

Ambassador (ret.) Marisa R. Lino

During nearly 30 years of distinguished service as a Foreign Service Officer at the U.S. Department of State, Ambassador Lino held overseas positions in Albania, Italy, Pakistan, Syria, Iraq, and Peru. In her last position at the State Department, from 2000 to 2003, she served as the Senior Negotiator for Base Access and Burden-sharing in the Bureau of Political Military Affairs. In this role, she led various negotiations with foreign governments on the legal and financial arrangements and coverage for military and civilian Defense Department personnel deployed abroad. From 1996 to 1999 she served as the U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Albania.

From 2003-2006, she was the Director of the Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies' (SAIS) Bologna Center in Italy. From 2007-2008, she was appointed as the Assistant Secretary for International Affairs at the U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security.

After leaving the U.S. government, Ambassador Lino served as a Director in Government Relations at the Northrop Grumman Corporation from 2009-2019. Currently, Ambassador Lino contributes part-time as an Adjunct Political Scientist at the RAND Corporation.

Ambassador Lino has an M.A. in international affairs from The George Washington University and a B.A. in political science from Portland State University. She later attended the University of Zagreb (in the former Yugoslavia), for a year of graduate studies in political science. On a U.S. State Department-sponsored mid-career program, she completed a Certificate in Advanced Engineering Studies in systems analysis at M.I.T. She was granted a number of service awards during her Foreign Service career. In 2003, she was selected for the Secretary's Distinguished Service Award by Secretary of State Colin Powell.