Anne A. Witkowsky Assistant Secretary



Anne Witkowsky was sworn in as the Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations (CSO) on January 10, 2022.

Ms. Witkowsky previously served in government as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Stability and Humanitarian Affairs from 2014-2016 in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, U.S. Department of Defense (DoD). There she held responsibility for policy on peacekeeping and stability operations; humanitarian assistance and disaster response; DoD support to the security of U.S. embassies; international humanitarian law, rule of law and protection of human rights; and women, peace and security.

Prior to that, she served in the U.S. Department of State as the Acting Principal Deputy Coordinator (2012-2013) in the Bureau of Counterterrorism (CT), and the CT Deputy Coordinator for Homeland Security and Multilateral Affairs (2009-2013). From 1993-2000 she served as a Director for Defense Policy and Arms Control on the White House National Security Council staff, with responsibility for conventional arms control and European security. She spent her early government career in DoD/Office of the Secretary of Defense for Policy, where she started out as a Presidential Management Intern in 1988.

Outside government she has been a non-resident Senior Democracy Fellow at Freedom House (2020-2021) and a Senior Fellow (2000-2007) and non-resident Senior Associate (2007-2009) at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), where she has directed and contributed to studies on a wide range of international and homeland security issues. Most recently, she co-directed the joint Freedom House, CSIS, McCain Institute Task Force on U.S. Strategy to Support Democracy and Counter Authoritarianism (2021). Among other advisory roles, she served as a senior advisor to the US Institute of Peace 2019 Task Force on Extremism in Fragile States, and as a member of the 2019 CSIS Task Force on Humanitarian Access. She has lectured at universities and in government training courses on national security decision making.

Ms. Witkowsky holds a BA in Russian and East European studies from Yale University, and an MPA, with a concentration in international security, from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. She is the recipient of State Department Superior and Meritorious Honor Awards, the Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Civilian Service, and the Secretary of Defense Medal for Outstanding Public Service.