

Admiral James Winnefeld & Ambassador Nick Burns

Elite Geopolitical Duo

[Admiral Sandy Winnefeld](#) is the former vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the second highest-ranking officer in the military. A highly-decorated leader, Winnefeld started his nearly 40-year military career as one of the Navy's best fighter pilots and instructors at TOPGUN. He commanded at every level and was "the grease in the machinery between our special operations forces and our most senior decision makers, helping remove some of the worse terrorists from the fight," said Defense Secretary Ash Carter. He excels at making the complex security environment understandable—from authoritarian regimes to cyber security and how these issues tie to business interests.

[Ambassador Nick Burns](#) is one of the country's most articulate spokespeople on globalization and US foreign policy, earning respect as a nonpartisan expert on public diplomacy, geopolitics, and world affairs. Over the course of his illustrious, 27-year career, he played a leadership role in US foreign policy toward the Middle East and Asia and was the nation's top career diplomat as under secretary of state for political affairs (the nation's third-ranking official). He served three presidents: George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton, and George W. Bush and is currently a professor at Harvard's Kennedy School who focuses on the Middle East. He speaks with candor and passion about his position at the forefront of American foreign relations and policy, offering a big-picture perspective of our country's position on the world stage.
