



*Academy of Diplomacy and Under Secretary Burns  
Host Awards Luncheon*

## Academy to Announce New Push to Promote Foreign Affairs Budget Project *Ambassador Ryan Crocker honored*

### Press Release

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Yvonne Siu, Program Director

tel: [\(202\) 331-3721](tel:(202)331-3721)

Washington, DC-- The American Academy of Diplomacy and **William J. Burns**, Under Secretary for Political Affairs, will host its annual awards luncheon on Wednesday, December 3, 2008 in the Benjamin Franklin Room of the U.S. Department of State. The Academy will highlight its ground-breaking "Foreign Affairs Budget of the Future" report, which finds that the State Department, USAID, and related organizations lack the tools to meet today's complex diplomatic challenges. It provides a budget blueprint for the incoming administration to properly fund and staff the State Department. It calls for 50% more diplomats to rebuild America's foreign affairs capability. The Academy will undertake a prolonged outreach effort throughout 2009 to promote the report's findings within Congress, the transition team, and key districts across the U.S.

"Many talk about wanting more diplomacy," said **Ambassador Ronald E. Neumann**, President of the Academy. "Secretary of Defense Gates has made the point repeatedly. Our report tells you what this really means-how many people, how many dollars."

The Academy will also have the pleasure of presenting the 2008 Douglas Dillon Book Award to **Ambassador James F. Dobbins**, for his book *After the Taliban: Nation Building in Afghanistan*, published by Potomac Books. Ambassador Dobbins will deliver a keynote address discussing his experiences as special envoy to Afghanistan, the current situation in the country, and his thoughts on its future stability.

The Academy will also present the 2008 Walter and Leonora

**Ryan C. Crocker.** Ambassador Neumann will accept the award on behalf of Ambassador Crocker.

"Ambassador Crocker represents the finest tradition of professional American diplomacy," said **Thomas R. Pickering**, Chairman of the Board of the Academy. "He has repeatedly advanced our nation's interest in one tough and demanding assignment after another."

**Mohamad Bazzi** of *The Nation* and **Dexter Filkins** of *The New York Times* will receive the Arthur Ross Award for Distinguished Reporting & Analysis of Foreign Affairs.

The American Academy of Diplomacy annually grants these awards to recognize major contributions to the field of diplomacy, and to stimulate further interest in and public understanding of the need for excellence in the practice of America's relations with the rest of the world.

The luncheon will begin at 12pm, however guests are requested to arrive between 11:15-11:30am for check-in. For more information and to access the invitation and RSVP, please visit: [www.academyofdiplomacy.org/2008\\_awards\\_luncheon.htm](http://www.academyofdiplomacy.org/2008_awards_luncheon.htm)  
This event is open for press coverage. Pickup time for cameras is 11:00 am from the 23rd Street entrance. Pickup time for writers and stills: 11:30 am from the 23rd Street entrance. Final access time for all press: 11:45 am from the 23rd Street entrance. Media representatives may attend this event upon presentation of one of the following: (1) A U.S. Government-issued identification card (Department of State, White House, Congress, Department of Defense, or Foreign Press Center); (2) a media-issued photo identification card; or (3) a letter from their employer or letterhead verifying their employment as a journalist, accompanied by an official photo identification (driver's license or passport).

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### About the American Academy of Diplomacy

The Academy was founded in 1983 by Ambassadors Ellsworth Bunker, U. Alexis Johnson, and John J. McCloy to explore ways in which persons who had served in positions of major responsibility could cooperate to promote the highest standards in the practice of American diplomacy. Today, the Academy is dedicated to strengthening the resources and tools America brings to managing its diplomatic challenges, and accomplishes this through outreach programs, lectures, awards, and writing competitions. In doing so, the Academy promotes an understanding of the importance of diplomacy to serving our nation and enhancing America's standing in the world.

