



CHUCK HAGEL FORUM

IN GLOBAL
LEADERSHIP

UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
Omaha



OPENING REMARKS

Randy Adkins, Ph.D.

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Chancellor
University of Nebraska at Omaha

The Hon. Chuck Hagel

24th U.S. Secretary of Defense
U.S. Senator for Nebraska

THE ROLE OF U.S. LEADERSHIP IN A CHANGING WORLD

John F. Kirby

Rear Admiral, USN (Ret)
White House National Security Communications Advisor

MODERATED Q&A

WITH AUDIENCE QUESTIONS SUBMITTED IN ADVANCE

John F. Kirby

Rear Admiral, USN (Ret)
White House National Security Communications Advisor

The Hon. Chuck Hagel

24th U.S. Secretary of Defense
U.S. Senator for Nebraska

Michelle Black, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Political Science
University of Nebraska at Omaha



Rear Admiral, USN (Ret)

JOHN F. KIRBY

John F. Kirby served as White House National Security Communications Advisor. In that capacity, he coordinated and aligned interagency national security messaging for the Biden administration. He frequently spoke for the administration on foreign and defense policy issues.

Prior to his work at the White House, Kirby served as Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs. In this role, he advised Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III and Deputy Secretary of Defense Kathleen Hicks on public communications and community engagement. He also served as the Department's chief spokesperson.

Kirby was an adjunct lecturer at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and a military and diplomatic analyst at CNN between 2017 and 2021. Kirby previously served at the Department of State, as the Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Public Affairs from December 2015 to January 2017 and as the State Department's spokesperson from May 2015 to January 2017.

Prior to duty at the State Department, Kirby served as the Pentagon Press Secretary under Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel, the first uniformed officer to hold the position of chief spokesman for the Department of Defense.

Kirby commissioned in the U.S. Navy in September 1986 after completing Officer Candidate School at Newport, R.I. He served in uniform for more than 28 years, before retiring in 2015 at the rank of Rear Admiral (lower half).

His naval career included duty at sea and ashore, including deployments to the Middle East and Mediterranean. Kirby completed an assignment as chief spokesman for then-Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Adm. Mike Mullen in 2011, and then took up duties as the military spokesman for then-Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta.

His last Navy posting was as Chief of Navy Information, where he served as the principal spokesman for the Department of the Navy and coordinated all strategic messaging for the Department.

He is a 1985 graduate of the University of South Florida in Tampa, Florida, where he received a bachelor's degree in History. He holds a Master of Science degree in International Relations from Troy State University and a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College.



24th U.S. Secretary of Defense, U.S. Senator for Nebraska

THE HONORABLE CHUCK HAGEL

Chuck Hagel was the 24th Secretary of Defense, serving from February 2013 to February 2015. He is the only Vietnam veteran and the first enlisted combat veteran to serve as Secretary of Defense.

Hagel's current and previous obligations include service on the Board of Trustees of RAND; Advisory Board of Corsair Capital; Chairman, Veterans Justice Commission; Co-chairman of President Obama's President's Intelligence Advisory Board; Senior Advisor to the McCarthy Group; Centennial Scholar, Georgetown Walsh School of Foreign Service; Distinguished Scholar, University of Nebraska at Omaha; Distinguished Statesman at the Atlantic Council; Board of Directors of Public Broadcasting Service (PBS); Director and Founding Member of the American Security Project; Advisory Board Chairman of the HillVets Veterans Organization; Board of Visitors of West Point Military Academy; and Board of Directors of U.S./Middle East Peace Project. Hagel served two terms in the United States Senate (1997-2009) representing the state of Nebraska. Hagel was a senior member of the Senate Foreign Relations; Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs; and Intelligence Committees. He chaired the Foreign Relations International Economic Policy, Export and Trade Promotion Subcommittee; and the Banking Committee's International Trade and Finance, and Securities Subcommittees. Hagel also served as the Chairman of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China and the Senate Climate Change Observer Group.

Secretary Hagel was a Distinguished Professor at Georgetown University, Co-Chairman of the President's Intelligence Advisory Board, Chairman of the Atlantic Council. He served as a member of the Secretary of Defense's Policy Board, Secretary of Energy's Blue Ribbon Commission on the Future of Nuclear Power, Systemic Risk Council Board of Directors; and as a member of the Board of Directors of Chevron. Prior to his election to the U.S. Senate, Hagel was president of McCarthy & Company, an investment banking firm in Omaha, Nebraska. In the mid-1980s, Hagel co-founded VANGUARD Cellular Systems, Inc., a publicly traded corporation. He was President and CEO of the World USO, Private Sector Council (PSC), and Chief Operating Officer of the 1990 Economic Summit of Industrialized Nations (G-7 Summit).

