



President-elect Barack Obama appointed a defense contractor's lobbyist Thursday to become the No. 2 official at the Defense Department, a choice that appeared to break with his self-imposed rules to keep lobbyists at arm's length.

William J. Lynn III, Obama's choice for deputy defense secretary, is a former Pentagon official who now is senior vice president for government operations at Raytheon Co. Lynn hasn't been a registered lobbyist since July, meaning he can't personally lobby Congress or the White House.

In the first three months of 2008, his lobbying team reported spending \$1.15 million to influence issues including missiles, sensors and radar, advanced technology programs and intelligence funding.

TVNL Comment: Well that didn't take long. Welcome back to reality.

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