematic changes were made to pre-strike Rules of Engagement (ROE) for U.S. pilots, including checklists verifying target information and coordinates. China has never accepted the United States' version of events, although Tenet in a published work noted in a bit of black humor that in the prelude to the bombing of Iraq, China had, through unofficial channels, provided the Agency with the exact GPS coordinates of their Embassy in Baghdad so as to ensure the CIA knew the precise location. [17]

Al-Qaeda and the War on Terror

By 1999 <u>al-Qaeda</u> had emerged as a significant terrorist threat. The <u>1998 bombings of two U.S. African</u> <u>embassies</u> were the latest in a string of attacks on American interests in the west Indian-Ocean region. And in 2000 the <u>USS Cole</u> was bombed in Aden in an attempt to sink her, killing 17 naval personnel.

Bin Laden Plan

In 1999 Tenet put forward a grand "Plan" for dealing with al-Qaeda. In preparation, he selected new leadership for the CIA's Counterterrorist Center (CTC). He placed Cofer Black in charge of the CTC, and Richard Blee (a "top-flight executive" from Tenet's own suite) in charge of the CTC's Bin Laden unit. Tenet assigned the CTC to develop the Plan. The proposals, brought out in September, sought to penetrate Qaeda's "Afghan sanctuary" with U.S. and Afghan agents, in order to obtain information on and mount operations against Bin Laden's network. In October, officers from the Bin Laden unit visited northern Afghanistan. Once the Plan was finalized, the Agency created a "Qaeda cell" (whose functions overlapped those of the CTC's Bin Laden unit) to give operational leadership to the effort.

The CIA concentrated its inadequate financial resources on the Plan, so that at least some of its more modest aspirations were realized. Intelligence collection efforts on bin Laden and al-Qaeda increased significantly from 1999. "By 9/11", said Tenet, "a map would show that these collection programs and human [reporting] networks were in place in such numbers as to nearly cover Afghanistan". (But this excluded Bin Laden's inner circle itself.)[18]

Predator drone

The CIA also experimented with a small remote-controlled reconnaissance aircraft, the <u>Predator</u>, to try to spot Bin Laden in <u>Afghanistan</u>. A series of flights in autumn 2000, overseen by CTC officials and flown by USAF drone pilots from a control room at the CIA's Langley headquarters, produced probable sightings of the al-Qaeda leader. [19]

Black and others became advocates of arming the Predator with adapted <u>Hellfire</u> anti-tank missiles to try to kill Bin Laden and other Qaeda leaders in <u>targeted killings</u>. But there were both legal and technical issues. Tenet in particular was concerned about the CIA moving back into the business. And a series of live-fire tests in the <u>Great Basin Desert in Nevada</u> in summer 2001 produced mixed results.

Tenet advised cautiously on the matter at a meeting of the Cabinet-level Principals Committee on September 4, 2001. If the Cabinet wanted to empower the CIA to field a lethal drone, Tenet said, "they should do so with their eyes wide open, fully aware of the potential fallout if there were a controversial or mistaken strike". National Security Adviser Condoleczza Rice concluded that the armed Predator was required, but evidently not ready. It was agreed to recommend to the CIA to resume reconnaissance flights. The "previously reluctant" Tenet then ordered the Agency to do so. The CIA was authorized to "deploy the system with weapons-capable aircraft". [20]

Strategic assessments branch

In late 2000 Tenet, recognizing the deficiency of "big-picture" analysis of al-Qaeda, appointed a senior manager in the <u>Counterterrorist Center</u> to investigate "creating a strategic assessment capability". In the spring of 2001 the CTC got back to him, requesting the hiring of "a small group of contractors not involved in day-to-day crises to digest vast quantities of information and develop targeting strategies".

