
ORAL ARGUMENT SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 22, 2025

**United States Court of Appeals
for the District of Columbia Circuit**

Nos. 25-5144, 25-5145, 25-5150, 25-5151

PATSY WIDAKUSWARA, ET AL.,**Plaintiffs-Appellees,****v.****KARI LAKE, IN HER OFFICIAL CAPACITY AS SENIOR ADVISOR TO
THE ACTING CEO OF THE U.S. AGENCY FOR GLOBAL MEDIA, ET AL.,****Defendants-Appellants,***(For Continuation of Caption See Inside Cover)*

*On Appeal from the United States District Court for the District of Columbia
in No. 1:25-cv-01015-RCL.*

**BRIEF OF FORMER UNITED STATES MILITARY LEADERS,
AMBASSADORS, AND DIPLOMATIC OFFICIALS IN
SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS-APPELLEES**

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July 22, 2025



MICHAEL ABRAMOWITZ, IN HIS OFFICIAL CAPACITY AS DIRECTOR
OF VOICE OF AMERICA, ET AL.,

Plaintiffs-Appellees,

v.

KARI LAKE, IN HER OFFICIAL CAPACITY AS SENIOR ADVISOR TO
THE ACTING CEO OF THE U.S. AGENCY FOR GLOBAL MEDIA, ET AL.,

Defendants-Appellants,

MIDDLE EAST BROADCASTING NETWORKS, INC.,

Plaintiff-Appellee,

v.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ET AL.,

Defendants-Appellants,

RADIO FREE ASIA,

Plaintiff-Appellee,

v.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ET AL.,

Defendants-Appellants.

CERTIFICATE AS TO PARTIES, RULINGS, AND RELATED CASES

Pursuant to D.C. Circuit Rule 28(a)(1), the undersigned certifies as follows:

(A) **Parties and Amici.** All parties, intervenors, and amici appearing before the district court and in this Court are listed in the brief for Defendants-Appellants in this case, other than any amici filing briefs this same day.

(B) **Ruling Under Review.** To amici's knowledge, references to the ruling at issue appear in the brief for Defendants-Appellants in this case.

(C) **Related Cases.** To amici's knowledge, this case has not previously been before this Court. To amici's knowledge, there are two other related cases currently pending in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia or on appeal. *See RFE/RL, Inc. v. Lake*, 25-cv-799 (D.D.C.), *appeal docketed*, No. 25-5158 (D.C. Cir.); *Open Tech. Fund v. Lake*, 25-cv-840 (D.D.C.).

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GLOSSARY OF ABBREVIATIONS

USAGM United States Agency for Global Media

VOA Voice of America

INTEREST OF AMICI¹

The 54 Amici listed in Appendix A include 25 former senior United States Military officials representing five branches of the Armed Forces, 22 former United States Ambassadors, and other former diplomatic officials. Amici have served the United States abroad during periods of peace and strife, and across administrations, continents, and decades. They are united in their view that Voice of America has served and advanced American foreign policy goals, supported the spread of democracy, and provided a model of freedom and truth to people around the world living under regimes that tolerate neither. Amici submit that the executive order and corresponding actions taken to dismantle Voice of America are

¹ In accordance with Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 29, all parties have consented to the filing of this amicus brief. *See* Fed. R. App. P. 29(a)(2). No party's counsel authored this brief in whole or in part; no party or party's counsel contributed money that was intended to fund preparing or submitting the brief; and no person contributed money that was intended to fund preparing or submitting the brief. *See* Fed. R. App. P. 29(a)(4)(E). Pursuant to D.C. Circuit Rule 29(d), amici certify that this separate amicus brief is necessary because amici provide a unique perspective on the role of Voice of America as it relates to American foreign policy, and because it addresses Congress's role in codifying, reauthorizing, and expanding Voice of America and the Executive's obligation to fulfill Congress's mandate.

