

# THE **FOREIGN SERVICE** JOURNAL

PUBLISHED BY THE AMERICAN FOREIGN SERVICE ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER 2012



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IN THEIR OWN **WRITE**



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# Getting the Risk-Diplomacy Balance Right

BY SUSAN R. JOHNSON

Today's security requirements constrict effective, active diplomacy, which requires mobility, access to local contacts, and informed reporting and policy input—all of which by their very nature entail exposure to risks. Balancing those competing demands is a daunting challenge, especially in places like Libya, where Ambassador Chris Stevens and three members of our diplomatic staff gave their lives in the line of duty. What can we learn from their supreme sacrifice and dedication?

The post-9/11 era has seen an increasing militarization of American foreign policy and stretching of the concept of diplomacy, exposing Foreign Service personnel to threats that vary dramatically from station to station. Each requires carefully calibrated procedures and approaches to protect personnel while maximizing the mobility needed to carry out our professional responsibilities.

Under the Vienna Conventions, host states are responsible for the protection of accredited diplomatic personnel on their territories, but this commitment cannot be taken for granted everywhere. In Benghazi our personnel came under attack by al-Qaida affiliates or militants opposed to the Libyan transition, which is still in flux. Similar elements

stalk many countries in the Middle East, some of whom have experienced the convulsions of the



*Susan R. Johnson is the president of the American Foreign Service Association.*

Arab Spring and its aftermath.

Many in these countries nurse a deep antipathy toward the United States and the West, so the dangers to our diplomatic personnel and citizens there will persist. Nonetheless, most nations in the region continue to uphold their Vienna Convention obligations.

During the recent wave of violent protests over an offensively anti-Muslim film, these governments acted to protect diplomatic compounds. In such situations, where the host government exercises sufficient control, we only need supplementary measures to augment its protection. But in several other countries where we are heavily engaged, such as Libya, Afghanistan and Iraq, it would be naive to expect authorities to act in a similarly effective manner. Where the host government lacks the capacity, for whatever reason, we need different approaches, so long as they regularly review our goals, the nature of our engagement and the quality of protection available.

In particular, we must assess the value of a large presence in conflict zones and the feasibility of relying on an army of contractors for security and large-scale engagement in development projects. Interventions in conflict zones may not necessarily contain the turmoil. Indeed, the opposite often appears to be the case. In such situations, we need a more focused articulation of objectives and

a correspondingly more circumspect engagement and presence.

Safety and effective risk management for diplomats demand not just our own assessment of the ground situation. We need to listen carefully to the views of the host governments, especially when it comes to the extent of our presence and diplomatic norms for immunity. To expect hundreds of contractors and other personnel employed on projects to enjoy the privileges of diplomatic immunity goes well beyond the terms of the Vienna Convention. This can provoke local sensitivities, place inordinate burdens on host governments and cause unintended incidents that are counterproductive to policy objectives.

This does not mean quitting the front, however. Rather, we must be judicious in setting goals in complex situations that put our people at risk.

We cannot ensure reasonable security without making sufficient resources available to the State Department and our missions. Cutting corners puts our diplomats at risk, something Congress should keep in mind when setting budgetary allocations.

Members of the United States Foreign Service, the cadre of professional diplomats and development officers committed to worldwide availability, accept the risks involved in doing their jobs. They serve willingly and unreservedly in difficult places and situations around the world. They deserve recognition and support. ■

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## Tragedy in Benghazi

Much remains to be learned about the Sept. 11 attack on our mission in Benghazi that resulted in the loss of Ambassador Chris Stevens, Information Resources Officer Sean Smith and two former Navy Seals. But Foreign Service history during the 1980s might serve as an important reference point in any review.

Specifically, events at two posts where I served during that period, Beirut and Moscow, ultimately led to the creation of the Diplomatic Security Service. They also brought about major institutional changes through what became known as the Inman Commission, directed by Secretary of State George P. Shultz.

While I was on temporary duty in Beirut in 1983, massive truck bombings took place at our embassy and, later, at the U.S. Marine Corps barracks. The latter tragedy demonstrated the vulnerability of U.S. government buildings to a new, unconventional style of terrorist warfare.

A few years later in Moscow, a potentially devastating loss of critical national security information from KGB-bugged embassy typewriters, as well as other factors associated with our Marine security guard detachment's "Corporal Lonetree" saga, served as another major operational security wake-up call. Like the tragedy in Libya, both setbacks reverberated all the way to the White House.

The Inman Commission's 1985 recommendations called for radical modifications to physical, procedural and electronic security at every U.S. diplomatic post around the world. These altered Foreign Service operations and security regimens more than any others in the history of the State Department.

As important as those changes were, a quarter-century later they may seem to be ancient history. But their ramifications and the reasoning behind them might

still hold meaning for us today.

I sincerely hope that the State Department treats the Benghazi tragedy not just as a loss of national treasure and blood, but as a clear signal that the time has come for another thorough assessment of our global security posture. A close review of events before, during and after the attack should be a priority.

As the department reassesses the level of security appropriate to the current operational environment, so that Foreign Service operations can continue to promote America's interests in a more dangerous world than ever before, perhaps an "Inman Commission II" would be helpful.

*Timothy C. Lawson*  
Senior FSO, retired  
Hua Hin, Thailand

## Fixing Employee Evaluations

While I agree with Tyler Sparks that our evaluation system would benefit from some changes ("Overhauling the EER Process," September Speaking Out), I see those changes as tied more to the need for a culture of leadership in the State Department than the fact that, on average, we spend 15 hours on each employee evaluation report.

As an Air Force veteran, I can attest to the fact that ranking employees against their peers and guarding against grade inflation do not necessarily promote the best and weed out the worst. What does achieve those objectives is a clearly defined and closely followed set of core values.

Sparks cites the Marine Corps rating system as a possible model, but this system would not be very effective without



the vision of the officers and enlisted personnel trusted to administer it.

In contrast, the State Department often avoids the charge of leadership by promoting a "manage up" culture, which creates territorial, unnecessarily

competitive junior officers, incompetent mid-level officers and inert supervisors.

The Bureau of Consular Affairs has dedicated more time to the study and practice of leadership than any other bureau in the State Department. Consular leaders hold themselves, their peers, subordinates and superiors accountable for the proper management of people and resources by means of the leadership tenets they have carefully developed, continue to hone and have shared with other bureaus.

The department should not only follow CA's lead, but take it further by devoting itself to the study and pursuit of good leadership. Again, that is what distinguishes our soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines. It should be what distinguishes us, as well.

*John Fer*  
FSO  
Washington, D.C.

## Defining Dissent

The September *Journal* contained a useful review of an interesting new book by Professor Hannah Gurman: *The Dissent Papers: The Voices of Diplomats in the Cold War and Beyond*, a serious study of our profession and its central professional practices.

There is much of interest in the book, such as the lucid discussion and description of the central professional role of reporting and writing. Gurman's



description of diplomatic reporting as an internal dialogue between professionals is enlightening and ought to become a text at the Foreign Service Institute.

Unfortunately, the author apparently became fixated with the concept of dissent and the idea that only dissenters are worthy of respect. Perhaps this is a generational twitch on her part, but it leads her to a very serious misinterpretation.

A good two-thirds of the book is taken up with the history of George Kennan, the “China hands” (e.g., Jack Service and John Paton Davies) and George Ball, about whom she is generous and complimentary. Yet she persists in erroneously labeling them as “dissenters,” implying that their professional virtues arose from that status.

In fact, Kennan’s most famous and significant work, the “Long Telegram,” was the result of a formal request from the State Department for his analysis of the Soviet Union, and his recommendations became the foundation of American foreign policy for almost 50 years. Gurman makes much of Kennan’s later, critical remarks about implementation of deterrence doctrine, but those came after he had retired from the Foreign Service. So where is the dissent?

Service and Davies were not dissenters either, but officers producing high-quality, well-received work. The fact they were later attacked for partisan political reasons and forced out of the Foreign Service is a travesty of justice, but does not make them dissenters.

Gurman also labels George Ball a dissenter, because as a senior member of the Johnson administration, he argued for policies and positions that weren’t adopted. This is not dissent; it is participation in the policy process.

Near the end of her book, the author discusses the respective dissent programs of the State Department and of AFSA. We must thank her for publicizing these programs, but I do wish she had a better grasp of what each does and how they operate. That said, her discussion of the central role of internal reporting, analysis and discussion to the profession of diplomacy is important.

Edward Marks  
*Ambassador, retired*  
*Washington, D.C.*

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## Getting Out and About

Henry Kissinger was right, in his interview with Susan Johnson (September *FSJ*), to warn against the Foreign Service getting too involved in the daily flow of cable traffic—and, in so doing, to neglect the strategic aspects of our work.

When I was assigned to Moscow in 1967 as counselor for press and culture, I was appalled by the daily flow of cables from posts all over the world that I was expected to read and digest. I therefore decided to try to get out of the embassy every day and call on some Soviet agency that had seldom, if ever, seen an American official. I was never refused a visit, and was received correctly, if not always cordially.

Such visits gave me a good opportunity to promote U.S. objectives in the

Soviet Union and to practice public diplomacy. They also produced many good ideas on what we should be doing to influence the Soviet public.

*Yale Richmond*  
*FSO, retired*  
*Washington, D.C.*

## Combating Immigration Fraud

Thirty years ago, my consular colleagues and I uncovered massive visa and passport fraud as many thousands of foreign nationals tried, in any way possible, to enter, work and stay in the United States. Large-scale fraud, illegal immigration and overstays for economic reasons have all become even more pervasive since then, straining U.S. social services, frus-

trating legitimate travelers and fueling a contentious national debate on immigration policy.

Former and retired officials from the departments of State, Labor and Homeland Security are in a unique position to assist policymakers and agency officials in dealing with these challenges. Indeed, Congress needs our expertise to craft whatever system it decides is in the interest of the U.S. citizens its members represent. And our fellow citizens need our expertise to better engage their representatives.

To supplement governmental efforts, educate the public and help policymakers make more informed decisions, the Center for Immigration Studies ([www.cis.org](http://www.cis.org)), a nonpartisan research institute that examines the impact of immigration on American society, is calling on former and retired officials with expertise in the detection of visa and passport fraud, and non-immigrant and immigrant visa law, process and policy, to join the CIS Immigration Fraud Working Group.

This group will provide a forum for former and retired officials to contribute to a constructive public discussion of these issues. Agencies are also welcome to have active-duty experts participate. The goal is to identify vulnerabilities in the current system and to present realistic options to lawmakers for enforceable laws and procedures that facilitate legitimate travel and immigration, advancing the interests of U.S. citizens.

CIS plans to publish the Immigration Fraud Working Group's findings, options and recommendations, and present them at a panel discussion in Washington, D.C. Invitees will include government experts and congressional staffers.

If you would like to participate, or learn more about the project, please contact Jessica Vaughan, director of



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*Judy Carson*  
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## Overly Rosy Memories of El Salvador

I feel compelled to comment on a couple of items in September's *Journal*, which just arrived on my doorstep.

First, kudos to Paula Guimond for her letter ("Thanks, Local Employees") in praise of our Foreign Service Nationals and other Locally Employed Staff. She truly tells it like it is. How I wish I had thought to write the same letter myself!

Second, regarding Robert Blau's panegyric to Salvadoran democracy ("El Sal-

vador's Remarkable Transition"), I wish to point out that his article seems to have glossed over some important aspects of Salvadoran reality.

For instance, Mr. Blau euphemistically describes President Mauricio Funes' running mate in the 2009 elections, Salvador Sanchez Ceren, as a "hardliner." What he fails to mention—and some readers may perhaps not know—is that Ceren is the same FMLN leader who led celebrations and American flag burnings in the streets of San Salvador following the 9/11 attacks. So the fact that he is not just the current vice president, but very possibly El Salvador's next president, is most definitely not a promising development.

Moreover, by simply quoting a question from a *New York Times* reporter

without making any attempt to challenge its rationale, Blau appears to tacitly imply that the United States somehow owes El Salvador some kind of apology for our role in its civil war. Some of us still remember the 1983 assassination of Navy Lt. Commander Albert Schaufelberger and the 1985 Zona Rosa murder of six Americans (four of them Marine security guards from the embassy), which both occurred in San Salvador.

Mr. Blau could have mentioned these incidents in the context of the *Times*' query. Better yet, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton might have done so in her response.

*T.J. Morgan*  
FSO, retired  
Charlottesville, Va. ■

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## The Way to a Country's Heart?

**W**riting in the Sept. 4 *Washington Post*, food critic Tom Sietsema reports on an ambitious new State Department program to use food as a diplomatic tool. Initiated by Chief of Protocol Capricia Penavic Marshall and blessed by her boss, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, the Diplomatic Culinary Partnership aims to “elevate the role of culinary engagement in America’s formal and public diplomacy efforts.”

The State Department officially launched the DCP at a Sept. 7 reception, building on a longtime informal partnership with the James Beard Foundation, named for the late dean of American cooking. “James used to say, ‘Food is our common ground,’” says Beard Foundation President Susan Ungaro. “He would be thrilled by chefs getting recognition in ways they never have before.”

Among other elements, the wide-ranging initiative creates an American Chef Corps, a network of culinary leaders from across the United States who can be deployed to promote American cooking and agricultural products abroad. Participants might meet with an embassy, cook a lunch, post blogs, write articles or speak at events, explains Marshall.

Such outreach predates the Diplomatic Culinary Partnership, of course. Sietsema notes that during the Chicago NATO Summit in May, world leaders enjoyed snack-size tastes of such Windy City favorites as deep-dish pizzas, popcorn and pierogis.

“All of our eating is purposeful,” wherever it takes place, says U.S. Deputy Chief of Protocol Natalie Jones. “There’s a message behind everything.”

Recipients of the State Chef designation, all unpaid emissaries, will receive navy-blue jackets set off with

an American flag, the seal of the State Department and their names embroidered in gold on the front. The honor will be reserved for industry members who have distinguished themselves by, say, serving a meal for the State Department or hosting a foreign delegation.

Clinton’s interest in food dates to her days as first lady, when Marshall served as her social secretary, and the super-frequent-flyer’s enthusiasm has only broadened since. While hunger, security and nutrition issues are at the top of her food agenda, she has encouraged her staff to come up with fresh ways of extending hospitality to foreign guests who are possibly jet-lagged or on a different body clock.

A holding room might come with tea flavored to remind them of home (hibiscus for the Mexicans, cardamom for the Indians). Table accompaniments now include spreads, flatbreads and nuts: welcoming snacks for visitors who might not have seen food for a while or who must wait for a speech before getting a full meal.

“Factoring in others’ tastes, ceremonies and values is an overlooked and powerful part of diplomacy,” Clinton told the *Post*. “The working meals I attend with foreign leaders build stronger bonds between countries and offer an important setting to further the vital diplomatic work we conduct every day.”

The program is being supported with public and private funds from such contributors as Mars, the food manufacturing giant, and Lenox, the high-end china and gift producer. “Finding partners has not been difficult,” says Marshall, who adds: “The Diplomatic Culinary Partnership is good for American business.”

## 50 Years Ago

**E**veryone who has concerned himself over the years with the problems of improving the Department of State and Foreign Service has at one time or another tried to face up to one central problem: how to produce in the same individual officer the skills of the foreign affairs operator and policymaker, and the skills of the executive director directing the work of others.

I am reminded of a young management specialist we had in the Department of State some 15 years ago. He was sent on a familiarization tour of Foreign Service posts, and returned quite despondent. Everywhere he went, he said, he found older FSOs working

themselves to death while young officers sat around without enough to do.

“How are we going to get those old boys to learn to delegate their duties?” he demanded. After he had brooded over this for a few minutes, his face lit up, and he exclaimed, “I’ve got it! We’ll circularize the field and ask every post to list their indispensable men. Then we’ll retire all the indispensable men, and start over!”

—From “*Executive Ability in the Foreign Service*,” by Frank Snowden Hopkins; FSJ, November 1962



## “ 112TH CONGRESS, 2ND SESSION IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES ”

SEPTEMBER 13, 2012

Considered and agreed to

### SENATE RESOLUTION 401

*Expressing appreciation for Foreign Service and Civil Service professionals who represent the United States around the globe.*

Whereas the United States Foreign Service was established by Congress in 1924 to professionalize the country's diplomatic and consular services and advance freedom, democracy and security for the benefit of the people of the United States and the international community;

Whereas the United States Agency for International Development was established in 1961 to support the foreign policy goals of the United States through economic, development and humanitarian assistance;

Whereas the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development together employ more than 27,000 United States nationals in the Foreign Service and Civil Service dedicated to promoting United States interests around the world;

Whereas Foreign Service personnel deploy to Asia, Africa, the Americas, Australia, Europe, the Middle East and Southeast Asia on a permanent, rotating basis to defend and promote United States priorities abroad;

Whereas many Foreign Service employees spend months or years away from families and loved ones on assignment to dangerous or inhospitable posts where family members are not permitted;

Whereas numerous Department of State and United States Agency for International Development employees have lost their lives while serving abroad;

Whereas strong and purposeful United States diplomacy and development, carried out by a diverse, professionally educated and well-trained force of Foreign Service and Civil Service professionals, are the most cost-effective means to protect and advance United States interests abroad;

Whereas the promotion of commercial engagement by United States businesses in foreign markets and targeted international development projects support economic prosperity, job creation and opportunities for United States business and industry;

Whereas United States diplomats are often the first line of defense against international conflict and transnational security threats;

Whereas Foreign Service and Civil Service professionals have worked to support the members of the United States Armed Forces involved in critical national security missions and military engagements in dangerous and unstable regions;

Whereas Foreign Service and Civil Service professionals administer emergency assistance in crisis situations; and

Whereas the contributions of Foreign Service and Civil Service professionals to the global advancement of international understanding, American ideals, and the promotion of freedom and democracy around the world should be commended:

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Senate—

- (1) recognizes and gives special appreciation to the Foreign Service and Civil Service personnel of the Department of State, the United States Agency for International Development and other United States government agencies that promote and protect United States priorities abroad; and
- (2) owes a debt of gratitude to these individuals, and their families, who put public service and pride in their country ahead of comfort, convenience and even safety in service to the United States and the global community.

## Making U.S. Aid More Transparent

American foreign assistance programs are becoming more transparent, but still do not publish most aid information.

So says Publish What You Fund: The Global Campaign for Aid Transparency in its *2012 Aid Transparency Index*. This edition of the annual report ranked 72 global aid organizations in terms of their programs' transparency at three separate levels—organization, country and activity/project—using 43 indicators that reflect commonly available data for which commitments to disclosure already exist.

The programs evaluated are those of bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as climate finance and development finance institutions. They represent 37 countries, four United Nations agencies

and two private foundations.

The *Index* specifically examines five U.S. agencies—the U.S. Agency for International Development, State, Defense, Treasury and the Millennium Challenge Corporation—and one program, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.

Among them, the top performer in terms of transparency was the MCC, which ranked ninth out of the 72 total donors. The Defense Department received the lowest ranking among the U.S. agencies, 56th. Other rankings include: USAID (27th), PEPFAR (29th), Treasury (34th) and State (46th).

Overall, the United States came in slightly above average compared to all donors surveyed, but performed relatively poorly against other very large donors, such as the World Bank and the European Commission. However,

American aid agencies made significant jumps in their scores over last year.

Treasury posted the fifth-highest increase of all agencies in the *2012 Index* (18 percentage points), while PEPFAR, USAID, MCC and Defense all ranked among the 15 biggest improvers.

Publish What You Fund also urges all donors to sign and implement the International Aid Transparency Initiative, which sets a global common standard for publishing aid information. Foreign assistance published to this standard is shared openly in a timely, comprehensive, comparable and accessible way.

IATI currently has 33 signatory donors, including the United States, that collectively account for more than three-quarters of official development finance.

## SITE OF THE MONTH: Education and Assistance for Federal Employees

Back in 1986 a group of dedicated individuals, mostly leaders of large federal unions or management associations, began meeting informally to identify ways to meet common challenges: How do I keep and retain good employees? Will I be able to save enough to send my kids to college? What happens if an unexpected medical bill puts me or an employee over the edge? Who stands up for us when the going gets tough?

Those discussions led to the establishment of the Federal Employee Education and Assistance Fund as a community of federal employees who would support each other in times of need. Twenty-six years later, FEEA has expanded to operate many different programs, including scholarships for the surviving children of fallen diplomats.

The Department of State and the Department of Defense jointly set up the FEEA Diplomatic Fund in August 1995 to assist the families of three individuals killed while on a diplomatic mission in Bosnia. The Federal Diplomatic Family Assistance Fund-Africa, added after the August 1998 bomb-

ings of our embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam, is helping to defray the costs of a college education for the children of the 12 Americans killed in the bombings.

A \$100,000 grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in December 2004 and a 2008 fundraising campaign increased the resources available for these scholarships to \$34,000 per child, spread out across four years. The goal is to raise enough money to give full scholarships to all students who lose a diplomatic parent to terrorism.

To commemorate the lives and service of Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens, Sean Smith, Tyrone Woods and Glen Doherty, all killed in the Sept. 11 terrorist attack in Benghazi, members may make donations via credit card by visiting [www.feea.org/Give](http://www.feea.org/Give) and choosing "Diplomatic Fund" from the drop-down list of funds. Donations via check, made out to "FEEA Diplomatic Fund," may be sent to: FEEA Headquarters, 3333 S. Wadsworth Blvd., Suite 300, Lakewood, CO 80227.

All donations are tax deductible.



# Psst! Hey, Buddy, Wanna Buy an Ambassadorship?

BY DENNIS JETT

For decades, the percentage of ambassadors who are political appointees has remained remarkably stable at a little over 30 percent. Should AFSA push to reduce that number? Or does it still matter in today's world?

Some might argue that the ease and speed of communications and travel have made the work of ambassadors an anachronism that is largely irrelevant in the 21st century, and therefore something people with little experience in government can easily do. But many of us believe that the challenges presented by globalization, and the fact that no other major country has anywhere near such a high proportion of noncareer ambassadors, should suffice to prompt reforms.

Either way, this feature of American democracy is a time-honored practice that is not likely to change. To understand why, it helps to know a bit of history.

Over our country's first 150 years, there was a slow but steady increase in the number of overseas missions, which fell into two categories: diplomatic and consular. The chief function of the diplomatic posts was conducting the traditional political work involved in bilateral relations. Consular offices, on the other hand, dealt with commercial and trade



While speaking out won't end the practice of pay-to-play ambassadorships, it is still worth doing.

issues and the protection of American businessmen, sailors and other citizens.

Consuls were expected to sustain themselves by the fees they charged for

their services. That often put them in a different social class from the diplomats, who usually drew on considerable personal wealth to supplement their meager government salaries.

The only real limit to the number of consular posts was the number of cities where a consul could do enough business to be self-sustaining. The number

---

*Dennis Jett, an FSO from 1972 to 2000, was ambassador to Mozambique and Peru, and deputy chief of mission in Malawi and Liberia, among many other assignments. Now a professor of international affairs at Penn State University, he is the author of Why Peacekeeping Fails (Palgrave, 2001) and regularly writes op-ed pieces for major newspapers.*



Ever since the Eisenhower administration, the proportion of career ambassadors has hovered at about two-thirds of the total, regardless of the party in power.

of embassies, on the other hand, was restricted to the number of countries where bilateral relations were sufficiently active that a resident diplomatic representative was required.

### Merit Becomes a Consideration

As the 19th century drew to a close, Washington policymakers came to the realization that the business of government was becoming too important and complex to be left entirely to inexperienced political appointees, who changed from one administration to the next. Career officials, hired and promoted on the basis of merit, started to become the norm for both the Civil Service and the Foreign Service.

President William Howard Taft gave the process of professionalizing the diplomatic and consular services a big boost. In each of his four State of the Union speeches, from 1909 to 1912, he described what he had done to improve the efficiency of the State Department and urged Congress to help institutionalize reform. This process eventually bore fruit with the passage of the Rogers Act of 1924, which combined the diplomatic and consular services into a unified United States Foreign Service.

The dramatic change that these efforts brought about during the first half of the 20th century is reflected in

the statistics. The number of consular posts peaked at 368 in 1920, then began a precipitous decline due to the replacement of freelance consular agents with paid bureaucrats.

At that time the United States only maintained 45 embassies, but the total quickly began to climb. Even so, it was not until the 1970s that the number of embassies exceeded the number of consular posts.

As the number of diplomatic missions went up, more of them were headed by an ambassador. By 1950, they accounted for more than three-quarters of the total. At the same time, the proportion of ambassadors who were career officers jumped from 10 percent in 1920 to 68 percent in 1950.

These trends reflected several developments. First, as decolonization increased the number of nations, our consulates in the former colonies were replaced by embassies. In addition, the emergence of the United States from World War II as the most powerful nation in the world and the onset of the Cold War both required diplomatic representation in nearly every country to protect American interests and to wage worldwide struggle against communism.

During the Eisenhower administration, the percentage of career ambassadors reached about two-thirds of the total. It has stayed at roughly that level



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ever since, regardless of the party in power.

### “He Speaks English”

Passed with the support of the Carter administration, the Foreign Service Act of 1980 states that those nominated to be a chief of mission should demonstrate competence to do the job—i.e., they should be familiar with the language, culture and history of the country to which they are named. The law also stipulates that such positions should normally be given to career members of the Foreign Service, and contributions to political campaigns should not be a factor in an appointment.

Though the law’s effect was modest,

Only about 10 percent of the posts with a hardship allowance or danger pay have a political appointee as ambassador.

it was still significant. The percentage of political appointees from the Eisenhower administration through President Gerald Ford’s had been 34 percent. But from Jimmy Carter’s presidency through George W. Bush’s, it averaged 29 percent (staying just above 30 percent under Republican presidents and under 27 percent when Democrats occupied the

White House).

