



OFFICE OF THE HISTORIAN

William Joseph Burns (1956–)

NOTE TO READERS

Updates to the Principal Officers and Chiefs of Mission database are currently suspended. For information about the Department's current and recent leadership, we recommend visiting the Department of State homepage's [Biographies of Senior Officials](#) and [List of U.S. Ambassadors](#).

Notice posted on January 12, 2024.

Last updated March 14, 2024.

Career Foreign Service Officer

States of Residence: Pennsylvania, District of Columbia, Maryland

1. **Executive Secretary**

Appointed: January 16, 1996

Termination of Appointment: February 27, 1998

2. **Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary (Jordan)**

Appointed: June 29, 1998

Presentation of Credentials: August 9, 1998

Termination of Mission: Relinquished charge June 7, 2001

3. **Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs**

Appointed: May 31, 2001

Entry on Duty: June 4, 2001

Termination of Appointment: March 2, 2005

4. **Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary (Russia)**

Appointed: August 2, 2005

Presentation of Credentials: November 8, 2005

Termination of Mission: Left post on May 12, 2008

5. **Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs**

Appointed: May 13, 2008

Entry on Duty: May 13, 2008

Termination of Appointment: July 28, 2011

6. **Career Ambassador**

Appointed: June 6, 2008

7. Deputy Secretary of State

Appointed: July 28, 2011

Entry on Duty: July 28, 2011

Termination of Appointment: November 3, 2014