unlawful and unwise, and the preliminary injunction entered by the district court should therefore be affirmed.²

SUMMARY OF ARGUMENT

In amici's view, the executive order dismantling VOA is constitutionally and practically unsound. By statute, VOA is a mechanism that Congress has created to assist the Executive Branch in pursuit of our nation's broad foreign policy goals. Congress has directed that VOA "serve as a consistently reliable and authoritative source of news [that is] accurate, objective, and comprehensive," 22 U.S.C. § 6202(c)(1), "combat disinformation and deception with facts, told through an American lens of democratic values," and "present the policies of the United States clearly and effectively," alongside "responsible discussions and opinion on these policies." *Turner v. U.S. Agency for Glob. Media*, 502 F. Supp. 3d 333, 342 (D.D.C. 2020) (citing 22 U.S.C. §§ 6202(c)(3), 6202(b)(3)).

In the experience of amici, VOA has satisfied its congressional mandate. Across the decades of amici's government service, amici have never experienced

² Exec. Order No. 14238, Continuing the Reduction of the Federal Bureaucracy, 90 Fed. Reg. 13043 (Mar. 14, 2025); U.S. Agency for Global Media, *Senior Advisor Kari Lake Cancels Obscenely Expensive 15-Year-Lease That Burdened the Taxpayers and Enforces Trump's Executive Order to Drastically Downsize Agency* (Mar. 15, 2025) ("USAGM"), <https://www.usagm.gov/2025/03/15/u-s-agency-for-global-media-complies-with-presidential-executive-order-to-reduce-the-federal-bureaucracy/>.

VOA as a mouthpiece of “radical propaganda”³ or a “giant rot and burden to the American taxpayer,” much less a haven for “terrorist sympathizers and/or supporters.”⁴ To the contrary, in amici’s experience, VOA has played a crucial role in helping to achieve some of our nation’s most important foreign policy goals, while confirming the United States’s role as a beacon of democracy and freedom around the world.

Congress, for its part, has confirmed that it concurs with amici’s assessment. Congress first codified VOA in statute more than 75 years ago, and did so again some 50 years ago, and it has repeatedly reaffirmed its judgment that VOA serves our nation’s foreign policy interests. Indeed, Congress’s 2024 budget provides more than \$850 million for international broadcasting, including \$260 million in funding for VOA.⁵ Further, over the past half-century, Congress has established five additional international broadcast entities, which, together with VOA, “export[] the cardinal American values of free speech, freedom of the press, and

³ The White House, *The Voice of Radical America* (Mar. 15, 2025), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/articles/2025/03/the-voice-of-radical-america/>.

⁴ See USAGM, *supra* note 2.

⁵ See Explanatory Statement Submitted by Ms. Granger, Chair of the House Committee on Appropriations, Regarding H.R. 2882, Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024, 170 Cong. Rec. H1501, H2089 (Mar. 22, 2024) (“Explanatory Statement”). Voice of America’s funding has been continued at the same level in three continuing resolutions enacted during Fiscal Year 2025. See *Widakuswara v. Lake*, No. 1:25-CV-1015-RCL, 2025 WL 1166400, at *2 (D.D.C. Apr. 22, 2025).

open debate to the dark corners of the world where independent, objective coverage of current events is otherwise unavailable.” *Turner*, 502 F. Supp. 3d at 341–42. For decades, irrespective of the President’s party affiliation or the political makeup of Congress, there has been overwhelming bipartisan agreement that VOA (and the other organizations overseen by USAGM) are an important tool in the pursuit of our nation’s foreign policy.

