



Integrated Country Strategy

Czech Republic

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1. Chief of Mission Priorities

As a steadfast NATO Ally and trusted EU partner, the Czech Republic shares U.S. goals and values across a wide range of bilateral and multilateral issues. Embassy Prague's overarching aim is to maintain the Western orientation of the Czech Republic and further encourage its active participation in U.S. efforts to create a more secure, prosperous, and just world.

Our first Mission goal, "The Czech Republic actively and constructively engages on security and political challenges in alignment with U.S. interests," seeks to fortify our bilateral and multilateral cooperation on political and security issues. Embassy Prague's top security goal is to ensure the Czech Republic adequately shares the burden of our collective defense by increasing its defense spending to 2 percent of GDP. As part of this effort, Embassy Prague will advocate for defense acquisitions from U.S. companies that increase interoperability, reduce Czech dependence on Russian-made equipment, and create jobs in the United States. We are actively engaging with the Czechs to substantially improve military mobility for NATO troops across the Czech Republic. We are focused on ensuring the Czech Republic remains resolute in its support for Ukraine, as well as in its support for sanctions against Russia. In addition, we are working with the Czechs to counter a growing campaign of Russian disinformation and malign influence.

The Czechs have strongly supported our Middle East policy goals, and since the closure of our Embassy in Damascus, the Czechs have served as our protecting power in Syria. They have also made substantial contributions to the D-ISIS coalition, NATO's Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan, and to efforts to strengthen NATO's eastern flank. Embassy Prague will continue to push for continued and increased Czech commitment on all of these fronts.

Our second goal, "Stronger economic, commercial, and scientific ties between the Czech Republic and the United States promote mutual prosperity and security," stresses greater bilateral trade and investment, including shared efforts to secure wider appreciation for the benefits of free and fair trade. We will focus on key sectors that are the best targets for U.S. exports and increasing Czech investment in the United States. Through stronger economic ties, we will bolster our cooperation in other emerging areas including innovation and the digital economy. While the Czech Republic has taken significant steps to diversify its energy supply options, we continue to push for additional improvements to the country's energy security posture, including support for U.S. companies involved in a possible, once-in-a-generation nuclear tender. We also continue to support Czech efforts to diversify their energy sources and supply routes, including through the diversification of their nuclear fuel supply and opposition to Nord Stream II. Lastly, we are working with and supporting the Czechs as they explore the creation of an investment screening mechanism for incoming foreign direct investment to improve their national security.

The third goal, "A deeper bilateral relationship based on our shared democratic values," underpins the first two and builds on the progress since the Czech Republic's transition from

communism to democracy, and accession to NATO and the EU. Nevertheless, challenges persist and other actors seek to turn the Czech Republic away from its Western orientation. Therefore, the Embassy will continue to highlight U.S. experience with these issues, share best practices, and promote mutual understanding with the Czech government, business community, and civil society. Traditionally, Czechs and Americans have enjoyed a positive relationship, but the younger generation of Czechs, untouched by the experiences of the Cold War, is less aware of the U.S. role in the founding of the modern Czech state. In the face of greatly increased Chinese public diplomacy and Russian disinformation efforts, we will promote shared democratic values and enhance the Czech public's understanding of American culture, which will further solidify our relationship. Additionally, rule of law problems, such as corruption and lack of transparency, continue to limit the effectiveness of Czech democratic institutions. Our Mission will continue to encourage reforms to address these issues.

On the management front, Embassy Prague will continue to upgrade its security posture to ensure the safety of our workforce and property. We will also improve morale and communication across sections by investing in our people and our infrastructure. This will not only motivate our team, but also enable them to more effectively and efficiently pursue our Mission policy goals. With our management priorities, as with all of our Mission goals, we have considered the challenges to achievement and will seek to mitigate any risks by reviewing our progress on a continual basis. The U.S.-Czech relationship is both deep and productive, and Embassy Prague is leading U.S. efforts to see our strong relations endure.

2. Mission Strategic Framework

Mission Goal 1: The Czech Republic actively and constructively engages on security and political challenges in alignment with U.S. interests.

Mission Objective 1.1: The Czech government implements policies, including budgetary commitments, to support U.S. efforts to advance global security and strengthen NATO.

Mission Objective 1.2: The Czech government improves its ability to identify and combat foreign malign influence domestically and around the world.

Mission Goal 2: Stronger economic, commercial, and scientific ties between the Czech Republic and the United States promote mutual prosperity and security.

Mission Objective 2.1: Increased bilateral trade and investment create jobs and support economic growth.