While he was a presidential candidate, Senator Barack Obama frequently talked about the need to change the way Washington does business. He even explicitly criticized the practice of giving ambassadorships to big campaign contributors. As he said when responding to a question on the subject: “My general

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inclination is to have Civil Service [members], wherever possible, serve in these posts. I want to recruit young people into the State Department to feel that this is a career track that they can be on for the long term. And so, you know, my expectation is that high-quality civil servants are going to be rewarded.”

After four months in office and the naming of a number of big donors to various ambassadorial posts, however, the White House press spokesman, Robert Gibbs, was reduced to trying to deflect criticism of the business-as-usual approach to these appointments with humor. When asked about the qualifications of the nominee for London, for instance, Gibbs responded, “He speaks English.”

## Two Cautionary Tales

Can someone with no significant government or international experience play such a role just because they made a lot of money and contributed a substantial amount of it to the winning presidential candidate? Some in this category have been outstanding as ambassadors, but others clearly have not.

Anyone who wants to understand how embassies can succeed or fail due to their leadership can now consult the Web site of the State Department’s Office of the Inspector General. That office has begun putting its inspection reports online with minimal redaction.

Two of the biggest recent failures, judging by the OIG reports now online, were in Luxembourg and Malta. In the former country, the ambassador spent most of her time redecorating the residence. And she was such a bad manager that people were volunteering for service in Iraq and Afghanistan in order to curtail the time they had to work for her.

In Malta, the ambassador neglected

supervision of the construction of a new embassy in order to spend his time writing articles for religious publications. Both ambassadors resigned about the time the OIG reports came out.

From their biographies, it does not appear that either ambassador had much in the way of management experience. Nor were they in charge of embassies in countries one could exactly call challenging.

Since 1960, 72 percent of the ambassadors posted to capitals in Western Europe and the Caribbean have been political appointees. In Africa and the Middle East, on the other hand, the percentage of noncareer chiefs of mission has consistently been under 15. (There has never been one in Central Asia.)

Put another way, only about 10 percent of the posts with a hardship allowance or danger pay have a political appointee as ambassador.

## Money Makes the World Go Around

To be sure, not all political appointees are big donors. Some are personal friends or political allies of the president. Others are named to bring racial or gender diversity to a president’s appointments, or to strike a responsive chord with some particular constituency. But the majority have either personally given or have bundled amounts in six figures or more.

Shortly after America emerged from World War II as a global power with global interests, the ratio of 70-percent career and 30-percent political appointees was established. It has persisted for the last 60 years and is unlikely to shift toward an even split.

The reason is simple: money.

The cost of financing a presidential campaign is enormous and growing. In



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the last election, the two major party candidates spent a combined total of more than a billion dollars, an unprecedented amount. Each disclosed that he had more than 500 people who bundled amounts greater than \$50,000, with many of them gathering in half a million dollars or more.

This election year, it would not be surprising if election spending doubled, thanks to the Supreme Court. In its 2010 *Citizens United* decision, the conservative majority on the court decided that corporations are people and that negative attack ads are free speech that should not be constrained. As a result, corporate CEOs, billionaires and anyone else who wants to can pour unlimited

## Not all political appointee ambassadors are big donors, but most have either given or bundled large amounts.

amounts of money into groups that engage in such tactics, and they can do so anonymously.

President Eisenhower warned us against the military-industrial complex. With political campaigns having become a multibillion-dollar business, there is now an electoral-industrial complex that will ensure that their business remains protected and nontransparent. The

selling of ambassadorships is just too lucrative, and election bids too expensive, for this source of campaign funds to be given up.

In addition, when it comes to patronage jobs as a reward to loyal followers, even the most powerful man in the world has limited options. So he (or, someday, she) is not going to constrain them further.

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## Calling Out the Unqualified

Nevertheless, ambassadors are still important in a globalized world. There is no substitute for having a person on the ground in nearly every country to protect and promote America's many interests and run large bureaucratic organizations. While it would be helpful if such officials actually understand the countries to which they are appointed, the damage may not be all that great because of where political appointees tend to be sent.

There is value, however, in calling attention to nominations that should not go unchallenged. A standing committee of the American Bar Association rates each judicial nominee as "well qualified," "qualified" or "not qualified." A committee of retired ambassadors under the auspices of AFSA or another group, like the American Academy of Diplomacy, could do something similar.

The president and the Senate might not care about such pronouncements, but they would at least draw media attention to the truly unqualified. They might also persuade some aspiring amateur diplomats to avoid negative publicity by forgoing such positions.

While speaking out won't end the practice of pay-to-play ambassadorships, it is still worth doing to underline two key points: Diplomacy is a profession, and Foreign Service officers are, in most cases, the most skilled practitioners of that profession. ■

*A time of service...a time of need*

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# IN THEIR OWN WRITE

**T**he *Foreign Service Journal* is pleased to present our annual Foreign Service authors roundup in plenty of time for holiday orders.

Judging by the flood of books we received for this issue—twice the number in previous years—the past year has been one of reflection, inspiration and literary endeavor for FS members. The result is a selection that contains a weighty and wide-ranging history section, a solid policy and issues section, an unusually large array of memoirs and fiction, several children’s books and an eclectic variety of works in the categories of photography, cooking, travel, Arabic-language studies and tax preparation. As has been the case for nearly a decade, most of the titles are self-published.

Whether you read the listings in print or online, we urge you to visit our online bookstore when a title strikes your fancy. There you will find all the books in this edition, as well as those featured in previous years—and more ([www.afsa.org/ads/books/](http://www.afsa.org/ads/books/)).

Our annotated list of volumes written, edited or translated by Foreign Service personnel and family members in 2011 and 2012 is not a definitive record of works by FS authors; we rely on the authors themselves to bring their books to our attention. The roundup was assembled with the vital assistance of editorial interns Emily Hawley, Eva Moss and David Barton.



TheSpot.com/Tim Ogline

**We are pleased to present this year’s roundup of books by Foreign Service members and their families.**

Our primary purpose in compiling this list is to celebrate the wealth of literary talent within the Foreign Service community, and to give our readers the opportunity to support colleagues by sampling their wares. Each entry contains full publication data along with a short commentary.

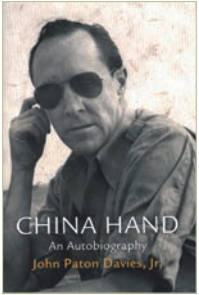
As has become our custom, we also include a list of books “of related interest” to diplomats and their families that were not written by FS authors.

Once again, although many of these books are available elsewhere, we encourage our readers to use the AFSA Web site’s online bookstore to place your orders. The AFSA Bookstore has links to Amazon and, at no extra cost to you, each book sold there generates a small royalty for AFSA. For the few books that cannot be ordered through Amazon, we have provided alternative links or, when the book is not available online, the necessary contact information.

But enough crass commercialism. On to the books!

—Susan Brady Maitra, Senior Editor

## HISTORY & BIOGRAPHY



### **China Hand: An Autobiography**

John Paton Davies Jr., Penn Press, 2012, \$34.95, hardcover, 376 pages.

One morning at the height of the McCarthyite hysteria of the 1950s, career FSO John Paton Davies Jr. was summoned to the State Department and fired. His offense? The diplomat had advised the U.S. government during World War II that com-

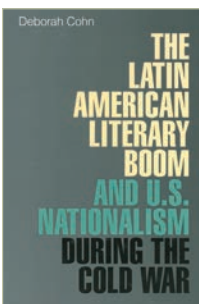
munist forces in China were poised to take over the country—which they did, in 1949.

John Paton Davies Jr.'s autobiography, organized for publication following his death by his daughter Tiki Davies, offers a detailed account of his experience during more than 20 years with the State Department as one of the foremost experts on Asia. But fascinating as that story is, *China Hand* treats readers to much more.

“A major new contribution to World War II and early Cold War history” is how historian John Lewis Gaddis describes the book. “Davies predicted more accurately than anyone else, prior to the Cold War, what China’s course would be during it. We are most fortunate to have his posthumous autobiography available at last, in which he explains, in shrewd and sparkling prose, how he did this.”

The son of missionary parents, Davies was raised in China. He joined the fledgling Foreign Service in 1931 and was posted to China, where he remained until nearly the end of World War II. Fluent in Mandarin and very familiar with the country and its culture, he was both an actor and observer in Washington’s relations with China and Soviet Union during that tumultuous period.

John Paton Davies Jr. (1908-1999) also wrote *Foreign and Other Affairs* (W.W. Norton & Co., 1964) and *Dragon by the Tail: American, British, Japanese, and Russian Encounters with China and One Another* (W.W. Norton & Co., 1980).



### **The Latin American Literary Boom and U.S. Nationalism During the Cold War**

Deborah Cohn, Vanderbilt University Press, 2012, \$34.95, paperback, 280 pages.

During the 1960s the works of Julio Cortázar, Carlos Fuentes and Gabriel Garcia Márquez burst onto the American literary

stage, and rapidly gained popularity. But the writers themselves were barred from the United States by a government that feared they would spread radical, anti-American views.

Deborah Cohn’s exploration of this paradox led to this very interesting study of the history of the rise of Latin American literature and the establishment of Latin American studies as a scholarly discipline in the United States during the Cold War. The book documents the process by which U.S. universities, publishers, philanthropic organizations, cultural centers and authors coordinated efforts to bring Latin American literature and studies to the U.S. public in the face of official fears.

As the author puts it, her work “reconfigures the way that we study Latin American literary history at the same time that it expands our understanding of the impact of Latin American authors on U.S. writers and the U.S. literary and academic scenes.”

Deborah Cohn, the daughter of FSO Irene Cohn, is associate professor of Spanish and American studies at Indiana University–Bloomington. She is also the author of *History and Memory in the Two Souths: Recent Southern and Spanish American Fiction* (Vanderbilt University Press, 1999).



### **Left, Right, Out: The History of Third Parties in America**

David A. Epstein, Arts and Letters Imperium Publishing, 2012, \$16.95, paperback, 238 pages.

David Epstein examines the role of political forces beyond today’s two parties, and finds it is far more significant than Ralph Nader’s impact on the campaign of 2000.

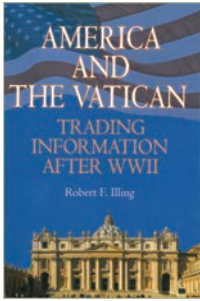
He analyzes third-party influence from the time of the founders’ original conception of a united government to the harsh red-blue divide we have today. Although distant from the mainstream, these third parties are often the standard-bearers for what later become major party platforms. They have been influential in shaping political discourse on significant issues from prohibition to civil rights.

This account of long-forgotten movers and shakers, challengers of the two-party system who prevented political stagnation and pushed mainstream parties to adapt to them, is a reminder of the winding path politics in our country has taken. Epstein’s thorough look at each influential third-party actor in American history is supplemented with historic electoral maps and the text of the U.S. Constitution.

Long passionate about United States’ history and politics,



David Epstein joined the Foreign Service in 2007. His first posting was San Salvador, and he is now serving as vice consul in Jerusalem.



**America and the Vatican:  
Trading Information after WWII**

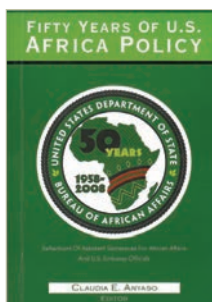
Robert F. Illing, History Publishing Company, 2011, \$25.95, hardcover, 260 pages.

Fifteen years after World War II, the United States opened a small mission in the Vatican and Robert Illing, a non-Catholic and career FSO, was posted there as *chargé d'affaires*. *America and the Vatican* is his account of that experience.

“My assignment to the Vatican began as an office joke at the American embassy in Belgrade, where I was working as a second secretary in the political section,” the author begins his absorbing and very well-told story. “The very idea of an American diplomat barrelling around the Vatican—a place whose name was as great as was our ignorance about it—unleashed days of amusing and flighty speculation. The thought of our man blithely discussing fine points of theology in his impeccable high-school Latin with a group of venerable cardinals was one of the main tableaux of our wild fancies.”

What he found and came to understand was the dual nature of the Vatican, as a city-state political entity and as the center of the Roman Catholic Church. Illing sheds light not only on the Vatican’s relationship with the United States but its relationship with the rest of the world. He uses historical anecdotes to illuminate the U.S.-Vatican relationship.

During a 25-year diplomatic career, Robert F. Illing served in Mexico, Yugoslavia, the Holy See and Portugal. He now lives in northern Portugal, where he enjoys gardening and producing white wine.



**Fifty Years of U.S. Africa Policy:  
Reflections of Assistant Secretaries  
for African Affairs and U.S.  
Embassy Officials, 1958-2008**

Claudia E. Anyaso, ed., Xlibris, 2011, \$19.99, paperback, 269 pages.

Editor Claudia Anyaso’s compilation of assistant secretaries’ accounts and FSOs’ stories is a remarkable work of historical and geographical breadth that captures the trials, tribulations

and rewards of diplomats working in one of the world’s most challenging regions. The book, a volume in the ADST Memoirs and Occasional Papers series, reflects America’s own evolution, as well.

Assistant Secretary Joseph Satterthwaite (1958-1961) discusses racial inequality in America as he evaluates prejudice in Africa. During the Cold War, some officials struggled with America’s focus on Soviet influence rather than regional civil rights. The retrospective view of these essays reveals the repercussions of some of these policies and also provides a painful glimpse into the slow realization of, for instance, the prevalence and horror of the AIDS epidemic.

Diplomacy in Africa is not usually a glamorous job, and despite the fortitude and passion of these figures, it remains a challenge to get African issues to the seventh floor of the State Department. The struggles this book describes are continuous, but throughout them all, progress is evident.

Claudia Anyaso served for more than 40 years with the former U.S. Information Agency and the Department of State. Her overseas postings include Haiti, Nigeria (twice) and Niger. She was a member of the Implementation Planning Team for the U.S. Unified Command for Africa and served as director of the Office of Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs in the Africa Bureau.



**The Captain Who Burned His Ships:  
Captain Thomas Tingey, USN,  
1750-1829**

Gordon S. Brown, Naval Institute Press, 2011, \$28.95, hardcover, 224 pages.

*The Captain Who Burned His Ships* is the first biography of Captain Thomas Tingey, a key figure in the development of the early U.S. Navy.

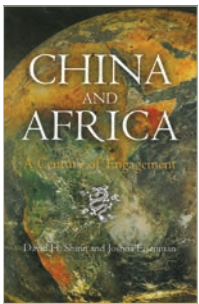
Arriving in America in 1780 after a short service in the Royal Navy, Tingey built the Navy Yard in Washington from scratch into one of the most vital shipyards in the country. After commanding it for 25 years, he was then obliged to burn it down in 1814 to prevent it from falling into the hands of British invaders.

Author Gordon Brown also tells the story of the evolution of the young naval force, from an object of partisan discord to an honored defender of a growing and increasingly self-confident nation. Brown considers Tingey’s contributions to naval procedures and practices, his civic role in the budding city of Washington, D.C., the dramatic events of 1814 and the rebuilding of the yard as a major technical center for the navy.

Gordon S. Brown had a 35-year career in the Foreign Service,



capped by appointment as ambassador to Mauritania. He has written three other history books, most recently *Incidental Architect: William Thornton and the Cultural Life of Early Washington, D.C., 1794-1828* (Ohio University Press, 2009). He serves on the editorial board of the *Foreign Service Journal*.



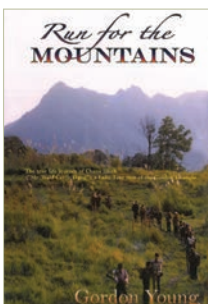
**China and Africa:  
A Century of Engagement**

David H. Shinn and Joshua Eisenman, University of Pennsylvania Press, 2012, \$69.95, hardcover, 544 pages.

David Shinn and Joshua Eisenman took on a colossal task in this endeavor to cover a century of Chinese engagement in Africa. But their extensive travel, 400-plus interviews and focus on post-1949 relations make *China and Africa*, the first large-scale study of that relationship since 1971, a success. With Beijing’s economic clout and population of 1.3 billion and the continent’s great potential, there can be little doubt that Chinese-African relations will be enormously significant in the coming decades.

The book is well organized and systematic. The authors cover broad topics, such as the two main phases of Chinese foreign policy and the ethical implications of Beijing’s non-interference stance, through case studies like China’s loss of face in Burundi after supporting the wrong side in the Hutu-Tutsi conflict. The second half of the book is devoted to a review of each country’s specific bilateral relationship with Beijing. The authors conclude with predictions for the relationship in the future.

Joshua Eisenman and retired FSO David H. Shinn are a power team on this subject. Shinn, a former U.S. ambassador to Ethiopia and Burkina Faso, now teaches international affairs at The George Washington University. He has also co-authored *The Historical Dictionary of Ethiopia* (Scarecrow Press, 2004). Eisenman is a senior fellow in China studies at the American Foreign Policy Council and teaches comparative politics at New York University.



**Run for the Mountains**

Gordon Young, Xlibris, 2011, \$19.99, paperback, 204 pages.

The mountains of Northern Thailand hold a culture of their own, characterized by personal strength, will power, tradition and navigating the land. As Chanu Hkeh, the subject of this biography, muses: “Run for the hills. That was

something that would come up again and again in my life.”

The Lahu name Chanu Hkeh means “Mr. Wild Cattle Dung” in English. After spontaneously giving birth to him under a crabapple tree in the wilderness of the mountains, Chanu Hkeh’s mother chose that name deliberately. In Lahu tribal culture, the uglier the name, the safer the child will be from evil.

The spell held for 52 years, until Chanu Hkeh’s tragic death in a car accident. During those years, he lived a life of adventure, danger and joy in the corrupt opium-trading society of the Golden Triangle of Southeast Asia. But whether as a hunter, smuggler, bandit or prisoner, he never stopped running back periodically into the cover and comfort of the mountains.

While working with Chanu Hkeh, Gordon Young spent long sessions around camp fires and the two formed a 15-year bond. In *Run for the Mountains*, Young tells the life story of his uniquely adventurous friend.

Gordon Young, a retired FSO with USAID, grew up in the mountain villages of northern Thailand that inspired this work, as well as a novel, *The Wind Will Yet Sing* (see p. 42), and his autobiography, *Journey from Banna* (see p. 39).



**Privileged and Confidential:  
The Secret History of the President's  
Intelligence Advisory Board**

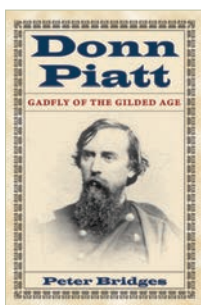
Kenneth Michael Absher, Michael C. Desch and Roman Popadiuk; University Press of Kentucky, 2012, \$39.95, hardcover, 515 pages.

The war on terrorism since the tragedy of 9/11 reveals the growing significance of intelligence analysis in an increasingly globalized world. As interest in the subject has grown, one critical executive agency has managed to remain under the radar: the President’s Intelligence Advisory Board. In *Privileged and Confidential*, authors Kenneth Absher, Michael Desch and Roman Popadiuk combined their areas of expertise to present a groundbreaking analysis of this lone agency’s history.

The PIAB, originally the President’s Board of Consultants on Foreign Intelligence Activities, was founded by President Dwight Eisenhower in response to the Soviet threat. Since then, it has been party to nearly every critical foreign intelligence investigation. The think-tank has unlimited access, but because its mandate is limited to making recommendations, its influence depends on the president in power. This account chronicles the agency’s past by evaluating the board’s activities under each president since Eisenhower.

The first analysis of its kind, *Privileged and Confidential* is thorough, especially considering the secretive nature of this agency. The authors use press coverage, member interviews, public statements and declassified reports to explore its history, and conclude with recommendations to make it a more effective advisory panel.

Kenneth Absher is a retired senior CIA operations officer; Michael Desch is chairman of the Political Science Department at the University of Notre Dame; and Roman Popadiuk, a retired Senior Foreign Service officer, served as the first U.S. ambassador to Ukraine in 1992.



**Donn Piatt: Gadfly of the Gilded Age**  
Peter Bridges, Kent State University Press, 2012, \$60, hardcover, 320 pages.

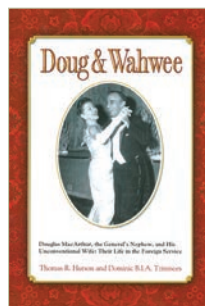
A firecracker of a man, Donn Piatt led a life that makes his story a delight to read. An “indiscreet” diplomat, lawyer and judge, honorable soldier, lobbyist and writer, this pioneering muckraker made friends in high places and mercilessly tore them

down in his columns. His connections earned him special privileges and presidents’ curses (and a brief stay in prison at one leader’s behest).

In this captivating work, Peter Bridges ensures that Piatt’s dedicated effort at “mocking powerful men and digging into evils in high places” is not forgotten. Piatt followed his values, became a Republican in opposition to slavery and constantly fought for truth. An unlikely hero, he is a gadfly in the cause of American freedom.

Piatt’s time as a political appointee diplomat in Paris, although notable, is overshadowed by the rest of his adventures. He did not find his calling until he stumbled into writing, a hobby he shared with his good friends Nathaniel Hawthorne and Mark Twain. Yet his newspaper headlines and ruthless criticism helped to shape the national agenda even as he, somewhat unscrupulously, worked simultaneously as a lobbyist.

Author Peter Bridges, a retired FSO, served from 1957 to 1986 in Panama, Rome, Moscow and Prague. He was appointed U.S. envoy to Somalia in 1984. He is the author of *Safirka: An American Envoy* (Kent State University Press, 2000) and *Pen of Fire: John Moncure Daniel* (Kent State University Press, 2002).



**Doug and Wahwee: Douglas MacArthur, the General’s Nephew and His Unconventional Wife—Their Life in the Foreign Service**

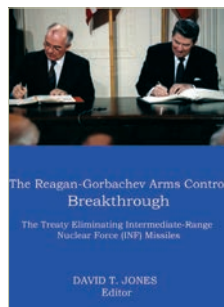
Thomas R. Hutson and Dominic B.I.A. Tzimisces, River Junction Press, LLC, 2012, \$22.95/hardcover, 156 pages; \$9.99/e-book edition.

Among the many great characters in the history of the Foreign Service, one couple stands out: Doug and Wahwee MacArthur. *Doug and Wahwee* is the first biography of career FSO and former ambassador Douglas MacArthur II, a nephew of General Douglas MacArthur, and his wife Laura Barkley MacArthur. More commonly known as Wahwee, she was the daughter of Alben Barkley, Senate majority leader and vice president under Harry S. Truman.

In a combination of geopolitical history and more than 40 reminiscences, the book recounts the adventures of this lively couple through their FS career, from the Nazi invasion of Paris to an assassination attempt on them in Tehran during the days of the shah. Witty and nostalgic, the book also conveys the complexity, drama, and constant ups and downs of Foreign Service life.

Thomas R. Hutson served as staff aide to Ambassador MacArthur in Tehran from 1970 to 1971. After retiring from the Foreign Service in 1999, he continues to work abroad as a re-employed annuitant or consultant, and is a diplomatic associate for the Center of Afghanistan Studies at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Hutson and his wife, Arijia, live in Thurman, Iowa.

Dominic B.I.A. Tzimisces served as an analyst for nearly 21 years in the U.S. Air Force, with postings from Greece to Alaska. After retiring in 2010, he has focused on writing and is the author of nine books and novellas.



**The Reagan-Gorbachev Arms Control Breakthrough—The Treaty Eliminating Intermediate-Range Nuclear Force Missiles: Reflections and Accounts by Participants in the INF Negotiations**

David T. Jones, ed., New Academia Publishing/Vellum Books, 2012, \$38, hardcover; \$28, paperback, 412 pages.

A tale of yesteryear when the Cold War was still icy, *The Reagan-Gorbachev Arms Control Breakthrough* documents the historic elimination of an entire class of nuclear missiles. Retired FSO

David T. Jones, who served as special assistant to the INF Treaty negotiator and as State Department deputy for the INF Senate Ratification Task Force, among many other assignments, has compiled a unique, behind-the-scenes look at the process of negotiating and ratifying the treaty in 1988.

Jones skillfully brings the period to life through essays contributed by key participants in the negotiations leading to the completion of the INF Treaty and the epic struggle to secure its ratification by the U.S. Senate. The book, a volume in the ADST-DACOR Diplomats and Diplomacy Series, balances the assessments of senior negotiators; the nuts-and-bolts observations of those in the trenches on specific elements; the twists that required the keenest of legal minds to untangle; and the political maneuvers that brought the treaty safely through the process. It also includes 18 black-and-white photos of U.S. and Soviet missiles covered by the treaty.

David T. Jones, a frequent contributor to the *The Foreign Service Journal*, spent 30 years as a State Department diplomat, focusing mainly on politico-military affairs and arms control.

He is the co-author of *Uneasy Neighbo(u)rs: Canada, the USA and the Dynamics of State, Industry and Culture* (Wiley, 2007). With his wife, Teresa Chin Jones, he published a memoir on life in the Foreign Service, *Forever Tandem* (see p. 39).



### **Mao, Stalin and the Korean War: Trilateral Communist Relations in the 1950s**

Shen Zhihua (Translated by Neil Silver),  
Routledge, 2012. \$135/hardcover,  
249 pages; \$108/Kindle Edition.

After retiring from the Foreign Service, Neil Silver stumbled upon the original version of this book at a local Chinese

book fair. He decided the rest of the world could benefit from its insights into Chinese and Soviet diplomatic and political maneuvering during the Korean War. It also illuminates the way the Chinese write about topics that have long been too sensitive to criticize publicly.

Shen Zihua's best-selling Chinese-language book broke the Mainland Chinese taboo on publishing non-heroic accounts of the Korean War. The account relies on Soviet-era documents released after the collapse of the Soviet Union, Chinese memoirs, official documents and scholarly monographs to present a non-ideological account of the relations, motivations and actions among Joseph Stalin, Mao Zedong and Kim Il-Sung. Among other things, it sheds light on the origins of the Sino-Soviet split and

relations between China and North Korea.