The President cannot ignore Congress’s considered judgment that VOA supports America’s foreign policy goals. In amici’s experience, VOA is capable of reflecting evolving policy priorities within the framework of “accura[cy], objectiv[ity], and comprehensive[ness]” established by Congress. *See* 22 U.S.C. § 6202(c)(1). In so doing, it reflects and transmits the principles of democracy, free speech, and openness on which our nation was founded. Amici respectfully submit that the President “is not free from the ordinary controls and checks of Congress merely because foreign affairs are at issue,” *Zivotofsky ex rel. Zivotofsky v. Kerry*, 576 U.S. 1, 3 (2015), and he cannot simply disregard Congress’s mandate by executive order. Accordingly, amici respectfully urge the Court to affirm the district court’s order granting Plaintiffs-Appellees’ motion for a preliminary injunction.

ARGUMENT

I. Voice of America reflects Congress's role in foreign policy.

As former executive branch officials, amici recognize the President's role in formulating and executing foreign policy. *See, e.g., Am. Ins. Ass'n v. Garamendi*, 539 U.S. 396, 414 (2003) (collecting cases). But the Constitution also empowers Congress in this area, both expressly and implicitly. *See, e.g.,* U.S. Const. art. I, § 8 (enumerating Congressional powers, including spending power, and powers to “regulate commerce with foreign nations,” “declare War,” “raise and support Armies,” “provide and maintain a Navy”), § 9 (“invasion of the public safety”), § 10 (state authority to engage with “foreign Power[s]” subject to Congressional consent); art. II, § 2 (treaty power subject to “Advice and Consent of the Senate”); *see generally Schneider v. Kissinger*, 412 F.3d 190, 194–95 (D.C. Cir. 2005).

VOA reflects the Constitution's distribution of foreign policy authority among the executive and legislative branches. Congress's yearly budgetary reauthorization for USAGM and VOA, its decision to increase funding for VOA and to expand the number of international news services, and its directive that VOA provide “a consistently reliable and authoritative source of news [that is] accurate, objective, and comprehensive,” 22 U.S.C. § 6202(c)(1), are all consistent with Congress's constitutional role in influencing our nation's foreign policy.

So too are the statutory provisions describing the executive's authority to operate VOA. USAGM is an executive agency, and its chief executive is appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. *See* 22 U.S.C. § 6203(b)(1). Congress has further instructed that VOA “will present the policies of the United States clearly and effectively,” *id.* § 6202(c)(3); and that the chief executive of VOA “shall regularly consult with and seek from the Secretary of State guidance on foreign policy issues,” *id.* § 6209b, and will “review and evaluate the mission and operation of, and to assess the quality, effectiveness, and professional integrity of, all such activities within the context of the broad foreign policy goals of the United States,” *id.* § 6204(a)(2). The statutory scheme also provides the President with discretion to provide additional resources to USAGM “to support United States foreign policy objectives during a crisis abroad.” *Id.* § 6216(a)(1).

The statutory scheme that establishes VOA, *see* 22 U.S.C. Ch. 71, reflects Congress's considered and repeated judgment that, as a nation, we should “export[] . . . cardinal American values,” *Turner*, 502 F. Supp. 3d at 341–42, while providing the Executive with discretion to ensure that VOA's messaging is consistent with American foreign policy. In amici's long experience, this shared interest and responsibility in promoting American democracy has given rise to a highly

effective mechanism by which to pursue our nation's foreign policy objectives and inspire others to emulate our way of life.

II. Congress has consistently reaffirmed VOA's statutory mandate to support freedom and democracy abroad.

Amici respectfully refer the Court to submissions by Plaintiffs and other amici for a recitation of VOA's many successes in supporting American interests and inspiring democratic movements around the world. VOA's celebrated history has led Congress to repeatedly reaffirm its commitment to VOA and international broadcasting generally. In 1948, Congress, having seen the value of VOA during World War II, codified VOA in the United States Information and Educational Exchange Act. The Act established "an information service to disseminate abroad information about the United States, its people, and policies promulgated by the Congress, the President, the Secretary of State and other responsible officials of Government having to do with matters affecting foreign affairs." Pub. L. No. 80-402, tit. I § 2(1) (1948).