The CTC's <u>Strategic Assessments Branch</u> was formally set up in July. But it struggled to find personnel. The head of the branch finally took up his post on September 10, 2001. [21]

September 11 attacks

After the <u>September 11 attacks</u>, many observers criticized the <u>Intelligence Community</u> for numerous "<u>intelligence failures</u>" as one of the major reasons why the attacks were not prevented. [22]

Tenet testified before a public hearing of the Sept. 11 Commission investigating 9/11, that he did not meet with Bush in August 2001, the month before the September 11 attacks. The same evening after the hearings, a CIA spokesman corrected Tenet's testimony, stating that Tenet did indeed meet with Bush twice in August. [23] Tenet in his memoir writes of his memorable visit to Bush at Bush's ranch in Crawford, Texas, in August 2001. [12]

In August 2007, a secret report written by the <u>CIA inspector general</u> was made public (originally written in 2005 but kept secret). The 19-page summary states that Tenet knew the dangers of Al Qaeda well before September 2001, but that the leadership of the CIA did not do enough to prevent any attacks. Tenet reacted to the publication of this report by calling it "flat wrong", citing in particular the planning efforts of the past two years. [24]

Tenet immediately increased the size and capability of the CIA's special operations component housed in the Special Operations Group of the Special Activities Division. This force had been allowed to diminish under the early Clinton administration. These Paramilitary Operations Officers were the first to enter both Afghanistan and Iraq. Once in these countries these officers organized and led the Northern Alliance against the Taliban in Afghanistan and the Kurds against Ansar Al-Islam and Saddam's forces in Iraq. The rebuilding of this capability and the successful employment of these elite commandos is considered one of Tenets greatest achievements in the Global War on Terror. [25][26][27]

Worldwide Attack Matrix

Tenet considered that <u>his Al-Qaeda plan</u> had placed the CIA in a better position to respond after the September 11 attacks. As he put it,

How could [an intelligence] community without a strategic plan tell the president of the United States just four days after 9/11 how to attack the Afghan sanctuary and operate against <u>al-Qa'ida</u> in ninety-two countries around the world? [28]



Tenet (left, in pink tie) briefs <u>President George W. Bush</u> in the <u>Oval Office</u> along <u>White House Chief of Staff</u> Andrew Card and Vice President Dick Cheney (face not seen).

This was at a meeting of the restricted National Security Councilor "war council"—at Camp David on September 15, 2001. Tenet presented the Worldwide Attack Matrix, a blueprint for what became known as the War On Terror. [22] He proposed firstly to send CIA teams into Afghanistan to collect intelligence on, and mount covert operations against, al-Qaeda and the Taliban. The teams would act jointly with military Special Operations units. "President Bush later praised this proposal, saying it had been a turning point in his thinking." [29]

Water boarding and enhanced interrogation techniques (EITs)

The CIA was authorized by President Bush to use <u>water boarding</u> (a method of torture) and other forms of "Enhanced Interrogation Techniques" during interrogations of <u>Khalid Sheikh Mohammed</u>, <u>Abu Zubaydah</u> and <u>Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri</u>, all suspected Al Qaida members, during Tenet's directorship. [30][31]

Iraq WMD controversy

According to a report by veteran <u>investigative journalist Bob Woodward</u> in his book <u>Plan of Attack</u>, Tenet privately lent his personal authority to the intelligence reports about <u>weapons of mass destruction</u> (WMDs) in <u>Iraq. [32]</u> At a meeting on December 12, 2002, he assured Bush that the evidence that Iraq had WMDs amounted to a "<u>slam dunk</u> case." After several months of refusing to confirm this statement, Tenet stated that it was taken out of context. He indicated that it was made pursuant to a discussion about how to convince the American people to support invading Iraq. [33] The search following the <u>2003 invasion of Iraq</u> by U.S., British and international forces yielded no significant WMDs.

In September of 2002, the Senate Intelligence Committee met with Tenet in a closed-door session. Sen. Bob Graham requested a National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) on Iraq. Tenet responded by saying "We've never done a National Intelligence Estimate on Iraq" and resisted the request to provide one to Congress. Graham insisted "This is the most important decision that we as members of Congress and that the people of America are likely to make in the foreseeable future. We want to have the best understanding of what it is we're about to get involved with." Tenet refused to do a report on the military or occupation phase, but reluctantly agreed to do a NIE on the weapons of mass destruction. Graham described the Senate Intelligence Committee meeting with Tenet as "the turning point in our attitude towards Tenet and our understanding of how the intelligence community has become so submissive to the desires of the administration. The administration wasn't using intelligence to inform their judgment; they were using intelligence as part of a public relations campaign to justify their judgment." [34]

