

OPERA – fiche sociographique - défense

Prénom, Nom:

Arun A. Seraphin



Contact :

Catégorie : Législatif

Dates de naissance / décès :

1970

Lieu de naissance :

Long Island, 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	Bachelor, political science, specialization American Government ; engineering science, speci. Materials science, State Un. Of NY at Stony Brook : BA, SUNY, Stony Brook, 1991
MA/MS	
PhD	PhD, Electronic Materials, MIT, 1996
Law degree (JD...)	
Autre	

Profession initiale :

Carrière :

1996 – 2000 : worked in the Science and Technology Division of the Institute for Defense Analyses.

W. Genieys, Operationalizing Programmatic Elites Research in America, OPERA : ANR-08-BLAN-0032.

1999-2000 : worked on the House Committee on Science's Subcom. On Research as a professional member, and in the Office of Senator Joseph Lieberman
5 mars 2001-29 juin 2001 : House Science, Space and Technology Committee, professional staff member. Cyber.
2 juillet 2001 - 3 janv 2010 : professional staff member, SASC.

Assistant Director for Defense Programs, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP)

Sources biblio/bio, articles, divers.

INDIA Tribune

Dr. Arun A. Seraphin — one of top 10 Defense staffers to know

By **Ajay** **Ghosh**
New York: The politicians, who make speeches, pass legislation and oversee the implementation of the programs and regulations, are familiar to all. But less familiar are the people (staff), who help these politicians, including the President, Congressmen, Senators and others, who work behind the scene, advising them on every issue, small and big.

One such staffer, who, works for "President Obama's science advisor, Dr. John Holdren, as he supports the President's daily activities and work to develop and execute the President's policies and new initiatives related to science, technology and engineering," is Dr. Arun Seraphin, a 40-year-old Indian American, who is currently the Assistant Director for Defense Programs, at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). Dr. Seraphin has excelled in his areas of work and has, in a very short span of time, risen to be named one of top ten Defense "Staffers to Know" by Roll Call, a Capitol Hill newspaper in 2009.

In an exclusive interview with India Tribune, Seraphin said: "My areas of responsibility include developing and implementing White House initiatives and policies in areas, including defense research and engineering; defense manufacturing and industrial base; and promoting innovation in government research and engineering organizations."

Son of Dominic Seraphin, who was the Director of Systems Support, Division of Information Technology at Stony Brook University, Arun was born and raised on Long Island, NY. "I have always been interested in both science and politics. I volunteered to work on political campaigns in high school, served in student government in college, and earned undergraduate degrees in both engineering and political science." His love for combining science and policy led him to earn his bachelor's degrees in political science with a specialization in the American government and engineering science with an emphasis on the materials science from the State University of New York at Stony Brook. As a student, Seraphin was an active organizer of I-Con (the campus' annual science fiction convention) and served as the treasurer of the Polity Programs and Services Council. Soon, he went on to earn a Ph.D. in electronic materials from the Massachusetts

Institute of Technology, where he conducted research on silicon nanotechnology. His research focused on the development of novel silicon nanostructures and tailoring their optical properties.

His career as a professional staffer began soon. Between 1996 and 2000, Dr. Seraphin worked in the Science and Technology Division of the Institute for Defense Analyses. Between 2001 and 2010, Dr. Seraphin was a professional staff member on the staff of the United States Senate Committee on Armed Services, and he “assisted Senators in their oversight of DOD technology programs, including in the authorization of budgets, civilian nominations, policy, and hearings.”

Dr. Seraphin worked on the United States House of Representatives Committee on Science’s Subcommittee on Research as a professional staff member, and in the Office of Senator Joseph Lieberman as the 1999-2000 Materials Research Society —Optical Society of America Congressional Science and Engineering Fellow. In these positions, he covered both civilian and defense research and development programs. “As a staff member, I would assist them with preparing legislation, make recommendations on funding adjustments to the Department of Defense’s budget, and support them as they prepared for congressional hearings, Senate debates, and meetings with other members of the Congress, personnel from the Executive Branch of the government and constituents from the industry, academia, and military,” he said.

