



CSIS Embassy of the Future Commission Issues Report: Provides Key Recommendations for US Diplomatic Pursuit

WASHINGTON, October 15, 2007 – The Center for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS) Embassy of the Future Commission today released a new report “The Embassy of the Future” that provides key recommendations for making the diplomatic pursuit of U.S. interests abroad more effective in the 21st century.

The full report can be found by clicking:

http://www.csis.org/component/option,com_csis_pubs/task,view/id,4094/type,1/

The Commission is chaired by former Ambassadors George L. Argyros, Marc Grossman, and Felix G. Rohatyn and is comprised of distinguished former senior government officials, former career and noncareer ambassadors, retired military officers, private-sector representatives, and academic experts (please see full Commission list below.)

Among its recommendations, the Commission urges that the State Department:

- Hire more than 1,000 additional diplomats so that it can provide the professional education and development required for 21st-century representatives of the United States without creating gaps in staffing assignments here and abroad.
- Place technology more effectively in the service of diplomatic practice. Diplomats must embrace new communications tools to interact with audiences abroad and develop new ways of sharing information with one another.
- Support policies, communications tools, and resources that provide for mobility outside embassy compounds.
- Provide U.S. diplomats safe, secure buildings that serve the 21st century diplomatic mission effectively.
- Extend the U.S. diplomatic presence in new ways – such as through one-officer American Presence Posts.
- Foster a risk-managed approach to security that allows for the interaction in the field required to achieve successful diplomatic engagement.

“Traditional diplomacy in which government and social elites interact in highly formal channels is being transformed,” said commission co-chair Marc Grossman. “U.S. diplomats are doing business in new ways – for example, bringing development to mountain villages, traveling to remote jungles to support drug eradication, and deploying with our military forces in Afghanistan. They still need to influence foreign governments, but increasingly they will work directly with diverse parts of other nations’ societies. As we prepare for the future, diplomats need the right tools to be successful in these environments.”

“These changes and the resources to accompany them are crucial in order for diplomats to be able to fulfill their mission for the United States,” said George L. Argyros, commission co-chair.

“Models that support the extension of our diplomatic presence beyond the embassy compound should be an integral part of the way we do business today and in the future,” added Felix G. Rohatyn, commission co-chair.

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H. Andrew Schwartz

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