

Ambassador Stephen D. Mull

Leader in higher education with previous service as Career Ambassador in the U.S. Foreign Service with 36 years of experience overseas in Europe, southeast Asia, and southern Africa; and in Washington, managing high-level negotiations, crisis response, and policy development and implementation

Experience

Vice Provost for Global Affairs **August 2018 – present**
University of Virginia

Serves as the University's senior official overseeing all international engagements, partnerships research and other academic activity

Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs (Acting) **June 2018 – July 2018**

Served as the Department of State's third highest senior official, managing day-to-day overall regional and bilateral policy issues, and overseeing the bureaus for Africa, East Asia and the Pacific, Europe and Eurasia, the Near East, South and Central Asia, the Western Hemisphere, and International Organizations

Senior Resident Fellow, Institute for the Study of Diplomacy **August 2017 – May 2018**
Georgetown University

Conducted undergraduate and graduate teaching and research on diplomatic practice at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, on detail from the U.S. Department of State

- Taught courses on the Iran Nuclear Deal, Diplomatic Statecraft, and U.S.-Iran Relations
- Advised undergraduate and graduate students on careers in foreign affairs

Lead Coordinator for Iran Nuclear Implementation **August 2015 – August 2017**

Led U.S. government implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) to constrain Iran's nuclear program, working with senior officials at the White House, National Security Council, Departments of State, Energy, Treasury and Justice, Congress and the intelligence community, while providing strategic advice to Secretary of State John Kerry

- Mobilized diplomatic leverage with Russia, China, United Kingdom, France and Germany to maintain Iran's full compliance with restrictions on its nuclear program, effectively delaying its prospective nuclear weapons capability from a month to over a year
- Maintained sensitive, high-level diplomatic channel with Iran

Ambassador to Poland **November 2012 – August 2015**

Led U.S. Mission of 500 employees in seven agencies with a \$10 million annual budget in an increasingly influential European capital

- Established first significant U.S. military presence on the territory of the former Warsaw Pact, growing to regular rotational presence of more than 2,000 U.S. troops and significant equipment deployment
- Expanded pace and scope of bilateral relations with Presidential, Vice-Presidential, six cabinet-level, and multiple Congressional visits
- Strengthened “Top 500 Innovators” program to recruit top Polish scholars for study at leading U.S. universities, financed by the Polish government
- Boosted sagging popular Polish approval ratings for U.S. policies from 37% to 72% through extensive social media and other public diplomacy programs
- Promoted more than \$10 billion in U.S. export opportunities through extensive use of diplomatic and media contacts, including persuading Poland to spend up to \$7.5 billion on the Patriot missile defense system against stiff European competition

Executive Secretary of the Department of State

June 2010 – October 2012

Led State Department’s Executive Secretariat, consisting of 250 employees, in supporting Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in interagency and intra-Department coordination in policy development, crisis management, international diplomatic engagement, and knowledge management

- Mobilized State Department response to multiple complex crises, including the Fukushima nuclear disaster, Wikileaks’ compromise of more than 250,000 classified diplomatic messages, and security threats to U.S. interests during the Arab Spring
- Managed Secretary Clinton’s travel to 112 countries with policy and logistical support

Senior Adviser to Under Secretary for Political Affairs

August 2008 – June 2010

Department of State

Led implementation of special diplomatic projects for Under Secretary for Political Affairs William Burns, with authority to convene resources and support throughout the Department of State, the national security interagency, and at overseas missions

- Led negotiations with Russia to obtain overflight access for U.S. military flights in support of U.S. operations in Afghanistan, saving U.S. taxpayers \$25 million annually
- Developed and passed UN Security Council Resolution 1929, which imposed the most extensive UN sanctions ever on Iran, contributing to Iran’s later agreement to curtail its nuclear program
- Launched successful new UN initiative to combat Somali-based piracy, resulting in significant drop in incidents of piracy in the Indian Ocean
- Managed the State Department’s response to the Russo-Georgian war of 2008, including diplomatic efforts to win a cease-fire, the evacuation of U.S. personnel in the war zone, and provision of humanitarian support for war victims
- Started the U.S.-Saudi Critical Energy Infrastructure Program, featuring a U.S.-trained security force of 4,000 troops to protect Saudi oil installations from terrorist attacks

