



# Diplomatic Statecraft and the National Security Role of U.S. Missions Abroad



## Capstone Spouses Program

Presented by Ambassador Alaina B. Teplitz

May 12, 2025

U.S. DEPARTMENT *of* STATE



# Agenda

- Modern Diplomacy's Roots
- America's Global Presence: U.S. Missions Overseas
- Organizational Culture: State (DOS) and Defense (DoD)
- How to Work Better Together



# 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations



# Appointments, Protections, Privileges



# U.S. Department of State



**Purpose:** The Department of State exists to assist the President, through the Secretary of State, in formulating and executing the foreign policy and relations of the United States. The State Department is the lead agency within the U.S. Government on foreign affairs.

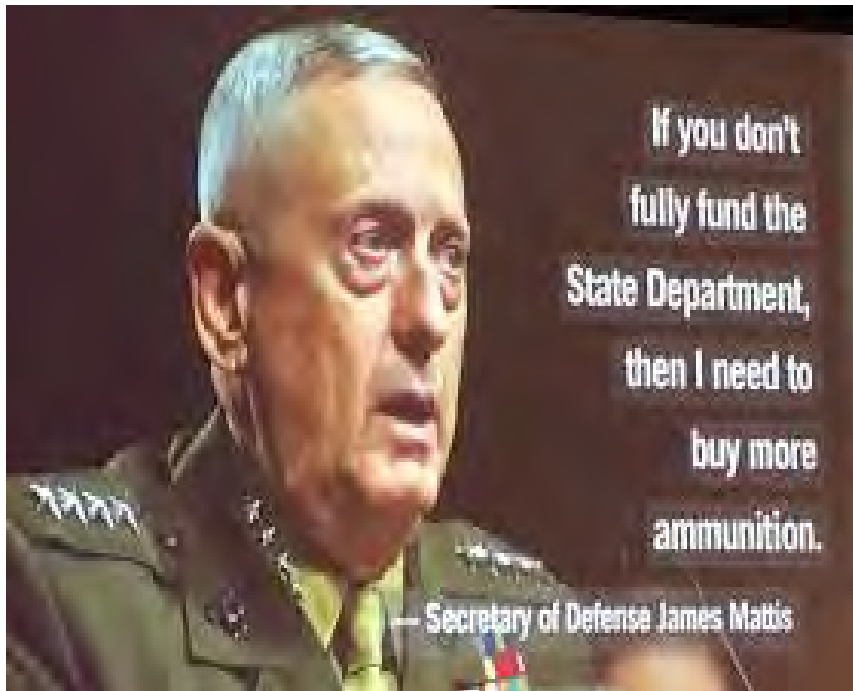
**Mission:** To protect and promote U.S. security, prosperity and democratic values and to shape an international environment in which all Americans can thrive. *This is a national security mission.*



**Places:** 273 bilateral posts (embassies and consulates) in 175 countries, along with 11 permanent missions to international organizations

**People:** ~14,500 Foreign Service, ~ 11,000 Civil Service, ~50,000 Locally Engaged Staff, ~2300 family members -- **3% of total DoD workforce**

# Diplomacy at Work



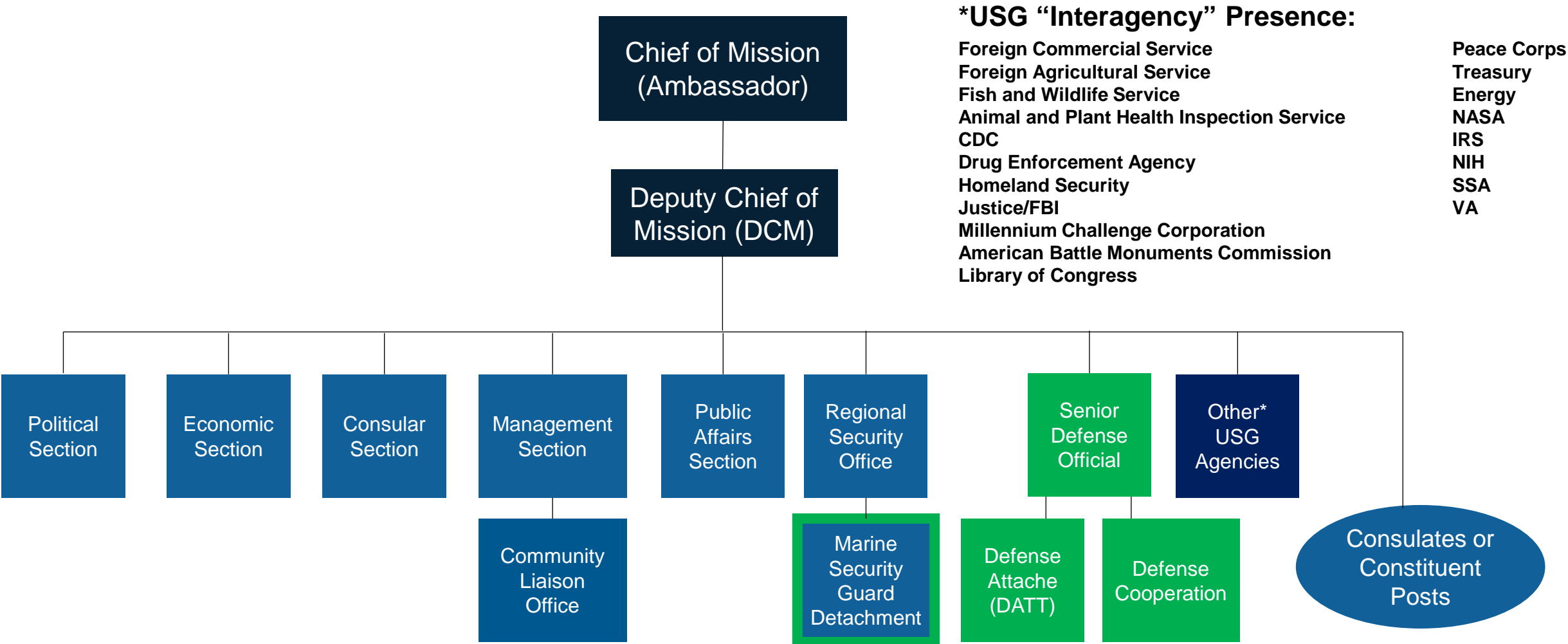
- Promote Economic/business relations
- Protect citizens
- Advance National Security
- Manage Alliances & partnerships
- Engage publics
- Leverage global order and organizations
- Refer to international law and norms
- Extend development, security, and humanitarian assistance







