



Brett McGurk

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Iraq and Iran
BUREAU OF NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS
Term of Appointment: 08/12/2013 to present

Brett McGurk serves as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Iraq and Iran in the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs. His previous assignment was Senior Advisor in the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs with a focus on Iraq and other regional initiatives. In the Obama administration, McGurk has served as a special advisor to the National Security Staff and as Senior Advisor to Ambassadors Ryan Crocker, Christopher Hill, and James Jeffrey in Baghdad. In these capacities, McGurk participated in President Obama's 2009 review of Iraq policy and helped manage the transition from military to civilian lead in the wake of the U.S. military drawdown. During the Bush administration, Mr. McGurk served as Director for Iraq and then as Special Assistant to the

President and Senior Director for Iraq and Afghanistan.

In 2008, Mr. McGurk served as a lead negotiator and coordinator during bilateral talks with the Iraqi Government on both a long-term Strategic Framework Agreement and a Security Agreement to govern the temporary presence of U.S. forces and the normalization of bilateral relations between Iraq and the United States. For these assignments he received the State Department's Distinguished Honor and Superior Honor Awards. He was also one of the chief architects with President Bush of the strategy known as the surge, which contributed to a reduction of violence in Iraq and set the conditions for the responsible withdrawal of U.S. forces. McGurk had earlier served as a legal advisor to the Coalition Provisional Authority and then the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad under Ambassador John Negroponte.

McGurk is a graduate of Columbia University School of law, where served as Senior Editor of the Columbia Law Review. After law school, he served as a law clerk to the late Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist on the Supreme Court of the United States, Judge Denis Jacobs on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 2d Circuit, and Judge Gerard E. Lynch, on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. He holds a B.A. in political science with honors, phi beta kappa, from the University of Connecticut.