



# List of ambassadors of the United States to Saudi Arabia

The **United States ambassador to Saudi Arabia** is the official representative of the president of the United States to the head of state of Saudi Arabia.

The United States recognized the government of King Ibn Saud in 1931, but it was not until 1939 when it appointed its first U.S. ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Bert Fish, then resident in Cairo and ambassador to Egypt. Fish made one trip down to Jeddah in 1940 to meet the King and present his credentials, but it was not until after his mission was terminated that a legation was established there on May 1, 1942.

The ambassador holds the title *Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary*.

Ambassador of the United States to Saudi Arabia

سفير الولايات المتحدة لدى المملكة العربية السعودية



Seal of the United States Department of State



Flag of a United States Ambassador

Incumbent

Alison Dilworth

Chargé d'affaires

since January 20, 2025

Residence	Quincy House
Nominator	The President of the United States
Appointer	The President with Senate advice and consent
Inaugural holder	Bert Fish as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary
Formation	August 7, 1939
Website	U.S. Embassy – Riyadh ( <a href="http://sa.usembassy.gov/">http://sa.usembassy.gov/</a> )

# Ambassadors

Name	Title	Appointed	Presented credentials	Terminated mission	Notes
<u>Bert Fish</u> <sup>[1]</sup> – Political appointee	Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary	Aug 7, 1939	Feb 4, 1940	Feb 28, 1941	The Legation in Jeddah was established on May 1, 1942, with James S. Moose, Jr., as Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.
<u>Alexander C. Kirk</u> <sup>[2]</sup> – Career FSO		Feb 21, 1941	May 11, 1942	Jul 18, 1943	
<u>James S. Moose Jr.</u> – Career FSO	Minister Resident/Foreign Service officer	Jun 4, 1943	Jul 18, 1943	Aug 18, 1944	
<u>William A. Eddy</u> – Political appointee	Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary	Aug 12, 1944	Sep 23, 1944	May 28, 1946	
<u>J. Rives Childs</u> <sup>[3]</sup> – Career FSO		Apr 27, 1946	Jun 29, 1946	Jul 21, 1950	Promoted to Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
<u>Raymond A. Hare</u> <sup>[3]</sup> – Career FSO	Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary	Sep 20, 1950	Oct 24, 1950	Jul 8, 1953	
<u>George Wadsworth</u> <sup>[4][3]</sup> – Career FSO		Oct 21, 1953	Jan 9, 1954	Jan 1, 1958	
<u>Donald R. Heath</u> <sup>[5]</sup> – Career FSO		Nov 27, 1957	Jan 9, 1958	Apr 18, 1961	
<u>Parker T. Hart</u> <sup>[6]</sup> – Career FSO		Apr 6, 1961	Jul 22, 1961	May 29, 1965	
<u>Hermann F. Eilts</u> – Career FSO		Oct 20, 1965	Jan 15, 1966	Jul 23, 1970	
<u>Nicholas G. Thacher</u> – Career FSO		Sep 8, 1970	Sep 22, 1970	Sep 19, 1973	
<u>James E. Akins</u> – Career FSO		Sep 20, 1973	Nov 7, 1973	Feb 10, 1975	
<u>William J. Porter</u> – Career FSO		Dec 22, 1975	Feb 21, 1976	May 27, 1977	
<u>John C. West</u> – Political appointee		Jun 8, 1977	Jun 29, 1977	Mar 21, 1981	
<u>Robert G. Neumann</u> –		May 20, 1981	Jun 22, 1981	Jul 16, 1981	