Shen Zhihua is a history professor at East China Normal University and the author of several Chinese-language books on the Cold War. Retired FSO Neil Silver worked “in, on and around” China, serving in Beijing, Tokyo and Moscow.

### **The Indonesian Turning Point, 1965-66**

Robert Martens, Sydney University, 2012, free/PDF.

Robert Martens, a first secretary in the political section of Embassy Jakarta from 1963 to 1966, spent decades putting together this in-depth look at the consequences of President Sukarno's declaration in early 1965 that Indonesia was now beginning its entry into the “socialist stage” of the revolution. The “communist coup,” as Sukarno's identification with the Indonesian Communist Party came to be known, eventually led to the murder of the Army leadership during the night of Sept. 30-Oct. 1, 1965—part of a mounting wave of intimidation and violence against non-communists, both civilian and military.

Martens supplements declassified embassy reporting (for which he and his colleagues received Superior Honor Awards) and other U.S. government documents with contemporary Indonesian-language newspaper coverage and other open-source materials, to good effect. His analysis makes a compelling argument that the events of that fateful year were a catalyst for an astounding period of change throughout Southeast Asia—not least in China, which began to come to terms with the inability of communism to live up to its billing as the inevitable wave of the future.

Though never published, the manuscript of *The Indonesian Turning Point* is available on the Web site of the University of Sydney's e-Scholarship Repository (<http://ses.library.usyd.edu.au/handle/2123/8145>), where anyone can download it at no cost. Martens' goal in writing the book is to promote greater understanding of what happened in Indonesia during that fateful period and facilitate the process of assessing its long-term impact.

Robert Martens retired from the Foreign Service in 1982 after a long, varied career that included a tour as deputy chief of mission and chargé d'affaires (for a year) in Bucharest. Following retirement, he continued to work for the State Department in many different When Actually Employed positions.





**Quejas, Tchufe e Lobo:  
Creole Kings of Samba,  
Fado and Morna in the 30s**

Alveno Figueiredo e Silva, Editorial Estampa, 2012, €16.98, paperback, 216 pages.

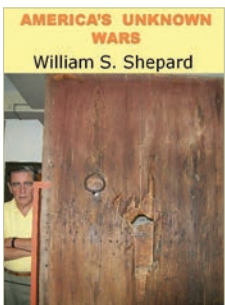
This Portuguese-language work celebrates the great kings of samba, fado and morna music from the Creole islands of

Cape Verde. A tribute to the memory of Fernando Quejas, Pedro Alcantara de Freitas Silve Ramos (Tchufe) and Antoninho Lobo, it introduces the reader to the world of the three wistful Creole singers who contributed greatly to showcasing the musical genres from three cultures—Cape Verdean, Brazilian and Portuguese.

The Cape Verde islands are natural harbors for the crossing of cultures. They are perhaps best known for the warmth of the charming songs brought to life by the many different cultures of their population. The great themes of Eugenio Tavares or B. Leza, for example, mesmerize listeners with their lyricism and slow tempo.

From the popular group Dos Tubarões to the world-renowned Cesari Evora, the author explores the interweaving of musical traditions, such as the crossing of fado with Angolan rhythms and even with Arabic lyrics. The Cape Verdean island of Boa Vista, in particular, was a musical epicenter during the 19th century.

Alveno Figueiredo e Silva is a Cape Verdean journalist. His wife, Kathryn M. Coster, is a Foreign Service office management specialist in Lisbon. His book is available online at <http://estampa.pt/novosite/> or from the author at [alvenoscar@hotmail.com](mailto:alvenoscar@hotmail.com).



**America's Unknown Wars**

William S. Shepard, Seth B. Cutler Press, 2011, \$2.99, Kindle Edition.

One of William Shepard's ancestors fought in a conflict that the author had never heard of, King Philip's War, which took place from 1675 to 1676 in colonial Massachusetts. It turned out to have been among the worst wars in American history from the standpoint of damage and casualties. That prompted Shepard to wonder about other "unknown" conflicts.

We may have heard about the French and Indian War (1754-1760), but the details are elusive. The War of 1812 (1812-1815) left us with our National Anthem and a host of stirring battle slogans, but why was it fought? The Mexican War (1846-1848) was

opposed by Representative Abraham Lincoln, but it expanded America's reach exponentially, making us a continental power. And the Spanish-American War (1898) turned us into a power with global reach.

The author reviews each of these conflicts that are part of our national legacy and asks if we have learned the crucial lessons that each of them left us.

Career FSO William S. Shepard, who retired as consul general in Bordeaux, also served in Singapore, Saigon, Budapest, Athens and Washington, D.C. He has written more than a dozen books, including a memoir (see p. 41) and a new collection of mystery stories (see p. 51).

## POLICY & ISSUES



**Iran: The Nuclear Challenge**

Robert D. Blackwill, ed., Council on Foreign Relations, Inc., 2012, \$9.99, paperback, 77 pages.

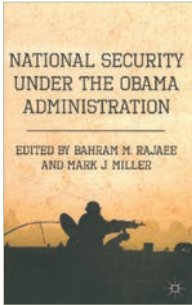
A refreshing examination of an issue beloved by headline-screaming political pundits, *Iran: The Nuclear Challenge* is a timely compilation of essays written by associates of the David Rockefeller Studies

Program of the Council on Foreign Relations. The work offers a variety of perspectives assessing the tools and strategies to face Iran and its nuclear program that are based on a deep understanding of Iran, its internal structure and leadership, and its place as an outcast in the Middle East.

Although the authors—Elliot Abrams, Robert D. Blackwill, Robert M. Danin, Richard A. Falkenrath, Matthew Kroenig, Meghan L. O'Sullivan and Ray Takeyh—have their own strong opinions on potential policy options, they have made an effort to present valid and objective choices, looking over and reacting to each other's essays to create a cohesive analysis of this tense situation.

Their topics range from the efficacy of sanctions and negotiations and the potential outcomes of Israeli or U.S. offensive action to the prospect of Iran with a nuclear bomb. This slim but multi-faceted volume is a must read for those seeking to understand the complexities of engaging the Islamic Republic.

Robert D. Blackwill, a retired career Senior Foreign Service officer, served as President George W. Bush's ambassador to India from 2001 to 2003. He is currently a Henry A. Kissinger Senior Fellow for U.S. foreign policy at the Council on Foreign Relations.



### **National Security under the Obama Administration**

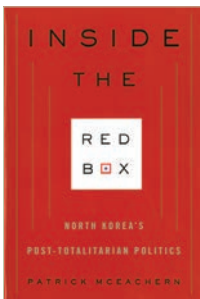
Bahram M. Rajaei and Mark J. Miller, eds., Palgrave Macmillan, 2012, \$90, hardcover, 239 pages.

Barack Obama won the presidency with a message of hope and change for the American people that was shared by the international community. Rajaei and Miller's collection of essays, written by American and non-American experts in the field from a variety of backgrounds, evaluates the Obama administration's security policy to date. *National Security under the Obama Administration* examines the institutional processes and institutions dealing with U.S. security, as well as the regional and major policy dimensions of contemporary U.S. engagement with the world.

"Much more than a simple assessment of how the Obama administration has fared in the national security global arena," is how Robin Dorff, a professor at the U.S. Army War College Strategic Studies Institute describes the work. "It provides much-needed and long-overdue non-U.S. perspective to the discussion."

All of the contributors have been associated with a series of U.S. foreign and national security policy "institutes" convened at the University of Delaware, made possible by grants from the Department of State and the university's Institute for Global Studies.

Bahram Rajaei is a specialist on U.S. foreign policy, Iranian politics and the international relations of Southwest Asia, who has served as a director at the University of Delaware's Institute for Global Studies. Mark Miller is the Emma Smith Morris Professor at the University of Delaware, where he has taught political science and international relations since 1978.



### **Inside the Red Box: North Korea's Post-Totalitarian Politics**

Patrick McEachern, Columbia University Press, 2010, \$35, hardcover, 320 pages.

The government of unpredictable North Korea is hard to categorize in terms of the classical political models of totalitarian, personalistic and communist regimes.

Through *Inside the Red Box* Patrick

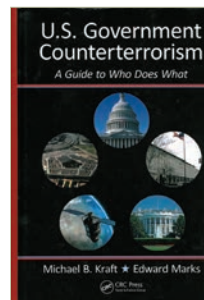
McEachern, a specialist on North Korean affairs, presents a new theoretical model to explain how this isolated nation's political institutions debate policy and inform and execute strategic-level decisions today.

Focusing on the regime of the late Kim Jong-Il, McEachern argues that the Korean government was changed by the crises of the 1990s and is no longer the "one-man dictatorship" many believe it to be. He calls Kim Jong-Il's leadership style "post-totalitarian" and identifies three major institutions that maintain political continuity: the Cabinet, the party and the military.

These institutions constantly debate political issues, both before and after the supreme leader and his senior advisers have made a decision. Because Kim Jong-Il was less powerful than his father, Kim Il-Sung, he routinely pitted institutions against one another in a strategy of divide and rule.

The author documents the evolution of North Korean politics under Kim Il-Sung, discusses the modified institutional structure of Kim Jong-Il's rule, and describes the country's founding national institutions and ideology. He also examines the competing models of North Korean politics, tests his own predictions against real events and concludes with some general lessons for foreign-policy practitioners.

FSO Patrick McEachern was based in Seoul supporting the Six-Party Talks while writing this book. He is a former North Korea analyst with the State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research.



### **U.S. Government Counterterrorism: A Guide to Who Does What**

Michael B. Kraft & Edward Marks, CRC Press, 2012, \$69.95, hardcover, 407 pages.

There are numerous agencies across the United States government that are engaged in the fight against global terrorism. In this book, Ambassador Edward

Marks and Michael Kraft show how, like pieces in a puzzle, these varied and widely dispersed agencies, offices and programs work together to combat global terror.

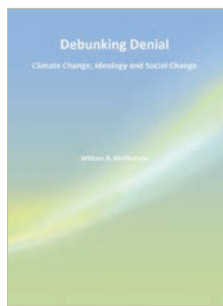
The authors use their combined knowledge as veterans of the government's anti-terror efforts to explain what each agency does and how they coordinate with one another, a problem that has frequently thwarted U.S. counterterrorism operations. They address such topics as government training initiatives, weapons of mass destruction, research and development, and the congressional role in policy and budget issues.

The book also discusses the challenges involved in coordinating the counterterrorism efforts at federal, state and local levels, and explains how key events influenced the development of programs, agencies and legislation. In addition, the authors pro-

vide unique insights into the broader context of counterterrorism efforts and developments since 9/11.

Michael B. Kraft has more than 25 years of experience working on terrorism issues in the State Department, Congress and the private sector, 19 years of that in the State Department counterterrorism office, where he helped draft legislation to combat terrorist financing.

A retired career Senior Foreign Service officer, Amb. Marks served in Kenya, Mexico, Angola, Zambia, Zaire and Sri Lanka, in addition to tours at the U.S. United Nations mission in New York and the State Department's counterterrorism office. He now writes, lectures and consults, and is a retiree representative on the AFSA Governing Board.



**Debunking Denial:  
Climate Change Ideology**

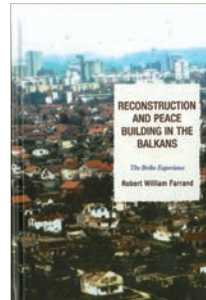
William R. McPherson, Amazon Digital Services, 2012, \$5, Kindle Edition.

Global warming is considered a legitimate threat to mankind by 97 percent of climate scientists. So why does more than half of the American population not believe that global warming has started

to affect the earth?

William McPherson is interested in the divide between the hard science of global warming and the lack of awareness by the general public. He covers four major topics in the book, starting with why scientists and science have been criticized for their study of the subject. Next, he describes the denial movements and the arguments used by the Tea Party, Heartland Institute and Americans for Prosperity. Then, after explaining how the denial philosophy affects politics and has altered the public debate on environmental concerns, he details how political conflict has widened to culture conflict, making it harder to resolve. McPherson concludes by giving his own views on the denial movements.

Retired FSO William R. McPherson spent 21 years as an environmental diplomat for the State Department. He served in Tokyo and Geneva, and worked with such organizations as the World Meteorological Organization and the secretariats of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.



**Reconstruction and Peace  
Building in the Balkans:  
The Brčko Experience**

Robert William Farrand, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2011, \$36, hardcover, 307 pages.

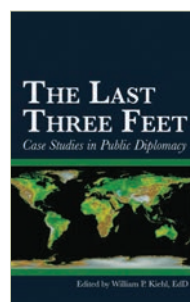
Robert Farrand was watching a movie in Saudi Arabia when he received the offer that would change his life. The position he

accepted—deputy high representative in the small and disputed city of Brčko in Bosnia and Herzegovina—was a difficult one, but the challenge proved to be the most rewarding, and toughest, of his Foreign Service career.

Once a bustling city, Brčko is located on the narrow strip of land connecting the two halves of the Serbian Republic that are broken up into the Serbian North and the Bosniak/Croat South. Farrand was sent to the ravaged city in 1997 to supervise a multinational team in restoring freedom of movement across the ceasefire line. He spent the next three years helping to return thousands of families to their burnt-out homes and rebuild multi-ethnic government bodies.

*Reconstruction and Peace Building in the Balkans* is fascinating on both a tradecraft and personal level. The author shares anecdotes reflecting the value of familiarizing oneself with a country's people, culture and language (and the inevitable mishaps that come with trying a foreign tongue). But it is his sophisticated analysis that makes this work an authoritative source on the recent history of the Balkans and a uniquely informative case study of contemporary peace operations. It is a volume in the ADST's Diplomats and Diplomacy series.

Retired Senior Foreign Service officer Robert Farrand served in Malaysia, the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, Papua New Guinea and Washington, D.C. Today he is a senior distinguished fellow at George Mason University's Peace Operations Policy Program and a member of the Cornwallis Group. He lives in McLean, Va.



**The Last Three Feet:  
Case Studies in Public Diplomacy**

William P. Kiehl, ed., Public Diplomacy Council, 2012, \$14.99, paperback, 187 pages.

In homage to Edward R. Murrow's renowned quote on the importance of face-to-face communication, William Kiehl has compiled the first of a series of case studies



highlighting the art of public diplomacy abroad.

The collection captures and expands the presentations offered at the November 2011 forum, “The Last Three Feet: New Media, New Approaches, and New Challenges for American Public Diplomacy,” organized by the Public Diplomacy Council, the Walter Roberts Foundation and The George Washington University’s Institute for Public Diplomacy and Global Communication. Its aim, in the editor’s words, is to “provide a greater understanding of and appreciation for the art of public diplomacy and for the American and locally employed professionals who are in that ‘last three feet’ at our embassies and consulates abroad.”

From Beijing to Baghdad, embassies have taken advantage of local culture and modern technology. Whether it is putting the American information center in a major Jakarta shopping mall or lessons learned from a misguided social networking experiment among network-savvy young Turks, the case studies presented in this book present both models to emulate and areas to improve.

They show the uniqueness of each country setting, and illuminate the common factors in constructing positive public policy endeavors.

Now editor emeritus of the online journal *American Diplomacy*, William P. Kiehl served throughout Europe and Asia during his 33-year Foreign Service career and continues to take temporary overseas assignments with the Department of State. He has his own international public affairs consultancy, PDWorldwide, and is the author of *Global Intentions, Local Results* (CreateSpace, 2008) and the editor of *America’s Dialogue with the World* (Public Diplomacy Council, 2006).

**Palestine: In Need of a Just God**

Terrell Arnold, Amazon Digital Services, 2012, \$6.95, Kindle Edition.

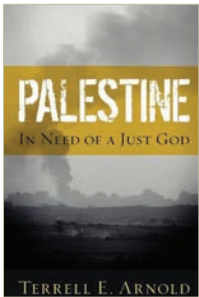
Palestine continues to be a land in turmoil. For most of the past century it has been under invasion by European colonizers, who



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have taken more than 90 percent of the Holy Land from its original inhabitants who have lived there for millennia. Now, after decades of unremitting struggle, Palestine and its people have become the vortex of an unstable and increasingly desperate human tragedy.

This book examines the situation from a Palestinian perspective. While it looks

at recent stages in the Israeli process of settlement-building, it centers on the efforts of the Palestinians themselves to cope with invasion, run a burgeoning society and carve out for themselves some part of their shrinking homeland.

Terrell Arnold reviews the history and present status of this intractable issue, examining the tensions that hold Middle East policy in thrall and could have disastrous implications worldwide. Unabashedly pro-Palestinian, he believes that the majority of Israelis are similarly unhappy with their government's policy. He wrote this book with the hope that sanity will ultimately prevail, and the rights of the Palestinian people will be protected.

Terrell E. Arnold is a retired Senior Foreign Service officer who served in Egypt, Syria, India, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, Brazil and Washington, D.C. He is the author, co-author or editor of six books on politically motivated violence and related issues. A native of West Virginia, he and his wife now live in central Wisconsin.

## PHOTOGRAPHY



### **Afghanistan Through the Humvee Window**

Joe Relk, Jaxton Publishing, 2011, \$25.95, paperback, 90 pages.

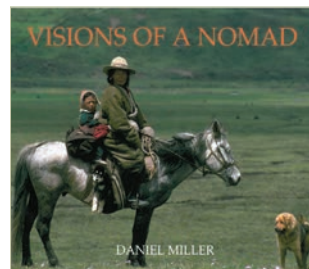
*Afghanistan Through the Humvee Window* features photographs documenting Joe Relk's

experiences working on a Provincial Reconstruction Team there. The majority of his pictures were taken through the window of a High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle.

Though his PRT experience has imbued him with considerable familiarity with foreign policy and the war, he insists that this is "first and foremost a photo book." His previous career as a newspaper photographer has equipped him to artistically showcase his experiences, which are accompanied by clear, concise commentary and descriptions.

This visual journey through eastern Afghanistan—mainly in the provinces of Khost and Kabul—begins with a focus on scenes from his PRT work. He then explores many different facets of Afghan life: agriculture, market life, children, landscapes and the like. Though a foreigner, Relk is able to break through the barrier of being an "outsider" and take genuine snapshots of Afghan life and society. The dirty faces and feet of children; the rich colors of spices, vegetable and fruit; and the raw determination of both fellow American and local soldiers are all captured in these photographs.

Joe Relk, a former U.S. Army cryptologist, journalist and photographer, joined the Foreign Service in 2002. He has served in Venezuela, Bolivia, Germany, Afghanistan and Washington, D.C. He is currently deputy political officer in Quito.



### **Visions of a Nomad**

Daniel Miller, Blurb, 2012, \$49.95, paperback, 156 pages.

Daniel Miller's passion for preserving the beauty and history of the wild Tibetan Plateau is made vivid in his introductory paragraphs for *Visions of a Nomad*.

In the 78 panoramic photos that follow, it becomes clear why.

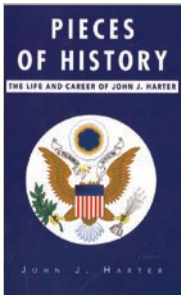
In an age of overedited, airbrushed and enhanced imagery, Miller's work harkens back to a purer era of photography, capturing the quiet majesty of the Tibetan landscape. He describes the skulls of wild yaks as "a reminder of the magnificent herds of wildlife that once roamed the Tibetan Plateau ... the elemental wild nature of the Tibetan landscape and the proud nomads who fashioned a remarkable way of life on the steppes."

His art has a message: the importance of preserving the beautiful landscapes, the nomads' tents and the grazing yaks and the need for a new way of thinking when it comes to conservation.

Miller's affinity for the nomadic lifestyle is obvious: born on a Minnesota dairy farm, he worked as a cowboy before first heading to Nepal. Photography was a later love, as he bought his first camera for that trip and documented his experiences in Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, Mongolia and Tibet. He still uses a Canon F-1 manual camera. An FSO with USAID, he is now head of the Office of Economic Development and Governance in Manila.



## MEMOIRS



### **Pieces of History: The Life and Career of John J. Harter**

John J. Harter, Xlibris, 2012, \$19.99, paperback, 250 pages; \$3.99, Kindle Edition.

The work of our nation's diplomats abroad is often unacknowledged or overlooked—which is why the Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training created the Diplomatic

Oral History Series, which publishes selected transcripts of interviews from the Foreign Affairs Oral History Collection in book form.

This volume in that long-running series recounts the life and career of John J. Harter, as told to ADST's Charles Stuart Kennedy and David T. Jones in a series of interviews. Early life in Canyon,

Texas; taking the Foreign Service Exam; serving as retiree representative on the American Foreign Service Association board; and his perspective on Wristonization are among the topics covered in addition to his Foreign Service career.

During a 33-year Foreign Service career, John J. Harter served on four continents. He was a writer/interviewer at USIA and represented the United States at various international meetings. Once retired, he served as an oral historian for the National Gallery of Art, organized 16 conferences on international economic issues for AFSA and worked for 12 years as a declassifier for USAID.

### **Pancreatic Cancer: A Patient and His Doctor Balance Hope and Truth**

Michael J. Lippe and Dung T. Le, M.D., The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2011, \$18.95, paperback, 184 pages.

This rare doctor-patient collaboration chronicles the unusual story of a man who defies all expectations in his fight against



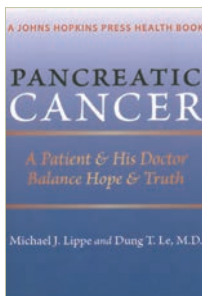
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*INL West Bank and Gaza Justice Sector Assistance Project III*





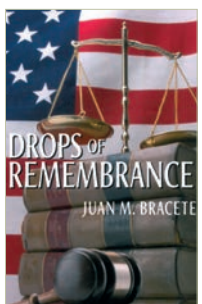
pancreatic cancer.

Diagnosed with Stage 4 cancer on his birthday in 2007, Michael Lippe's chances of surviving until his book was published were 2 percent. He defied these odds and others, as he tells in this account of his personal journey. From the medical professional's viewpoint, Dung T. Le gives an in-depth view of pancreatic cancer

and treatment options. Her reasoned explanations help clarify medical jargon and dispel intimidating preconceptions about chemotherapy.

Though it concerns the darkest of clouds, this joint creation is somehow uplifting in its reminder of life's many silver linings. Michael Lippe has chosen to give back to research after his death and, while he continues his fight, to inspire others with a message that is important at any stage of life: how to live.

Michael J. Lippe, a former USAID FSO, retired after 20 years of service focused on local government issues, shelter for the poor and corruption. This book is the product of an e-mail he sent to his doctor, asking if she would like to co-author the project. Dung T. Le is an oncologist at the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.



### **Drops of Remembrance**

Juan M. Bracete, Vantage Press, 2012, \$10.95, paperback, 66 pages.

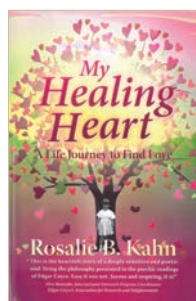
"Life is never easy or unequivocal." This notion embodies Juan Bracete's memoir, *Drops of Remembrance*. It is a short and sweet account of Bracete's journey from his homeland Puerto Rico to Georgetown University and, later, into the professions

of U.S. immigration judge and Foreign Service officer, told through memorable experiences.

Bracete uses his diplomatic experiences in Venezuela, Turkey and El Salvador to draw life lessons, such as "Destiny plays tricks on us" and "We sometimes feel boxed in, when probably we are not." After leaving the Foreign Service to settle in El Salvador, his wife's homeland, Bracete became ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the sovereign Military Order of Malta to that country, a position he held from 2001 until 2009, when he resigned to return to America.

Juan Bracete, born and raised in Puerto Rico, has a private law practice. He earned his B.A. from Georgetown University and J.D.

at the University of Puerto Rico. After working as a U.S. immigration judge, he spent six years in the Foreign Service. In his free time he enjoys reading the works of Franz Kafka and Nassim Taleb and is a philatelist.



### **My Healing Heart: A Life Journey to Find Love**

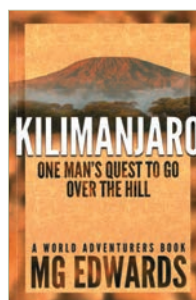
Rosalie B. Kahn, iUniverse, Inc., 2011, \$16.95, paperback, 256 pages.

The Foreign Service takes diplomats across countless borders, leaving many things behind—but, fortunately or unfortunately, one's past is not one of them. In this memoir, Rosalie Kahn tells of her struggle with

the trials and tribulations of her past: from sexual and emotional abuse to battle with a life-threatening illness. She documents her spiritual journey through these trials.

The story begins in childhood and continues through Kahn's 26 years in the Foreign Service and, finally, retirement. Her candid narrative, faith and palpable yearning for true love in life—both self-love and spiritual love—gives this memoir an inspirational and uplifting quality, as she finally finds happiness and joy.

A native of New York City, Rosalie Kahn joined the Foreign Service in 1977 and served in Turkey, Pakistan and Germany, among other postings. She now writes, practices healing work and leads teachings in spiritual growth in Algarrobo, Chile, where she resides with her husband, Guillermo Lopez.



### **Kilimanjaro: One Man's Quest to Go Over the Hill**

M.G. Edwards, Brilliance Press, 2012, \$9.99, paperback, 209 pages.

Approaching middle age, sick and overweight, Mike Edwards was hardly in shape to face the tallest mountain in Africa. But armed with stubborn perseverance and the desire to defy naysayers, he reaches for

the top in his attempt to tackle Kilimanjaro.

The tale covers every aspect of the climb, from preparations that included being dragged through aisles of clothing by his avid shopper (and mountain climber) wife to eating a monotonous vegetarian diet for five days.

Once on the mountain, it doesn't matter who you are. It's just you and the mountain. Luckily, Edwards had a kindhearted guide and a well-planned expedition. But planning can only go so far when subjecting yourself and your team to the ruthless elements

of Kilimanjaro's highest altitudes.

