

Ambassador Alberto M. Fernandez is Vice-President of the Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI), and a member of the board at the Center for Cyber and Homeland Security (CCHS) at George Washington University. He was a Foreign Service Officer from 1983 to 2015 and served as the State Department's Coordinator for the Center for Strategic Counterterrorism Communications from 2012 to 2015. He also served as U.S. Ambassador to Equatorial Guinea and U.S. Charge d'Affaires to Sudan. He held senior public diplomacy positions at the U.S. Embassies in Afghanistan, Jordan, Syria, Guatemala, Kuwait, and in the Department's Near East Affairs (NEA) Bureau.

Ambassador Fernandez was a career member of the Senior Foreign Service with the rank of Minister-Counselor, he was a recipient of a 2008 Presidential Meritorious Service Award, the 2006 Edward R. Murrow Award for Excellence in Public Diplomacy, a 2003 Superior Honor Award for his work in Afghanistan, among other awards. In 2012, he received the Grand Cross of the Order of Independence from the Republic of Equatorial Guinea.

A graduate of the University of Arizona and the Defense Language Institute, he served in the U.S. Army and came to the United States as a refugee from Cuba in 1959. He has written in for Brookings, Soundings: An Interdisciplinary Journal, the AFPC World Almanac of Islamism, Journal of International Security Affairs, the Foreign Service Journal, MEMRI, Georgetown Cornerstone, ReVista: the Harvard Review of Latin America, Middle East Quarterly, the Journal of the Assyrian Academic Society (JAAS), and lectured and debated on U.S. foreign policy in numerous international and academic venues.