Acting Assistant Secretary for Political Military Affairs**January 2007 – August 2008****Department of State**

Led bureau of 200 employees in planning and implementing more than \$5 billion in annual international security assistance, defense trade controls, State-DoD relations, and arms control. Served as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary in the bureau July-December 2006 before the departure of the Assistant Secretary

- Finalized ten-year \$30 billion security assistance package for Israel
- Tripled the placement of Foreign Service Officers as political advisers in U.S. military commands, significantly enhancing U.S. diplomatic-military coordination
- Reduced processing time for defense trade licenses by over 30%

Ambassador to Lithuania**August 2003 – June 2006**

Led U.S. Mission of 150 employees with budget of \$5 million in developing relations with newly-independent former Soviet republic

- Persuaded Lithuania to establish a military base in western Afghanistan in support of U.S. military objectives
- Convinced Lithuania to expand its troop contributions to U.S. military efforts in Iraq by 50%
- Expanded U.S.-Lithuanian counterterrorism cooperation through important new training programs with Lithuanian security services

Deputy Chief of Mission, Jakarta, Indonesia**August 2000 – June 2003**

Chief Operating Officer for large Mission of more than 1,000 employees with ten U.S. government agencies and a \$400 million assistance program amid severe security challenges in a newly democratizing country

- Convinced Indonesian Defense Minister to overcome significant domestic opposition to allow U.S. military overflights of Indonesian territory in support of operations in Iraq
- Oversaw significant expansion of successful U.S.-Indonesian counter-terrorism operations
- Negotiated significant expansion of Indonesian-provided security for U.S. diplomatic personnel and facilities in wake of increased terrorist threat

Other Significant Experience

1998-2000 Deputy Executive Secretary of the Department of State
1997-1998 Director for Southern European Affairs (Turkey, Greece, Cyprus)
1993-1997 Counselor for Political and Political-Military Affairs, U.S. Embassy, Poland
1990-1993 Senior Watch Officer and Deputy Director, State Department Operations Center
1986-1990 Senior Black Politics Officer, U.S. Embassy, South Africa

1984-1986 Consular and Political Officer, U.S. Embassy, Poland
1982-1983 Consular Officer, U.S. Embassy, The Bahamas
1980-1982 Resident Director, Office of Student Affairs, Georgetown University

Awards

2018 Presidential Distinguished Service Award
2017 Secretary's Distinguished Service Award, the State Department's highest honor, awarded by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry for achievements in implementing the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action
2016 Personal rank of Career Ambassador, conferred by U.S. President Barack Obama in recognition of especially distinguished service over a sustained period
2015 Commander's Cross with Star of the Order of Polonia Restituta, awarded by Polish President Bronisław Komorowski for contributions to Polish-American ties
2012 Distinguished Honor Award, awarded by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton for leadership as Executive Secretary of the Department of State
2010 Distinguished Honor Award, awarded by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in recognition of diplomatic accomplishments
2008 Presidential Meritorious Service Award, awarded by U.S. President George W. Bush for achievements in U.S. political-military relations
2006 Cross of Commander of the Order for Merit to Lithuania
2003 Presidential Meritorious Service Award, awarded by U.S. President George W. Bush for achievements in managing the U.S. mission in Indonesia
2002 Baker-Wilkins Award for Outstanding Deputy Chief of Mission, the State Department's annual award for the best-performing Deputy Chief of Mission among all U.S. missions globally
1997 Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland, awarded by Polish President Aleksander Kwaśniewski for efforts to prepare Poland for membership in the NATO alliance
1988 Director General's Award for Political Reporting, awarded annually to the State Department's best reporting officer for work on reporting on South Africa's anti-apartheid opposition movement

Education

1980 Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service/International Politics
Georgetown University