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## **Vice Admiral J. M. McConnell, USN**

**1992 - 1996**

Vice Admiral J. M. McConnell was born in Greenville, South Carolina, in 1943. He attended Furman University in Greenville, where he graduated in 1966 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics. Vice Admiral McConnell also holds a Masters of Public Administration in government and public administration from George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

After he was commissioned as a line officer in April 1967, Vice Admiral McConnell's first tour was as assistant engineer and damage control officer aboard USS *Colleton* serving as a unit of the Mobile Riverine Force in the Mekong Delta of Vietnam. His follow-on assignment was with the Naval Investigative Service in Yokosuka, Japan, where he served as a counterintelligence analyst and command administrative officer. While attending the Defense Intelligence College in 1970, he became an intelligence specialist. After serving in the Pentagon as an analyst and supervisor of the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Undersea Warfare Intelligence Watch, he was assigned as force intelligence officer for commander, Middle East Force Staff. He then embarked on USS *La Salle* deployed to the Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean.

Returning ashore in 1976, he became operations officer for the Fleet Ocean Surveillance Information Facility in Rota, Spain. After a brief tour in Washington on the CNO's intelligence staff in the Pentagon, he became the current intelligence officer for the commander, Pacific Fleet in Hawaii. He returned to sea in 1983 as fleet intelligence officer for commander, Seventh Fleet aboard USS *Blue Ridge* where he served for two years deployed to the Western Pacific. After one year at the National Defense University's Industrial College of the Armed Forces and earning a graduate degree from George Washington University, Vice Admiral McConnell served for one year as executive assistant to the Director of Naval Intelligence. He was next assigned as chief of the Naval Forces Division at the National Security Agency for one year prior to becoming the assistant chief of staff for intelligence for the commander, Pacific Fleet. From July 1990 to May 1992, he served as Director for Joint Staff Intelligence, serving as the current intelligence officer for the chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, and as a member of the Defense

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Intelligence Agency. Significant events during his tenure included Desert Storm and the fall of the Soviet Union.

Vice Admiral McConnell became the Director of NSA in 1992. During his tenure, the Agency continued to deal with congressionally mandated downsizing as the country sought to reduce defense spending following the breakup of the Soviet Empire. The director had to balance this requirement with the need to provide intelligence and information assurance support to U.S. forces that were deployed to deal with a number of crises throughout the world. Foremost among these were events surrounding the breakup of Yugoslavia, and developments in Eastern Africa, especially in Somalia. To respond to a changing world, and to reallocate increasingly sparse manpower and equipment resources, the Agency went through a number of major and minor reorganizations during the years Vice Admiral McConnell served as Director. In an effort to ensure that such moves fit into an overall strategy to change the Agency in a desired way, he directed studies be undertaken to develop an overall strategy that would provide direction for NSA for several years to come.

Vice Admiral McConnell retired from military service following the end of his tour as Director in 1996. He became active in private industry and served as a consultant on defense and intelligence issues. From February 2007 until January 2009, he served as the Director of National Intelligence.

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