



Commission on the National Defense Strategy for the United States



Ambassador Anne W. Patterson was appointed to the Commission by Senate Armed Services Committee Ranking Member Jack Reed (D-RI).

Ambassador Patterson served as Assistant Secretary of State for Near East Affairs from 2013 to 2017. She previously served as United States Ambassador to Egypt until 2013 and as United States Ambassador to Pakistan from July 2007 to October 2010.

Ambassador Patterson was the Deputy Inspector General of the Department of State from 2003 to 2004, Ambassador to Colombia from 2000 to 2003, and Ambassador to El Salvador from 1997-2000.

Ambassador Patterson joined the Foreign Service in 1973 as an economic officer. She has served as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary and Deputy Assistant Secretary of Interamerican Affairs and as Office Director for Andean Affairs. Mrs. Patterson also served as political counselor to the U.S. Mission to the United Nations in Geneva from 1988 to 1991 and as economic officer and counselor in Saudi Arabia from 1984 to 1988. She has held a variety of other economic and political assignments, including in the Bureau of Interamerican Affairs, the Bureau of Intelligence and Research, and the Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs.

She received the State Department's superior honor award in 1981 and 1988, its meritorious award in 1977 and 1983, and a Presidential honor award in 1993. She has also received the Order of the Congress, from the Congress of Colombia, and the Order of Boyaca, from the Government of Colombia, for her work in that country. She was also recognized by the Government of El Salvador with the Order of Jose Matias Delgado.

Ambassador Patterson was born in Fort Smith, Arkansas. She graduated from Wellesley College and attended graduate school at the University of North Carolina. She is married and has two sons.