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Ron Burgess retired from the US Army, as the 17th Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, and joined Auburn University in 2012, as the Senior Counsel for National Security Programs, Cyber Programs and Military Affairs.

During his distinguished 38-year career in the U.S. Army, and now, at Auburn University, Lieutenant General Ronald L. Burgess, Jr. (Ret.) has and continues to serve as a driving force in the U.S. Intelligence Community by providing exceptional leadership and broad strategic vision that contributes to safeguarding U.S. national security interests. He has consistently guided outcomes that have strengthened our national and military intelligence capabilities and has been instrumental in transforming defense intelligence into a cooperative enterprise to better serve national policymakers, Combatant Commanders, and the warfighter in the field.

As head of the Defense Intelligence Agency and a former Acting Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence, Burgess served as a key player within the national security arena, called upon by the President, the Secretary of Defense, the Director of National Intelligence, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Congressional leaders for his opinions, advice and expertise. His exceptional leadership skills were used to focus the Defense Intelligence Agency on the greatest challenges confronting the United States including Afghanistan-Pakistan, Iraq, transnational terrorism, and preventing strategic surprise elsewhere around the globe.

Lieutenant General Burgess' personal military awards and decorations include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal (One Oak Leaf Cluster), Defense Superior Service Medal (Two Oak Leaf Clusters), Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal (Four Oak Leaf Clusters,) Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, NATO Medal—former Republic of Yugoslavia, Parachutist Badge, Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge and Army Staff Identification Badge. During his career he has been recognized with awards by the governments of Colombia and Bolivia. Additionally, he was presented with the Order of the Star of Romania by the President of Romania and was inducted in the National Order of the Legion of Honor by the President of France. He received the 2013 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Auburn University Alumni Association. In June of 2015, he will be inducted into the United States Army Military Intelligence Hall of Fame.

Throughout his career, Burgess has been recognized for his contributions to the U.S. National Intelligence Community. His comprehensive knowledge of defense intelligence organization and information systems, and his leadership, proactive coordination, and attentive follow-through contributed to the success of numerous missions of national significance. As a result of his leadership, the cornerstone Executive Order 12333, which governs all intelligence activities, was revised; critical Intelligence Community managerial operations were overhauled; and innovative human capital practices were pioneered.

Ron Burgess' responsibilities include interfacing and coordinating with federal, state and commercial entities on all matters related to national security interests, cyber and Auburn University's emphasis, focus and interaction with the military. He also interfaces, coordinates and briefs, as directed, Congressional offices and Alabama legislative offices on all of the above to advance Auburn University's interests.

LTG Burgess was commissioned in Military Intelligence through the Auburn University ROTC Program in 1974, Burgess earned a Master of Science degree in Education from the University of Southern California in 1980, and a Master of Military Arts and Science from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College in 1986. His military education includes the Armor Officer Basic Course, the Military Intelligence Officers Advanced Course, the Command and General Staff College, the Advanced Military Studies Program, and the Air War College.