

Lawrence R. Silverman
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern Affairs
U.S. Department of State

Lawrence R. Silverman, a member of the Senior Foreign Service, assumed the position of Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs in late September 2012. He is responsible for Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Israel, and Palestinian affairs. Prior to that, Larry had been Director of Israel and Palestinian Affairs. From April 2011 to April 2012, Larry served as Vice President Biden's Special Advisor for Europe and Russia. Larry was involved in U.S. assistance to Central and Eastern Europe as Deputy Coordinator of U.S. Assistance to Europe and Eurasia, and was Director of the Office of Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus Affairs at the State Department 2009-2010. Larry spent three years (2005-2008) as Deputy Chief of Mission of the U.S. Embassy in Bratislava, Slovakia. Larry came to Slovakia from the State Department's Office of Southern European Affairs, where he helped form and manage U.S. policy toward Turkey, Greece and Cyprus. During the first half of his career with the Department of State, Mr. Silverman focused on issues related to the Middle East, serving overseas in Jordan and Syria. In Washington, he was Special Advisor to Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern Affairs William Burns and helped establish the Middle East Quartet, bringing together the U.S., EU, UN and Russia. He was also Deputy Director of Public Affairs (media) on Arab-Israeli issues. Larry was the U.S. Government liaison to the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation at the Madrid Peace Conference in 1991 and liaison to the Israeli delegation at the Wye River peace talks in October 1998. Mr. Silverman began his State Department career in South Africa and Namibia, where he was a member of the U.S. team that negotiated the agreement leading to the independence of Namibia and the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. Mr. Silverman has focused throughout his Foreign Service career on issues related to political and economic reform.