In 1977, Congress passed the Foreign Relations Authorization Act which recognized VOA's purpose to serve the "long-range interests of the United States" by "communicating directly with the peoples of the world by radio." Pub. L. No. 94-350, tit. II, § 206 (1976). There, Congress codified the "principles [that] will therefore govern [VOA] broadcasts," including that "VOA will serve as a consistently reliable and authoritative source of news" and "will present the

policies of the United States clearly and effectively, and will also present responsible discussion and opinion on these policies.” Pub. L. No. 94-350, tit. II, § 206 (1976). By 1982, Congress had provided VOA with an operating budget of \$109 million—enough to fund a worldwide staff of over 2,200 and a broadcast schedule of about 940 hours a week in 39 languages.⁶

In 1994, Congress again reaffirmed its commitment to the VOA’s foreign policy goals when it passed the United States International Broadcasting Act, which reorganized and consolidated the United States’s international broadcasting apparatus. The Act was intended to “strengthen the capability of the United States to use broadcasting to support freedom and democracy in a rapidly changing international environment.” Pub. L. No. 103-236, tit. III, § 302(5) (1994) (codified at 22 U.S.C. § 6201(5)). Congress declared that the “[o]pen communication of information and ideas among the peoples of the world contributes to international peace and stability and promotion of such communications is in the interests of the

⁶ See U.S. General Accounting Office, *The Voice of America Should Address Existing Problems to Ensure High Performance*, at 1–2 (July 29, 1982), <https://www.gao.gov/assets/id-82-37.pdf>.

United States. Pub. L. No. 103-236, tit. III, § 302(2) (codified at 22 U.S.C. § 6201(2)).⁷

Congress’s judgment about VOA has remained consistent into the present. In 2024, Congress budgeted more than \$260 million for VOA.⁸ That funding level was continued in each of the 2025 continuing budget resolutions. *See Widakuswara*, 2025 WL 1166400, at *2.

The history of VOA reflects bipartisan agreement that VOA’s global promotion of American democratic ideals is of immense strategic importance to the United States—a sentiment shared by amici.

III. VOA has been and will continue to be a vital source of American influence.

Since VOA’s inception, it (along with USAGM’s other broadcasts) has provided high-quality, truthful news coverage to people around the world who may not otherwise receive it. These broadcasts have advanced American interests by

⁷ In a 1991 congressional hearing, former Ambassador to China Winston Lord testified regarding the effectiveness of VOA programing, noting that the “VOA is our single most effective instrument to get truth and information to the Chinese people.” *Broadcasting to China: Applying the Lessons from European Freedom Radios; Hearing Before the Subcomms. for European Affairs and East Asian and Pacific Affairs of the S. Comm. on Foreign Relations*, 102d Cong. 1st sess. 1, 10 (Nov. 21, 1991) (S. Hrg. 102-364) (statement of Hon. Winston Lord, former U.S. Ambassador to the People’s Republic of China).

⁸ *See* Explanatory Statement, *supra* note 5 at H2089.

demonstrating to people living under oppressive regimes the benefits of living in a free and democratic society.

Consistent with amici's experience, U.S. policymakers have recognized the value of these broadcasts and turned to them time and again when seeking to promote democratic values in areas of significant strategic importance to the United States. When VOA launched during World War II, that area of focus was Germany, but after the war ended and the attention of U.S. policymakers shifted to communist countries in Europe, the U.S. expanded its broadcast operations into the Soviet Union, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Albania, Romania, and Bulgaria.⁹ Similarly, in the 1980s, in order to address concerns about the totalitarian regime in Cuba, the U.S. government created the Office of Cuba Broadcasting to transmit news coverage to people living under Fidel Castro's totalitarian regime.¹⁰ The U.S. again expanded operations into Asia in the 1990s, when policymakers were focused on autocratic regimes in places like China, Burma, Cambodia, Laos, North Korea, and Vietnam.¹¹ And after the 9/11 attacks, when the U.S. government was looking to improve communications with people in the Middle East and North

⁹ Congressional Research Service, *U.S. Agency for Global Media: Background, Governances, and Issues for Congress*, at 2 (Nov. 17, 2021), https://www.congress.gov/crs_external_products/R/PDF/R46968/R46968.2.pdf.