This Global E-Book Award nominee is fuel for all aspiring mountain climbers as well as those heading "over the hill." Climbing "Kili" changed the author's life and gave him the motivation he needed to leave his diplomatic career and follow his dreams. And with this book he is living them.

Mike Edwards was a Foreign Service officer for 11 years. He left the Service in 2011 to focus on writing and now lives in Thailand with his wife, Jing, a Foreign Service specialist at Embassy Bangkok, and their son. This book is the first of his World Adventurer Series. He also writes mysteries, thrillers and science-fiction fantasies, and has published a volume of short stories, *Real Dreams* (see p. 49).

**Born With Wings—Experiencing Life in Exotic Lands**

Dorothy S. Conlon, CreateSpace, 2012, \$15.95, paperback, 206 pages.



As someone who worked in a steel factory and on a dude ranch before beginning college, Dorothy S. Conlon certainly has many stories to tell. This autobiography, of sorts, is a compilation of her 80 years of life.

Though her roots are planted in New England, Conlon has explored, experienced, learned and grown up all over the world.

First, she followed her missionary parents to Japan, Vermont and Maine. Then, after joining the Foreign Service, she broadened her travel portfolio with postings to such places as Taiwan, Singapore, Pakistan, Indonesia and India.

Through her experiences as the daughter of missionaries with an affinity for Asian culture, playing the role of a villain in a Chinese opera in Taipei, and the exciting and demanding lifestyle of an FSO, Conlon has come to see the notion of "roots" in a differ-



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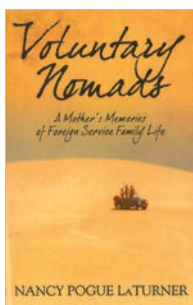
**Tetra Tech is supporting USAID's efforts to bring clean water supplies to more than 559,525 residents in rural Afghan villages.** Tetra Tech improves health around the world. Find out more about our International Development work: [tetrattech.com/intdev](http://tetrattech.com/intdev)

*USAID Afghanistan Sustainable Water Supply and Sanitation Project*



ent light than many. As she states: "I would prefer to answer that simple question, 'Where do you come from?' by saying 'I come from the world. I was born with wings, and who knows where they'll take me next?'"

Dorothy S. Conlon continues to travel, sharing her adventures in the form of travelogues at retirement facilities in Sarasota, Fla., where she resides. She is the author of many articles for travel magazines and e-zines.



**Voluntary Nomads:  
A Mother's Memories of  
Foreign Service Family Life**

Nancy Pogue LaTurner, Outskirts Press, Inc., 2011, \$18.95, paperback, 424 pages.

In *Voluntary Nomads*, Nancy Pogue LaTurner recounts the story of her family's move from New Mexico to Washington, D.C., and beyond, to follow her husband as he pursues his new career in the Foreign Service.

With two children, son Dakota and daughter Tina, Nancy and Fred made temporary homes in Iran, Cameroon, New Zealand, Somalia, the Dominican Republic, Austria and Bolivia. This nomadic lifestyle was a topsy-turvy experience for Nancy, as a mother and wife; for the children as temporary locals; and for Fred as a husband, father and diplomat. LaTurner's narrative contains vivid imagery that brings readers into the core of her experience.

Nancy Pogue LaTurner is retired, but she and her husband continue their nomadic tradition by regularly partaking in camping expeditions across the United States. At their home in Albuquerque, she writes, dabbles in art and music and also enjoys caring for her three grandsons. Her award-winning essays and short fiction have been published in anthologies.



**Funny in Parts: The Diary of  
A Foreign Service Officer**

John J. Eddy, 2011, Author House, \$36, hardcover, 408 pages.

John J. Eddy shares the experiences of his 28-year career in the Foreign Service through a diarist's account in this memoir. The personal diary entries shed "a little light on the daily conduct of U.S. foreign

relations," as the author puts it, describing the experiences that come with serving in distant lands and the ways in which they affected him and as his family.

*Funny in Parts* highlights the ways in which the career Foreign Service contributes to our nation's well-being and that of others; the obstacles that political influence impose on foreign diplomacy; and the emotional, physical and mental effects of life serving abroad.

Pictures of his family; interesting, one-of-a-kind stories, such as the time he accompanied a U.S. senator from the deep South on a trip to the oil fields in Maracaibo; and the open and personal mood of his writing all make this book absorbing.

John J. Eddy, who retired from the Foreign Service with the personal rank of minister counselor, lives in Rochester, Vt. In retirement, he has continued to assist the Office of the Inspector General with the inspection of U.S. diplomatic posts.



**Diplomats & Terrorists: Or  
I Survived a 61-Day Cocktail Party**

Diego and Nancy Asencio, Manuel Asencio Publishing, 2011, \$14.99, paperback, 234 pages.

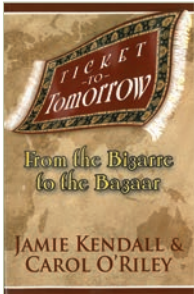
"An ambassador's life is a curious one," state authors Diego and Nancy Asencio in their book *Diplomats and Terrorists*.

That understatement prefaces the couple's account of the 1980 terrorist incident in Bogota, in which Ambassador Asencio and other foreign diplomats were captured at a Dominican Independence Day celebration by the Colombian M19 radical military organization and held hostage for 61 days.

Nancy and Diego Asencio both share their stories of this terrifying ordeal. Nancy recounts her efforts to support her children and the families of other captives while keeping her own self strong; while Diego describes his experience facing the prospect of torture, pain and death. It is a raw, captivating account of a historical event that proved the true power of diplomacy and conflict resolution, and the resilience of the families who support diplomats.

During a 30-year career, Ambassador Asencio served in Mexico, Panama, Portugal, Brazil, Venezuela and Colombia. Nancy Asencio, who accompanied her husband to all of his posts, has addressed conferences on "The Psychological Impact of Communication on the Hostage and Family" and written a chapter in the book *Beyond the Iran-Contra Crisis* by Neil C. Livingston and Terrell E. Arnold titled "Managing the Crisis of Hostage Families." She has also written a novel based on her experiences abroad, *The Five Gringas* (see p. 43).





**Ticket to Tomorrow:  
From the Bizarre to the Bazaar**

Jamie Kendall and Carol O'Riley,  
Brighton Publishing LLC, 2012, \$12.95,  
paperback, 210 pages.

In a lively account of two Foreign Service officers' lives, Jamie Kendall and Carol O'Riley—the noms de plume of two retired diplomats—recount the journeys that

brought them into the Foreign Service and the beautiful friendship that grew from serving together in Chile.

In deeply human writing, the authors tell of young love and profound loss. One spent too many years living her life for her husband; the other tried to ignore abuse and isolation in a macramé veil. These women embody the immense bravery it takes to seek independence and the rewards it brings.

Laughter intertwines with tears as their stories meld together. And, as often happens abroad, adventures ensue. Lively exploits like taking Carol's mother to the Japanese version of Chippen- dales are meshed with personal revelations; recipes of family favorites and local dishes; and, of course, dishing about foreign men. They are particularly insightful when describing the chal- lenges of life in the Foreign Service for single women and women with families.

Co-authors Jamie Kendall and Carol O'Riley met in Chile. After a health scare in Paraguay, Jamie retired from the For- eign Service early, but later participated in the When Actually Employed Program for a last few adventures in Africa. Carol retired after one last FS tour, in Baghdad. Both now live in Florida.



**Journey from Banna—  
An Autobiography**

Gordon Young, Xlibris, 2011, \$19.99,  
paperback, 326 pages.

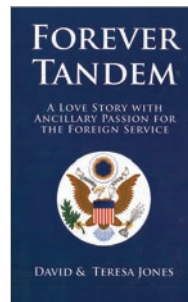
Since birth, Gordon Young's life has been full of adventure and unique experi- ences in Asia. He has spent more than 40 years in tiny jungle villages, as well as in the flourishing cities of Thailand, Laos,

Burma, Vietnam and India.

Recently, in retelling the story of an encounter with a snow leopard to his grandson, he was inspired to put his memory store in writing. *Journey from Banna* is the result: a narrative account of Gordon Young's life journeys through the world, through time and toward enlightenment.

Young recalls his abnormal birth in the remote area of Banna in China's Yunnan province; a childhood spent roaming the mountain landscape with tools and tactics he learned through his family's interaction with the Ku-lao Lahu tribe of mountain people; and the tumult and excitement of war in his young-adult life. Vivid descriptions of the landscapes, scenery, people and his own emotional growth bring this memoir alive.

Gordon Young, a retired FSO with USAID, compiled the first informal ethnography of Thailand's northern tribes, received the title of "Master Hunter" from a Ku-lao Lahu chief and helped to found the Chiang Mai Zoo. His upbringing in various small rugged Asian jungle towns is also reflected in the biography, *Run for the Mountains* (see p. 27), and a novel, *The Wind Will Yet Sing* (see p. 42). He resides in San Luis Obispo, Calif.



**Forever Tandem: A Love Story  
with Ancillary Passion for  
the Foreign Service**

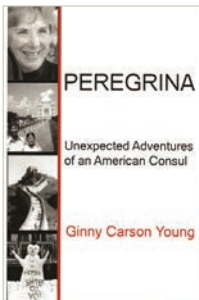
David and Teresa Jones, Xlibris, 2011,  
\$25, paperback, 449 pages.

*Forever Tandem* is the Foreign Service story of David and Teresa (Chin) Jones, both retired senior career diplomats who specialized in arms control, science policy, economic negotiations, intelligence and political analysis.

Their memoir offers a cool-eyed examination of some of the major foreign affairs and political military issues of the past generation. Experience the struggles over missile deployments and negotiations for the defining arms control Reagan-Gorbachev treaty that eliminated short- and medium-range nuclear missiles. Watch and rub elbows with Canadians, Quebecers and Americans all contesting the future of Canada. Gain insights into the infighting over intelligence estimates and trade negotiations, among many other things.

The couple's experience unfolds in interviews with Charles Stuart Kennedy for the Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training's Foreign Affairs Oral History collection. This volume is part of ADST's Diplomatic Oral History Series.

David T. Jones is the editor of *The Reagan-Gorbachev Arms Control Breakthrough* (see p. 28) and co-author of *Uneasy Neighbo(u)r: Canada, the USA and the Dynamics of State, Industry and Culture* (Wiley, 2007).



### **Peregrina: Unexpected Adventures of an American Consul**

Ginny Carson Young, New Academia Publishing/Vellum Books, 2012, \$38/hardcover; \$28/paperback, 390 pages.

After the death of her FSO husband and college sweetheart, Ginny Young transformed her life and joined the Foreign Service herself. Defying her expectations of

dull visa processing work and arriving late to a society reshaped by the sexual revolution, she finds she has entered a changed world. From being mistaken for a CIA agent on her first tour in India to witnessing a revolution in Romania, Ginny recounts her adventures in a memoir that is, in the words of *Vogue's* John Powers, "wonderfully readable and sharp as a stiletto."

The author's positive and energetic attitude toward life comes across in her writing. *Peregrina* is inspiration for how to move forward in times of great loss and how to live with verve. Young spurns self-aggrandizement, opting instead to describe the humorous slips and faux pas that she considers more palatable. Her stories—from brightly asking the Maharajah of Jodhpur "What do you do here?" to nearly serving President Jimmy Carter food deemed unsterile by the White House chef—are all recounted in delightful detail and with keen insight, making for an engaging and authentic read.

Ginny Carson Young served in India, Hong Kong, Mexico, Romania and Peru before retiring in 1992. Her second husband, Don Young, died of pancreatic cancer after she finished *Peregrina*. She lives in Washington, D.C. The book is a volume in the ADST Memoirs and Occasional Papers series.



### **Djakarta Djournal: Adventures of a Diplomatic Spouse in Indonesia**

Clayton Bond, Amazon Digital Services, 2012, \$5, Kindle Edition.

Clayton Bond, who is gay, black and one half of a tandem Foreign Service couple, writes in *Djakarta Djournal* about his exploration of foreign countries and the challenges facing his partner and him. More

than a Foreign Service autobiography, it is a coming out story, a love story and a history of civil rights movements for African-Americans and gays.

The standard struggles of a Foreign Service couple have an added twist for Clayton and Ted. They experience the agony felt by many same-sex FSO couples before Secretary Hillary Rodham

Clinton's decision to designate same-sex partners as eligible family members at State. Trips home to America take on extra stress when Clayton's family hesitates to see Ted as more than a "friend." Finally, the desire to start a family, a big decision even for straight couples within the Foreign Service, takes a heart-breaking turn when their status as foreigners, non-Muslims and a same-sex couple presents obstacles within the Indonesian adoption system.

A contributor to numerous magazines, Clayton Bond was editor of *The Kayon*, a quarterly for expatriate American women in Jakarta, and manages two blogs: *Djakarta Djournal* and *Diplomconcierge*. He is now posted in Washington, D.C., and is a member of the FSJ Editorial Board. Proceeds from the book version of *Djakarta Djournal* will benefit Yayasan Suwitno, a nonprofit providing free HIV testing and care for low-income Indonesians.



### **A Long Way from Runnemede: One Woman's Foreign Service Journey**

Theresa Anne Tull, New Academia Publishing/Vellum Books, 2012, \$26, paperback, 330 pages.

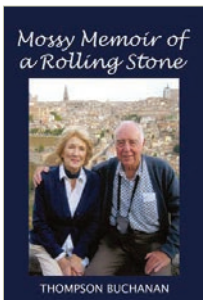
Ambassador Theresa Tull's career started in Brussels. Then, after a year of Vietnamese language training, she was posted to Saigon

just in time for the Tet Offensive of 1968. She returned to Washington, D.C., in 1970 to serve on the Vietnam Working Group before heading back to Vietnam in 1973 as deputy principal officer at the consulate general in Da Nang. There she remained until the fall of South Vietnam in the spring of 1975, when she organized and oversaw the consulate's evacuation.

The details of Tull's small-town beginnings in Runnemede, N.J., that open the book give perspective to the experiences and accomplishments of her 33-year Foreign Service career. In the prologue, she tells of relaxing with a cup of tea after writing the most significant cable of her Vietnam service, and finding this message in her fortune cookie: "You've come a long way, baby."

This memoir, which is a volume in the ADST Memoirs and Occasional Papers series, offers an insider's view of historic moments in U.S. international relations. Her perspective is candid and often critical of flawed policy.

Theresa Tull also served overseas in the Philippines and Laos. In 1987 President Ronald Reagan appointed her ambassador to Guyana, and in 1993 President Bill Clinton named her ambassador to Brunei. She retired in 1996 and now divides her time between Sea Isle City, N.J., and Washington, D.C.



### **Mossy Memoir of a Rolling Stone**

Thompson Buchanan, New Academia Publishing, 2011, \$24, paperback, 210 pages.

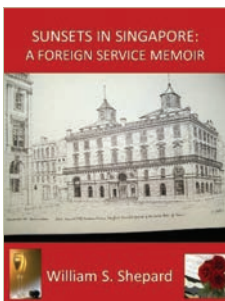
“Russian cab drivers, Tsarist palaces, Kremlin leaders, Foggy Bottom and the African jungle—they are all here in Tom Buchanan’s witty and fast-paced memoir of a fascinating life in the Foreign Service,”

says retired Ambassador Edward Hurwitz.

In *Mossy Memoir of a Rolling Stone*, Russia expert and Foreign Service officer Thomas Buchanan reflects on his career in the Soviet Union and Africa and his childhood, education and service in World War II with charming style. His service in Moscow coincided with the Cuban Missile Crisis and the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. During the latter incident, he witnessed the amazement of Russians that such an egregious act could occur in the land of the free.

He offers insightful commentary on cultural differences while highlighting somber truths about the disastrous Soviet tourism failures and the crises in the agricultural and most other economic sectors. His memoir, which is a volume in the ADST Memoirs and Occasional Papers series, is at once informative and enthralling as readers get a glimpse of one man’s part of U.S. foreign policy history.

Thomas Buchanan joined the State Department in 1948 as an intelligence specialist on the Soviet Union and entered the Foreign Service seven years later. He has served overseas in Paris, Moscow, Bujumbura, Libreville, Oslo and Leningrad. Since his 1981 retirement, he has periodically worked for State and USAID.



### **Sunsets in Singapore: A Foreign Service Memoir**

William S. Shepard, Amazon Digital Services, Inc., 2012, \$2.99, Kindle Edition.

This personal memoir of diplomatic service spans a quarter-century, from the author’s administrative duties as a general services officer in tropical Singapore to political analysis behind the Iron Curtain in Budapest. The work shows how American diplomacy works overseas. It gives the reader an insider’s view of a typical American embassy, the responsibilities of each section and how they work together. From personal security to representation, the career skills needed for modern diplomacy emerge here. So do the experi-

ences of diplomatic families as they move around the globe, accumulating the memories of a lifetime.

An absorbing read, the book has also proved useful for some new Foreign Service members. “I recently passed the Oral Assessment portion of the Foreign Service Exam, and can attest to the relevance of William Shepard’s experiences to the type of hypothetical situations raised by the examiners,” one writes. “An FS candidate will learn not only from the specific examples cited in the book, but more importantly from Mr. Shepard’s thought process while handling a wide variety of issues facing members of the diplomatic corps.”

Career FSO William S. Shepard, who retired as consul general in Bordeaux, also served in Singapore, Saigon, Budapest, Athens and Washington, D.C. He has written more than a dozen books on a variety of topics, most recently a history of “unknown” conflicts (see p. 30) and a new collection of mysteries (see p. 51).

## FICTION & POETRY



### **The Flowers of War**

Geling Yan (Translated from Chinese by Nicky Harman), Other Press LLC, 2012, \$15.95, paperback, 256 pages.

*The Flowers of War* begins in 1937 just after the Japanese Imperial Army has entered Nanking. The St. Mary Magdalene mission becomes the residence of schoolgirls and courtesans from a nearby brothel. Mortician John Miller has come to the convent to bury the recently deceased head priest. However, as the Japanese enter the city and start wreaking havoc on its citizens, he decides to pose as the priest in order to protect the girls.

The story centers on the themes of survival, fear and, ultimately, sacrifice. There is also a strong dichotomy between the innocent schoolgirls and the worldly visitors from the brothel. It is a quick but fascinating read about one of the most tragic and infamous events of the 20th century. A movie based on the book, starring Christian Bale as Miller, was released in December 2011.

Geling Yan published her first novel in 1985 and has written numerous works since, including two novels—*The Uninvited* (Faber, 2006) and *The Lost Daughter of Happiness* (Hyperion, 2001). Her husband, Lawrence Walker, is a Foreign Service officer.





### Cooper's Promise: A Novel

Timothy Jay Smith, Owl Canyon Press, 2012, \$16.95, paperback, 228 pages.

Cooper Chance, an army sharpshooter and deserter, is recruited to fight in an African country tormented by civil war. Though Cooper is a stoic and hard-fighting soldier, the “gritty world of thugs, prostitutes and corrupt cops” has left him yearning for one thing: home. The catch is that imprisonment awaits him there, and his acute claustrophobia makes that an impossible choice.

So he bides his time, trading diamonds to survive, and has a love affair with a deceitful young merchant. Following the discovery of huge oil reserves, the CIA offers Cooper a way home without jail time if he undertakes a risky, high-stakes mission. He balks, but then the teenage prostitute he has promised to save is trafficked and disappears. Hoping to rescue her, Cooper agrees to the mission, which he carries out with unexpected consequences.

An author and screenwriter, Smith is no stranger to the world of Cooper Chance. He has traveled extensively, encountering everyone from Polish cops to arms dealers and child prostitutes. Among his many adventures, he managed to land himself in an African jail by stowing away aboard a “devil’s barge” for three days.

Timothy Jay Smith resides in Paris with his partner of 30 years, a former Foreign Service Reserve officer and retired Peace Corps chief financial officer. Smith’s screenplay for *Cooper’s Promise* is currently under consideration by an Oscar-winning British producer.



### Black Orchid Blues

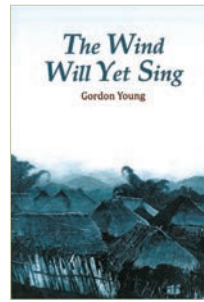
Persia Walker, Akashik, 2011, \$15.95/ paperback, 270 pages; \$8.95/ Kindle Edition.

Harlem in the 1920s comes alive in Persia Walker’s Nero Award-nominated murder mystery, *Black Orchid Blues*. Young society columnist Lanie Price witnesses the violent kidnapping of a sensuous 6’3” chanteuse, “Black Orchid,” then is thrust into the conflict herself by a grisly surprise on her doorstep. The temperature rises as the death count increases; Lanie butts heads with her editor, and the kidnapper’s motives grow increasingly bizarre.

A motley crew of finely developed characters spices up the sophisticated plotline, and both flourish in Walker’s vision of the

era and Harlem’s gay underworld. The richly construed setting is part of the magic. *Publisher’s Weekly* calls the feisty Lanie a brilliant heroine in this “dark, sexy” novel, careening around plot twists and turns with style.

First a journalist, now an author and diplomat, Persia Walker is a New York native. She received a scholarship to Swarthmore College at 16 and attained her master’s degree in journalism at Columbia University. She joined the Foreign Service in 2011 and is now posted in São Paulo. She has written two other novels, *Harlem Redux* (Blood Vintage Press, 2011) and *Darkness and the Devil Behind Me* (Blood Vintage Press, 2008). Her short story, “Such a Lucky, Pretty Girl,” is featured in the collection, *The Blue Religion* (Back Bay Books, 2008).



### The Wind Will Yet Sing

Gordon Young, Xlibris, 2011, \$19.99, paperback, 249 pages.

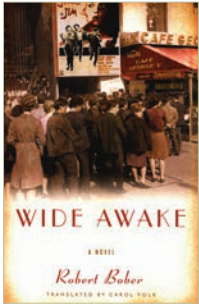
*The Wind Will Yet Sing* is a fictionalized account of the Ku-lao Lahu tribe who inhabit the remote mountain jungles of northern Thailand. The year is 1932, and the tribe’s peaceful life has been shattered.

Their existence threatened by outside aggressors, the tribe is forced to defend itself and its ancestral traditions.

The story is based on true events in the lives of these mysterious people, virtually untouched by modernity. The people and their beliefs, conversation, humor, reasoning and way of life are all portrayed authentically by Gordon Young, the son of missionary parents who lived in the China-Burma border region. Young brings the images and sounds of the mountain landscape alive, as well.

This is a beautifully written story about a secluded, artful and intelligent people, who constantly migrate through the mountains to preserve their faith, ancestral heritage, hunting techniques and morals—and, above all, their “peace and freedom.”

Born to Baptist missionary parents in Banna, China, in 1927, Gordon Young had the unique opportunity to hunt with the Lahu-Na tribal boys at the age of 10, learning their ways, their hunting methods and their language. This novel is based on that experience. Young is a retired FSO with USAID. He has also published a biography of a Lahu tribesman (see p. 27) and a memoir (see p. 39).



**Wide Awake: A Novel**

Robert Bober (Translated from French by Carol Volk), The New Press, 2012, \$15.95, paperback, 195 pages.

Robert Bober’s *Wide Awake* is a coming-of-age novel documenting Bernard Applebaum’s journey to uncover his family’s past. Applebaum, a young man experiencing life in Paris during the 1960s French New Wave,

has been kept ignorant about his ancestry. As an extra on a film set for Francois Truffaut’s “Jules and Jim,” he experiences a series of events that reveal his deceased father’s history.

Applebaum’s attempt to find the truth about his father takes him through the streets of Paris and beyond—all the way to Germany and Auschwitz. But is he prepared to find the truth and uncover lost memories that may ultimately change his perspective and cause him pain? His story is not just an example of the legacy of the Holocaust, but a reminder that one’s past is always with one—hidden or not.

Robert Bober, who lives in Paris, is a film and stage director and writer, whose work includes more than 120 television films and five books. Carol Volk, who has translated more than 36 titles from French, is a 10-year veteran of the Foreign Service and lives in Chevy Chase, Md.



**Last Summer at the Compound**

JH Bartlett, CreateSpace, 2011, \$12.95, paperback, 158 pages.

The Fukushima nuclear disaster, the largest of its kind since Chernobyl in 1986, prompted new concerns for those living in close proximity to nuclear power plants—like the Lloyd family, the protagonists in this novel, who own a compound in Plym-

outh, Mass., near the Pilgrim Nuclear Plant.

The drama centers on whether the family will sell their quiet and peaceful place of escape from the world. The decision-making process is complicated by the fact that five generations of the extended family have frequented the shingled cottages on the ocean-front property for secluded quiet summers. In the face of their new awareness of potential dangers, this “WASPy” New England family is torn between tradition and practicality.

JH Bartlett is a graduate of Dana Hall School who attended McGill University before earning a bachelor’s degree from Harvard. She is married to Samuel Bartlett, a retired FSO. The two spent 20 years abroad in locales ranging from Paris and the

Philippines to El Salvador and Belfast. They currently live in Plymouth, Mass.



**The Five Gringas**

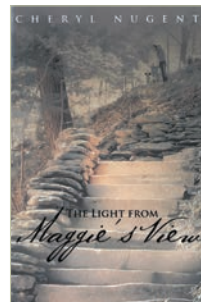
Nancy R. Asencio, Manuel Asencio Publishing, 2011, \$12.95, paperback, 234 pages.

*The Five Gringas* is the story of the friendship of Hope, Emily, Sue Anne, Stephanie and Millie, a close-knit group of women who form a bond at Embassy

Mexico City that lasts throughout their lives.

The story begins with the death of Hope, the wife of a retired ambassador. The loss triggers an emotional domino effect that leads to disclosure of past secrets, withheld feelings, nostalgic reminiscence of the many adventures they shared and an appreciation for true friendships that withstand both the strains of geographic distance and time.

Nancy R. Asencio was born in Cuba but grew up in Washington, D.C. She accompanied her husband, retired Ambassador Diego C. Asencio, to Mexico, Panama, Portugal, Brazil, Venezuela and Colombia. She and her husband co-wrote *Diplomats & Terrorists*, an account of their experience at the hands of terrorists in 1980 (see p. 38). They reside in West Palm Beach, Fla.