# Embassy Structure: The Country Team





# Chief of Mission

**Ambassador**

**Chargé d'affaires, a.i.**

- **Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary**

- **POTUS Personal Representative**



- **POTUS Letter of Instruction**

- **Chief of Mission (Command) Authority**  
(all Executive Branch personnel, except those under Combatant Command or assigned to international organizations)

- **Chief of Mission Security Responsibility**



# Complimentary But Different Organizational Cultures: State and Defense

What DoS Said      What DoS Meant      What DoD Understood

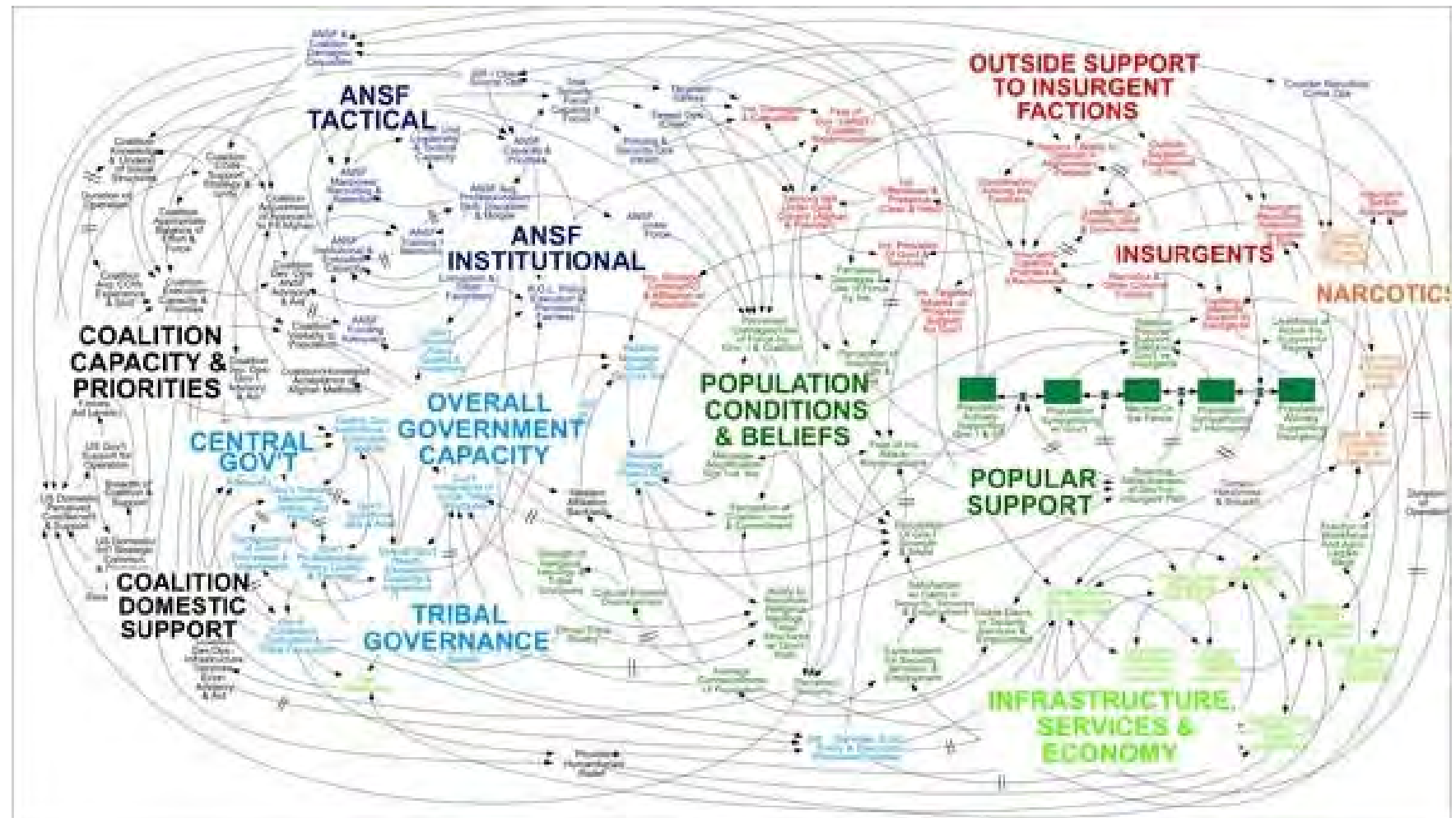
<i>With all due respect ...</i>	<i>I think you are wrong.</i>	<i>He is listening to me.</i>
<i>Perhaps you would think about ... I would suggest ...</i>	<i>This is an order. Do it or be prepared to justify yourself.</i>	<i>Think about this idea and do it if you like.</i>
<i>Oh, by the way ...</i>	<i>The following criticism of the purpose of the discussion is ...</i>	<i>This is not very important.</i>
<i>I was a bit disappointed that ...</i>	<i>I am very upset and angry that ...</i>	<i>It doesn't really matter.</i>
<i>Very interesting ...</i>	<i>I don't like it.</i>	<i>They are impressed.</i>
<i>Could you consider some other options?</i>	<i>Your idea is not a good one.</i>	<i>They have not yet decided.</i>
<i>Please think about that some more.</i>	<i>It's a bad idea. Don't do it.</i>	<i>It's a good idea. Keep developing it.</i>
<i>I'm sure it's my fault.</i>	<i>It's not my fault.</i>	<i>It was their fault.</i>
<i>That is an original point of view.</i>	<i>Your idea is stupid.</i>	<i>They like my ideas!</i>

