



Ambassador Ryan Crocker remarks
for delivery by
Ronald Neumann
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American Academy of Diplomacy
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-- I am humbled by this award.

-- I am certainly not the brightest diplomat of my generation. Nor the most polished or most creative. Many of those here have better claims.

-- If I have a particular quality, maybe it is simply that I showed up for the fight- from Beirut to Baghdad, Kabul to Islamabad. Others could have done it better, no doubt. But I was there.

-- That's why I asked Ron Neumann to accept on my behalf. He was there too.

-- That is what the Service has always meant to me- you go where the stakes are high and where it's hard. We didn't swear to support and defend the Constitution of the United States only where there are nice restaurants.

-- As I prepare to leave the Service, I feel very good about our future. Our entry level personnel, those who joined after 9/11, know all about service. In Iraq, as in Pakistan previously, we have consistently had more applicants than positions. And many volunteer to move from Iraq to Pakistan and Afghanistan, and vice versa.

-- They are America's newest greatest generation, and it has been an inspiration to serve with them these past few years.