

William Cohen

William S. Cohen served as U.S. Secretary of Defense from 1997 to 2001. He was responsible for reversing 15 years of continuous decline in the defense budget and the defense procurement budget, which he increased by nearly 50 percent. Under his leadership, the U.S. military conducted the campaign in Bosnia-Kosovo and operations on every continent. Before becoming Secretary of Defense, Cohen served three terms in the U.S. House of Representatives and three terms in the U.S. Senate. He now is the chairman and CEO of The Cohen Group, a strategic business consulting firm based in Washington, D.C., and is a regular commentator on CNN's *Lou Dobbs Tonight*.

Cohen is the author or co-author of nine books, including *Men of Zeal*, describing the Iran-Contra investigation, which he co-authored with George J. Mitchell. A native of Bangor, Maine, he earned a bachelor's degree from Bowdoin College and a law degree from Boston University Law School.