**The Light from Maggie's View**

Cheryl Nugent, iUniverse, 2012, \$18.95, paperback, 294 pages.

A finalist for the 2008 Rupert Hughes Award for Fiction, Cheryl Nugent’s *The Light from Maggie’s View* is a page-turner.

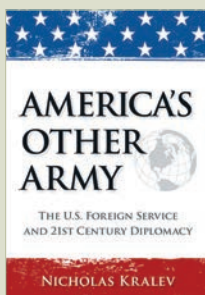
In 1958 Veronica “Ricky” Cooper and Ann Sympton are best friends in Kentbury, N.J. They spend their summer exploring

the small town’s quiet neighborhoods and gently pushing the rules enforced by Ann’s strict grandmother. But two days after they visit the lavish Maggie’s View estate, a young girl’s body is found close to where they had ventured. As the details surface, the assault and murder shake the town and thrust it into national focus.

After a second girl’s body is found, it becomes clear that Kentbury is dealing with a serial killer. Impetuous Ricky leads the way as the two young sleuths investigate the events on their own. What starts out as an adventure becomes far too real when following the evidence brings them closer and closer to the murderer’s grasp.

*Continued on page 48*

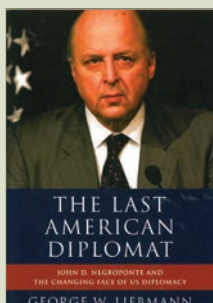
## OF RELATED INTEREST



**America's Other Army: The U.S. Foreign Service and 21st-Century Diplomacy**  
Nicholas Kralev, CreateSpace 2012, \$24.99/paperback, 254 pages; \$9.99/Kindle Edition.

Who are America's diplomats? What do they actually do? Most Americans haven't a clue. In *America's Other Army*, Nicholas Kralev presents the U.S. Foreign Service as it is today, shattering old stereotypes and dashing myths and falsehoods about a group of professional public servants whose work affects millions of people in the United States and around the world daily. Released during the week in which the U.S. ambassador to Libya, Chris Stevens, and three colleagues were killed in a terrorist attack in Benghazi, this book is very timely.

Nicholas Kralev is a writer, educator and speaker on global travel, diplomacy and international affairs. During a nine-year period, he visited 50 embassies, interviewed more than 600 diplomats and conducted other research to complete this book.



**The Last American Diplomat: John D. Negroponte and the Changing Face of U.S. Diplomacy**  
George W. Liebmann, Palgrave Macmillan, 2012, \$99, hardcover, 384 pages.

John Negroponte, a career FSO, served as ambassador to Honduras, Mexico, the Philippines, and Iraq; U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations, and director of national intelligence and Deputy Secretary of State in the George W. Bush administration. The consummate insider, he was devoted to public service. Self-effacing, he viewed advising, guiding and warning policymakers as his primary duty. In this book, his remarkable career is the lens through which we gain a sharper understanding of not just the man, but the diplomatic history of the Cold War and its aftermath.

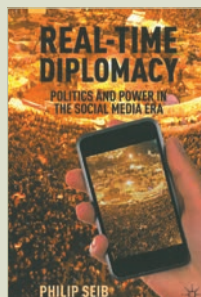
George W. Liebmann is a Baltimore lawyer and historian who specializes in American and international diplomatic history. He is the author of *Diplomacy Between the Wars: Five Diplomats and the Shaping of the Modern World* (I.B. Taurus, 2008).



**Subtle Differences, Big Faux Pas**  
Elizabeth Vennekens-Kelly, Summertime Publishing, 2012, \$10.99, paperback, 242 pages.

This primer is aimed at helping readers avoid making major faux pas that are detrimental to one's time abroad and also, potentially, one's career. The author highlights the many subtle differences among cultures and the ways intercultural awareness can make traveling, working and living overseas more smooth and enjoyable. You will learn about how to handle subtle factors like body language and slang, as well as common misconceptions.

Elizabeth Vennekens-Kelly is an intercultural trainer and consultant based in Europe. From 2009 to 2012, she served as chairperson of the Sharing Cultures Task Force of the Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas.



**Real-Time Diplomacy: Politics and Power in the Social Media Era**  
Philip Seib, Palgrave Macmillan, 2012, \$25, paperback, 199 pages.

With the Arab Spring of 2011 as his laboratory, Philip Seib examines the implications of social media and the high-speed flow of information for international relations, foreign policymaking, political change and, in particular, diplomatic practice.

"Good diplomatic practice should not be tossed aside, but it must adapt to the pace of events more comprehensively than it has to date," the author states in this timely read. To the terms "traditional diplomacy" and the more recently coined "expeditionary diplomacy," he adds another: "rapid-reaction diplomacy."

Philip Seib, a professor of journalism, public diplomacy and international relations at the University of Southern California, is the director of USC's Center on Public Diplomacy. He is the author of several other works on the media and diplomacy.

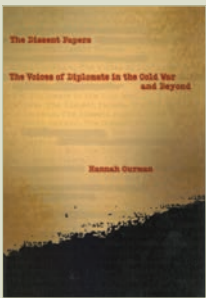
**Ten Years Later: Insights on al-Qaeda's Past & Future through Captured Records—Conference Proceedings**  
Edited by Dr. Lorry M. Fenner, Dr. Mark E. Stout and Ms. Jessica L. Goldings, The Johns Hopkins University Center for Advanced Governmental Studies, 2012, free digital edition, 218 pages.

In September 2011, a conference at the National Defense University marking the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks brought



together experts and policymakers to review what they knew about al-Qaida and associated movements before the terrorist assault and what they have learned since. Participants also shared thoughts on the future of the terrorist movement and directions for counterterrorism research and policy. This vital document is available free online at [tenyearsater.jhu.edu](http://tenyearsater.jhu.edu).

Lorry M. Fenner, a retired U.S. Air Force intelligence officer, is a senior research fellow and director of the Conflict Records Research Center at NDU's Institute for National Strategic Studies. Mark E. Stout, a lecturer at The Johns Hopkins University's Center for Advanced Governmental Studies and the International Spy Museum's historian, was previously an intelligence analyst with the State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research. Jessica Goldings is a research analyst at CRRC.



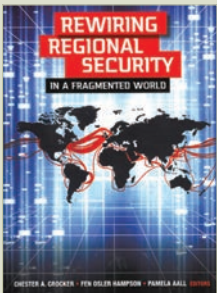
**The Dissent Papers:  
The Voices of Diplomats in  
the Cold War and Beyond**

Hannah Gurman, Columbia University Press, 2012, \$45/hardcover, 296 pages; \$19.99/Kindle Edition.

*The Dissent Papers* is a serious and long-overdue treatment of constructive dissent by Foreign Service officers over the past 70

years, from the Cold War to the present. In it the author assesses the history, value and impact of internal dissent over U.S. foreign policy since World War II. For a full review, see the September *Journal*.

Hannah Gurman is a clinical assistant professor at New York University's Gallatin School of Individualized Study. Her writing has appeared in *Salon*, *Foreign Policy in Focus*, the *Journal of Contemporary History* and other publications.



**Rewiring Regional Security  
in a Fragmented World**

Edited by Chester A. Crocker, Fen Osler Hampson and Pamela Aall, United States Institute of Peace Press, 2011, \$35, paperback, 590 pages.

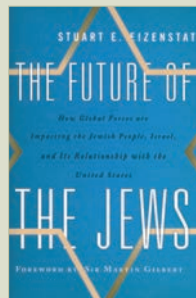
Thomas Pickering, former under secretary of State for political affairs and ambassador to the United Nations, calls *Rewiring*

*Regional Security* "a must read for anyone interested in this major topic of growing importance."

Transcending the usual stovepiped studies of international security, the book features regional voices and is aimed at foster-

ing an understanding of the mosaic of regional security challenges and conflict management responses in all their complexity.

Chester A. Crocker is the James R. Schlesinger Professor of Strategic Studies at Georgetown University. Fen Osler Hampson is professor of international affairs and director of the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs at Carleton University. Pamela Aall is provost for the United States Institute of Peace's Academy for International Conflict Management and Peacebuilding.



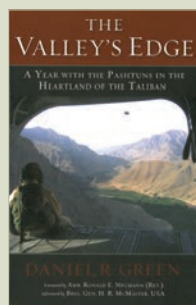
**The Future of the Jews:  
How Global Forces Are Impacting  
the Jewish People, Israel and Its  
Relationship with the United States**

Stuart E. Eizenstat, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2012, \$35, hardcover, 288 pages.

"An important book that cogently describes the global processes, trends and shifts that

are shaping our world, and will undoubtedly impact the state of Israel and the Jewish people, as we move further into the 21st century," says Israeli President Shimon Peres of this book. The author takes a comprehensive look at the effects of globalization powered by technology and communications on the world—and, in particular, on Israel and the United States.

Stuart E. Eizenstat has held senior U.S. government positions in three presidential administrations and has been a leader in the Jewish community. He is also author of *Imperfect Justice: Looted Assets, Slave Labor and the Unfinished Business of World War II* (PublicAffairs, 2004).



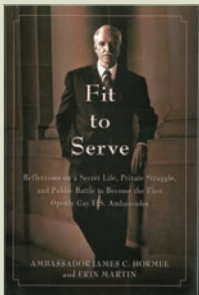
**The Valley's Edge: A Year with  
the Pashtuns in the Heartland  
of the Taliban**

Daniel R. Green, Potomac Books, 2011, \$29.95, hardcover, 288 pages.

In this detailed firsthand account, Daniel R. Green recalls his experience as the State Department political adviser to a Provincial Reconstruction Team in the province of Uruzgan. This raw and truthful look at the world of "dust and Humvees" encompasses the policy expectations, programs and practical efforts of the PRT and its members, as well as the considerable challenges they faced.

Daniel R. Green is a Sorel Fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy and is pursuing a Ph.D. in political science at

The George Washington University. He received the State Department's Superior Honor Award, the U.S. Army's Superior Civilian Honor Award and a personal letter of commendation from the chairman of the Joints Chiefs of Staff for his 2005-2006 work in Afghanistan.

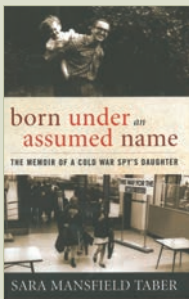


**Fit to Serve: Reflections on a Secret Life, Private Struggle and Public Battle to Become the First Openly Gay U.S. Ambassador**

James C. Hormel and Erin Martin, Skyhorse Publishing, 2011, \$24.95, hardcover, 320 pages.

Born in 1933 in Austin, Minn., James C. Hormel, the heir to the Spam fortune, grew up under the constant threat of kidnapping. And despite his wealth, he felt alone and vulnerable. But these challenges paled in comparison with Hormel's biggest struggle: being gay during the 1950s. In this memoir, he recounts his journey from life in the closet to success and accomplishment as his true self.

James Hormel lives in San Francisco, where he established the James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center at the San Francisco Public Library, and devotes his time to philanthropy and Democratic politics. Erin Martin is a former journalist for the Hartford Courant and press secretary and speechwriter for former Senator Christopher J. Dodd, D-Conn. She lives in New York City.

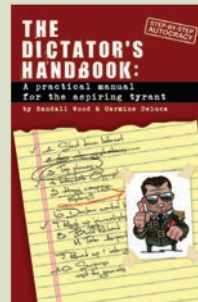


**Born Under an Assumed Name: The Memoir of a Cold War Spy's Daughter**

Sara Mansfield Taber, Potomac Books, 2012, \$29.95, hardcover, 396 pages.

There are two riveting stories here: The first follows the author as she is born into and grows up in a CIA family, living in numerous countries while her father works as an American spy. Her father is the focal point of the second story, which follows his tribulations as an undercover agent. Each has a distinct problem to contend with. Sara is trying to find her identity at a young age while constantly on the move. Her father, meanwhile, becomes increasingly disillusioned with his job and the track his country is taking.

Sara Mansfield Taber is the author of *Bread of Three Rivers: The Story of a French Loaf* (Beacon Press, 2002) and other works. She lives in the Washington, D.C., area and teaches at the Bethesda Writing Center.

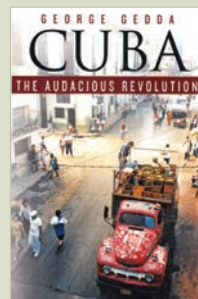


**The Dictator's Handbook: A Practical Manual for the Aspiring Tyrant**

Randall Wood and Carmine DeLuca, Gull Pond Books, 2012, \$14.99, paperback, 320 pages.

History is littered with the rise and fall of power-hungry leaders. This satirical guide covers the basics of being a dictator—from getting into power to managing your government. As the authors explain, it is “compiled on the basis of publicly documented information and the personal experience and creative talent of the authors.” The ‘evolving art’ of dictatorship may not be everyone’s cup of tea, but this “partial catalog of some of the barbaric, shameless, self-serving, and opportunistic practices of the world’s leaders” is nonetheless a light and entertaining read.

Randall Wood is deputy resident country director for the Millennium Challenge Corporation in Dakar. Carmine DeLuca is a writer and history enthusiast with an avid interest in the subject of authoritarian rulers.



**Cuba: The Audacious Revolution**

George Gedda, CreateSpace, 2011, \$12.98, paperback, 362 pages.

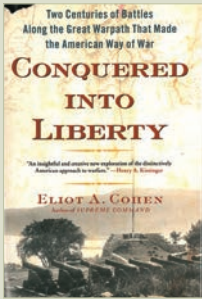
George Gedda visited Cuba 31 times as a journalist. In *Cuba: The Audacious Revolution*, he reviews the country's history, putting into perspective its ills and promise and the status of Cuban-U.S. relations. The book is useful for beginners and experts alike because very few Americans have had as much hands-on experience with this famous but isolated country as Gedda. For a full review, see the March *Foreign Service Journal*.

Gedda retired as a diplomatic correspondent with the Associated Press in 2007 after a 39-year career, during which he visited 87 countries on trips with nine Secretaries of State. He is a longtime contributor to *The Foreign Service Journal*.

**Conquered into Liberty: Two Centuries of Battles Along the Great Warpath that Made the American Way of War**

Eliot A. Cohen, Free Press, 2011, \$30, hardcover, 432 pages.

“Insightful and penetrating in its analysis, this is not just a remarkable work of history; it traces the roots of the institutions and culture that continue to shape America’s armed forces in our own time.” That is how former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice describes *Conquered into Liberty*, a scholarly investigation of the



origins of a uniquely American concept of war and its implications for the future.

Eliot A. Cohen is the Robert E. Osgood Professor of Strategic Studies at the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies of Johns Hopkins University and founding director of the Phillip Merrill Center for Strategic Studies. A former counselor at the State Department, he served as Sec.

Rice's senior adviser on strategic issues from 2007 to 2009. He lives in Silver Spring, Md.



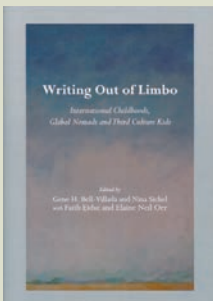
### Discover Bangkok with Kids: A Practical Guide for Exploring the City with Young Children

Jacqueline Grawburg, Travel Bug Publishing, Inc., 2012, \$16.99, paperback, 231 pages.

Finding your way around a chaotic city like Bangkok as a free-spirited backpacker is one thing. But what if you have a child in a

stroller and need to find a toilet for a diaper change? Or when your kids can't look at another amazing bit of scenery, and start up the dreaded chorus of 'I'm boooored!?' This invaluable little guide is chock-full of the nitty-gritty detail a parent needs to keep an outing from derailing.

Jacqueline (Jacci) Grawburg practiced law in the United States for 10 years and backpacked the world before taking a break in 2007 to start a family. In 2010, when her husband accepted a position in Bangkok, she and their two young daughters embraced the adventure (see [www.grawburg.com](http://www.grawburg.com)). Her firsthand experience inspired this book.



### American Diplomacy

Paul Sharp and Geoffrey Wiseman, eds., Martinus Nijhoff, 2012, \$69, paperback, 233 pages.

Editors Paul Sharp and Geoffrey Wiseman have assembled thoughtful essays from American and international scholars and diplomats on the challenges facing U.S. diplomacy. Among other things, essayists

note how diplomacy has been undervalued in the United States, and ask how it might be strengthened in the interests of international peace and security, whether under a second Barack Obama administration or by President Mitt Romney.

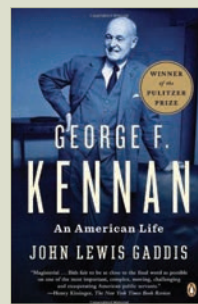
Paul Sharp, a professor of political science at the University of Minnesota Duluth, is co-chair of the Diplomatic Studies Section of the International Studies Association, convener of the Group on Diplomacy of the British International Studies Association and co-editor of *The Hague Journal of Diplomacy*. Geoffrey Wiseman, a professor of the practice of international relations at the University of Southern California, is a former Australian diplomat.

### Writing Out of Limbo: International Childhoods, Global Nomads and Third Culture Kids

Edited by Gene H. Bell-Villada and Nina Sichel with Faith Eidse and Elaine Neil Orr, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2011, \$74.99, hardcover, 486 pages.

This collection of essays explores the theory and reality of Third Culture Kids, Global Nomads and all those who have grown up internationally. Each essay addresses a different aspect of expatriate life for a child: international schools, interacting and identifying with different cultures and their locals, feelings of being an outsider, religious stability and many other complex life experiences. Personal and heartfelt, the pieces shed light on the bittersweetness of an international childhood.

Gene H. Bell-Villada, a professor of Romance languages at Williams College, was born in Haiti and raised in Puerto Rico, Cuba and Venezuela. Nina Sichel, raised among expats in Venezuela, is co-editor, with Faith Eidse, of *Unrooted Childhoods: Memoirs of Growing Up Global* (Nicholas Brealey Publishing, 2003). Elaine Neil Orr, born and raised in Nigeria, is a writer and professor of literature and creative writing at North Carolina State University.



### George Kennan: An American Life

John Lewis Gaddis, Penguin, 2012, \$22/paperback, 800 pages; \$9.99/e-book; \$36.46/audiobook.

Winner of the 2012 Pulitzer Prize in biography, *George Kennan: An American Life* is the authorized, definitive biography of the career diplomat and author of the "Long Telegram" and the "Mr. X" article spelling out U.S. strategy for containing the Soviet Union following World War II. Using exclusive access to Kennan and his archives, the author illuminates a life that both mirrored and shaped the century it spanned.

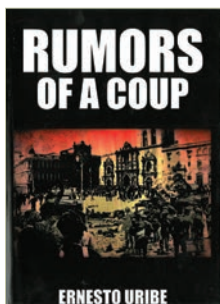
John Lewis Gaddis is the Robert A. Lovett Professor of History at Yale University. He is the author of numerous books, including *The Cold War: A New History* (Penguin, 2006) and *The Landscape of History: How Historians Map the Past* (Oxford University Press, 2004).



Continued from page 43

Nugent's story is beautifully narrated, and the tapestry of characters and intimate glimpse into the fictional town is as entrancing as the quick-moving plot and its unsuspected climax.

Cheryl Nugent, a mother of two and grandmother of two more, wrote *The Light from Maggie's View* in Palau, where her husband was posted during a Foreign Service career that also took them to Burma, Thailand, China, Australia and Paraguay. The couple now resides in South Carolina.



### Rumors of a Coup

Ernesto Uribe, Xlibris, 2010, \$19.99/paperback, 378 pages; \$9.99/Kindle Edition.

"Uribe is a great story teller, and he has a great story to tell in *Rumors of a Coup*," says one Amazon reviewer of this book.

"His years as a diplomat in the U.S. Foreign Service have given him a firsthand

look at Latin American cultures, food, idiosyncrasies of the region and, especially, the minds, deeds and misdeeds of many of the military leaders."

Set in a fictitious coca-producing republic that is in the hands of a ruthless military dictator, the story's central heroes are an American diplomat, an American adventurer and a beautiful woman who is secretly collaborating with the rebels. The plot works its way through the contemporary drama of greed, revolt, murder and large-scale drug trafficking, as well as the sometimes clandestine cooperation among dictators, drug lords, guerillas, politicians and the various Americans and other foreigners in these settings.

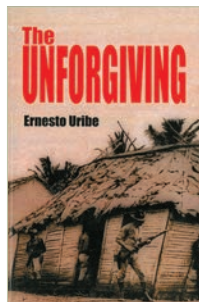
Anyone who has worked or traveled in Latin America will enjoy this book, but the general reader, too, will find it a witty and entertaining read.

A former FSO with the U.S. Information Agency, Ernesto Uribe spent most of his diplomatic career in Latin America, where he experienced no less than eight coups d'état, as well as some bloody and some nonviolent takeovers. He now lives in Northern Virginia, where he devotes his time to writing fiction, and commutes regularly to his South Texas ranch, where he owns a small cattle herd and enjoys riding his horse in the brush country.

### The Unforgiving

Ernesto Uribe, Xlibris, 2011, \$19.99/paperback, 337 pages; \$9.99/Kindle Edition.

*The Unforgiving* takes place immediately after World War I and is



set in the Dominican Republic during the heyday of direct U.S. military intervention in the Caribbean region.

An insightful read, the work examines the unwelcome and unexpected role of U.S. Marines in trying to resolve the age-old problem of exploitation of the weak and helpless by the rich and powerful.

The Marines find themselves in a critical

position between peasants lending support to guerrilla insurgents and ruthless sugar barons. The reader will find military action, betrayals, intrigue and good humor in the story, as well as romantic encounters between a Marine captain and the beautiful daughter of the wealthiest Dominican on the island.

During his four years (1984-1988) as public affairs counselor in Santo Domingo, Ernesto Uribe was able to access primary sources for information about the U.S. occupation of the Dominican Republic from 1916 to 1924. In travels throughout the country, he visited the sites formerly occupied by the Marines and collected local oral histories. These gave him a rich store of materials from which to fashion this interesting historical novel.

Ernesto Uribe grew up on a South Texas ranch where his family has raised beef since 1775. In 1962, he joined the U.S. Information Agency as a Foreign Service officer, and was primarily posted in Latin America until leaving to write full time. Besides *Rumors of a Coup*, he has published another novel, *Tlalcoyote* (Xlibris, 2001).



### The Museum of Abandoned Secrets

Oksana Zabuzhko (Translated from Ukrainian by Nina Shevchuk-Murray), Amazon Crossing, 2012, \$14.95, paperback, 600 pages.

This novel by acclaimed Ukrainian writer Oksana Zabuzhko weaves together the lives of three women and three generations of history, from Stalin's 1932 manmade

famine to the simmering political tension of the 2004 Orange Revolution, in rich historical detail.

Olena is a voice from the past, a member of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army who died in World War II. Her life is inextricably tied to a present-day television journalist, the beautiful Daryna, and a renowned artist, Vlada. Daryna is inspired by a vintage photograph of Olena to produce a documentary on the deceased woman's life—a pursuit that brings her to Adrian, Olena's grandson. As she delves deeper into her story, she falls in love.

The title, *The Museum of Abandoned Secrets*, plays on the

name of a Slavic girls' game, "Secrets." Daryna's curiosity about the past brings painful revelations and an internal struggle over whether to reveal these dark truths to the world. Nina Shevchuk-Murray's translation captures Zabuzhko's vivid descriptions and subtle acknowledgement of gender issues and sexuality.

Oksana Zabuzhko is a well-known writer in Ukraine, whose novel *Fieldwork in Ukrainian Sex* was named "the most influential Ukrainian book for the 15 years of independence." Translator Nina Shevchuk-Murray is a Foreign Service officer currently serving in Vilnius. A translator of Russian and Ukrainian, she also writes poetry in English that has appeared in a number of literary journals.



### Searching for Home

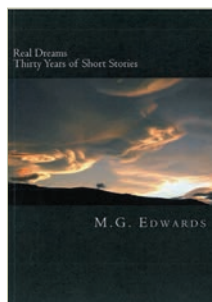
Ann Gaylia O'Barr, OakTara Publishers, 2011, \$18.95, paperback, 267 pages.

Hannah Forbes' fiancé left two years before on an ill-fated trip to Haiti and never returned. Stuck in a dull job in the United States and unable to mend her heart, Hannah takes off to visit her nomadic best friend, a Foreign Service officer in Cyprus.

The exotic escape brings adventure and kindles new romance when she meets a mysterious and handsome U.S. diplomat, Patrick Holtzman.

Hannah's job in Nashville soon loses its comfortable appeal and she takes the risk of a lifetime: leaving America and picking up the paintbrushes she had left untouched since the loss of her former love. She gets more than she bargained for when her new life in the Middle East is upended by regional chaos, and she and Patrick must confront the scarred pasts each is longing to escape.

Ann Gaylia O'Barr is a retired Foreign Service officer whose travels during her 14-year career spanned Saudi Arabia (twice), Algeria, Canada, Tunisia and Washington, D.C. Like Hannah, she is from Nashville, but now lives on Whidbey Island in Washington state.



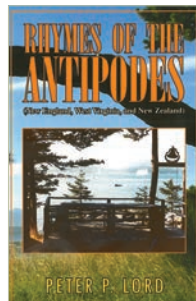
### Real Dreams: Thirty Years of Short Stories

M.G. Edwards, Brilliance Press, 2011, \$8.99, paperback, 144 pages.

Mike Edwards wrote these 15 short stories over a period of 30 years, beginning in his youth. He covers a wide variety of themes and topics inspired by dreams and experiences over those years.

These stories encompass a boy's fantasies and an adult man's maturation. A young boy finds himself the protector of genetically modified army ants that have escaped from the military. An old woman considered to be mentally ill may have reason for her outbursts, while a prisoner of war writes letters of hope from his Nazi concentration camp during World War II. And a gloomy maintenance man turns out to have a terrifying history.