¹⁰ *Id.* at 3.

¹¹ *Id.* at 3–4.

Africa in order to counter violent extremism and ideological support for terrorism, the U.S. again turned to VOA and USAGM's other broadcasts and expanded operations in these regions.¹²

VOA's influence continues to this day. As of 2024, USAGM broadcasts had 427 million weekly listeners, 362 million of whom were weekly VOA listeners.¹³ Of those VOA listeners, 86% reported that they consider information from VOA to be very or somewhat trustworthy, and 83% reported that VOA's broadcasts have increased their knowledge of news about the rest of the world.¹⁴ In 2024 alone, USAGM broadcasts received numerous awards for original reporting in places with limited press freedoms, like China, Russia, Iran and Cuba.¹⁵ In amici's experience, VOA has long been and remains a valuable and credible source of

¹² *Id.* at 4; see also Congressional Research Service, *U.S. Public Diplomacy: Background and the 9/11 Commission Recommendations*, at 8 (Oct. 19, 2006), https://www.congress.gov/crs_external_products/RL/PDF/RL32607/RL32607.6.pdf (“Soon after the 2001 attacks and military action in Afghanistan, VOA expanded its broadcasts to Afghanistan and the Middle East, featuring coverage of events in the United States, as well as in the region. Expanded broadcasts were initiated in Arabic, Dari, Farsi, Pashto and Urdu languages. VOA estimated through surveys that 80% of adult males in Afghanistan listen to VOA and give it high marks for credibility and objectivity.”).

¹³ U.S. Agency for Global Media, *FY 2024 Agency Performance Report*, at 8 (Jan. 17, 2025), https://www.usagm.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/USAGM-FY-2024-Agency-Performance-Report_Final_1-17-25_WebVersion.pdf.

¹⁴ *Id.*

¹⁵ *Id.* at 15–16.

information to global audiences in places of strategic importance to the United States.

As global tensions rise and disinformation becomes an ever-growing problem, amici submit that it is as important as it has ever been for the United States to reach audiences around the world with accurate and reliable information that reflects democratic values. The executive order dismantling VOA strips the United States of a critical tool with which to address the foreign policy challenges of our time.

Dismantling VOA will also limit the ability of the United States to provide accurate and reliable information to civilians as heated military confrontations unfold. In June of this year, for example, the Administration quickly called back from administrative leave “most, if not all” employees from VOA’s Persian-language service, after conflict broke out between Israel and Iran.¹⁶ The Administration recognized the value in providing civilians in Iran with a programming alternative to Iranian state media. In the ensuing days, those employees produced numerous videos and social media posts about the conflict, and stories detailing America’s role in potential peace talks and the President’s

¹⁶ Ben Johansen, *US Scrambles to Bring Back VOA’s Persian Service Amid Iran-Israel Conflict*, Politico (June 13, 2025), <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/06/13/voa-persian-service-iran-israel-00406092>.

consideration of military intervention.¹⁷ Without this programming, the United States would have been without a means to provide that accurate, fact-based reporting reflecting the American perspective to millions of Iranian civilians.

In amici's experience, VOA continues to serve the purpose for which it was established during World War II: to provide truthful information in furtherance of American foreign policy goals to people who live under regimes that do not value truth or freedom. The United States faces an array of foreign policy challenges that are as complex as any since World War II, and that will only become more complex as disinformation and artificial intelligence blur the line between truth and propaganda. Amici, based on their decades of experience, submit that dismantling VOA is not only contrary to Congress's considered judgment, but also detrimental to United States interests around the world.

