

# Robert B. Blair

Director of Policy and Strategic Planning  
United States Department of Commerce



Mr. Blair is the Director of the Office of Policy and Strategic Planning within the Office of the Secretary of Commerce. In that position, Mr. Blair works with other senior Department leaders to set the Department's policy priorities and develop and implement plans to achieve them. Mr. Blair focuses especially on telecommunications, semiconductors and other technologies; export control policy; and reopening the economy following the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Blair previously served as United States Special Representative for International Telecommunications Policy. In this capacity, Mr. Blair led the strategic prioritization of United States efforts to promote a secure and reliable global communications system and served as a liaison to industry, non-governmental, and international stakeholders. Mr. Blair was also Senior Advisor to the Chief of Staff of the White House, supporting Presidential decision-making and policy coordination on matters relating to foreign policy, intelligence, and national security.

Before joining the White House, Mr. Blair was the Associate Director for Defense Programs at the Office of Management and Budget, where he oversaw approximately \$1.3 trillion of projects, programs, and activities at the Departments of Defense, State and Veterans Affairs; the intelligence community; and other departments and agencies implementing our defense and foreign policy activities.

Mr. Blair served 14 years on the staff of the Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives prior to joining the Administration. His last position on the Committee was as the staff director of the Defense appropriations subcommittee, overseeing nearly \$700 billion of defense and intelligence programs. Before that position, he was the staff director of the Energy and Water subcommittee, where he managed our nation's investments into energy research and development, nuclear weapons, and water infrastructure. His first assignment on the Committee was as a professional staff member on the Foreign Operations subcommittee, where he focused on development and humanitarian assistance.

Before joining the Committee, Mr. Blair was a Presidential Management Fellow at the Department of State. He began his federal service as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Central African Republic.

Mr. Blair grew up in Illinois and holds degrees from Cornell University, Tufts University, and the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. He has received the Meritorious and Superior Honor Awards from the Department of State, and the Decoration for Distinguished Civilian Service from the Department of the Army.

Mr. Blair lives in Virginia with his wife and three children.