

## **Speaker Biographies**

### **Panel One:**

**New Security Challenges in the Gulf**

### **Panel Two:**

**New Openings for Regional Diplomacy**

### **Keynote Address:**

**Great Power Competition in the Gulf**

**February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

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## Panel One Speakers:

**The Honorable John McLaughlin** is distinguished practitioner in residence at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). Previously, he served as acting director of central intelligence at the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) from July to September of 2004; and as the deputy director of central intelligence at the CIA from 2000 to 2004. Prior to these roles, he served as the deputy director for intelligence at the CIA, vice chairman for estimates, and acting chairman of the National Intelligence Council. In a career with the CIA that spanned three decades, McLaughlin focused on European, Russian, and Eurasian issues in the Directorate of Intelligence. McLaughlin helped found the Sherman Kent School for Intelligence Analysis. He serves on the Board of the OSS Society, the CIA's External Advisory Board, and the Aspen Institute's Homeland Security Advisory Board.

**The Honorable Christine Wormuth** is the director of the Rand International Security and Defense Policy Center. She is also a senior advisor at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) and an adjunct professor in Georgetown University's Center for Security Studies. Prior to joining Rand, she was the under secretary of defense for policy at the U.S. Department of Defense from 2014 to 2016. In that role, she conducted work on the counter-ISIS campaign, the rebalance to Asia, counterterrorism operations, and U.S. defense relations with countries in Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. Previously, Wormuth served as deputy under secretary of defense for strategy, plans, and force development from 2012 to 2014; and as special assistant to the president and senior director for defense at the National Security Council from 2010 to 2012. She holds an M.P.P. in national security policy studies from the University of Maryland and a B.A. in political science and government and in fine arts from Williams College.

## Panel Two Speakers:

**Ambassador Anne Patterson** is the former assistant secretary for Near Eastern affairs at the Department of State. Recently, she served as a senior fellow at the Jackson Institute for Global Affairs at Yale University from 2017 to 2018 and was appointed to the National Defense Strategy Commission in 2017. Prior to serving as assistant secretary for Near Eastern affairs at the Department of State, she served as U.S. ambassador to Egypt from 2011 to 2013; as U.S. ambassador to Pakistan from 2007 to 2010; as assistant secretary for international narcotics and law enforcement Affairs from 2005 to 2007; as acting ambassador to the United Nations in 2005; as deputy ambassador to the United Nations from 2004 to 2005; as deputy inspector general at the Department of State from 2003 to 2004; as U.S. ambassador to Colombia from 2000 to 2003; and as U.S. ambassador to El Salvador from 1997 to 2000. Amb. Patterson holds a B.A. from Wellesley College and attended graduate school at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

**Ambassador Douglas Silliman** is president of the Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington. He is also a member of the board of advisors of the Bilateral US-Arab Chamber of Commerce, and a member of both the Council on Foreign Relations and the American Academy of Diplomacy. Previously, he served as U.S. ambassador to Iraq from 2016 to 2019; as U.S. ambassador to Kuwait from 2014 to 2016; as a senior advisor in the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs in the U.S. Department of State from 2013 to 2014; as deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in Iraq from 2012 to 2013; as political counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad from 2011 to 2012; and as deputy chief of mission in Ankara, Turkey from 2008 to 2011. He has received numerous awards, including the Presidential Distinguished Service Award, the

Secretary's Award for Public Outreach, the Sinclair Language Award, and the W. Averell Harriman Award. Amb. Silliman holds an M.A. in international relations from the George Washington University, and a B.A. in political science from Baylor University.

**Dr. Ali Vaez** is the director of the Iran Project at the International Crisis Group, an adjunct professor at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, and a non-resident fellow at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) Foreign Policy Institute. Prior to assuming his role as director of the Iran Project, Dr. Vaez served as senior Iran analyst at the International Crisis Group. Before joining International Crisis Group, he headed the Iran project at the Federation of American Scientists from 2011 to 2012, and he was a post-doctoral fellow at Harvard University from 2008 to 2010. He holds a Ph.D. in biomedical sciences from the University of Geneva, a Master's in international public policy from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), and an M.Sc. in biochemistry from the University of Geneva.

## Keynote Speaker:

**General Joseph L. Votel (ret.)** serves as president and CEO of Business Executives for National Security (BENS). Gen. Votel joined BENS in January 2020 following thirty-nine years of military service, where he last served as the former commander of U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) from March 2016 to March 2019. Prior to this role, he served as commander of U.S. Special Operations Command (SOCOM) from 2014 to 2016; as commander of Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC) from 2011 to 2014; as deputy commanding general of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division in Operation Enduring Freedom; as deputy director of the Joint Improvised-Threat Defeat Organization; and as commander of the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment during operations in Afghanistan and Iraq in 2001 and 2003. Gen. Votel has been recognized with the Distinguished Military Leadership Award from the Atlantic Council; the U.S. – Arab Defense Leadership Award from the National Council on U.S. - Arab Relations; the Distinguished Service Award from the National Medal of Honor Society; the SGT James T. Regan Lifetime Achievement Award from the Lead the Way Fund; and the Freedom Award from the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum, in addition to a number of other awards and decorations. He holds M.A. degrees from the U.S. Army Command and Staff College and the U.S. Army War College. He is a graduate of the United States Military Academy.