



Hon. Eric S. Edelman

Ambassador

SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

Ambassador Edelman has extensive experience in national security studies. He has written a series of studies on areas of U.S. comparative advantage and the challenges to U.S. primacy in the international system for the Office of Net Assessment. One of these was published as the CSBA monograph, *Understanding America's Contested Primacy*, in 2010. In addition to the monograph he has conducted studies assessing the U.S. alliance portfolio for the future and grand strategy for continued U.S. primacy. He has chaired a series of workshops and was lead investigator for studies for ONA of the increasingly dangerous South Asian nuclear balance and the struggle for escalation dominance, as well as the potential for new alignments and regional conflict in the Eastern Mediterranean created by the confluence of resource competition and developments in undersea warfare and precision-strike capabilities. He has been a contributor to CSBA's work on a proliferated Middle East, and in particular, the dangers of Iranian nuclear proliferation. He has briefed this work to the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy and the Senior Director for the Central Region at the National Security Council. Ambassador Edelman has spent thirty years in government and occupied senior positions at the Department of State, White House, and Department of Defense.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Diplomatic Practice
Grand Strategy
Nuclear Proliferation & Extended Deterrence
Unipolarity & Anti-Americanism
Counter-Insurgency & Inter-Agency Operations
Civil-Military Relations

CURRENT POSITION

As Counselor at CSBA, Ambassador Edelman continues to play an influential role in shaping the debate over national security policy. He is a NIC Associate and has briefed the National Intelligence Council on changing escalation dynamics in the post Cold War world. He is a member of the Senior Advisory Group, Strategic Command and testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on the New START Treaty in June 2010. He is a consultant to the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy and was a member of the Independent Panel appointed by Congress to review the 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review. He was appointed in January 2013, by the Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, to serve on the 2014 National Defense Panel created by the National Defense Authorization Act and testified jointly with former Under Secretary of Defense Michele Flournoy before both the House and Senate Armed Services Committees on the panel's report. He chairs the Gemunder Center task force on Iran and co-chairs the BPC task force on Turkey with former Ambassador Morton Abramowitz. The Senate confirmed him in August 2011 as a member of the Board of Directors of the United States Institute of Peace, and he serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the Foreign Policy Initiative.

He has been in his current position at CSBA since retiring from government service in May 2009. His articles and op-eds have appeared in *World Affairs*, *Foreign Affairs*, the *American Interest*, *Foreign Policy*, *National Review*, the *Washington Post*, *Defense News*, *Politico*, and the *Wall Street Journal*.

In addition to the CSBA monograph mentioned above he has published an essay on "The Strange Career of the 1992 Defense Planning Guidance," in Melvyn P. Leffler and Jeffrey Legro, *In Uncertain Times: American Foreign Policy after the Berlin Wall and 9/11*, (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2011).

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Ambassador Edelman is the Roger Hertog Practitioner in Residence at the Phillip Merrill Center for Strategic Studies at Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies. He has taught courses there on “Diplomatic Disasters: Statecraft in War, Peace and Revolution,” “America’s War Time Diplomacy: The Politics of Coalition Maintenance and Alliance Management in the 20 and 21st Centuries,” “The Iraq Wars, 1900–2008: The West’s Encounter with the Modern Middle East,” “The First Nuclear Era: Strategy, Force Structure and Nuclear Crises, 1945–1992,” and “American Grand Strategy: 1945–2016.” He is currently the James Schlesinger Professor at the University of Virginia’s Miller Center of Public Affairs. Ambassador Edelman was a non-resident associate of the International Security Program at the Belfer Center of the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, 2009–2013.

PREVIOUS PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Ambassador Edelman was a Foreign Service Officer for almost thirty years. From 1980–1981 he was a member of the West Bank Gaza Autonomy Talks delegation with offices in both Tel Aviv and Cairo. He served as Watch Officer/Editor in the State Department Operations Center and was a Secretariat Staff officer where he advanced trips for and accompanied Secretary of State Al Haig in 1982. From 1982 to 1984 he was Special Assistant to Secretary of State George P. Shultz. Ambassador Edelman was a Russian language officer who served on the Soviet Desk of the State Department with responsibilities for Soviet policy in the Third World. He was the head of the External Political Section of the U.S. Embassy in Moscow from 1987–1989 at the height of perestroika and glasnost and served as control officer for Secretary Shultz during the Moscow Summit in 1988.

In 1989 he returned to Washington and served as Special Assistant to Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Robert Kimmitt. Ambassador Edelman was seconded to the Department of Defense where he served Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Russian, Central European and Eurasian Affairs. He returned to the Department of State in 1993 to serve as Deputy for Defense and Security Affairs to the Ambassador at Large for the New Independent States and became Deputy Chief of Mission in Prague the following year. In 1996 he was the Executive Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of State and was nominated as Ambassador to Finland by President Clinton in 1998.

In 2001, Ambassador Edelman was detailed to the White House to serve as Principal Deputy National Security Advisor to Vice President Dick Cheney. In that position he routinely attended meetings of the Principals’ and Deputies’ Committees as well as meetings with foreign leaders in the Oval Office. He was nominated by President George W. Bush to be the United States Ambassador in Turkey in 2003 and Under Secretary of Defense for Policy in 2005 (his second tour in the Pentagon) where he oversaw strategy development as DoD’s senior policy official with global responsibility for bilateral defense relations, war plans, special operations forces, homeland defense, missile defense, nuclear weapons (he was a member of the Nuclear Weapons Council) and arms control policies, counter-proliferation, counter-narcotics, counter-terrorism, arms sales, and defense trade controls.

He has been awarded the Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service, the Presidential Distinguished Service Award, and several Department of State Superior Honor Awards. He has been decorated by the governments of Latvia and Finland, and in January 2011 he was awarded the Legion d’Honneur by the Government of France for his efforts on behalf of closer Franco–American defense relations and French reintegration into NATO.

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EDUCATION

B.A. in History and Government
Cornell University

M.A., M.Phil, and Ph.D. in U.S. Diplomatic History
Yale University

Roger Hertog Distinguished Practitioner-in-Residence
Philip Merrill Center for Strategic Studies
Johns Hopkins University

Senior Associate of the International Security Program
Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs
Harvard University
