

The Class of 1992 Selects...

William J. Perry, Ph. D. (Class of 1945)



Perry, recognized as chief architect of this country's stealth technology and smart weapons, became U.S. Secretary of Defense in 1994 after serving one year as Deputy Secretary. In the Carter administration Perry had served as Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering.

An article in a 1980 issue of Fortune magazine said that all the key weapons that would appear in the 1980's would bear Perry's imprint. The Gulf War showed how well Perry did his job. Perry received bachelor and master of science degrees from Stanford University and a Ph.D. from Penn State, all in mathematics. In 1964 Perry founded ESL Inc. - Electromagnetics Systems Laboratories - in California, but he had to sell his stock when he first went to the Pentagon in 1977. Before joining the Clinton administration, Perry was a professor in the School of Engineering at Stanford and co-director of the University Center for International Security and Arms Control.

He is a trustee of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and a member of the Committee on International Security and Arms Control of the National Academy of Science. A resident of Alexandria, VA, Perry attended the former Jefferson Street Elementary School.