IV. The elimination of VOA by executive action alone violates the separation of powers principle and the Take Care Clause of the Constitution.

Amici respectfully submit that the dismantling of VOA is not only unwise, but also unlawful. Article I of the U.S. Constitution vests legislative power in Congress. U.S. Const. art. I, § 1. Since the nation's founding, federal courts have recognized that Article I gives Congress the power to create, regulate, and

¹⁷ Tiffany Hsu, *As U.S. Dismantles Voice of America, Rival Powers Hope to Fill the Void*, N.Y. Times (June 24, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/06/24/business/media/us-china-russia-global-communications.html>.

restructure federal agencies. *See, e.g., Myers v. United States*, 272 U.S. 52, 129 (1926) (“To Congress under its legislative power is given the establishment of offices, [and] the determination of their functions and jurisdiction. . . .”); *Free Enter. Fund v. Pub. Co. Accounting Oversight Bd.*, 561 U.S. 477, 500 (2010) (“Congress has plenary control over the salary, duties, and even existence of executive offices.”). “There is no provision in the Constitution that authorizes the President to enact, to amend, or to repeal statutes.” *Clinton v. City of New York*, 524 U.S. 417, 438 (1998). Indeed, the President must “take care that the laws be faithfully executed.” U.S. Const. art. II, § 3.¹⁸

The Constitution does not empower the President to dismantle VOA, or to disregard Congress’s allocation of funds to VOA, by executive fiat. USAGM and VOA are “creatures of statute,” *Nat’l Fed’n of Indep. Bus. v. Dep’t of Labor, Occupational Safety & Health Admin.*, 595 U.S. 109, 117 (2022), authorized and

¹⁸ As Justice Scalia explained:

Congress *may* make laws necessary and proper for carrying into execution the President’s powers, Art. I, § 8, cl. 18, but the President *must* “take Care” that Congress’s legislation “be faithfully executed,” Art. II, §3. And Acts of Congress made in pursuance of the Constitution are the “supreme Law of the Land”; acts of the President (apart from treaties) are not. Art. VI, cl. 2.

Zivotofsky, 576 U.S. at 83–84 (Scalia, J. dissenting, joined by Roberts, C.J., and Alito, J.). As the Founders noted: “In republican government, the legislative authority necessarily predominates.” The Federalist No. 51 (James Madison).

funded by Congress, *see* 22 U.S.C., ch. 71. But as the district court found, in March 2025 the Administration placed the vast majority of USAGM’s employees on administrative leave, instructed all foreign service employees to shut down all radio transmitters, and “effectively eliminate[d]” all radio broadcast technicians. *See Widakuswara*, 2025 WL 1166400, at *3. The executive order and the actions implementing it, in other words, would prevent VOA from fulfilling its Congressional mandate in violation of statutory requirements and the President’s constitutional obligations.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, amici respectfully urge the Court to affirm the district court’s order granting plaintiffs’ motion for a preliminary injunction.

DATED: July 22, 2025

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CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE WITH RULE 32(g)(1)

1. This brief complies with the type-volume limitation of Fed. R. App. P. 29(a)(5) and 32(a)(7)(B) because this brief contains 3,243 words, excluding the parts of the brief exempted by Fed. R. App. P. 32(f).

2. This brief complies with the typeface requirements of Fed. R. App. P. 32(a)(5) and the type style requirements of Fed. R. App. P. 32(a)(6) because it has been prepared in a proportionally spaced typeface using Microsoft Word in Times New Roman 14-point font.

DATED: July 22, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Carey R. Dunne

Carey R. Dunne

Free & Fair Litigation Group

Counsel for Amici

APPENDIX A: LIST OF AMICI CURIAE

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Adm. Thad W. Allen, U.S. Coast Guard (Ret.)

Vice Adm. Donald C. Arthur, U.S. Navy (Ret.)

Rear Adm. Jamie Barnett, U.S. Navy (Ret.)