Mike Edwards was a Foreign Service officer for 11 years, leaving in 2011 to focus on writing. He now lives in Thailand with his wife, Jing, a Foreign Service specialist at Embassy Bangkok, and their son. He is also the author of the memoir, *Kilimanjaro: One Man's Quest to Go Over the Hill* (see p. 36).



### Rhymes of the Antipodes (New England, West Virginia and New Zealand)

Peter P. Lord, Xlibris, 2009, \$19.99, paperback, 158 pages.

This collection of poems is a reflection on the author's travels, specifically in his early years, through New England, West Virginia and New Zealand. Lord has a real knack for

conveying the natural beauty of each locale, and the emotional ties it represents.

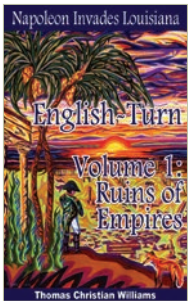
The poems lucidly express the natural beauty of these places—from the stone walls, lightning bugs and autumn leaves of New England and the thunderstorms and dogwood flowers of West Virginia to the tides, winds and mountains overlooking the Tasman Bay in New Zealand. Though the book groups the poems geographically, the author also includes a small section, "Antipodes," containing pieces that tie these places, their beauty and his experiences in them all together.

Peter P. Lord grew up in a 19th-century home in Boxford Village, north of Boston. He joined the Foreign Service in 1956 for a 30-year diplomatic career that took him to Iran, Venezuela, Peru, Barbados, Zambia and Cameroon. Today he divides his time between West Virginia and New Zealand.

### English-Turn (Détour-Anglois)

Thomas Christian Williams, CreateSpace, 2012, \$12, paperback, 298 pages.

*English-Turn (Detour-Anglais)* isn't just another alternate history novel. It's also a metaphor for the modern-day clash of civilizations. The rise of capitalism, democracies and free trade, and the Arab Spring are all folded into a single, mind-warping, history-changing, epic adventure.



New Orleans, 1802: Queen Marcella, a mixed-race voodoo priestess, finds herself swept into a hurricane vortex of international intrigue, personal ambition and religious strife—all triggered by a real book, *Ruin of Empires*, a post-Enlightenment survey of human history that proposes a comprehensive solution to the world's enduring religious conflicts.

Its author, Constantin-Francois Volney, was an agoraphobic French revolutionary and member of the first National Assembly. He was also a friend of Thomas Jefferson, who liked Volney's book so much that he translated it into English, but insisted on complete anonymity due to the book's controversial religious content. This little known but well-documented fact becomes the fulcrum of the plot—the slight tweak to historical events that provokes Napoleon Bonaparte to sail to New Orleans to challenge Jefferson for control of North America.

Born in the United States, Thomas Christian Williams has lived in France for more than two decades. He has worked in the political section of Embassy Paris since 2001.

For more information about Williams and about Jefferson's translation of Volney's book, go to [www.LibraryThing.com/profile/ThomasCWilliams](http://www.LibraryThing.com/profile/ThomasCWilliams).



**A Delicate Beauty from Phetburi**  
Bob Bergin, Banana Tree Press, 2012, \$3.99, Kindle Edition.

The eight short stories in this compilation contain more color and intrigue than many novels. Set in exotic Asian and African locales, they portray beautiful women, revolutionaries, journalists, art dealers, arms dealers, an assassin or

two—even an altar boy.

A former U.S. Foreign Service officer, Bob Bergin is a specialist in Southeast Asia, where he spent much of his career. After leaving the Service, he and his wife, Monique, started a business importing art and antiques from Southeast Asia and India, and travel there regularly to explore antique markets. Bob also works with historic aviation groups in Asia, and writes magazine articles on aviation and military history. His specialties are the American Volunteer Group Flying Tigers and the Office of Strategic Services. In recent years he has spent time in China pursuing interests in U.S. World War II aviation and the Peoples' Liberation Army Air Force.

Bergin's novels reflect this wide range of interests. *Stone Gods*,

*Wooden Elephants* (Impact Publications, 2001) is an adventure tale set in the world of Asian antiques, while *When Tigers Fly* (Impact Publications, 2004) centers on the search for a valuable Flying Tiger airplane. *Spies in the Garden* (Impact Publications, 2010), a novel of espionage and war, takes place in Burma and China during World War II. A new novel, *Phnom Penh Noir*, is scheduled for release in November.



**Presumed Dead**

Thomas Swinson, Gooseknee Enterprises, 2012, \$2.99, Kindle or Nook Edition.

Ellsworth Street, a private investigator at a seedy firm, has good reason to hate missing-person cases, especially when they involve young women: he was fired from the Washington, D.C., police force because of one.

And he is sure that his new assignment is going to go bad, too: tracking down Chantal Lefleur, the runaway adopted daughter of a Baton Rouge gangster.

Street is already in trouble with his girlfriend Claudia, who rightly suspects that Holly Hodges, the young and attractive daughter of Street's boss, is putting the moves on him. And Chantal is not above using her beauty and her brains to team up with Street's old nemesis, Arnold Jefferson, the pimp who got him fired from the police force.

As if all that weren't enough trouble for one man, further complications—and bodies—rapidly pile up. A speeding SUV nearly runs Street over; Chantal's gangster father is shot to death in a locked suite at the Ritz Carlton; and a meeting at the National Zoo with Chantal, who is wearing only a fur coat, distracts Street to the point where he nearly becomes the evening meal for a pair of lions. At the novel's climax, the PI has to rescue Claudia from a drug lab that is much easier to get into than out of.

Thomas Swinson retired from the Foreign Service in 1987 after assignments in Saigon, Mexico City, Beirut and Washington, D.C. He also served in the U.S. Army in Europe and as an infantry officer in Korea, and later was a newspaper reporter and editor. He is the author of five previous novels: *Switchgrass*, *Pie Man*, *Cover Story*, *The Vegetable Garden* and *In the National Interest*. For more information, visit [www.gooseknee.com](http://www.gooseknee.com).

**This Is Bishkek, Baby**

Fogarty Wells, CreateSpace, 2012, \$9.99, paperback, 346 pages; \$1.99, Kindle Edition.

Gary Helman, an elderly American sex tourist visiting Bishkek, is kidnapped by a bumbling trio of ethnic Russians. Embassy





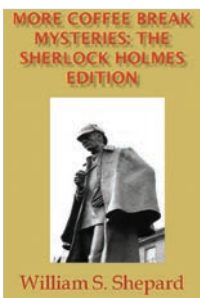
Security Officer Sheamus Rissler manages to locate and rescue Helman, but his kidnapers get away. The next day, Helman's erratic behavior gets him booted off a flight home and into Bishkek's mental hospital, where he becomes convinced that Sheamus is part of a CIA/KGB plot to silence him once and for all.

Meanwhile Senator Akumbayev, a Kyrgyz mafia kingpin, is willing to do whatever it takes to score the lucrative national cell-phone contract. Only President Hakiev and his sociopath nephew stand in the way—at least until upcoming elections, with a few assassinations thrown in, put Akumbayev in control of the Senate.

To grease the skids, the senator portrays Helman's psychotic rants against President George W. Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney and the war on terror as official U.S. policy, generating an outcry from the Kyrgyz electorate and a blistering demarche from the embassy.

As Kyrgyzstan descends into political chaos, the scene shifts to Manas Air Base in Bishkek. There, newlywed Nazgul Yanonova, who is to accompany her young Marine husband's casket to the U.S., fails to show. Sheamus is asked to investigate her disappearance, a mission that ultimately takes him to a remote village. Some of his questions are answered there, but new ones arise.

Fogarty Wells has been with the State Department for more than 10 years, with postings to Kyrgyzstan, Belize and Suriname. Postgraduate writing classes led to the completion of two screenplays, one of which received honorable mention in the Nicholl Fellowship in Screenwriting competition.



**More Coffee Break Mysteries: The Sherlock Holmes Edition**

William S. Shepard, Amazon Digital Services, 2012, \$2.99, Kindle Edition.

Just as he did in the first volume in this series, *More Coffee Break Mysteries: The Sherlock Holmes Edition* (Uncle Seth Cutler Press, 2010), William S. Shepard has penned 20 new short mysteries for intrepid,

but time-pressed, readers to solve. (Just in case you're stumped, the solutions appear immediately following each story.)

As a bonus, the first five of these stories feature (with permission of the Sir Arthur Conan Doyle estate) Sherlock Holmes, Doctor John Watson, Professor Moriarty, Inspector Lestrade and Mrs. Hudson. The next six include two classic British settings ("Mystery on the Moor" and "The Haunted Portrait") and a contemporary

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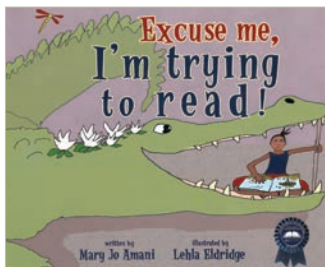
American whodunit, “The High School Crush Murder.” Next comes a series of four stories in an American summer theater setting, the “Straw Hat Mysteries,” featuring crimes ranging from murder to the perhaps even more nefarious attempted theft of a starring role!

Shepard concludes the volume with five stories featuring “Crusher” Davis, a 6’6” former football star who now writes an advice column, “Ask Martha,” for his local newspaper. In that guise, Davis solves crimes ranging from blackmail to embezzlement.

Whatever your preference, pour yourself a hot beverage and open your Kindle for a refreshing coffee break, with a dash of mystery. You’ve earned it!

Retired FSO William S. Shepard, has written many books, including most recently a memoir (see p. 41) and a history of “unknown” conflicts (see p. 30). For more information, visit [www.diplomaticmysteries.com](http://www.diplomaticmysteries.com).

## CHILDREN’S BOOKS



### **Excuse Me, I’m Trying to Read!**

Mary Jo Amani, Illustrated by Lehla Eldridge, Mackinac Island Press, 2012, \$7.95, paperback, 32 pages.

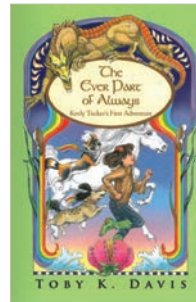
Mary Jo Amani’s children’s book *Excuse Me, I’m Trying*

*to Read!* is great fun and very clever. The illustrations by Lehla Eldridge are safari-themed—animals ranging from impalas and rhinos to dung beetles and elephants fill the uniquely drawn pages, documenting the plight of a young girl’s attempt to read in the midst of the daily busyness and fascinating distractions of the African bush.

The young girl’s struggle to stay focused on her book is in earnest. Reading is so important that not even zebras should get in the way! The unique illustrations of African villages and landscape add to the appeal of each page.

This winner of the 2011 National Association of Elementary School Principals’ Best Children’s Picture Book Award is a book that children will love—and one that their parents will enjoy reading over and over to them.

Mary Jo Amani is the wife of USAID Foreign Service officer Todd Amani. She wrote the book as part of a series directed toward early readers (ages 2 to 8) for a community library program in Mozambique.



### **The Ever Part of Always: Keely Tucker’s First Adventure**

Toby K. Davis, iUniverse, 2012, \$24.95/hardcover, \$14.95/paperback, 193 pages.

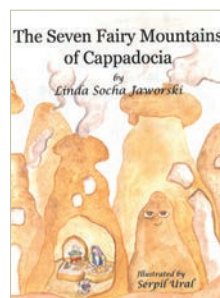
Imagination is a powerful tool. In *The Ever Part of Always: Keely Tucker’s First Adventure*, the first in a series following the life of Keely Tucker, Toby K. Davis uses her penchant for lyrical storytelling to reiterate

its importance in building and sustaining self-esteem.

Maine girl Keely Tucker is a 10-year-old who is constantly bullied by a neighborhood boy. The only thing that keeps her sense of self-worth intact is her grandmother’s stories of enchanted far-away places where angels protect children from life’s pains. When her grandmother passes away, Keely is left to fend for herself.

Eventually, while on a quest to save a friend, she learns to use Mariah, an aging horse her grandmother left her, and her imagination to battle the monsters and dragons disturbing both her fantasy world and reality. She begins to believe in herself.

Toby K. Davis, the wife of an FSO, states that her personal and professional goals are “to inspire kids to trust and believe in themselves and to like who they are every day.” She has presented the book, winner of the Rising Star and Editor’s Choice awards, to Rep. Mike Honda, D-Calif., chair of the newly formed Congressional Caucus on Anti-Bullying, and plans to donate part of the royalties from it to an anti-bullying campaign in the Northern Virginia area. Toby Davis has worked as a teacher of gifted and challenged students around the world for more than 10 years. The Davises reside in Arlington, Va.



### **The Seven Fairy Mountains of Cappadocia**

Linda Socha Jaworski, Twinkle Truth Publications, 2011, \$7.99, paperback, 16 pages.

Stir every child’s inner yearning to explore with a wondrous view of Cappadocia, Turkey, through the eyes of Küçük, the smallest of the seven Fairy Mountains,

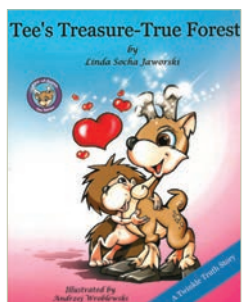
who desperately wants to save her village from sure disaster.

Her sister mountains each host artistic families, but trouble is about and unless something big happens, all seven mountains may have to be abandoned. As the only Fairy Sister without a family to shelter, Küçük knows the rescue is up to her.

The book is richly illustrated by Serpil Ural, an accomplished Turkish children’s book author and illustrator.



Linda Socha Jaworski has accompanied her husband, Richard Jaworski, to Foreign Service postings around the world. An elementary school teacher for many years, she began writing in 2005 and routinely teams up with local authors and artists wherever she is posted. She has written a number of children's books, including a long-running series (see the next entry). She now lives in Ankara, where she teaches third grade at the Bilkent International and Laboratory School. To follow her new projects, go to <http://lindasochajaworski.org>.



**Tee's Treasure-True Forest (Vol. 5)**

Linda Socha Jaworski, Twinkle Truth Publications, 2011, \$6.99, paperback, 17 pages.

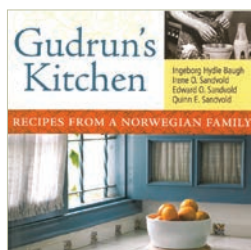
Tee's latest adventure in the Laplandian forests begins when the lights go out among the dense trees. From wise Skatt, a mouse, to Jaska, a smart-talking rock, a fun cast joins child

favorites Tee and Heddie for their "what-the-heck-happens-next" kind of day as they avoid pesky hunters and find lovely occasions for hugs and songs.

A story of love, magic and friendship, Jaworski's animal world is a great read for children and parents. A truly "splendorific" bonding experience, with its indexed descriptions of a solar eclipse and the Arctic hare, it's bound to be an educational one, too!

See *The Seven Fairy Mountains of Cappadocia* (p. 52) for Linda Socha Jaworski's biography.

## POTPOURRI



**Gudrun's Kitchen: Recipes From a Norwegian Family**

Ingeborg Hydle Baugh, Irene O. Sandvold, Edward O. Sandvold and Quinn E. Sandvold, Wisconsin Historical Society Press, 2011, \$22.95, paperback, 260 pages.

"Gudrun's was a fruitful life, full of

love, family, and friendship, simple pleasures and great food." Gudrun Thue Sandvold, a first-generation Norwegian immigrant in America, built her life around family, love and food. This attractive work, one part biography of the Sandvold's lineage and family history and one part Norwegian cookbook, makes for a deliciously enlightening read on both counts.

Gudrun's children and grandchildren researched and pooled

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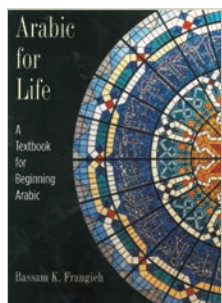
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together family history and recipes that have been passed down through written and oral tradition. The fundamentals of everyday meals, various manifestations of the Norwegian staple, smørbrød (open-faced sandwiches), and recipes for everything from Scandinavian fruit soup to fried chicken with gravy enrich the pages.

Irene Sandvold grew up in Fort Atkinson, Wis., and graduated from the University of Wisconsin School of Nursing. Now a doctor of public health, public health nurse, and certified nurse-midwife, she and her husband Lars H. Hydle, a retired FSO and former AFSA president (1977-1979), live in Washington, D.C.

Ingeborg Hydle Baugh, Irene's daughter, is a freelance writer with a background in finance who lives in Washington, D.C. Edward Sandvold, Irene's son, passed away in 2005. Quinn Sandvold, Edward's son, has been a cook all his life in the tradition of both his father and grandmother. He lives in Longmont, Colo.



**Arabic for Life: A Textbook for Beginning Arabic**

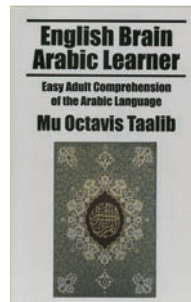
Bassam K. Frangieh, Yale University Press, 2012, \$85, paperback, 528 pages.

This comprehensive, intensive beginner's guide to the Arabic language encompasses a multitude of exercises, charts, diagrams and tips on perfecting

one's linguistic technique. Unlike other textbooks, *Arabic for Life* focuses on both grammar and proficiency during the early stages of learning to ensure more successful future comprehension and dialogue capabilities.

By accenting the book with color photographs, ranging from snapshots of Syrian landscapes to the Imam Ali Shrine in Iraq, author and teacher Bassam K. Frangieh enables students to apprehend the language in a broader, more realistic sense that offers both context and cultural exposure. The book comes with an audio disc that supplements the exercises, giving students examples of proper pronunciation and nurturing their listening skills.

Bassam K. Frangieh, the spouse of retired FSO Aleta Wenger, is a professor of Arabic at Claremont-McKenna College. Mr. Frangieh previously taught at Georgetown, Yale and the Foreign Service Institute. He is the author of *Anthology of Arabic Literature, Culture and Thought from Pre-Islamic Times to the Present* (Yale University Press, 2004).



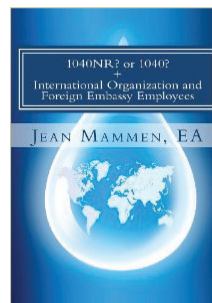
**English Brain–Arabic Learner: Easy Adult Comprehension of the Arabic Language**

Mu Octavis Taalib, Outskirts Press, 2012, \$19.95, paperback, 69 pages.

In this concise, clear study guide, Mu Octavis Taalib attempts to reverse the notion that “Arabic is too hard.” Languages are acquired, not learned, he stresses in the preface.

This manual is broken down into steps so that learning the language is a process that feels simple, feasible and natural. The approach emphasizes sound, learning symbols and representations, and putting sound and symbol together to formulate thoughts, before finally understanding the Arabic dictionary.

Mu Octavis Taalib, an FSO who retired from USAID in 2009, is a certified Teacher of English to Speakers of Other Languages who also teaches Arabic in suburban Atlanta. Having studied the Arabic language from Nashid Abdul Khaaliq, an Arabic scholar from Boston, Taalib cultivated his skills during the latter part of his FS career when he was based in Cairo and traveled extensively in Jordan, Israel, Yemen and Morocco.



**1040NR? Or 1040? + International Organization and Foreign Embassy Employees**

Jean Mammen. CreateSpace 2012, \$19.95, paperback, 120 pages.

International living can made tax preparation especially complex and confusing. Whether you are an American citizen or resident working abroad for an embassy

or international organization, in the United States on a visa, or a tax professional offering advice, this handbook is for you.

Besides step-by-step advice and explanations, this down-to-earth book features a set of “EZ Guides” to clarify critical decisions that make for effective elections, statements and protective returns. Author Jane Mammen first created them to facilitate her own work with international clients, then expanded them into guides for her colleagues.

The handbook is now in its second edition; the author revised it based on the insights she gained in four sessions of using the first edition to teach Washington, D.C.-area tax professionals.

Jean Mammen, a retired FSO and Returned Peace Corps Volunteer, is an enrolled agent with 15 years of experience doing individual income tax returns. She specializes in returns with an international dimension. ■



Brigadier General Austin Miller (Commander, CFSOCC-A) arrives in Gizab to inspect the first ALP detachment to be approved by the Government of Afghanistan. Sept. 22, 2010.

Ted Burkhalter

# ADAPTABILITY AND MOBILITY: AN AFGHANISTAN PRT FIELD REPORT

**With U.S. troops departing Afghanistan, a civilian drawdown is a foregone conclusion. Now is the right time to tear down processes and structures that do not work.**

BY TED BURKHALTER

**T**housands of dedicated Americans, civilian and military alike, have risked a great deal over the past decade in an effort to find a path to a sustainable Afghan peace. We have run through countless ideas and templates, and have experienced gratifying successes and miserable failures.

Though we don't often admit it, blind luck has more than once played a huge role. But as in any endeavor, the chances of success vastly increase with proper foresight, planning, commu-



nication, coordination and organizational management.

We owe it to ourselves and our colleagues—and to those whose sacrifice is eternal—to carefully scrutinize our experiences for lessons to apply elsewhere. I hope that this article, based on my year as the senior U.S. civilian member of the Provincial Reconstruction Team based in Uruzgan, contributes to that process.

### Guarding the Back Door

Uruzgan is a mountainous province, making it an ideal hideaway and a back door to both Kandahar and Helmand. Mullah Omar once lived in Uruzgan; Hamid Karzai launched his 2001 offensive from there; and the Taliban used the province as a major transit route. In 2006, Lieutenant General Karl Eikenberry, who at that time commanded the International Security Assistance Force (and would later serve as U.S. ambassador to Afghanistan), described it as one of the least secure provinces in the country.

In July 2010, U.S. and Australian conventional forces began a

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*Ted Burkhalter, the senior U.S. civilian member of the Provincial Reconstruction Team based in Uruzgan, Afghanistan, from 2010 to 2011, received the National Intelligence Meritorious Unit Citation for his work there with the 3rd Special Forces Group and Special Operations Task Force-Southeast. He has done two other Foreign Service tours in Central Asia, among other assignments, and is now in long-term language training in Yokohama.*

*Prior to joining the Foreign Service in 1998, Burkhalter was a naval officer, and then worked as a logistics and security coordinator for the International Rescue Committee's operations in Bardera, Somalia. The views expressed herein are his own and do not necessarily reflect those of the U.S. government or the Department of State.*

## Our small, civilian-led PRT began coordinating more closely than ever with U.S. Special Forces.



USDA adviser Stew Swanson demonstrates Afghanistan-appropriate “modern” farming. A sustained effort began winning over skeptical farmers. Swanson eschewed complicated machinery and anything that required fuel or outside support.

coordinated effort to extend the Afghan central government’s authority beyond the three small population centers it then controlled. But training the Afghan police and army was fraught with challenges, and progress was slow. So the joint U.S.-Australian-Slovak Provincial Reconstruction Team began looking for ways to jump-start the process.

One promising option was to work with the newly established, co-located Special Operations Task Force-Southeast. SOTF-SE, which had replaced a smaller U.S. Special Forces element, was establishing the first of the Afghan Local Police detachments.

This program, along with the governance-oriented Village Stability Operations, would over the next year completely turn the tables

on the Taliban in Uruzgan and neighboring Dai Kundi province. Though the ALP program has received mixed reviews in the mainstream U.S. media, it was—in our part of Afghanistan, at least—what General David Petraeus called “a game changer.”

During this period our small, civilian-led PRT began coordinating more closely than ever with U.S. Special Forces. Precedents for this existed: During the April 2010 anti-Taliban uprising in Dai Kundi’s Gizab district (reported on the front page of the *New York Times*), Uruzgan PRT political officer Russ Comeau had accompanied a team of Green Berets seeking to capitalize on improvements to set up the first-ever Afghan local police detachment.

Similarly, PRT political officer Dan Green had worked with U.S. Special Forces in 2005 and 2006, providing invaluable political reporting and tribal mapping. Now a reserve naval officer on the Special Operations Task Force-Southeast, Green has recounted his experiences in *The Valley’s Edge: A Year with the Pashtuns in the Heartland of the Taliban* (Potomac Books,



2011). His book includes a foreword from Ronald Neumann, a former ambassador to Afghanistan who is now president of the American Academy of Diplomacy.

### A String of Local Successes

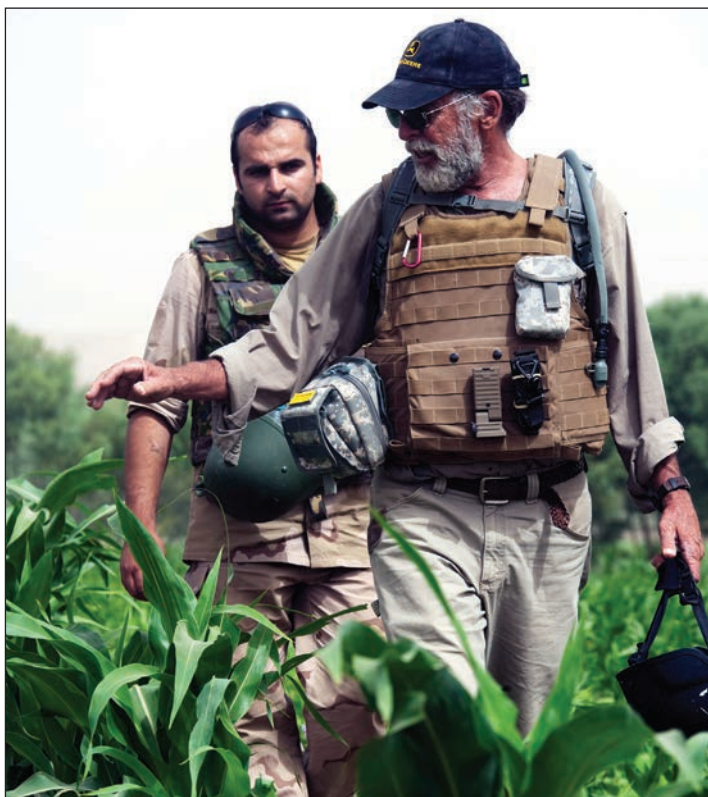
In the summer of 2010 Jason Katz, a U.S. Agency for International Development PRT representative, threw himself into four months of joint planning for a major clearing operation in the upper Helmand River Valley (locally known as the Chutu). When Afghan commandos, a police auxiliary and U.S. Special Forces finally launched a joint offensive that December, USAID was able to follow, literally, right behind the operation.

