

After a distinguished career of public service, in 1985, Robert McFarlane retired from government as President Reagan's National Security Advisor. Mr. McFarlane received his undergraduate education at the U.S. Naval Academy, graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Engineering. He was commissioned in the U.S. Marine Corps. In 1965 he commanded the artillery battery in the first landing of US forces in Vietnam and returned for a second tour ('67- 68) which included the Tet offensive.

He was chosen as an Olmsted Scholar and received his graduate education at the Institut de Hautes Études Internationales in Geneva, Switzerland, being awarded a Master's Degree (License) with a specialty in Strategic Studies.

In 1971 he was named a White House Fellow and served in the Office of Legislative Affairs in the White House. Following that assignment he became Military Assistant to Henry Kissinger and Brent Scowcroft. Near the end of this five-year assignment to the White House he was appointed by President Ford as his Special Assistant for National Security Affairs and was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, the Navy & Marine Corps' highest peacetime military decoration.

In 1981 he was appointed by President Reagan and confirmed by the U.S. Senate as Counselor to the Department of State. In that role he was responsible for sensitive exchanges between the Secretary of State (Alexander Haig) and Heads of State and Government throughout the Middle East and South Asia. In 1982 President Reagan appointed Mr. McFarlane as his Deputy National Security Advisor..

In 1983 he was appointed by the President as his Special Representative in the Middle East where he was responsible for sensitive negotiations between Israel and the Arab States. Following that assignment he returned to the White House and was appointed President Reagan's National Security Advisor. In that position he was responsible for the development of U.S. foreign and defense policy. Mr. McFarlane is best remembered as the architect of the comprehensive set of U.S. policies – including most notably the Strategic Defense Initiative (or Star Wars) – which so stressed the Soviet economy as to bring it down, in the process accelerating the collapse of Marxism in the former Soviet Union.

In 2011, Mr. McFarlane co-founded (with James Woolsey, former Director of Central Intelligence) The U.S. Energy Security Council, a bipartisan group of former Cabinet-level officials, Fortune 50 CEOs, a Nobel Laureate, and retired military officers focused on raising public understanding of the risks to the security of our nation when all air, sea, and land transportation must utilize a single fuel (oil) whose price is set by a foreign cartel.

Bud and his wife, Jonda, have three children and eight grandchildren and live in Washington. He is currently serving as a ruling Elder in the Presbyterian Church. He is also the recipient of the Secretary of State's Medal for Distinguished Public Service. He is the President of the Institute for the Analysis of Global Security, a Director of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, and a Senior Advisor to the Foundation for Defense of Democracies. He has also served on the Board of Directors of the Travelers, Dillon Read (France Fund), and Church & Dwight.