



Stanley's Background

President and CEO, Scholarship America

Executive Vice President, University of Pennsylvania

Major General, U.S. Marine Corps

Instructor, U.S. Naval Academy

White House Fellow

EDUCATION

B.S., Psychology, South Carolina State University

M.S., Counseling, Johns Hopkins University

Amphibious Warfare School

Naval War College

U.S. Marine Corps Command and Staff College

National War College

Ph.D., Education, University of Pennsylvania

this issue:

Clifford L. Stanley, Nominee for Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness

Who is Clifford Stanley?

On October 15, 2009 President Obama nominated Clifford L. Stanley to be the Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.

Fn.1. He obviously did not get that job.

He did land a "perfect" job as the executive vice

Stanley seems to have difficulty making and sticking with career decisions. If confirmed, one wonders how long he would remain at the Department of Defense. Furthermore, Stanley seems obsessed with racial issues. Somehow, even as a highly decorated major general, he is convinced that he didn't receive the respect he deserves, due to racism.

One wonders first whether these slights are real or imagined, and—if real—if they might not be better attributed to some other cause.

Stanley has an impressive resume, but he also appears to be indecisive. For example, he "applied for a job with the Philadelphia school system but he withdrew his name from consideration twice."

"Although Stanley served many honorable years in the military, he should not be confirmed. Like Obama, Stanley dithers; and now, with war raging, is not the time for indecision."

-Don Todd, Director of Research, Americans for Limited Government

president of the University of Pennsylvania, but he was having second thoughts as late as the day before he accepted it. As reported by the Philadelphia Inquirer:

"He said the school-district post did not feel like a right fit. 'This one,' he said, 'is perfect'." *Id.*

"Stanley said he still had second thoughts as late as Thursday because the Marines dangled a

promotion that would have made him the top-ranking African American in the corps - with a clear path to further advancement." *Id.*

After eleven months on the job, he resigned with only ten days' notice. His explanation was very brief and attributed his resignation to personal

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What you really need know about Stanley

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reasons. Other high-ranking officials at the same university gave several months of notice before resigning. Both he and other university officials refused to comment on his resignation.

Five days before his one-year anniversary as Penn's business chief, Clifford Stanley will resign his post on Oct. 10.

Stanley released a statement yesterday that read, "For personal reason, I have decided that now is the time to leave the University of Pennsylvania to pursue other opportunities." He did not return repeated phone calls yesterday. Fn.2.

Did he have some incredible job offer too good to turn down? No. After resigning, he stayed on at the University of Pennsylvania to work on his doctorate. In 2003 Stanley said something very strange for a man who had just left a senior administrative job at one of the most prestigious universities in the country:

"What I really want is a good understanding of the entire system," Stanley said. "I want to really learn how you run a school so that if I can be in a position of leadership one day, I can do that." Fn.3.

Steve Brauntuch, an editorial page writer wrote:

Staff members were surprised. Higher education search firms were confused. West Philadelphia leaders say they never even got the chance to meet with him. The circumstances surrounding Stanley's departure are mysterious at best and disconcerting at worst.

Will he be missed? Probably not, to be honest. Rodin can clearly handle the extra responsibility, and Penn has a very strong group of vice presidents—Fry [Stanley's predecessor] holdovers, by the way—in place that can handle themselves just fine. Fn.4.

Like many of Obama's nominees, Stanley appears to be fixated on race.

Stanley said he hasn't forgotten the Jim Crow laws that barred African Americans from jobs and public places like hotels, restaurants and other facilities. He hasn't forgotten African Americans living in fear of racially motivated violence.

"I still feel it, still see it," Stanley told the multiracial audience. As an African American, he said, "I am blessed to be able to see what others may see, even if I don't experience it myself. For example, I'm the person who goes into the company office and the first sergeant does everything but pay attention to me. I'm the person who goes into supply and the sergeant and his NCOs continue to chitchat and drink coffee, kind of ignoring me. I'm the person who never complains when I'm given all kinds of unfair duties and responsibilities." Fn.5.

Sources for further reading:

Fn.1. James M. O'Neill, *Penn finds its newest top official in Marines; Maj. Gen. Clifford L. Stanley, 55, of Virginia, has been named the university's chief operating officer*, THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER, September 7, 2002 at A01.

Fn.2. Spencer Willig, *U. Business chief to step down*, THE DAILY PENNSYLVANIAN, October 2, 2003. Available online at: <http://thedp.com/node/40158>. (Accessed November 30, 2009.)

Fn.3. Blair Kaminsky, *Perspective: Getting the third degree*, THE DAILY PENNSYLVANIAN, October 28, 2003. Available online at: <http://thedp.com/node/40503>. (Accessed November 30, 2009.)

Fn.4. Steve Brauntuch, *Gen. Stanley misfires on all cylinders*, THE DAILY PENNSYLVANIAN, October 16, 2003. Available online at: <http://thedp.com/print/40316>. (Accessed November 30, 2009.)

Fn.5. Rudi Williams, *Some People Uncomfortable With Ethnic Observances, General Says*, AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICES, February 14, 2001. Available online at: <http://www.defenselink.mil/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=45714>. (Accessed November 30, 2009.)

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