Mission Objective 2.2: The Czech Republic protects its critical infrastructure and industry and ensures the security and diversity of its energy supply.

Mission Objective 2.3: Increased STEM collaboration supports innovation and entrepreneurship.

Mission Goal 3: A deeper bilateral relationship based on our shared democratic values.

Mission Objective 3.1: The Czech Republic reinforces and supports democratic institutions to encourage greater openness, transparency, and respect for the rule of law.

Mission Objective 3.2: The Czech Republic pursues policies to encourage more equal, active female and minority participation in Czech society.

Mission Objective 3.3: The Czech public increases its affinity for the people, culture, and policies of the United States.

Management Objective 1: The Mission ensures its safety and security through improved physical assets and workforce.

Management Objective 2: The Mission enhances its effectiveness through improved communication and morale.

Management Objective 3: The Mission protects lives and serves the interests of U.S. citizens in the Czech Republic and strengthens U.S. border security while facilitating legitimate travel.

3. Mission Goals and Objectives

Mission Goal 1 The Czech Republic actively and constructively engages on security and political challenges in alignment with U.S. interests.

Description and Linkages: The Czech Republic is a strong security partner and supports U.S. objectives both in the NATO context and wider initiatives such as global counter-terrorism efforts, Syria, Iran, and North Korea. Embassy Prague seeks to continue this regional and global cooperation and press the Czechs to meet their defense spending and modernization commitments. This goal directly supports National Security Strategy Pillar III: Preserve Peace through Strength and DOS/USAID Joint Strategic Plan FY 2018-2022 Goal 1: Protect America's Security at Home and Abroad. In addition, Mission Goal 1 links to 2018-2022 EUR Joint Regional Strategy Goal 1: Strengthen the Western Alliance and Goal 2: Secure and Stabilize the Eastern and Southern Frontiers.

Mission Objective 1.1 The Czech government implements policies, including budgetary commitments, to support U.S. efforts to advance global security and strengthen NATO.

Justification: The United States needs well-resourced security partners to maintain peace and promote prosperity. Embassy Prague will lead this effort with the Czechs through continued collaboration across the spectrum of political and military contacts, particularly within NATO. We will send Czech government officials and journalists on IVLP programs and NATO-sponsored tours to Brussels, brief Czech parliamentarians on the importance of U.S.-Czech security cooperation including military mobility issues, and provide assistance to help the Czech Defense Ministry make more efficient acquisitions. Seeing all NATO Allies achieve the 2 percent defense spending Wales Summit pledge, with 20 percent dedicated to equipment modernization, is one of the U.S. administration's top foreign policy priorities and Embassy Prague is working to make this a reality in the Czech Republic. If the Czechs fail to reach these spending targets, or support U.S. policies, they risk becoming a weak link within the Alliance.

Mission Objective 1.2 The Czech government improves its ability to identify and combat foreign malign influence domestically and around the world.

Justification: Czech media is robust and generally free, fair, and accurate, but the impact of Russian disinformation is real and growing. Around 120 suspected disinformation websites operate in the Czech Republic. The Czech government established a Center for Hybrid Threats at the Ministry of Interior, which relies on expertise from intelligence and security services and outside advisors from think tanks

and academia to track disinformation. Embassy Prague will continue to support these efforts locally through grants to NGOs combatting disinformation, as well as with training from State's Global Engagement Center (GEC). This objective is directly related to 2018-2022 EUR Joint Regional Strategy Goal 3.1: Strengthen ability of democratic allies and partners to resist malign influence, counter disinformation, and increase cooperation against active measures. If the Czechs fail to combat foreign malign influence effectively, we could see wider acceptance by the Czech public of Russian and Chinese narratives regarding key foreign policy issues.

Mission Goal 2 Stronger economic, commercial, and scientific ties between the Czech Republic and the United States promote mutual prosperity and security.

Description and Linkages: A strong economic and commercial relationship between the Czech Republic and United States will promote mutual prosperity in both countries, creating new opportunities for employment, innovation, and growth. This goal directly supports National Security Strategy Pillar II: Promote American Prosperity and DOS/USAID Joint Strategic Plan FY 2018-2022 Goal 2: Renew America's Competitive Advantage for Sustained Economic Growth and Job Creation. Mission Goal 2 also links to 2018-2022 EUR Joint Regional Strategy Objective 2.1: Promote a level playing field, fair trade, and market reciprocity to sustain America's competitive economic advantage and increase foreign direct investment in the United States.

