

## **Maj. Gen. Robert F. Durkin, U.S. Air Force**

Director  
Defense Mapping Agency  
October 1987–June 1990



Maj. Gen. Robert F. Durkin was born in Youngstown, Ohio, and earned a BS in military science from the U.S. Military Academy in 1958 and an MS in engineering management from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1966. He completed Armed Forces Staff College in 1971 and Air War College in 1978 and graduated from the Institute for Higher Defense Studies in 1983.

He was awarded his wings in September 1959 and served successively with the 4038th Strategic Wing, Dow Air Force Base (AFB), Maine; as an aircraft commander at Homestead AFB, Florida; as aircraft commander at Ching Chuan Kang Air Base, Taiwan; with Aeronautical Systems Division, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio; and at the Armament Development and Test Center, Eglin AFB, Florida. Beginning in July 1971, Major General Durkin was assigned as a staff development engineer, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, Research and Development, Headquarters U.S. Air Force; as chief of the Operations and Training Division, 28th Bombardment Wing; and then as commander of the 77th Bombardment Squadron at Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota. He served as a nuclear employment and policy planner and then as chief of the Nuclear Division, Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Washington, DC; deputy commander for operations, and then wing vice commander, 5th Bombardment Wing, Minot AFB, North Dakota; and commander of the 28th Bombardment Wing at Ellsworth AFB. Beginning in May 1983, Major General Durkin served in U.S. Air Force headquarters as deputy for strategic forces, Directorate of Operational Requirements, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, Research, Development, and Acquisition; as deputy director of operations; and as deputy director of plans. In March 1986, Major General Durkin was assigned as deputy director for foreign intelligence, Defense Intelligence Agency.

Major General Durkin restructured the Defense Mapping Agency's (DMA's) international and domestic training in the production and exploitation of geospatial information. Under his direction, Phase II (Mark 90) of the modernization production system was installed, giving DMA the ability to exploit all forms of intelligence and commercial satellite imagery. DMA's products in support of the Single Integrated Operational Plan (SIOP) contributed to the downfall of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Major General Durkin was a command pilot with more than 4,600 flying hours, including ninety-seven combat missions in Southeast Asia. His military decorations and awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Air Medal with oak leaf cluster, Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster, Combat Readiness Medal, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm, and Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal. Major General Durkin retired on July 1, 1990 and died on November 14, 2004.