

Simone Ledeen

Simone Ledeen is a leader and strategist within the realms of defense policy and national security. Ms. Ledeen's expertise spans across a spectrum of critical areas including intelligence, counterterrorism, and emerging technologies. Her tenure as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for the Middle East showcased her ability to navigate complex geopolitical landscapes, managing US defense policy for a significant portion of the Middle East including addressing the challenges posed by the rise of China.

Ms. Ledeen's leadership was instrumental in strengthening US defense relationships through strategic collaborations with foreign counterparts. She played a pivotal role in the development and execution of vital policies and initiatives, particularly in counterterrorism, information operations, and oversight on the use of special operations forces. Her contributions were pivotal in shaping a robust defense posture not only against traditional threats but also in confronting China.

Transitioning from government to the private sector, Simone Ledeen served as an Executive Director at Standard Chartered Bank. She was pivotal in launching the bank's multi-national financial crime compliance program across Africa, the Middle East, and Pakistan.

Ms. Ledeen's early career in government service laid the foundation for her later achievements. Her roles ranged from serving as the Senior US Treasury Representative to NATO's International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan to advising the Iraqi Ministry of Finance, where she contributed to the war effort in both theaters and gained crucial insights into global finance, policymaking, and the benefits and limitations of international diplomacy. These have all proven to be crucial in the broader context of national security, particularly in countering China's global influence.

Simone Ledeen holds an MBA from Bocconi University and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Brandeis University. Beyond her formal roles, Ms. Ledeen continues to impact the field of national security through her involvement with advisory boards and consulting roles, including her work with Hypergiant, an AI software company, and several venture capital and defense technology firms.