

# Appendix C

## *Out of tragedy comes friendship*



### **F. WHITTEN PETERS**

**Secretary of the Air Force from**

**July 30, 1999 to Jan. 20, 2001**

F. Whitten Peters is secretary of the Air Force, Washington, D.C. In that role, he is responsible for ensuring the Air Force can meet its current and future missions. He oversees the recruiting, training and equipping of the 365,000 men and women on active duty, 180,000 members of the Air National Guard and the Air Force Reserve, and 165,000 civilians of the total force. Peters is further responsible for planning, justifying and allocating the service's annual budget of approximately \$71 billion. His other responsibilities include logistical support, maintenance, research and development, and the welfare of Air Force people and their families.

Prior to being appointed to his current position, Peters was the undersecretary of the Air Force and acting secretary of the Air Force. Before that he was the principal deputy general counsel of the Department of Defense where he worked a wide range of issues, including acquisition reform, countering domestic terrorism, protecting the department's information systems and affirmative action. Prior to serving as a senior executive with the federal government, Peters was a litigation partner at the District of Columbia law firm of Williams & Connolly, where he specialized in complex civil and criminal litigation, including the defense of government contract fraud, antitrust, tax and security cases. He has extensive experience in representing individuals and corporations in compliance and ethics programs, internal investigations, and suspension and debarment proceedings. He has written and spoken extensively on acquisition reform, legal ethics and criminal law issues.

#### **EDUCATION:**

1968 Bachelor of arts degree in government and economics, magna cum laude, Harvard College, Cambridge, Mass.

1969 Distinguished graduate, Naval Officer Candidate School, Newport, R.I.

1973 Master of science degree in economics, with distinction, London School of Economics, London, England

1976 Doctor of law, magna cum laude, Harvard Law School, Cambridge, Mass.

#### **CAREER CHRONOLOGY:**

1. 1969 - 1972, U.S. Navy Reserve officer, Fleet Intelligence Center Atlantic, Norfolk, Va.
2. 1972 - 1973, Frank Knox Traveling Fellow, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.
3. 1975 - 1976, president, Harvard Law Review

4. 1976 - 1977, law clerk to the Honorable J. Skelly Wright, U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, Washington, D.C.
5. 1977 - 1978, law clerk to the Honorable William J. Brennan, Jr., Supreme Court of the United States, Washington, D.C.
6. 1978 - 1984, associate, Williams & Connolly Law Firm, Washington, D.C.
7. 1984 - 1995, partner, Williams & Connolly Law Firm, Washington, D.C.
8. 1987 - 1994, member, Legal Ethics Committee, District of Columbia Bar, Washington, D.C.
9. 1988 - 1990, adjunct lecturer, government contracts, Columbus School of Law, The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.
10. 1990 - 1995, adjunct professor, advanced criminal procedure, Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, D.C.
11. 1991 - 1993, member, Department of Defense Advisory Committee on Streamlining and Codifying Acquisition Law, Washington, D.C.
12. 1991 - 1996, chair, Rules of Professional Responsibility Review Committee, District of Columbia Bar, Washington, D.C.
13. 1993 - 1995, member, Rules Committee, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, Washington, D.C.
14. 1995 - 1997, principal deputy general counsel, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Washington, D.C.
15. 1996 - 1997, government representative, Defense Science Board study on vertical merger policy, Washington, D.C.
16. 1997 - 1999, undersecretary of the Air Force, Washington, D.C.
17. 1999 - present, secretary of the Air Force, Washington, D.C.

## **AWARDS AND HONORS:**

Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service with Bronze Palm  
 Sears Prize, Harvard Law School  
 Frank Knox Fellowship, Harvard University  
 Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation  
 National Defense Service Medal

## **Professional Affiliations:**

American Bar Association  
 Fellow, American Bar Foundation  
 District of Columbia Bar  
 Bars of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, Federal, 3rd and 11th circuits  
 U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces  
 U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia  
 U.S. District Court for Maryland  
 U.S. Court of Federal Claims  
 U.S. Tax Court                      Current as of March 2000)

## NEIGHBORS



News-Tribune/Jim Miskelly

The Honorable F. Whitten Peters is shown with hosts Fran and Gary Heiser.

### High ranking military man visits Palm Coast couple

By JIM MISKELLY  
News-Tribune Correspondent

PALM COAST — Gary and Fran Heiser entertained a special houseguest recently. The Honorable F. Whitten Peters, outgoing secretary of the Air Force, was their guest for the weekend. Peters was in Florida to attend a military conference.

After the past years of extensive travel and hard work in a job that he calls "exhilarating but exhausting," he has stepped back and will take a short rest before devoting his time to the extension of his career and legacy. The Heiser's only child, Mike, was killed in the terrorist bombing attack on Khobars Towers in Saudi Arabia four and half years ago. For them life will never be the way it was or should be.

"Meeting people in similar situations and joining grief organizations was not something we were familiar with and we certainly wouldn't want to wish membership on anyone, but they are good

groups who are doing good things," said Fran Heiser, adding, "We have met many caring people who emerge from every walk of life and they extend their hands and hearts. Air Force Secretary Whitt Peters is one such person. We first met him while he was the Acting Secretary of the Air Force and all the Khobar Towers families were brought to Quantico, Va., for three days of briefing by Director Louis Freeh and the FBI."

Peters and the Heisers hit it off right from the start and a new friendship grew via e-mail and through the trials and tribulations of the memorials dedicated to the memories of the men who were killed and injured at Khobar Towers.

Peters was keynote speaker at the dedication of a special museum display at Maxwell Air Force Base in 1998 and he was the keynote speaker at Patrick AFB last June when a special memorial was dedicated.