Political appointee					
<u>Richard W. Murphy</u> <sup>[7]</sup> – Career FSO		Aug 19, 1981	Aug 29, 1981	Aug 21, 1983	
<u>Walter L. Cutler</u> – Career FSO		Feb 10, 1984	Mar 31, 1984	Jun 22, 1987	On Sep 26, 1984, the U.S. Liaison Office in Riyadh was raised to the rank of embassy while the embassy in Jeddah became a consulate.
<u>Hume Alexander Horan</u> – Career FSO		Jul 2, 1987	Sep 22, 1987	Apr 22, 1988	
<u>Walter L. Cutler</u> – Career FSO		Jul 15, 1988	Aug 17, 1988	Apr 30, 1989	
<u>Chas W. Freeman Jr.</u> – Career FSO		Jun 15, 1989	Jan 14, 1990	Aug 13, 1992	
<u>C. David Welch</u>	<i>Chargé d'Affaires ad interim</i>	Aug 13, 1992	N/A	Aug 1, 1994	
<u>Raymond Edwin Mabus Jr.</u> – Political appointee		Jul 5, 1994	Aug 1, 1994	Apr 25, 1996	
<u>Wyche Fowler Jr.</u> <sup>[8]</sup> – Political appointee		Aug 9, 1996	Sep 14, 1996	Mar 1, 2001	
<u>Robert W. Jordan</u> – Political appointee		Oct 5, 2001	Jun 30, 2002	Oct 13, 2003	
<u>James C. Oberwetter</u> – Political appointee	Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary	Dec 11, 2003	Oct 10, 2004	Mar 31, 2007	
<u>Ford M. Fraker</u> <sup>[9]</sup> – Political appointee		March 30, 2007	September 2, 2007	January 20, 2009	
<u>James B. Smith</u> – Political appointee		September 16, 2009	October 31, 2009	September 27, 2013	
<u>Joseph W. Westphal</u> – Political appointee		March 26, 2014	March 28, 2014	January 8, 2017	
<u>Christopher Henzel</u> <sup>[10]</sup>	<i>Chargé d'Affaires ad interim</i>	January 8, 2017	N/A	April 17, 2019	
<u>John Abizaid</u> – Political appointee	Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary	April 10, 2019	June 16, 2019 <sup>[11]</sup>	January 20, 2021	

<u>Martina A. Strong</u>	<i>Chargé d'Affaires ad interim</i>	January 20, 2021	N/A	April 16, 2023	
Denison Offutt	<i>Chargé d'Affaires ad interim</i>	April 16, 2023	N/A	April 27, 2023	
<u>Michael Alan Ratney</u> - Career FSO	Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary	March 14, 2023 <sup>[12]</sup>	April 27, 2023	January 20, 2025 <sup>[13]</sup>	
Alison Dilworth	<i>Chargé d'Affaires ad interim</i>	January 20, 2025	N/A	<i>Incumbent</i>	

## Notes

1. Also accredited to Egypt; resident at Cairo.
2. Also accredited to Egypt and to the Government of Greece established in Egypt; resident at Cairo.
3. Also accredited to Yemen; resident at Jidda.
4. Commissioned during a recess of the Senate; recommissioned after confirmation on Jan 26, 1954.
5. Also commissioned to Yemen, but did not present credentials in that country. Commissioned during a recess of the Senate; recommissioned after confirmation on Jan 27, 1958.
6. Also commissioned to Kuwait and Yemen; resident at Jidda.
7. Commissioned during a recess of the Senate; recommissioned after confirmation on Sep 29, 1981.
8. Commissioned during a recess of the Senate; recommissioned after confirmation on Oct 31, 1997.
9. Had presented his credentials to the Foreign Minister, May 5, 2007.
10. "Saudi Arabia - Chiefs of Mission - People - Department History - Office of the Historian" (<https://history.state.gov/departments/history/people/chiefs-of-mission/saudi-arabia>). *history.state.gov*. Retrieved 2019-09-03.
11. "US Ambassador John Abizaid, Indian Ambassador Dr. Ausaf Sayeed join other envoys in presenting their credentials to King Salman in Jeddah this morning" (<https://twitter.com/i/web/status/1140205696442650624>). *Al-Bilad English*. June 16, 2019. Retrieved July 9, 2019.
12. "Michael Alan Ratney confirmed as US ambassador to Saudi Arabia" (<https://arab.news/92bmp>). *Arab News*. March 15, 2023. Retrieved April 12, 2023.
13. "US ambassadors to Jordan and Saudi Arabia end postings with Trump's return" ([https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/us-ambassadors-to-jordan-and-saudi-arabia-end-postings-with-trump-s-return/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/us-ambassadors-to-jordan-and-saudi-arabia-end-postings-with-trump-s-return/)). *The Times of Israel*. January 22, 2025.

## See also

- Saudi Arabia–United States relations
- Ambassadors of the United States
- Embassy of Saudi Arabia, Washington, D.C.
- Ambassadors of Saudi Arabia to the United States

## References

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- United States Department of State: Background notes on Saudi Arabia (<https://2009-2017.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/3584.htm>)
- This article incorporates public domain material from *U.S. Bilateral Relations Fact Sheets* (<https://www.state.gov/countries-areas/>). United States Department of State.

## External links

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- United States Department of State: Chiefs of Mission for Saudi Arabia (<https://history.state.gov/departments/history/people/chiefs-of-mission/saudi-arabia>)
  - United States Department of State: Saudi Arabia (<https://2009-2017.state.gov/p/nea/ci/sa/>)
  - United States Embassy in Riyadh (<https://sa.usembassy.gov/>)
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