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Ambassador Armitage is the founder and President of Armitage International, L.C., an international consultancy that provides critical support in the area of international business development, strategic planning and problem solving. He is the former Deputy Secretary of the Department of State and has served as the Assistant Secretary for International Security Affairs and Deputy Assistant Secretary for East Asia and Pacific Affairs at the Department of Defense. In addition, Ambassador Armitage has held a wide variety of high-ranking U.S. diplomatic positions; including, Presidential Special Negotiator for the Philippines Military Bases Agreement, Special Mediator for Water in the Middle East, Special Emissary to King Hussein of Jordan during the 1991 Gulf War, and Ambassador, directing U.S. assistance to the new independent states of the former Soviet Union. Ambassador Armitage graduated in 1967 from the U.S. Naval Academy and served three combat tours with the riverine/advisory forces in Vietnam. Ambassador Armitage is the recipient of numerous U.S. and foreign military decorations, as well as awards for distinguished public services, including the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun from the Government of Japan. Most recently, he received an honorary doctorate from Keio University in Japan. Ambassador Armitage is also a member of The American Academy of Diplomacy.