

# The EAGLE

*Inspiration to Excellence*

**DRAFT**



Making  
the World  
Safer

## The Origin

The Defense Threat Reduction Agency's Eagle sculpture continues a tradition of art in federal buildings. As an alternative to displaying the agency's name on the exterior of the new Defense Threat Reduction Center (DTRC) at the Headquarter's Complex on Ft. Belvoir, Va., DTRA sought symbolic representation of its presence. The DTRA seal—a symbol recognized both nationally and internationally—was the clear starting point.

DTRA commissioned a renowned artist, Miley Tucker-Frost, to translate the DTRA seal into art. The eagle at the seal's center soon became the project's focus, as a symbol of DTRA and a tribute to the Great Seal of the United States. The artistic team worked for over a year to create the final sculpture. Located outside the DTRC entrance, the Eagle sculpture marks DTRA's presence in a memorable way, impressing all who view it with the importance of the agency and its vital mission.



# The Seal of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency

The DTRA seal is a visual representation of the agency's history and mission. The eagle at its center honors the American bald eagle depicted on the Great Seal of the United States, which is imbued with the rich symbolism of American beliefs and values. The arrows and olive branch clutched in the eagle's talons represent the power of peace and war.

The broad outer band of the DTRA seal reflects the agency's service to the Department of Defense. Within the band, the globe denotes the worldwide impact of the threat reduction mission and recalls the On-Site Inspection Agency, one of three agencies merged in 1998 to create DTRA. The shield on the eagle's breast, inherited from the legacy Defense Special Weapons Agency, depicts three parallel arrows which represent the military departments of the United States and symbolize unity and common direction. The two-color background of the shield is unique to DTRA. Blue represents the agency's mission to reduce the threat from weapons of mass destruction, while red signifies the need to plan for future, uncertain threats.





## The Artist's Inspiration

Miley Tucker-Frost found inspiration for the Eagle sculpture in the people and ideals of the agency. She sought a fitting, uplifting tribute to the importance of DTRA personnel and the magnitude and global significance of their mission. She also considered that, in its outdoor setting, the sculpture would be viewable from all sides, as well as from above.

These factors inspired Ms. Tucker-Frost to create a sculpture both substantive and airy—a powerful stainless steel eagle within seemingly free-floating rings—to serve as an enduring and approachable emblem of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency.



## Shaped in Paper

The "lost wax" casting process used to create the Eagle sculpture has changed little since it was first mastered in ancient China and Mesopotamia. Using hollow, rather than solid metal casting, the process begins with construction of a small paper model.



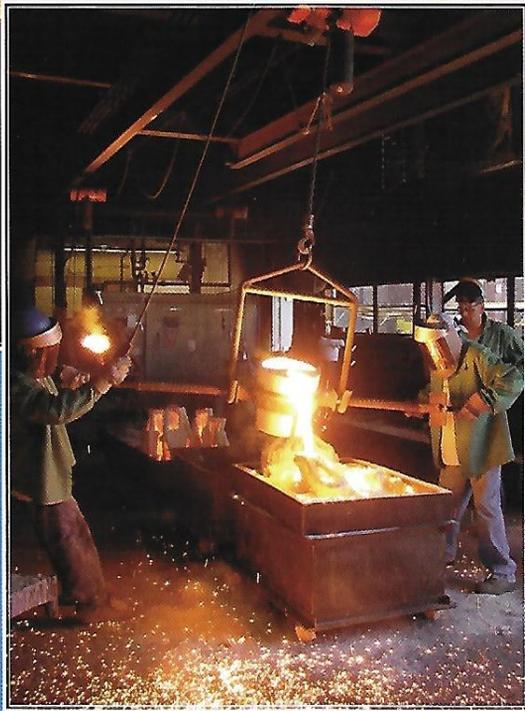
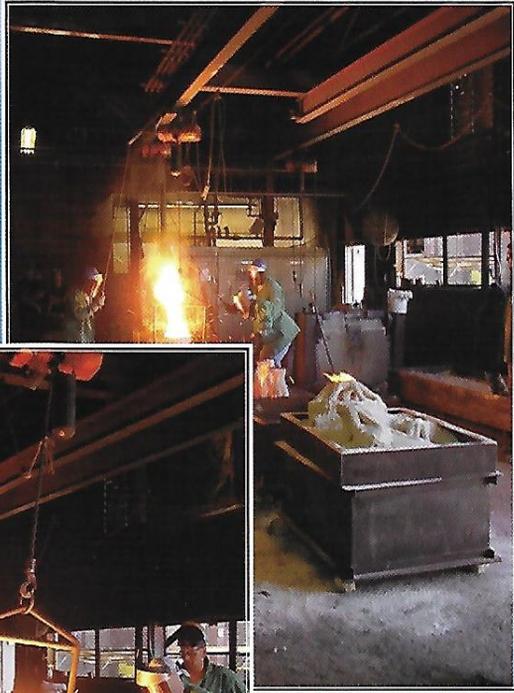
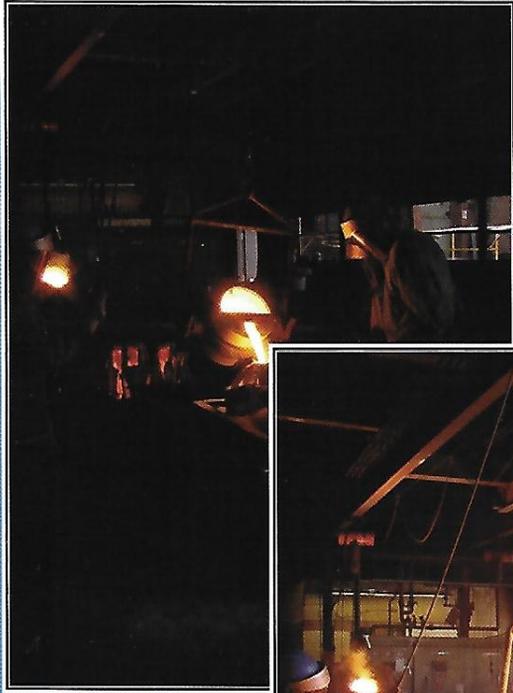
## Sculpted in Clay