Within two days after the fighting concluded, nearly a thousand local villagers, including ex-Taliban fighters, were already at work repairing a critical road along the river's edge. By late January 2011, our forces had opened a route northward, to the isolated Forward Operating Base Tinsley (also known as FOB Cobra). We controlled both banks of the Helmand and were beginning to squeeze Taliban supply lines.

Just as importantly, road travel was now possible all the way from the provincial capital of Tarin Kowt. A four-year Taliban blockade had been broken, and commerce boomed. American and Australian conventional forces, along with their Afghan counterparts, arrived. So, too, did PRT resources and personnel. The provincial government began establishing basic services, and the influence of the Taliban visibly waned.

While this was largely a Special Operations success story, it

PRT personnel regularly contended with opaque or critically delayed guidance on major political issues, security policies and evolving strategy.



USDA adviser Stew Swanson lays hands on the crop.

demonstrated to those of us on the ground the benefits of harnessing opportunities as they arose. No master plan had dictated that we would work with the SOTF-SE on these programs, and no road map showed us the way forward. We simply adapted to changing circumstances and shifting political priorities.

Similar examples of successful cooperation occurred all across Uruzgan. For instance, when Australian Foreign Ministry political officer Joel McGregor traveled to Gizab district, he lived and worked for two weeks with the resident Village Stability Operations representative (a U.S. Air Force officer) to resolve burgeoning tribal disputes. McGregor was able to carry back to the provincial capital a much better understanding of where the PRT's efforts could be both productive and counterproductive.

Another member of PRT Uruzgan, U.S. Department of Agriculture agronomist Stew Swanson, worked with

the SOTF-SE civil affairs contingent to establish a horticultural training program. Swanson educated farmers in Uruzgan province and southern Dai Kundi on techniques for locally sustainable farming. He also traveled on short notice to Zabul and Kandahar provinces to assist SOTF-SE efforts there.

The list goes on and is too long to recount fully here. While all this was happening, though, something else happened: Bit by bit, SOTF-SE civil affairs officers and Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force Village Stability officers began contributing to PRT planning. We began integrating more fully our various goals and programs: women's health, sustainable agriculture and good governance, to name but a few.

Eventually, our PRT sent a civil affairs and security team to live at one of the VSO sites, helping to smooth the Special Operations Task Force's shift westward and southward toward Helmand's Kajaki district. This, in our view, was how field coordination was meant to operate.

### Addressing Coordination Problems

But not everything was rosy. Newly arrived officers of the vaunted "civilian surge" were disproportionately assigned to "regional platforms" co-located with the military's various divisional headquarters. Living cheek to jowl with 20,000-30,000 other military and civilian personnel, thoroughly isolated from everyday Afghan life and grateful for any chance to visit a PRT, these officers turned their immense energies to the only thing one can do in such circumstances: staff work.

They provided some value, to be sure; but to those of us in the field, they became simply another layer through which embassy-bound field reports must pass. In Kabul, meanwhile, an embassy bureaucracy designed to shield field personnel from a crushing influx of information and demands inadvertently but effectively isolated us from many of the most critical discussions.

One result was that PRT personnel regularly contended with opaque or critically delayed guidance on major political issues, security policies and evolving strategy. Even where clear-cut embassy guidance did exist, field personnel often received conflicting instructions from their individual agencies. Interagency disputes and conflicts between the International Security Assistance Force and the embassy often prevented PRT reporting and analysis from reaching the U.S. leadership, and this only further aggravated existing confusion.

No road map showed us the way forward. We simply adapted to changing circumstances and shifting political priorities.



The Taliban funded the construction of this bridge in 1997. Though crude, the structure can be rebuilt every decade and the know-how passed on from father to son.

By all reports, the degree of coordination varied greatly across Afghanistan. In broad strokes, though, the bureaucracy we constructed was slow to grasp fast-breaking changes and hesitant to approve initiatives responding to them. PRT personnel who saw opportunities could wait for approval or beg for forgiveness.

The result was that those of us in the field nodded obediently, then did our best to devise programs to take us toward the "main goals" as we understood them. In 2010 and 2011, for me, that meant deciding what was most likely to allow our troops to leave Uruzgan with a survivable, sustainable Afghan security and governance structure.

### Six Lessons

These comments are a call to our current leadership to take a hard look at the situation. With troops departing, a civilian drawdown is a foregone conclusion. Now is the right time to tear down processes and structures that do not work.

In undertaking such a review, Mission Kabul's leadership could consider the following lessons learned by PRT Uruzgan:

■ First and foremost, adaptability is the key to our civilians having an impact in the field. What works on one day or in one location may not succeed under other circumstances. Master plans from Washington, Kabul and division headquarters can serve as useful signposts, but still not be tactically viable. So we must give our civilian field personnel the independence to get the job done.

■ Second, overly restrictive security requirements will render our efforts in Afghanistan ineffective. Field personnel must be given some discretion, not an ironclad list of rules from the regional security officer back in Kabul. Understandably, the RSO and senior embassy leadership do not want any of our people killed, but the sad truth is that personnel all over

the country were violating the rules almost daily to avoid being rendered immobile and ineffective. This situation led to a wink-wink, nod-nod culture up and down the chain of command (I have the stories to back this up) and a consequent risk of security lapses.

A truly effective security policy would set forth a short list of absolute prohibitions and a much larger list of guidelines to be followed where practicable. That said, those who consistently exercise bad judgment can and should be withdrawn, for they endanger not only themselves but those who might be sent to recover them.

■ Third, Mission Kabul's senior leadership owes it to field personnel to fully understand and acknowledge the situations in which it is placing them. Our people have operated under extremely dangerous conditions, unarmed and poorly trained. One possibly apocryphal tale that has made the rounds: a newly arrived civilian with two full suitcases, an umbrella and no briefing is dropped by helicopter in a muddy field in Marja in early 2010. Before he can get his bearings, his Marine companions have taken off and are yelling at him from behind blown-out walls to "move his ass." Sadly, the truth is not too far from that.

Civilian personnel have become separated during firefights, have found themselves alone with armed Afghans, and have been involved in downed aircraft incidents. They have taken an active part in firefights, have driven through improvised explosive devices, have had their armored SUVs penetrated by rocket-propelled grenade rounds, and have been caught in violent prisoner escapes. While we must aggressively deploy civilians to all locations where they can be of use, including those that are dangerous, we must carefully select, train and then adequately arm those officers.

■ Fourth, overstaffing PRTs and so-called regional platoons does not enhance effectiveness. We will never be able to match the military's manpower, and that is not where our strength is to be found in any event. (The civilian surge in Afghanistan was a grand political notion, but it was in many ways counterproductive.) Often, our small numbers give us the very nimbleness that we need to balance the military's bureaucratic juggernaut.

As the surge recedes, the Afghan Local Police program may well be the backbone of any future U.S. military efforts in Afghanistan.

■ Fifth, as we shift from a PRT model to something more suited to a reduced military footprint, we should deploy field personnel as advisers to individual military elements—then let them determine precisely where civilians can be most useful. This will encourage initiative and bring bang for

the buck.

■ Finally, as we wend our way toward military withdrawal, we should remain attuned to how we can help assure the success of those forces that, along with the U.S. diplomatic mission, are likely to remain behind. Press reports and congressional testimony continue to indicate that Afghan Local Police units and Village Stability Operations personnel, along with their Special Operations implementers, will remain cornerstones of our efforts in Afghanistan beyond 2014. Reports of civilian-military frictions over these programs must, if true, be addressed.

### Postscript

Since I first drafted this article earlier this year, much has changed—but much more has remained the same. The Afghan Local Police program continues to garner headlines, and many continue to see this inherently sensitive initiative as the backbone of any future U.S. military efforts in Afghanistan. The need for highly adaptable, mobile civilian advisers remains acute, as does the importance of seconding the vast majority of those officials to field units, rather than command staffs.

Concern over the safety of our civilian personnel—particularly in light of our recent losses in Libya—is stronger than ever, and this may continue to render us less effective than we might otherwise be. But I am happy to hear reports that Embassy Kabul and the State Department leadership have begun tackling the problem of "civilian surge" overstaffing.

In the end, the well-intentioned bureaucracy we constructed in Afghanistan hindered efforts in the field and severed the vital, direct relationship that field officers once enjoyed with the senior embassy leadership. Let us hope the current restructuring efforts end better. ■



# SEPTEMBER SONG, UNITED NATIONS EDITION

**A member of the U.S. delegation to the September 1973 United Nations General Assembly session learns some valuable lessons about the art of diplomacy.**

BY JACK SULLIVAN



**T**he legislation by which the U.S. Congress ratified U.S. membership in the United Nations stipulated that a group of private American citizens and members of Congress would be part of the U.S. delegation to the annual meeting of the U.N. General Assembly each autumn in New York City.

In 1973 it was the turn of two House members to attend and, by virtue of my seniority on the staff of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, I was assigned to go with them. The State Department rented us an office in a nearby building and provided a secretary. My primary mandate was to keep the House members happy.

From the beginning things went badly.

Henry Kissinger had just been named U.S. Secretary of State, having successfully undermined the incumbent, William Rogers, with President Richard Nixon. Kissinger was anxious to be part of the U.S. delegation at the opening ceremonies of the

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*Jack Sullivan was a longtime staff member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. He later served on Jimmy Carter's presidential transition team and as assistant administrator of USAID for East Asia.*

General Assembly. But since his confirmation was still pending in the Senate, his status was still unofficial. As a result, he was assigned to the periphery of the U.S. delegation in the General Assembly hall for the session.

### Henry Gets Nixed

Kissinger ended up seated next to one of the congressmen in the delegation, the Honorable Robert Nix of Pennsylvania. An elderly African-American gentleman and a longtime member of the House, Representative Nix was chairman of the Africa Subcommittee.

The United States delegation was seated alphabetically right next to the folks from Upper Volta (now Burkina Faso), and their sign was not far from Nix's elbow. Kissinger leaned over to Nix as the assembly was coming to order and inquired in a friendly fashion: "How are things going in your country?"

Highly insulted, Rep. Nix walked out and could not be found later for the delegation photograph or to accept Kissinger's apology. I had not been invited to the opening session and was in my office when frantic calls began coming in from the State Department. After a long search, I finally found Nix at the fancy Beekman Towers apartment the U.S. mission had rented for him.

"Tell 'em to go to hell," he growled. The much-delayed photo op went on without him. Although he continued to occupy the Beekman apartment from time to time and take the New York per diem, Nix never showed at another U.N. meeting or social function for the entire four months.

### Social Lubricants to the Rescue

The plus side of Nix's absence was his willingness to let me draw upon his \$800 representation allowance. Bradford Morse, a former Massachusetts congressman who then headed the United Nations Development Program, proposed that the U.S. congressional contingent host an event for parliamentarians in the various delegations. John Buchanan, a Republican congressman from Alabama who was taking his responsibilities seriously as a delegate, was willing, so we arranged a catered lunch in one of the U.N. headquarters dining rooms.

There was just one hitch: alcohol. Buchanan was a Baptist minister and, at least theoretically, a teetotaler. But once I pointed out that a glass of wine was traditional and appropriate for toasts and the like at international gatherings, he agreed to its being served, albeit a bit reluctantly.

The response to our invitation was huge. It seemed that virtually every country in the world had at least one parlia-

**When I was momentarily left alone as the sole American representative at a meeting, the mission dispatched a 23-year-old secretary to replace me in the U.S. chair.**

mentarian delegate, at least one delegate who had once been a parliamentarian, or—perhaps my imagination—people who would like to be thought of as parliamentarians and thereby nab a free lunch.

The banquet table seemed to stretch the length of the building. "It will take a while to prepare meals for this many people. There will be a short delay until we can serve," the maitre d' whispered to me. "Can we serve some cocktails before lunch?"

I went to Buchanan with the problem, and he promptly tossed the decision back to me. Faced with managing a thirsty horde of milling delegates, the answer was easy. "Serve 'em up," I told the maitre d'. The short delay turned into over an hour—a period during which the alcohol flowed like water, with notable effects on our guests.

During the meal the Dutch delegate—a stocky gentleman who had lost an arm in World War II—rose majestically and roared, "I propose a toast." Everyone raised a glass and a long silence ensued. "I drunk," the Dutchman concluded. "I sit down."

Shortly after that a gentleman from Niger, elegantly dressed in an embroidered gown and wearing a tall conical hat, slid out of his seat and disappeared under the table. As I left, clutching a bill that was more than double the estimate, Brad Morse, our guest of honor, was waltzing enthusiastically with a gray-haired waitress.

### A Classy Establishment

Lest it be thought that the United Nations is solely a gathering place for party animals, I should note that some serious things were happening there, as well. The 1973 October War broke out in the Middle East during the session, and the U.N. Security Council began to meet at all hours to negotiate a ceasefire. And as if that weren't enough drama, this occurred

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## A gentleman from Niger, elegantly dressed in an embroidered gown and wearing a tall conical hat, slid out of his seat and disappeared under the table.

during a particularly hot phase of the Sino-Soviet rift.

As I watched from the gallery one evening, the Russian foreign minister, the infamous Jakob Malik, was berating Beijing for some real or imagined duplicitous act. The Chinese delegate, speaking English, shouted in reply, “The trouble with you, Mr. Malik, is that you have no class!” I had waited a long time to hear one member of a self-styled classless society speaking so to another member of a self-styled classless society. My conclusion: some communists, despite Marxist rhetoric, considered themselves classier than others.

While these events of some magnitude swirled around me, my role was peripheral. Although I was an accredited member of the United States delegation and bore all the necessary credentials, State Department officers clearly were frightened that I might somehow be emboldened to speak during one of the committee sessions I regularly attended. On one occasion when I momentarily was left alone as the sole American representative at a meeting, the mission dispatched a 23-year-old secretary to replace me in the U.S. chair.

In the final analysis, I found the United Nations—essential as it is—a place with too much talk and too little action. It made the U.S. Congress seem a veritable dynamo. So when the General Assembly session ended, I returned to Capitol Hill wiser in the ways of international diplomacy, and with a palpable sense of relief.

### Postscript

Three years later, President Jimmy Carter appointed me assistant administrator for Asia and the Pacific at the U.S. Agency for International Development. For the next four years, I inhabited an office on the sixth floor of the State Department, where my experience at the United Nations came in very handy indeed in the “care and feeding” of diplomats, both foreign and domestic. ■



# ASSISTANCE AFTER RETIREMENT

**The Office of Retirement is here to assist Foreign Service annuitants with a host of issues.**

BY JOHN K. NALAND

**M**any retirees spend longer in retirement than they spent in the active-duty Foreign Service. During this second phase of their Foreign Service careers, retirees can no longer call on a general services officer to replace a broken appliance, but they can still turn to several Department of State offices for assistance with a variety of issues.

This article summarizes the most common of those post-retirement issues and points to resources for additional information. This guidance is applicable to Foreign Service retirees from all five foreign affairs agencies.

## Stay Informed

Each fall, the Department of State's Office of Retirement mails to all 15,500 Foreign Service annuitants and survivors a 24-page newsletter containing information on topics including re-employment, survivor benefits and the health benefits open season. It includes copies of commonly needed forms and lists contact information for nearly a dozen offices that annuitants may need to contact.

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*John K. Naland is the director of the Office of Retirement at the Department of State. A 26-year Foreign Service veteran, his overseas assignments include Colombia, Mexico and Iraq. He has twice served as AFSA president and published more than 80 articles and columns in these pages.*

More detailed retirement-related information can be found on HR/RET's "RNet-Retirement Network" at [www.rnet.state.gov](http://www.rnet.state.gov). Resources available there include downloadable forms, a searchable database of frequently asked questions, and a copy of the most recent HR/RET annual newsletter (found under "What's New").

If you still have questions, you can contact a Department of State human resources specialist. As part of the department's shared services initiative to improve management operations, your initial point-of-contact is the Bureau of Human Resources' Service Center in Charleston, S.C.

The HR Service Center can quickly answer most retirement-related inquiries. If a question is complex, it will be forwarded to a HR/RET retirement counselor for response. The HR Service Center can be reached at [HRSC@state.gov](mailto:HRSC@state.gov), (866) 300-7419 (toll-free), and (843) 308-5539 (from outside the U.S.).

## Update Your Records

If you move to a new address or change where your annuity is electronically deposited, you will need to provide the new information to the Department of State. The best way to do so is via the Annuitant Express Web site at [www.employeeexpress.gov](http://www.employeeexpress.gov).

There you can instantaneously update your annuity account to change your mailing address, modify your direct deposit account and routing numbers, change federal and state tax

## Regrettably, each year dozens of annuitants have their supplement cut off due to non-submission of Form DS-5026.

withholdings, and modify financial allotments. Additionally, you can view and print your monthly annuity statements and annual Form 1099-R.

If you need assistance using Annuitant Express, contact the Employee Express Help Desk at (888) 353-9450. If you prefer to mail in a written request to update your annuity account, contact the Payroll Customer Support Desk at [PayHelp@state.gov](mailto:PayHelp@state.gov) or (800) 521-2553 for instructions.

### Submit Your Annuity Supplement Form

Retirees enrolled in the post-1983 Foreign Service Pension System who are under age 62 receive an annuity supplement. That supplement is subject to reduction through an annual earnings test after the individual has reached his or her minimum retirement age (between 55 and 57, depending on year of birth).

Those retirees must submit a Form DS-5026, "Statement of Entitlement to FSPS Annuity Supplement" to the Department of State each January, or else their annuity supplement will be terminated in February. The form and associated instructions are mailed to all annuitants in the HR/RET annual newsletter.

Regrettably, each year dozens of annuitants have their supplement cut off due to non-submission of this form. While the payments can be restored following a belated submission, the process diverts staff resources from assisting other annuitants.

### Report Marital Changes and Survivor Benefits

Life events such as post-retirement divorce or marriage, or the death of a spouse or former spouse, are all occasions to change your survivor annuity election by dropping a former spouse or adding a new spouse. In addition, you will likely want to update your beneficiary designations for life insurance, annuity and Thrift Savings Plan contributions. You may also wish to adjust your Federal Employees Health Benefits election.

Delays in reporting marital changes to the Department of State will delay, or in some cases permanently prevent, the benefits adjustment and the associated change in your annuity. To avoid this, promptly report any post-retirement marital changes to the HR Service Center.

If you have not previously done so, please take time right now to give your next-of-kin a copy of the instructions found in the HR/RET annual newsletter regarding the reporting of deaths of annuitants. It is up to the survivor to immediately report the death and submit documentation to initiate their survivor annuity, receive the federal life insurance payout, and continue their Federal Employees Health Benefits. To do so, the survivor should contact the HR Service Center, which has a team of specialists who guide survivors through the process.

### Monitor Your Post-Employment Earnings

If you have returned to federal employment in a part-time or full-time basis since you retired, you already know that a variety of rules affect how much you can earn. If you ever have questions about those rules, please consult the HR/RET annual newsletter or RNet Internet site. If you do not find the answer there, you may ask the HR Service Center.

It is each employee's responsibility to monitor their earnings to ensure they do not exceed the limitations. Toward that end, you may wish to e-mail [PayHelp@state.gov](mailto:PayHelp@state.gov) to request a "salary/annuity limitation audit" by the Retirement Accounts Division.

### Review Your Thrift Savings Plan Allocations

If you are in the FSPS retirement system, then the Thrift Savings Plan is a key component of your retirement financial security. Since retirement income depends in part on the rates of return of the specific TSP fund or funds in which you invest, from time to time you should review the risk-versus-reward balance in your TSP fund allocations to make sure that it is still appropriate to your specific situation. For more information or to make an interfund transfer to redistribute your balance, please visit the TSP Web site: [www.tsp.gov](http://www.tsp.gov).

### Document Your Annuity Contributions

Because retirees have already paid taxes on that portion of their Foreign Service annuity that reflects their contributions, that amount is not subject to further taxation. After retirement, you received a letter from the Retirement Accounts Division detailing the total amount that you contributed. Be sure to safeguard that document.

If you know a Foreign Service retiree who is struggling financially, you can refer him or her to the Senior Living Foundation.

You can calculate the taxable amount of your annuity each year by plugging that number into the worksheet included in the instructions to IRS Form 1040 or Form 1040A, or in IRS publication #721, "Tax Guide to U.S. Civil Service Retirement Benefits." Those documents are available at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov). Alternatively, you can use the Office of Personnel Management's online calculator at [apps.opm.gov/tax\\_calc/index.cfm](http://apps.opm.gov/tax_calc/index.cfm).

Each January you will be mailed a Form 1099-R showing your previous year's annuity payments and tax withholding. Your 1099-R is also available on the Annuitant Express Web site at [www.employeeexpress.gov](http://www.employeeexpress.gov).

### Keep the Senior Living Foundation in Mind

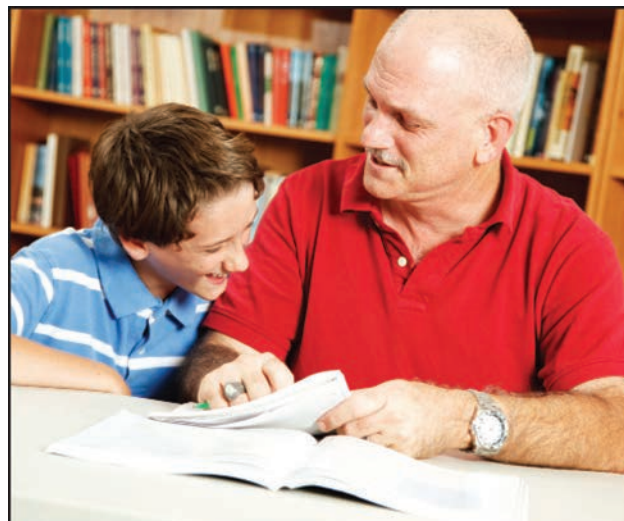
If you know a Foreign Service retiree who is struggling financially, you can refer him or her to the Senior Living Foundation. The SLF is a 501(c) (3) tax-exempt organization that assists retired Foreign Service members and their spouses with financial and other support to improve their quality of life.

Support can take the form of monthly grants to cover costs, such as home health care or medical transportation, as well as one-time grants for items like hearing aids and wheelchairs. In addition, the foundation provides information and assistance in obtaining community, state, federal and private resources.

For more information, contact the Senior Living Foundation of the American Foreign Service at (202) 887-8170 or [info@SLFoundation.org](mailto:info@SLFoundation.org). Or visit [www.SLFoundation.org](http://www.SLFoundation.org).

### A Final Thought

While many Foreign Service annuitants go years without needing to contact a Department of State office for assistance, we are here to serve should a retirement benefits issue ever arise. And on the topic of service, let me close by thanking each of you for your dedicated efforts to advance the vital national interests of the United States throughout your Foreign Service career. ■



#### ARCHIVE OF EDUCATION ARTICLES

Go to [www.afsa.org/educationarticles](http://www.afsa.org/educationarticles)

*The ABCs of Education Allowances* by Pamela Ward

*Flying Solo — Going to College from Overseas: A Guide for Parents* by Rebecca Grappo

*The Boarding School Option: A Tent for a Global Nomad* by Pamela Ward

*Applying to U.S. Colleges: A Primer for FS Teens* by Francesca Huemer Kelly

## Moving? Take AFSA With You!

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Washington, DC 20037







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## Recognize Courage, Integrity, Conviction and Intelligence: Nominate a Colleague for a 2013 AFSA Dissent Award

BY AMBASSADOR EDWARD L. PECK

AFSA's Constructive Dissent Awards are truly unique and often misunderstood for that reason. Unlike other awards in the federal government, they are not presented for exemplary performance of assigned responsibilities. They recognize Foreign Service employees who embrace the difficult task of challenging a policy or management issue. By asking the hard questions, and offering solutions or alternative approaches, their efforts have encouraged decision-makers to reconsider, and frequently change their position.

AFSA's dissent awards are distinct. Not to be confused with the State Department's commendable Dissent Channel, which provides employees with a formalized process for submitting suggestions or dissenting views on policy, an AFSA dissent award recognizes a dissenting employee's continued personal involvement and efforts to secure implementation of their recommended changes.

Since 1968, AFSA's dissent winners have exhibited courage and conviction by presenting their beliefs in an intelligent and constructive way. For many award winners, these personal attributes have resulted in their ability to achieve higher promotion rates than their



(Left to Right) Robert S. Rivkin presents the 2012 William R. Rivkin Award for Constructive Dissent to Joshua Polachek on June 26.

class averages.

Past dissent award winners include Jeffrey Feltman, currently United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, who won the Herter Award for Constructive Dissent by a senior FSO in 2008; two-time ambassador Thomas Boyatt, who won the Rivkin Award in 1970 and the Herter award in 1979 and is now, in retirement, founder and president of the Foreign Affairs Council; and Ryan Crocker, recipient of the Rivkin Award in 1985, who went on to become ambassador to Lebanon, Syria, Pakistan, Iraq and Afghanistan and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Now through Feb. 28, any member of any foreign affairs

agency may nominate any other member who has demonstrated the willingness, ability and courage to speak truth to power in a constructive manner.

AFSA Constructive Dissent Award categories are: the F. Allen "Tex" Harris Award for a Foreign Service Specialist; the W. Averell Harriman Award for an entry-level officer (FS 6-4); the William R. Rivkin Award for a mid-level officer (FS 3-1); and the Christian A. Herter Award for a senior officer (Senior Foreign Service).