The Department of Defense that has a nearly \$80-billion research and development budget used to develop the military weapons systems used in places like Iraq and Afghanistan. It also has an IT budget of roughly \$100 billion to buy and manage the myriad IT systems that support our military. OSTP, where Dr. Seraphin currently serves, is very involved in developing new policies that seek to create and keep high technology and manufacturing jobs in the US, helping keep the nation as the world leader in science and technology, improve science and math education at schools of all levels, develop new energy sources for the future, and ensure that the nation has the technology it needs to provide for its security. Dr. Seraphin has been working on a number of specific topics, including revitalizing the innovation capacity of the nation’s university, industry and government research laboratories, developing new programs and policies to encourage innovative high tech small business to develop and thrive, and revitalizing the nation’s manufacturing and industrial base,

“My boss in the Senate for most of my career on Capitol Hill was Senator Carl Levin (D-MI), Chairman of the Senate Committee on Armed Services,” Dr. Seraphin recalled. In addition, he has worked with several lawmakers on Capitol Hill. “I worked to help Senators understand the technical and financial rationale behind Pentagon research and IT programs, identified areas where potentially more or less funding could be used, and to promote policies to make the Pentagon a more efficient and technologically a more innovative organization,” Dr. Seraphin said.

His job is about issues related to the intersection between technology and defense policy. “I would often be called upon to provide clarification or explanations of technical issues to Senators and make recommendations as to the actions they should take on technical matters related to defense that came before the Senate or Congress,” he said.

Working with lawmakers, especially on technical issues, can be a challenge. According to him, politicians and lawmakers are hard working, patriotic, underappreciated people, who are really trying to make this nation and the world a better place through their public service. Like any group of people and every profession, there are some politicians and lawmakers who are very good and some who are not.

“I found that the Senators I interacted with were very intelligent and knew how to effectively and quickly get the key core points surrounding whatever complex issue they are dealing with. Since Senators spend a lot of time in their home states and in Washington dealing with people from high tech industry, research labs, and universities, they had some familiarity with many technical topics and were generally enthusiastic about learning more, as time permitted,” Arun said. Policymakers, staff members, and anyone trying to work with them need to understand that for any complex issue there are a wide variety of factors and interests to consider. For example, the general weight of scientific thought on an issue like climate change balanced against the public’s desire for economic growth and industrial development and against the availability of taxpayer money to deal with the issue. Politicians and policymakers must constantly be balancing these types of competing concerns in their work.

In the end, what gives one satisfaction is when your inputs have helped write legislation or invest in programs that impact so many people. “I helped write legislation that fund programs promoting rapid movement of technology to our soldiers on the field, whether it be Afghanistan or Iraq. And that truly makes you feel good,” he acknowledged with a sense of joy.

Arun, who is a second generation Indian American, believes that Indian Americans “need to become politically active and enter into careers in public service. The country needs doctors, lawyers, and financiers, but it also needs Senators, soldiers, and teachers. Indians of all ages need to look at these public service opportunities as they consider how they are best going to make use of their talents to make a difference in the world. The Indian American community has made great strides in becoming a force in politics and policymaking in this country. I hope we continue to do that and then use our unique backgrounds and resources to promote the public good.”

Arun, a devout father of four young children, lives in Springfield, VA, with his wife. His hobby, “is raising my children,” he said. “I spend as much time with my children as possible. My work allows me to work from home when required and I love spending time with my children.” Although Dr. Seraphin worked with politicians on a daily basis, he never wanted to be one. His goal is to utilize his skills to “help shape research and technology policy to the best benefit of the nation and the world. At this stage in my career, I hope to be able to execute some of President’s Obama’s policies and programs, and achieve his goals related to technology innovation and national security. I hope to make some real contribution in helping support our nation’s military servicemen and women, and their families, and support the national and economic security of the country.”

Source : http://www.indiatribune.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3246:dr-arun-a-seraphin--one-of-top-10-defense-staffers-to-know&catid=25:community&Itemid=457 (consulté le 4 juin 2012)

Sources additionnelles :

All accessed 4 juin 2012

http://www.legistorm.com/person/Arun_A_Seraphin/7666.html