



Faces of Security Cooperation

LTG GEORGE M. SEIGNIOUS

DSAA DIRECTOR (1971-1972)



LTG George Marion Seignious was the first Director of the Defense Security Assistance Agency (DSAA), later recommissioned as the Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) in 1998.

BIOGRAPHY

George Marion Seignious was born in Orangeburg, S.C. on June 21, 1921.

Seignious graduated from The Citadel in 1942, after which he had a storied military career, serving in numerous leadership and advisory positions. Prior to joining DSAA, he served as the U.S. Commander in Berlin and advised U.S. Ambassador to West Germany, Kenneth Rush, on the Four Power Agreement on Berlin.

In 1972, Seignious left DSAA when he was selected to be the first Director of the Joint Staff for the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Afterwards, he served as the president of his alma mater, The Citadel; the Director of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency; the U.S. Delegate-at-Large for Arms Control Negotiations; and the President of the Atlantic Council.

Seignious died in Charleston, S.C. on July 3, 2005.

THE NEW AGENCY

While holding the rank of Lieutenant General, Seignious became the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Assistance and Sales and was concurrently assigned to be DSAA's first director.

Then-Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird created DSAA to serve as the Department of Defense (DoD)'s focal point and clearinghouse for tracking arms transfers, budgetary, legislative, and other security assistance matters through analysis, coordination, decision, and implementation. Laird also envisioned that the agency would serve the purpose of keeping all concerned elements of DoD informed about the status of ongoing security assistance actions by raising issues through the appropriate channels when decisions of higher authority were required.

ABOUT "FACES OF SECURITY COOPERATION"

September 1st, 2021 marks 50 years since the establishment of DSCA.

In celebration of this milestone, DSCA is highlighting notable "Security Cooperators" who have served the Security Cooperation community over the past 50 years. These individuals, uniformed and civilian, all exemplify professionalism and public service, and embody DSCA's ethos of "security through global partnerships."

"Faces of Security Cooperation" aims to provide a quick glance at the lives and legacies of those who have made impactful change in the history of Security Cooperation. From our past into our future, we honor those whose contributions have shaped DSCA into the agency we know today.