U.S. Ambassador (former), Kenneth Brill, to Cyprus; to the IAEA and the UN Office
in Vienna

Rear Adm. John D. Butler, U.S. Navy (Ret.)

Secretary of the Army (former), Louis Caldera

Assistant Secretary of State for International Security and Nonproliferation (former),
Thomas Countryman

U.S. Ambassador (former), Greg Delawie, to Kosovo

U.S. Ambassador (former), Joseph Donovan, to Indonesia

U.S. Ambassador (former), Karl Eikenberry, to Afghanistan

U.S. Ambassador (former), John Feeley, to Panama

Brig. Gen. Robert J. Felderman, U.S. Army (Ret.)

Gen. Carlton W. Fulford Jr., U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.)

NATO Deputy Secretary General (former), Rose Gottemoeller

U.S. Ambassador (former), Gordon Gray, to Tunisia

Rear Adm. Donald J. Guter, U.S. Navy (Ret.)

Gen. Michael V. Hayden, U.S. Air Force (Ret.); Former Director of CIA and NSA

U.S. Ambassador (former), William H. Hill, Head of OSCE Mission to Moldova

U.S. Ambassador (former), Richard E. Hoagland, to Tajikistan and Kazakhstan;
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia

Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges, U.S. Army (Ret.)

Brig. Gen. Sanford Holman, U.S. Army (Ret.)

Lt. Gen. John D. Hopper Jr., U.S. Air Force (Ret.)

U.S. Ambassador (former), Cameron Hume, to Algeria, South Africa, and Indonesia

U.S. Ambassador (former), Richard Kauzlarich, to Bosnia and Herzegovina

U.S. Ambassador (former), Laura Kennedy, to Turkmenistan

U.S. Ambassador (former), George Kent, to Estonia

Maj. Gen. Dennis Laich, U.S. Army (Ret.)

Maj. Gen. Steven J. Lepper, U.S. Air Force (Ret.)

Rear Adm. Thomas G. Lilly, U.S. Navy (Ret.)

U.S. Ambassador (former), Steven Mann, to Turkmenistan

Maj. Gen. Randy E. Manner, U.S. Army (Ret.)

U.S. Ambassador (former), Scot Marciel, to Indonesia and Myanmar

Brig. Gen. Joseph V. Medina, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.)

Rear Adm. Mark Montgomery, U.S. Navy (Ret.)

U.S. Ambassador (former), Luis G. Moreno, to Jamaica

U.S. Ambassador (former), Cameron Munter, to Pakistan and Serbia

U.S. Ambassador (former), Ronald E. Neumann, to Algeria, Bahrain, and Afghanistan

Lt. Gen. Charles P. Otstott, U.S. Army (Ret.)

CIA Chief of Staff and White House Situation Room Senior Director (former),
Laurence M. Pfeiffer

Minister Counselor (Ret.), Annie Pforzheimer

Maj. Gen. Gale S. Pollock, U.S. Army (Ret.)

U.S. Ambassador (former), Michael Polt, to Serbia, Montenegro, and Estonia

Senior Advisor to the Secretary of State; Deputy to the U.S. Ambassador to the UN;
and State Department Spokesperson (former), Edward Price

U.S. Ambassador (former), Charles Ray, to Cambodia and Zimbabwe

U.S. Ambassador (former), Eric Rubin, to Bulgaria

U.S. Ambassador (former), Teresita Schaffer, to Sri Lanka and the Maldives

Assistant Secretary of State (former), Eric Schwartz

Brig. Gen. Paul G. Smith, U.S. Army (Ret.)

Maj. Gen. Antonio M. Taguba, U.S. Army (Ret.)

Maj. Gen. F. Andrew Turley, U.S. Air Force (Ret.)

U.S. Ambassador (former), Melanne Verveer, for Global Women's Issues

Maj. Gen. Margaret C. Wilmoth, U.S. Army (Ret.)