Hagel also served as Deputy Administrator of the Veterans Administration under President Ronald Reagan and Deputy Commissioner General of the 1982 World's Fair.

He is the author of the book, *America: Our Next Chapter*, and he and his brother Tom were the subject of a 2018 book by General Daniel Bolger titled *Our Year of War*, and a 2006 book by Charlyne Berens titled *Chuck Hagel: Moving Forward*. He is a graduate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

Hagel and his wife, Lilibet, have a daughter (Allyn) and son (Ziller).



Associate Professor, Political Science

MICHELLE BLACK, Ph.D.

Michelle Black is an associate professor of political science, with over 17 years of experience working for the U.S. Department of Defense as a servicemember and civilian. She currently serves as co-director for the University of Nebraska Deterrence Lab, a researcher for the National Counterterrorism Innovation Technology and Education (NCITE) Center, a research fellow for the National Strategic Research Institute (NSRI) at the University of Nebraska, and co-editor-in-chief for *Space & Defense Journal*. She researches deterrence, international security, intelligence, counterterrorism, political violence, and Middle East politics.

Black and her team work closely with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the Department of the Air Force, the Department of Defense, the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and other security organizations. She publishes her work in leading books and journals such as the *Oxford Research Encyclopedia*, *Journal of Cybersecurity*, *Defense Studies*, *Journal of Policing, Intelligence, and Counter Terrorism*, and *Defense Security Analysis*. She is currently writing a new book with Wiley-Blackwell that focuses on developing strategies for deterrence planning and operations.

Before joining UNO, Black was a government civilian for the Department of Defense from 2009-2016. She specialized in Deterrence Analysis and Adversary Decision-making for the United Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM) Plans and Policy Directorate at Offutt Air Force Base. While at USSTRATCOM, she provided analysis and recommendations to senior leaders on decision-making strategy, deterring state and non-state actors, and regional expertise.

Additionally, she initiated and directed the deterrence and assurance Academic Alliance, recruiting over 35 academic institutions to the program. This program provides a platform for defense and educational organizations to communicate and collaborate on research issues regarding Deterrence and Assurance. Dr. Black also served for the United States Army Special Operations Command (USASOC) as a Psychological Operations specialist from 2001-2009 and later as a defense contractor. She deployed to Iraq, Kuwait, and Qatar during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

She earned her Ph.D. in political science from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2016. She also earned an M.S. in negotiation and dispute resolution from Creighton University (2009), a graduate certificate in intelligence studies from Mercyhurst College (2007), an M.S. in international relations from Troy University (2005), and B.A. in cultural anthropology from the University of Iowa (2001).



CHUCK HAGEL FORUM

The Chuck Hagel Forum in Global Leadership explores critical issues with global leaders in search of solutions to today's global challenges. This series provides students with an opportunity to engage with Sec. Hagel and global leaders, policymakers, and thinkers.

Hagel said he believes that those who have had the privilege of serving this country through public service owe it to the community and future generations to inform and engage them about leadership, their future, and things that will be important for them going forward. Hagel is a graduate of UNO, and the university is a natural forum in which he can share these opportunities with students and the greater community.

The Chuck Hagel Forum in Global Leadership is the second series launched by Sec. Hagel in partnership with UNO in recent years, acting as a complement to the Chuck Hagel Symposium in Public Service. The symposium, first hosted in 2018, connects hundreds of high school students from the greater Omaha metropolitan area with university and community experts in a variety of fields, all sharing their perspectives on public service.

Hagel said a leader's job is to leave the institution you came from better than you found it, and he has exemplified this through his continued relationship with UNO.



This year's forum is hosted again in partnership with the Atlantic Council, a nonpartisan organization that galvanizes U.S. leadership and engagement in the world, in partnership with allies and partners, to shape solutions to global challenges.

Secretary Hagel was Chairman of the Atlantic Council from February 2009 to February 2013, and currently is a Distinguished Statesman, serving as a member of the Council's International Advisory Board.





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