Mission Objective 2.1 Increased bilateral trade and investment creates jobs and supports economic growth.

Justification: Capitalizing on strong economic growth in the Czech Republic, this Mission Objective will further enhance the U.S.-Czech economic relationship and result in the creation of new jobs and other business opportunities. Mission Objective 2.1 directly supports DOS/USAID Joint Strategic Plan FY 2018-2022 Strategic Objective 2.1: Promote American prosperity by advancing bilateral relationship and leveraging international institutions and agreements to open markets, secure commercial opportunities, and foster investment and innovation to contribute to U.S. job creation. In order to increase bilateral trade, the Embassy will provide advocacy for qualified U.S. company bids on Czech government tenders and ensure an annual Economic and Commercial Dialogue to discuss shared challenges and policy priorities. In addition, the Embassy will increase bilateral investment through business outreach and strategic programming that allows Czech and U.S. investors to share best practices and encourage increased investment. If bilateral trade and investment does not increase,

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the United States risks losing its competitive advantage in the Czech market to other competitors, including China and Russia.

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Mission Objective 2.2 The Czech Republic protects its critical infrastructure and industry and ensures the security and diversity of its energy supply.

Justification: The Czech Republic does not currently have an investment screening mechanism in place to screen foreign investments for possible national security implications. This Mission Objective will help support the Czech Republic's national security by ensuring critical infrastructure and industry are protected from potential malign influence and hybrid threats. In addition, this Mission Objective will support energy security by encouraging greater diversification of energy types and sources. Mission Objective 2.2 directly supports DOS/USAID Joint Strategic Plan FY 2018-2022 Strategic Objective 2.3: Advance U.S. economic security by ensuring energy security, combating corruption, and promoting market-oriented economic and governance reforms. The new DOE Regional Office in Prague will pursue activities that support energy security and diversity of energy supply. In addition, the Embassy will share best practices on investment screening mechanisms through IVLP programs and other outreach. If this objective is not achieved, there could be greater geopolitical insecurity in the region resulting from energy shortages or ownership of critical energy infrastructure by an outside party.

Mission Objective 2.3 Increased STEM collaboration supports innovation and entrepreneurship.

Justification: Czech institutions, universities, and businesses have a strong and growing expertise in various STEM fields. By collaborating in these areas, the United States will help support innovation and entrepreneurship, resulting in new opportunities for bilateral commercial and economic pursuits. This Mission Objective will help support DOS/USAID Joint Strategic Plan FY 2018-2022 Strategic Objective 2.2: Promote healthy, educated, and productive populations in partner countries to drive inclusive, sustainable development, open new markets, and support U.S. prosperity and security objectives. To achieve this objective, the Embassy will identify and host an annual Embassy Science Fellow and organize scientific conferences to encourage greater collaboration between universities and researchers. The Embassy will also design and implement programming to support initiatives like Global Entrepreneurship Week and direct small grant funding for initiatives that support entrepreneurship and innovation. If this objective is not achieved, the United States risks losing opportunities for mutually beneficial collaboration to create new technological innovations and market opportunities.

Mission Goal 3 A deeper bilateral relationship based on our shared democratic values.

Description and Linkages: Enhancing the U.S.-Czech bilateral relationship by promoting our shared democratic values will further amplify U.S. achievements in the security and economic realms. In addition, a focus on U.S.-Czech shared democratic values will help strengthen Czech institutions and support for democratic principles in a country that is less than 30 years removed from the fall of communism. This goal directly supports National Security Strategy Pillar IV: Advance American Influence and DOS/USAID Joint Strategic Plan FY 2018-2022 Goal 3: Promote American Leadership through Balanced Engagement. Mission Goal 3 also links to 2018-2022 EUR Joint Regional Strategy Goal 4: Preserve Western Democratic Principles.

Mission Objective 3.1 The Czech Republic reinforces and supports democratic institutions to encourage greater openness, transparency, and respect for the rule of law.

Justification: The Czech Republic has made significant progress in establishing democratic institutions, supporting open and transparent government initiatives, and protecting freedom of speech and independent media since the 1989 Velvet Revolution. However, significant consolidation has occurred in the media space, with a handful of powerful individuals owning most of the private media outlets. By hosting U.S. speakers on media freedom, offering journalist training sessions, sending journalists on IVLP and other exchanges, and raising awareness about the importance of a free press via digital media campaigns, we can help the Czech Republic maintain the integrity of and improve its domestic media environment. This Mission Objective directly supports 2018-2022 EUR Joint Regional Strategy Goal 4.1: Strengthen respect for individual liberty, the rule of law, separation of powers, democratic institutions, independent media, and civil society and Goal 4.2: Promote good governance and fight corruption. If this objective is not achieved, the Czech Republic could experience decreasing transparency and a more restrictive media environment.