- DoD: Pursues more definitive end-states
- State: Pursues more open-ended, enduring relationships for evolving purposes
- DoD: Bases process on its doctrine
- State: Evolving strategy – Depend on improvisation and creativity





# Department of Defense PowerPoint



<https://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/27/world/27powerpoint.html>




























U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE



# Department of State PowerPoint



# A Quick Guide to U.S. State Department Rank and Insignia

FS Rank	FS-05	FS-04	FS-03	FS-02	FS-01	OC	MC	CM	CA
GS Equivalent	GS 8/9	GS 10/11	GS 12/13	GS 14	GS 15	SES V	SES IV	SES III	SES II, I
DoD Equivalent Insignia	O-2 	O-3 	O-4 	O-5 	O-6 	O-7 	O-8 	O-9 	O-10 
Insignia (Male)									
Insignia (Female)									
Typical Title (Male)	Greg	Greg	Greg	Greg	Greg	Greg	Greg	Greg	Sir
Typical Title (Female)	Alicia	Alicia	Alicia	Alicia	Alicia	Alicia	Alicia	Alicia	Ma'am



# What We Share

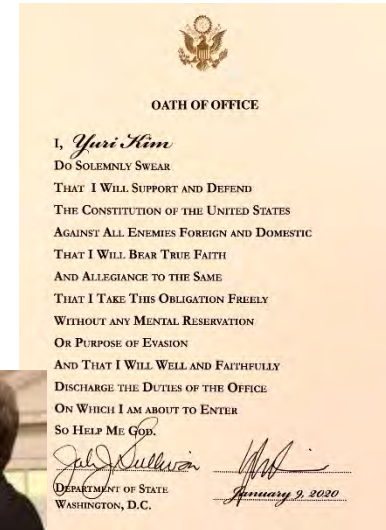
## Duty, Sacrifice, and Service



## Hierarchy: Up or Out



## Oath of Office







# Working Together – Makes Us Better

- Combat Operations
- Humanitarian Relief & Disaster Response
- Security Assistance
- National Security Activities
- Partner/Ally Relationship Building
- Evacuations



US SL Draft SOFA reveals American Plan To Turn SL Into Military Colony But... The draft copy of the Status of Forces Agreement indicates a deep seated plan by the U.S. to turn Sri Lanka into an American military colony. The full text of the...





A physical map of Nepal showing its topography, major cities, and national parks. The map is color-coded by elevation: brown for high altitudes (above 3000m), orange for 2000-3000m, yellow for 1000-2000m, green for 500-1000m, and light green for below 500m. Major cities like Kathmandu, Pokhara, and Biratnagar are marked. National parks such as Chitwan, Sagarmatha, and Bardiya are labeled. The map also shows the borders with China to the north and India to the south, and the Nepalese flag in the top right corner.





## Back-up Slides



