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IDA Researcher Confirmed as Assistant Secretary of the Army (Financial Management and Comptroller)

ALEXANDRIA, VA (September 2018) – John E. Whitley, a senior fellow in the Cost Analysis and Research Division, was confirmed by the U.S. Senate as the next assistant secretary of the Army (financial management and comptroller) on Tuesday, September 18.

“I look forward to John’s continued service to the Nation in his new position,” said Dr. David S.C. Chu, IDA president. “During his time here at IDA, he has made significant contributions and led groundbreaking analysis in multiple areas. He will be greatly missed.”

Whitley led IDA’s efforts to provide the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission an analytical basis for concluding that healthcare could be provided more efficiently. This work can be linked to restructuring healthcare provision, evaluating the viability of military treatment facilities, and establishing pilots for public/private partnerships.

Whitley earned his bachelor’s degree in agricultural and applied economics, and animal science from Virginia Tech. He earned his master’s degree and doctoral degree in economics from the University of Chicago.

Whitley assumed his new position on September 26.

IDA is a not-for-profit corporation that operates three Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs) in the public interest. IDA provides objective analyses of national security issues and related national challenges, particularly those requiring extraordinary scientific and technical expertise.



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