Ambassadors Forum Panel

The American Academy of Diplomacy presents four distinguished former U.S. Ambassadors to discuss U.S. foreign and trade policy.

Ambassador Ronald Neumann served as Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of Near East Affairs (1997-2000) and three times as Ambassador to Algeria (1994-1997), Bahrain (2001-2004), and Afghanistan (2005-2007). Prior to Afghanistan, he served in Baghdad with the Coalition Provisional Authority and as Embassy Baghdad’s liaison for the Multinational Command. Ambassador Neumann is Board President for the American Academy of Diplomacy, serves on the Advisor Committee for the School of Leadership-Afghanistan, and is on the board of the Middle East Policy Council. He is also the author of The Other War: Winning and Losing in Afghanistan.

Ambassador Marcie B. Ries has almost four decades of diplomatic experience including posts as Ambassador to Albania (2004-2007) and Bulgaria (2012-2015). She served as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary in both the European and Arms Control Bureaus and was also the Director of the State Department’s Office of United Nations Political Affairs for two years after the 9/11 attacks. She is the recipient of the US Army’s Distinguished Civilian Service Medal, the Presidential Meritorious Service Award, and four Department of State Superior Honor awards. She currently serves as a private consultant specializing in relations with Europe and national security.

Ambassador Marcie B. Ries

Ambassador Tony Wayne served as an American Diplomat from 1975-2015 with multiple assignments including Ambassador to Mexico (2011-2015) and Argentina (2006-2009). He has served under three Secretaries of State as Assistant Secretary for Economic and Business Affairs (2000-2006) as well as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for European Affairs, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Europe and Canada, Deputy Chief of Mission at the US Mission to the European Union in Brussels, and Director for Western Europe at the National Security Council. In 2010 the US Senate confirmed Ambassador Wayne as a Career Ambassador – the highest rank achievable in US foreign-service.

Ambassador Tony Wayne

Ambassador Susan L. Ziadeh has over 20 years in diplomatic service where she most recently served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Arabian Peninsula Affairs in the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs. She served as US Ambassador to Qatar (2011-2014) and has held senior leadership positions in Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Bahrain. She was awarded the Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service in 2015 – the department’s highest civilian award. She is currently a Middle East strategic advisor in Washington, a member of the Middle East Institute’s Board of Governors, and member of the International Advisors Council for the American University of Beirut, Lebanon.

Ambassador Susan L. Ziadeh