



DAS SHAWN BENNETT

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oil and Natural Gas, U.S. Department of Energy

Shawn Bennett currently serves as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oil and Natural Gas. He administers oil and gas programs, including research and development, analysis, and natural gas regulation.

Mr. Bennett has more than a decade of experience in public affairs and government relations in the coal and the oil and gas industries. Most recently, he served as the Executive Vice President for the Ohio Oil and Gas Association (OOGA), a non-profit trade association that is dedicated to representing Ohio oil and gas producers. The organization represents over 2,000 members in all aspects of the exploration, production, and development of crude oil and natural gas resources in Ohio. His role at OOGA included overseeing all federal and state legislative and regulatory activities in Columbus, OH and Washington D.C.

Prior to joining OOGA, Mr. Bennett was the Director of Strategic Communications for FTI Consulting from 2011 to 2014. He worked with business leaders, elected officials, and residents in eastern Ohio and Pennsylvania regarding the safety and economic benefits of oil and gas exploration. From 2005 to 2011, he was the Government Affairs Manager for the Ohio Coal Association.

Mr. Bennett holds a B.S. from Ohio University.



STEVEN C. BONDY
Chargé d’Affaires, U.S. Embassy Abu Dhabi

Steven C. Bondy assumed his duties as Chargé d’Affaires in March 2018. Previously, he served as Deputy Chief of Mission, responsible for supporting the Ambassador’s policy engagement and managing internal operations of Mission UAE, including Embassy Abu Dhabi and Consulate General Dubai. He arrived in Abu Dhabi in September 2017 following a tour as the Assistant Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Kabul from 2016-17, where he was one of two deputies to the Ambassador and focused on security, law enforcement, assistance, and operations. From 2013 to 2016, Mr. Bondy served as the Foreign Policy Advisor to the Commanding General of a U.S. Special Operations Command element, where he worked to ensure the Command’s plans and operations meshed with national security and other foreign policy interests. Prior to that, Mr. Bondy was the Director for Arabian Peninsula Affairs at the U.S. State Department. He also served in Baghdad, Iraq in 2009-10, where he was the co-director and sole civilian agency representative in the Force Strategic Engagement Cell, a headquarters office of the United States Forces-Iraq.

Throughout his career, Mr. Bondy has focused on the countries and issues of the broader Middle East region. Previous overseas assignments include tours at the U.S. embassies in Bahrain (2004-07), Egypt (2000-2004), Jordan (1994-96), and Turkey (1992-94). In Washington, he served as director for Terrorism Finance and Economic Sanctions Policy, Lebanon desk officer, and at the State Department’s 24-hour Operations Center.

Mr. Bondy is a member of the Senior Foreign Service. He has received several State Department Superior Honor Awards and the Department of Defense Joint Civilian Service Commendation Award. He was recognized as the State Department Senior Foreign Policy Advisor of the Year in 2016.

Mr. Bondy is a native of New Jersey, with Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the University of Delaware. He speaks Arabic and French and studied Farsi, Turkish, and Spanish. Mr. Bondy and his wife Meghan are the proud parents of a daughter and son.



**DR. THOMAS DEEB, Vice President
T&M Associates**

Dr. Deeb is a highly experienced business executive and leader in economic development and trade in over 25 countries from Africa, Central Asia to the Middle East. Over the last 20 years, he has focused on helping companies and governments increase local employment, diversify economies, attract new investment, and develop SMEs, while reducing cost and realizing a positive return on investment. He has worked in several sectors ranging from chemicals, oil and gas, to food, and agriculture. He has led the most successful local content programs in oil and gas, including the BP Enterprise Development and Training program in Baku, as well as IKTVA in Saudi Arabia. His extensive global experience coupled with his in-depth knowledge of oil gas industry provides a unique insight into future trends. Prior to joining T&M Associates, he held several positions in DuPont and Honeywell. He holds several patents and received his PhD from Texas A&M University in Chemistry. He is an AMCHAM member and has given numerous talks on economic development and trade globally.