

The Honorable Robert Jordan
Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (2001-2003)

Appointed by President George W. Bush. Arriving in Riyadh just weeks after the 9/11 attacks, his tenure was defined by intense counterterrorism cooperation and navigating a critical period in U.S.-Saudi relations.

Key Highlights of His Tenure

- The 9/11 Aftermath: Ambassador Jordan took charge of his mission at a time when the bilateral relationship was severely strained, requiring delicate diplomacy to enlist Saudi cooperation in disrupting al-Qaeda networks.
- Economic Diplomacy: He spearheaded American efforts to encourage Saudi economic and regulatory reforms, which were critical for the Kingdom to qualify for accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO).
- Civilian Evacuations: He directed the evacuation of nonessential U.S. government personnel and private citizens amid heightened credible threats in 2003.

Post-Diplomatic Career

After his ambassadorial post, he returned to his roots as a senior partner at the international law firm Baker Botts L.L.P., where he headed the firm's Middle East practice in Dubai until his retirement.

He continues to be a prominent figure in international affairs, holding several roles:

- Academia: He serves as Diplomat in Residence and a Professor of Practice at the John G. Tower Center for Public Policy and International Affairs at Southern Methodist University (SMU) in Dallas, Texas.
- Author: He documented his time in the Middle East in the memoir, *Desert Diplomat: Inside Saudi Arabia Following 9/11*.
- Media & Commentary: He is a frequent commentator on foreign policy for major networks including CNN, Fox News, and MSNBC and a contributing columnist for the Dallas morning News.