

CIA's Covert Operations Chief Quits

Washington

The head of covert operations for the CIA is leaving the agency in the wake of a Senate intelligence committee report that criticized covert activities as self-defeating and recommended a sharp cutback in their future use.

William E. Nelson, deputy director for operations, confirmed yesterday that he announced his plans to retire at a staff meeting on Monday, the same day the committee report was made public.

Nelson said that he retired for "personal reasons" and denied that his decision was linked to the report.

Nelson's retirement is effective May 15. Officials refused to say who will succeed him.

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