Mission Objective 3.2 The Czech Republic pursues policies to encourage more equal, active female and minority participation in Czech society.

Justification: Women and minority groups still face significant barriers to equal participation in political, academic, social, and business fields in the Czech Republic. By hosting grant rounds focused on minority and women's empowerment, implementing programs to support additional opportunities for less advantaged populations, and ensuring diversity in Embassy-sponsored events, we can help the Czech Republic maintain and improve its support for democratic values and respect for individual liberty. This Mission Objective directly supports 2018-2022 EUR Joint Regional Strategy

Goal 4.1: Strengthen respect for individual liberty, the rule of law, separation of powers, democratic institutions, independent media, and civil society. If this objective is not achieved, the Czech Republic might risk greater social divisiveness, which could hamper economic growth and advancement.

Mission Objective 3.3 The Czech public increases its affinity for the people, culture, and policies of the United States.

Justification: The United States and Czech Republic have a 100-year history of friendship, starting with U.S. support for the foundation of an independent Czechoslovakia in 1918. Since then, Americans and Czechs have enjoyed an enduring partnership, especially as demonstrated by the U.S. role in the liberation of Czechoslovakia in 1945. This relationship will endure through the next 100 years if we continue to emphasize and promote a positive understanding of the United States and our citizens, culture, and policies. By recognizing the contribution of U.S. armed forces in WWII liberations and implementing strategic programming to highlight our history of friendship and shared values, we will continue to engage in public diplomacy that results in increasingly positive views of the United States as the Czech Republic's trusted, long-term partner. This Mission Objective directly supports 2018-2022 EUR Joint Regional Strategy Goal 3.2: Compete for positive influence by increasing U.S. diplomatic engagement and defense cooperation with vulnerable states. If this objective is not achieved, the Czech people might turn to other countries for support, partnership, or leadership.

4. Management Objectives

Management Objective 1 The Mission ensures its safety and security through improved physical assets and workforce.

Justification: The Embassy is a seventeenth-century building on a heavily-trafficked street with no physical setback creating security vulnerabilities. Addressing this challenge is in line with DOS/USAID Joint Strategic Plan FY 2018-2011 Strategic Objective 1.1: Strengthen security and safety of workforce and physical assets. While the key activities in Sub-objective 1.2 address this objective by focusing on improving the safety and security of our current physical assets and workforce, we will also work to determine if a New Embassy Compound (NEC) or New Embassy Office Building (NOB) is feasible through Sub-objective 1.1. Without ensuring the Mission's safety and security, we risk not being able to achieve the Mission's policy goals.

Management Objective 2 The Mission enhances its effectiveness through improved communication and morale.

Justification: The Embassy's seventeenth-century chancery building creates physical stovepipes and IT infrastructure issues that limit communication across sections. Addressing this challenge through Sub-objective 2.1 is in line with the DOS/USAID Joint Strategic Plan FY 2018-2022 Strategic Objective 4.2: Provide modern and secure infrastructure and operational capabilities to support effective diplomacy and development. The lack of an across the board pay increase for LE Staff since 2003 continues to affect morale. Addressing this issue through Sub-objective 2.2 is in line with the DOS/USAID Joint Strategic Plan FY 2018-2022 Strategic Objective 4.3: Enhance workforce performance, leadership, engagement, and accountability to execute our mission efficiently and effectively. If we do not improve internal communication and morale, we risk not being able to achieve the Mission's key activities in a timely and efficient manner given current resources.

Management Objective 3 Protect lives and serve the interests of U.S. citizens in the Czech Republic and strengthen U.S. border security while facilitating legitimate travel.

Justification: For many, the Consular Section is the public face of the embassy. We serve an estimated resident U.S. citizen population of 10,000, plus some of the 500,000 annual U.S. visitors to the Czech Republic, as well as over 10,000 visa applicants each year. In light of increased tourism and long wait times for visa appointments in other countries in the region, we must serve an incrementally increasing clientele with the same space, staff, and attention to customer service, as well as security. This Mission Objective directly supports DOS/USAID Joint Strategic Plan FY 2018-2022 Strategic Objective 1.5: Strengthen U.S. border security and protect U.S. citizens abroad.

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Without these services, which are a primary duty of every embassy, U.S. citizens would be without services abroad and our borders would be less secure.

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