

Joan Polaschik – Biography

Joan Polaschik is a career U.S. Foreign Service officer, class of Counselor. Since February 2013 she has served as Acting Director of the Office of Israeli and Palestinian Affairs in the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs. Prior to her current assignment she was Deputy Chief of Mission of the U.S. Embassy in Tripoli, Libya from 2009-2012, and has also served as Political/Economic Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Baku, Azerbaijan (2005-2009), Refugee Officer for the U.S. Embassy in Amman, Jordan (2001-2005), International Relations Officer in the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs in Washington (1999-2000), as a political officer in the U.S. Embassy in Tunisia (1997-1998) and a consular officer in the U.S. Embassy in Uzbekistan (1995-1997).

Ms. Polaschik is fluent in Arabic, Azerbaijani, French and Russian. She received a master's degree in Foreign Service from Georgetown University in 1993 and a bachelor's degree in Russian Studies and Foreign Affairs from the University of Virginia, Charlottesville in 1991.

In November 2012, Ms. Polaschik was runner-up for the 2012 James A. Baker, III – C. Howard Wilkins, Jr. Award for Outstanding Deputy Chief of Mission. She is a recipient of a Senior Foreign Service Performance Award and multiple Superior and Meritorious Honor Awards.