Guided by the paper model, the sculptor creates a full-scale, detailed clay model of the eagle in the studio, using a wood and wire frame. This three-dimensional mockup is examined in detail and any final changes are made. The sculpted elements are then transported to the foundry, where the eagle is "painted" with liquid rubber, which hardens to form a mold.



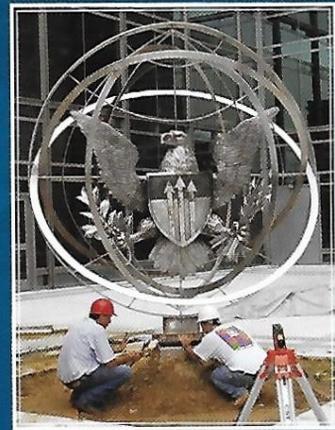
## Formed in Wax

Wax is poured into the rubber mold to create a wax model, which is then repeatedly dipped in liquid clay. A ceramic shell forms around the wax. When fired, the shell bakes and hardens, while the wax melts and drains, hence the term "lost wax." The resulting hollow ceramic mold—an exact negative of the original model—is used to craft the final sculpture.



## Cast in Steel

Due to the eagle's large size—its wings span nearly 8 ½ feet—the ceramic shell is cut into sections for casting. Each section is filled with molten metal. Once cool, the shell is carefully broken away, exposing a piece of the unfinished eagle. The pieces are welded together, joints are smoothed and re-detailed, and the entire eagle is hand-polished and buffed.



## The Installation

On July 15th, 2006, the complete sculpture arrives from the foundry. It is gently lifted by a crane 40 feet into the air, and then carefully lowered and affixed to a concrete base. As the sun breaks through the overcast skies, the stainless steel bands and highly polished eagle glisten brightly. The sculpture is complete.



## The Vision Fulfilled

The final sculpture joins the cast eagle with the fabricated rings that surround it. All pieces are welded together, carefully smoothed and polished. Complete, it stands an impressive 10 feet tall and weighs 1,500 pounds. Gracing the entrance to the DTRC, the sculpture stands as a testament to the strength, dedication, honor and dignity of the men and women of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency.



## About the Artist

Miley Tucker-Frost creates original sculptures commissioned by private, corporate and federal organizations. Some of her work has been featured in the White House Oval Office, the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library, the Smithsonian American History Museum, the University of Texas, and other federal, state and private collections.

She is the artist for the reverse side of the U.S. Treasury's American Eagle Gold Bullion coin and has created public monuments such as the "Peace Through Strength Globe" located at the entrance of the U. S. Marshals Service headquarters in Northern Virginia.



## The Foundry

The Eagle sculpture was cast and fabricated by the New Arts Foundry. Located in Baltimore, Md., it is one of the few remaining foundries specializing in fine art.



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