Congress voted to support the Iraq war based on the NIE Tenet provided in October of 2002. However, the bipartisan "Senate Intelligence Committee Report on Prewar Intelligence" released on July 7, 2004, concluded that the key findings in the 2002 NIE either overstated, or were not supported by, the actual intelligence. The Senate report also found the U.S. Intelligence Community to suffer from a "broken corporate culture and poor management" that resulted in a NIE which was completely wrong in almost every respect. [35]

Resignation

Citing "personal reasons", Tenet submitted his resignation to President Bush on June 3, 2004. <u>James Pavitt</u>, his <u>Deputy Director for Operations</u> at the CIA, announced his resignation the following day, leading to speculation that the exit of both senior intelligence officials was related to the controversy over alleged Iraqi WMDs and the decision to go to war. <u>Admiral Stansfield Turner</u>, director of the CIA under President <u>Jimmy Carter</u>, said, "I think the president feels he's in enough trouble that he's got to begin to cast some of the blame for the morass that we are in Iraq on to somebody else and this was one subtle way to do it." (<u>Boston Herald</u>, June 4, 2004) However, Bush voiced support for Tenet's efforts, stating, "George Tenet did a superb job for America. It was a high honor to work with him, and I'm sorry he left." (<u>Reuters</u>, June 5, 2004)

Presidential Medal of Freedom



President Bush awarding the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Tenet on December 14, 2004.

Tenet's seven-year term as Director of Central Intelligence was the second-longest in U.S. history. On December 14, 2004, President Bush awarded Tenet the <u>Presidential Medal of Freedom</u>. This was controversial, both because George Tenet had been wrong in his assertion that there were nuclear weapons in Iraq and because many critics felt that it was given more for political reasons than merit. [36]

Recent activities

QinetiQ

In October 2006 Tenet joined QinetiQ as an independent non-executive director. [37] Tenet then stepped down from the board in February 2008 to become the managing director of the secretive investment bank Allen & Company. [38] Tenet also sits on the boards of directors of L-1 Identity Solutions, a major supplier of biometric identification software, and Guidance Software, which makes forensic software used to search computer hard drives for evidence. [39] Along with a number of other notable Greek Americans, he is a member of the advisory board of The Next Generation Initiative, a leadership program aimed at getting students involved in public affairs.

Memoir

Main article: At the Center of the Storm: My Years at the CIA

In April 2007 Tenet released his <u>memoir</u> titled <u>At the Center of the Storm: My Years at the CIA</u>. He appeared on <u>60 Minutes</u> on April 29, 2007, offering much criticism of the Bush administration. The book was the top-selling book in sales in the first week after publication.

The One Percent Doctrine: Deep Inside America's Pursuit of its Enemies since 9/11 (2006) by Ron Suskind claims that Abu Zubaydah, once said to be al-Qaida chief of operations, was a low-level functionary and mentally ill. [40] In his memoirs, Tenet commented as follows:



A published report in 2006 contended that Abu Zubaydah was mentally unstable and that the administration had overstated his importance. Baloney. Abu Zubaydah had been at the crossroads of many al-Qa'ida operations and was in position to—and did—share critical information with his interrogators. Apparently, the source of the rumor that Abu Zubaydah was unbalanced was his personal diary, in which he adopted various personas. From that shaky perch, some junior Freudians leapt to the conclusion that Zubaydah had multiple personalities. In fact, Agency psychiatrists eventually determined that in his diary he was using a sophisticated literary device to



Critics pointed out a factual error in Tenet's book. On the book's first page, Tenet tells of a conversation with then-Pentagon advisor Richard Perle on September 12, 2001 in which Tenet claims Perle told him in person that "Iraq had to pay for the attack". But the conversation could not have occurred on that day, because Perle was stranded in Paris, France, on September 12 and did not return to Washington until three days later. Perle later stated that the two men indeed crossed each other one morning, as claimed by Tenet, but only later in the same week and not on September 12. But Perle insisted that he and Tenet exchanged no words in that encounter. [42][43]

See also

• Bin Laden Issue Station: The CIA's Osama bin Laden-tracking unit, 1996–2003.

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