The Ambassador will be presenting his thoughts on the developing situation in Central Asia, especially given the historic changes in Uzbekistan and the integration of Afghanistan into Central Asia which has historically been part of that region. In addition to that, he will also talk about the role China is playing in the region with its Belt and Road Initiative, as the BRI moves from soft power to hard power, especially with its recently revealed military interests in Central Asia.

Ambassador Richard Eugene Hoagland is a career ambassador in the United States Department of State. He was Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary in State's Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs, 2013-2015. In the summer of 2016, based at the U.S. Embassy in Amman, Jordan, he was the senior U.S. liaison to the Russian Reconciliation Center at the Russian military base in Latakia, Syria. Beginning January 2017, he will serve as interim U.S. Co-Chair of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's Minsk Group for Nagorno-Karabakh.

Free pizza and drinks provided