Information on nomination procedures, guidelines and the nomination form, as well as a list of all past award winners, can be found at [www.afsa.org/awards](http://www.afsa.org/awards). The deadline for submitting

### CALENDAR

11/6/2012 – 11/9/2012  
**AFSA Road Scholar Program**

11/7/2012  
12:00 - 2:00 PM  
**AFSA Governing Board Meeting**

11/12/2012  
**Veterans Day:**  
**AFSA Offices Closed**

11/19/2012  
2:00 - 3:30 PM  
**Seminar:**  
**"Federal Health Benefits"**

11/22/2012 – 11/23/2012  
**Thanksgiving:**  
**AFSA Offices Closed**

12/5/2012  
**AFSA Governing Board Meeting**

12/25/2012  
**Christmas Day:**  
**AFSA Offices Closed**

nominations is Feb. 28, 2013.

For more information, please contact Perri Green, AFSA Special Awards and Outreach Coordinator, at (202) 719-9700 or [green@afsa.org](mailto:green@afsa.org). ■



## Equal Support and Equal Recognition

The deadly attacks in Libya have focused attention on the fact that the Foreign Service is not the cakewalk it is occasionally lampooned as being. It is difficult, taxing and increasingly dangerous work.

Foreign Service members work side by side with military colleagues in remote outposts in Afghanistan and Iraq. They are our eyes, ears and spokespersons in places like Pakistan, Somalia, Sudan, Yemen and Algeria. They are the face of America to nearly every nation on earth. And in most situations, they, not the military, are the primary target of acts of aggression against the United States.

Nearly a year after the last members of the military left Iraq, FS members remain. As we rebuild Iraq and Afghanistan, FS members are the ones who travel from village to village, town to town, to lead and guide that work.

Our colleagues have dedicated their lives to the service of our country. And incidentally, many have done so after completing many more years of service than the usual four-year stint most military service members serve. In the past 30 years, 88 Foreign Service members have died in that service. As a percentage of total numbers serving, a higher percentage

of Foreign Service members died in the line of duty than military members over the same period.

As is the case for our colleagues who serve in the military, we deserve a safe environment in which to work. What the military calls “force protection” serves a purpose. Protecting the lives of those who serve enhances the efficiency of the mission. It enables the recruit-

**Congress speaks through funding, and it is time for them to bring our embassies overseas in line with the security standards established by the Inman Commission in 1985.**

ment of the best employees. And it enables them, once recruited, to do their jobs.

A similar business case can be made for respecting the special circumstances under which we live and operate in doing those jobs. The Service Members Civil Relief Act was designed to enable service members to serve without having to divide their attention between the battlefield and the home front. It allows extensions and waivers of some civil responsibilities, while ensuring that, no matter where service members might serve, they are recognized as residents of the United States.

The act applies to the military, the National Oceanic

and Atmospheric Administration and the Public Health Service (the latter two having military origins), but not to the only other commissioned service—the Foreign Service. As a result, AFSA has to regularly intervene in cases involving FS members unable to get a mortgage or refinance a home, nor get in-state tuition in the states to which they regularly pay state taxes, because they are

them to bring our embassies overseas in line with the security standards established by the Inman Commission in 1985. We should not have to wait, year after year, for armored cars, or housing compound walls that can't be driven through, or basic security for the schools our children attend. Particularly in times of budgetary restraint, Congress should consider that it is cheaper to prevent attacks than to rebuild after they occur.

Congress also speaks through laws. AFSA should not have to be the sole advocate for FS members unable to finance a house in the U.S., or threatened with jail for missing jury duty, or unable to get in-state tuition for their children, because they are overseas, on orders, in service of the American people. Why not include the Foreign Service in the Service Members Civil Relief Act, or create something similar, to recognize our ties to the country we serve?

All who serve the American people overseas, whether in uniform or in civilian clothes, deserve equal support and equal recognition. We are all doing what we do in order to make America safer and stronger. ■

allegedly “not resident” in the United States.

Recognizing that FS members serving overseas nonetheless maintain home roots in a U.S. state, and allowing them to serve in as much safety as our country can provide, should not be a partisan issue, nor viewed as less important than providing that same support to the military.

The deaths in Benghazi led Capitol Hill to pass two “sense of Congress” resolutions recognizing the contributions and sacrifices we make. But actions speak louder than words.

Congress speaks through funding, and it is time for





## Bullying: Not Just for Kids

Bullying deservedly receives much national attention in the media. It is a threat that must be eliminated from our schools. The damage it causes affects not only the targeted victims, but their families as well, causing scars that can last a lifetime.

Unfortunately, bullying doesn't end when we become adults. Instead, bullies can be found in social circles and in the workplace. USAID is not exempt from this scourge. In fact, life in the Foreign Service is filled with conditions that can intensify the problem. As the contact point for Foreign Service employees, we occasionally get complaints of bullying by supervisors in Washington, D.C., but mainly from our overseas missions. Supervisors exert significant control, power and influence over FSOs, and that power can affect an employee's career progression, and even family harmony.

Bullying in the workplace is defined as repeated, unreasonable actions of an individual or individuals, directed towards an employee or employees, which are intended to intimidate, degrade, humiliate, undermine, or create a risk to the health or safety of the employee or employees.

Examples of bullying in the workplace can include unwarranted or invalid criticism; blame without factual justification; being treated

differently than the rest of your work group; being sworn at; exclusion or social isolation; being shouted at or being humiliated in front of others; excessive monitoring or micro-managing; or being given unrealistic work deadlines.

In a 2006 study (Schat, Frone and Kelloway) on the prevalence of bullying in the U.S. workplace, psychologists found that 41.4 percent of respondents reported experiencing psychological aggression at work during a one-year period. The research also found that 13 percent, or nearly 15 million workers, reported experiencing psychological aggression on a weekly basis.

While this type of aggression is not uncommon in the U.S., it can be magnified at post, where working conditions can be much more stressful. Several members have complained to AFSA about abusive supervisors who are making their lives miserable. There are reports of yelling, intimidating behavior, ostracism and outright hostility. Some time ago, USAID took action by developing a "diversity checklist," which was incorporated into the agency's annual performance evaluation process. The checklist allows subordinates to anonymously report disrespectful behavior to their supervisor's supervisor. As the report serves as documentation of an unac-

ceptable situation, leadership is compelled to deal with the behavior, or ignore it at their peril.

**Several members have complained to AFSA about abusive supervisors who are making their lives miserable.**

AFSA is negotiating with USAID's Office of Human Resources to incorporate into the skills model matrix for Senior Foreign Service officers a phrase stating that they will "actively promote an anti-bullying environment and will not tolerate abusive behavior in the work environment." But we believe all supervisors should be trained to recognize and prevent bullying.

Bullying is disruptive to our organization, not only because it has been proven that it produces poor results and lower productivity, but also contributes to low morale, projects a bad image to our counterparts, increases stress and illness, but most of all, is a sign of poor leadership skills.

What can you do if you are experiencing bullying? React as soon as it happens. Document attacks by securing witness statements, saving egregious e-mails and submitting a diversity checklist to management. Seek help up the ladder. Finally, report bad behavior to USAID's Office of Human Resources, speak with the Agency's social worker and share your situation with AFSA. Bullying should not be tolerated in our schools or our workplace. ■

### NEWS BRIEF

#### Pledge to the AFSA Scholarship Fund

During this year's Combined Federal Campaign, please consider designating CFC #11759 on your pledge card. Your contribution will go to the AFSA Scholarship Fund, listed as "Foreign Service Youth Scholarships—AFSA." AFSA bestows merit awards and financial aid scholarships to 100 children of Foreign Service employees, which will total over \$230,000 during the 2012-13 school year. Your donation supports the Foreign Service community, while helping to build our leaders of tomorrow.



Views and opinions expressed in this column are solely those of the AFSA Retiree VP.

## AFSA Needs Retirees and Retirees Need AFSA

Recently, I had the honor of addressing an A-100 Class during a membership recruitment luncheon at AFSA headquarters. Five days later I spoke to colleagues from State, USAID and Commerce on the last day of FSI's job search program, urging them to continue their membership in AFSA.

These two events—one for those just beginning their Foreign Service careers, the other for those concluding rich and full Foreign Service

careers—reminded me again of the unique nature of AFSA. No other entity in or outside the federal government is both a bargaining unit and a professional association.

It is easy for us to overlook the professional association aspect of AFSA. For our active duty members, the role of AFSA as the sole bargaining unit of the Foreign Service is paramount. Many of our members rely on AFSA to assist them in pressing their case with management

or standing up for fair treatment of the Foreign Service, including family members and members of household. AFSA has a long and distinguished history of successes in fighting for

the individual and collective rights of our members.

More than 75 percent of active-duty Foreign Service employees are members of AFSA, attesting to the important role the organization plays in their careers. Yet far fewer colleagues remain in AFSA once they retire from active-duty. Of the potential pool of retiree members, fewer than 25 percent are members of AFSA. Why is this?

Retired members may feel they no longer need AFSA as a union or the services provided by its staff. Those who have moved away from D.C. may feel there's no benefit in continued AFSA membership. Such views overlook the incredible value of AFSA as a professional association.

We retirees are not constrained by law and custom: we can speak openly to our elected representatives about the challenges we and our families face, and to aid

us in fighting against legislation that will affect current and retired members. So AFSA and retiree members across the U.S. are active participants in the federal and postal coalition, "America Counts on Us" campaign, to reverse political attacks on federal employees and retirees.

This summer AFSA's Governing Board unanimously approved the creation of the Professionalism and Ethics Committee, which includes retiree as well as active-duty members. While the PEC will rightly focus initially on active-duty members, it may ultimately explore the role emeritus members—both as individuals and through retiree associations—can play in contributing to the professional development and image of the Foreign Service. ■



DONNA AYERST

Recent retirees enjoy the AFSA-DACOR reception at the Foreign Service Institute on Sept. 1.

### NEWS BRIEF

#### AFSA Scholarship Applications Are Now Being Accepted

Applications for AFSA scholarships—Academic and Art Merit Awards for high school seniors (top prizes are \$2,000), and need-based Financial Aid Scholarships for undergraduate college study (aid ranges from \$1,000 to \$4,000)—are now being accepted.

Children of AFSA and AAFSW members are eligible (please note that grandchildren of Foreign Service employees are ineligible). For more information, please visit [www.afsa.org/scholar](http://www.afsa.org/scholar) or contact Lori Dec at (202) 944-5504 or [dec@afsa.org](mailto:dec@afsa.org).

### NEWS BRIEF

#### 2013 AFSA Performance Awards Call for Nominations

AFSA encourages members to consider nominating a colleague or family member for exemplary performance. For procedures, forms and how to submit a nomination for the 2013 Performance Awards, please go to [www.afsa.org/performance\\_awards](http://www.afsa.org/performance_awards). Deadline for nominations is Feb. 28, 2013. For further information, please contact AFSA's Coordinator for Special Awards and Outreach Perri Green, at [green@afsa.org](mailto:green@afsa.org). More on the 2013 Performance Awards in the December issue of *AFSA News*.

## Taking STOCK of Unintended Consequences

BY CLINT LOHSE, LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT

AFSA has been making steady progress in its effort to prevent specific provisions of a new law from going into effect that would require thousands of federal employees to make their financial disclosure forms publicly available on the Internet. While the STOCK Act's original intent was to prevent insider trading, the unintended consequences of the law have created personal risks for government employees, as well as potential national security threats.

In his State of the Union address last January, President Barack Obama challenged Congress to "Send me a bill that bans insider trading by members of Congress; I will sign it tomorrow."

As Congress worked on the issue, the legislation that emerged applied not just to members of Congress, but to congressional staff and more than 28,000 executive branch employees. More troubling was the requirement that personal financial reports regularly filed by federal employees be posted in a searchable, downloadable online database.

While financial disclosure forms filed by federal employees are already technically public, they are not available online. The process for obtaining the records requires the person or organization making the request to disclose their identity. On

April 4, the bill signed into law by Pres. Obama did not include any language protecting the privacy of federal employees who are required to file.

As a government transparency measure and an opportunity for members of Congress to demonstrate their commitment to accountability, the STOCK Act received overwhelming

### ... the unintended consequences of the law have created personal risks for government employees ...

support in both the Senate and the House. Only three senators and two representatives opposed the measure: Sen. Jeff Bingaman, D-N.M., voted against it because of the burdensome reporting requirements, while Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., Sen. Richard Burr, R-N.C., Rep. Rob Woodall, R-Ga., and Rep. John Campbell, R-Calif., cited laws already on the books prohibiting insider trading by government officials.

In their effort to prove their commitment to government transparency, legislators failed to see the law's flaws. However, they rapidly became apparent to thousands of federal employees suddenly faced with requirements that their personal financial information be publicly disclosed.

In May, AFSA joined a

coalition of organizations that represent government employees to make a concerted effort to correct the sections of the STOCK Act that put federal workers at personal risk and, potentially, could create a national security threat. National security concerns regarding the public posting requirements were highlighted in a July 19 letter to members of

Congress. Signed by more than a dozen former national security leaders, the letter noted that posting "complete personal financial information of all senior officials on the Internet would be a jackpot for enemies of the United States intent on finding security vulnerabilities they can exploit."

Over the summer, AFSA was fully involved with the coalition's work to convince lawmakers to reconsider the online posting requirements. AFSA President Susan Johnson and AFSA Vice President for the Foreign Commercial Service Keith Curtis led AFSA's efforts to illustrate the unnecessary risks the STOCK Act creates, especially the possibility that Foreign Service personnel could be targeted by hostile intelligence agencies

or criminal organizations. Legislators were receptive to the concerns raised by the coalition regarding the online posting requirements, but were hesitant to undo this aspect of the law. On Aug. 6, Johnson sent a letter to Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, appealing for her support as well.

On Aug. 2, with the deadline for implementation at the end of the month and Congress scheduled to recess until after September, the coalition, joined by the American Civil Liberties Union, filed a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland, challenging the STOCK Act as a breach of federal employees' right to privacy.

After further stopgap extensions through August and September, Congress pushed back the deadline to Dec. 8, and mandated a study by the National Academy of Public Administration to determine the full effects the online posting requirements could have on government employees. The study is not due to be completed until early next year, and members of Congress are already calling for further delays until the NAPA report is finalized. Meanwhile, AFSA and its coalition partners are continuing to pursue both a legislative fix and legal remedies to overturn the online posting requirements. ■



## Celebrating a Courageous Diplomat and Son of California

BY DONNA AYERST,  
EDITOR

On Oct. 16, as family, friends and members of the public took their seats, two large screens flanking the rotunda's grand staircase in San Francisco's majestic City Hall displayed the video of Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens introducing himself to the people of Libya.

Amb. Chris Stevens and three other Americans were killed when terrorists attacked the U.S. mission in Benghazi on Sept. 11.

Hundreds of people came to mourn the tragic death of Chris, but also to celebrate his exemplary life. As the service began, a string quartet played Mozart and Shubert, with Chris's step-brother, David Commanday, playing his mother's cello. What followed was a progression of speakers who shared vignettes, memories and stories of their brother, friend or colleague.

Despite the monumental space, the love shared by those who knew Chris best made it seem cozy. His brother, Tom Stevens, and sisters Anne Stevens Sullivan and Hilary Stevens Koziol, shared childhood memories of an older brother who was mischievous, funny and could talk you into doing things you didn't want to do but did them anyway.

Tom Stevens said that he never got into a fight with



Ambassador Thomas Pickering speaks to family members and the hundreds who gathered in the rotunda of San Francisco City Hall to honor the life of Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens.

Chris, ever. But that didn't mean Chris didn't talk him into launching an attack on their sister Anne. Over laughs from the audience, Tom said, "I still don't know why."

The siblings visited Chris wherever he was posted, and always felt a sense of importance by the attention Chris paid his family when he returned to California. His sister, Anne, recalled how Chris immediately took his place in the family, eating and drinking, playing tennis and listening to their stories. "When he was home, he was home," she said.

Steve McDonald, Chris's roommate at the University of California, Berkeley, shared, "Some say, 'don't sweat the small stuff,' but I

think Chris was successful because he paid attention to the little details and common courtesies that showed the world he cared."

Chris enjoyed playing tennis with The Honorable Ali Suleiman Aujali, the Libyan ambassador to the United States. Amb. Aujali regards his friendship with Chris as highly as he regards his place in Libya's history. Looking directly into the eyes of Chris's family, he told them that Chris would always be a hero of Libya's revolution, that Chris has become a part of Libya's history and will never be forgotten.

"You sent us your best diplomat, but unfortunately, we were not able to protect him," he said. "I am sorry we

were not able to protect him."

Thomas Pickering, former U.S. ambassador and under secretary of state, reiterated by saying, "Chris was among the very best our Foreign Service has to offer."

"He was our leader when it came to Libya," noted George Schultz, former secretary of state.

"Chris was the living embodiment of everything an exemplary diplomat should be: selfless and inquisitive, driven yet principled," said Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton on Oct. 2. "From the Peace Corps to the State Department, his creativity, charisma and intelligence made him a model spokesman on the front lines of American diplomacy."

PHOTOS BY DONNA AYERST



(Above) U.S. Marines watch a video of Amb. Chris Stevens as he introduces himself and his hopes for Libya.



(Left to Right) Tom Stevens, Anne Stevens Sullivan and Hilary Stevens Koziol share memories of their big brother, Chris Stevens.

At the Department of State, Stephen Seche, former ambassador to Yemen and friend and colleague of Chris, said, "It's safe to say that everyone in the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs who worked with Chris Stevens and got to know him—even if only a little bit—still feels the loss created by his death. I was struck by the sheer volume and genuine emotion of the messages I received from former friends and colleagues of Chris as they tried to come to terms with the fact that he had been killed.

That's not always the case in this business of ours, where we have fleeting relationships and then move on (literally and figuratively)

to another place, another job, a new circle of acquaintances. With Chris it felt different, and it was. There is still a large, empty space in NEA left by his absence, but in what is perhaps the most fitting tribute we can pay to a friend who has left us all too soon, it will be filled by the many individuals inspired by Chris to make a genuine difference in the lives of others." ■

### J. CHRISTOPHER STEVENS FUND

Supports activities that build bridges between people of the United States and the Middle East. The Fund will promote religious tolerance, cultural understanding, educational youth exchanges and people-to-people programs. See [rememberingchrisstevens.com](http://rememberingchrisstevens.com).

## The Fallen at Benghazi, September 11, 2012

BY SUSAN JOHNSON, AFSA PRESIDENT

Following the Sept. 11 terrorist attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi that resulted in the tragic loss of life of Ambassador Chris Stevens, Information Management Specialist Sean Smith, and security agents Glen Doherty and Tyrone Woods, AFSA issued a statement extending "our heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the bereaved families and extolling the service and example of our fallen colleagues as an inspiration to us all."

The AFSA statement pointed out that "this violent attack on a U.S. diplomatic compound once again underscores the dangers that

American diplomats face in service to our country."

A memorial to the fallen was set up outside AFSA headquarters and another by the Memorial Plaques in the Department of State's C Street lobby. The memorials included a wreath and message boards on which individuals could leave messages.

The shock of this tragedy was deeply and widely felt. It was especially poignant for members of the Foreign Service and AFSA.

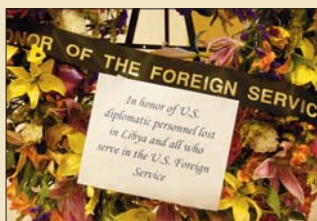
As Deputy Secretary Bill Burns put it "We are a family. We serve together and we grieve together."

While we knew emotions ran deep, the response was even more touching than we had expected. Hundreds of individuals went out of

their way to leave handwritten messages of condolence and appreciation for the service and sacrifice of the fallen. The reflections in these messages are sincere and beautiful and we are honored to preserve them for posterity.

Members of Congress and numerous organizations with which AFSA collaborates sent statements of support. The Senate passed two resolutions in mid-September, one honoring the fallen in Libya and the other praising the Foreign Service as a whole for its important work and its service around the world. The

*The Fallen, Continued on Page 77*



## Senior Living Foundation Seminar: Planning for Change

BY MATTHEW SUMRAK, ASSOCIATE RETIREE COORDINATOR

On Sept. 20, the Senior Living Foundation held a seminar on planning for change, which covered a variety of topics pertinent to retirees: the impact of the Affordable Care Act on the Federal Employees

ments to health care provided by the ACA are already provided for in the FEHB, including no lifetime limits, no prescreening, mandatory essential benefits and established preventive care.

viduals to become involved in their own health and suggested a health diary as one way to do so. Keeping up with inoculations is also important, particularly as we enter flu season. For more information about preventive care, Dr. Rosenfarb suggested visiting [www.healthinaging.com](http://www.healthinaging.com).

To discuss progress in the development of new drug therapies, Dr. Robert S. Epstein, president of EF Associates LLC, said, "There is exciting new research on medications for conditions affecting seniors, and there is a lot of hope here. Thirty-five new drugs have hit the market this year, the most ever, and they are treating diseases that were once thought to be incurable."

Epstein reported that new drugs are debunking previously held scientific beliefs, leaving the door open for some amazing research and new discoveries in the coming years. Dr. Epstein told attendees, "Never believe there is no hope."

Jeffrey Mounts, managing director of global compensation for State's Global Financial Services, spoke about the upcoming changes to the State retirement systems. He reported that the department has successfully implemented a new payment system for both the old and new retirement plans. Attendees were advised to file copies of

annuity forms they receive from the department in their personal records. For questions regarding your government annuity, customer support may be contacted at [payhelp@state.gov](mailto:payhelp@state.gov) or by calling (877) 865-0760 or (800) 521-2553.

Ending the seminar, Jonathan Kinney, a partner at Bean, Kinney and Korman, PC, discussed the importance of estate planning, which protects assets for future generations and distributes them according to your wishes at the time of death. He cautioned that estate plans should be reviewed after any major life event, including receiving an inheritance, an out-of-state move, a career change or a birth of a child, whenever changes in the tax laws occur or every five years, at a minimum.

The Senior Living Foundation is an organization that assists retired members of the Foreign Service and their spouses who, in their later years, have become physically or mentally in need of support. The foundation provides information and assistance in obtaining community, state, federal and private resources and, when more help is needed, some financial support. For more information on the foundation and upcoming events, please see [www.SLFoundation.org](http://www.SLFoundation.org). ■



Left to Right: Paula S. Jakub, executive director of the Senior Living Foundation, joins Amb. Thomas Boyatt and Amb. Marc Grossman, chairman of the SLF board of directors, at the seminar. Below: An attendee looks through the foundation's brochure.

Health Benefits Plan; ways to prevent illness throughout the year; advances in drug therapies for seniors; upcoming changes to State's retirement systems; and information about wills and trusts.

Ambassador Marc Grossman welcomed attendees and praised the work of the Senior Living Foundation.

Daniel Green, deputy director for health care and insurance for the Office of Personnel Management, opened the session. He noted that the biggest improve-

Overall, he hoped that the ACA would bring about better health care, at lower costs, for most Americans.

State's deputy medical director, Dr. Charles H. Rosenfarb, took the podium to address healthy living through preventive care. He stressed the need for indi-





## AFSA Speaker Series: The Future of Medicare

BY BONNIE BROWN, COORDINATOR FOR RETIREE BENEFITS AND LEGISLATION

AFSA hosted the second session in its speaker series on federal benefits on Sept. 10. Dr. Judy Feder, a nationally recognized leader in health policy, spoke on the future of Medicare, a topic of much current interest.

Feder provided a comprehensive explanation of how Medicare works and how the Affordable Care Act complements the program. She compared and contrasted Republican and Democratic proposals for the future of Medicare and assessed their impact for beneficiaries.

“Medicare is effective at containing health costs for its beneficiaries. Because the program is such an enormous purchaser of health services, it has the power to set rates for health providers, rates that are generally 20 to 30 percent lower than costs for private health plans,” Feder said.

“Because of the huge size

of its risk pool, Medicare assures affordable health coverage for senior and disabled beneficiaries. These beneficiaries would have difficulty obtaining coverage if the risk pool were to be divided up, with insurance companies cherry-picking healthier and younger beneficiaries,” she went on to explain.

Medicare now consumes 13 percent of the federal budget and its costs will continue to escalate. This increase will not be due to an increase in health costs, but to the expected enrollment of more than a million baby boomers to Medicare’s rolls each year.

Feder noted that the ACA will reduce excessive health costs by \$716 billion. Current savings have reduced growth of costs per person to an historic low (now roughly at the growth of the economy), and have extended the life of the Medicare Trust Fund by



PHOTOS BY DONNA AYERST

Dr. Judy Feder explains the intricacies of Medicare as she compared and contrasted Republican and Democratic proposals. Her talk inspires a lot of questions, as members of the audience stand in line to ask theirs.

eight years, to 2024.

The ACA’s Independent Payment Advisory Board is empowered to make ongoing rate reduction recommendations in payments; it cannot make recommendations to cut or reduce health services. Feder predicted that continued coordination and experimentation will continue to improve quality of services and lower costs.

Turning to the proposals to change Medicare from a defined benefit plan (which pays all covered services for its beneficiaries), to a defined contribution one (which provides beneficiaries with a voucher or specified amount of money to shop for private health plans), Feder stressed that beneficiaries in a defined contribution system would have little bargaining power. As the risk pool risk would be divvied up, it would become

difficult for people to acquire affordable health coverage. The burden of increased health costs would shift from Medicare to individuals.

As a related matter, she stressed that the proposal by Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wisc., does not provide a mechanism for containing health costs. In fact, it projects a growth rate that would exceed the growth of the economy.

After her talk, Dr. Feder answered the audience’s many questions on Medicare, long-term care and the Federal Employees Health Benefits Plan.

A video of the event is available for viewing at [www.afsa.org/AFSAvideos.aspx](http://www.afsa.org/AFSAvideos.aspx). ■

*The views expressed by Dr. Feder are her own and do not necessarily represent those of AFSA.*



## AFSA Hosts Road Scholar Program in Washington, D.C.

BY ÁSGEIR SIGFÚSSON, DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AND OUTREACH

During the week of Sept. 9-13, AFSA welcomed a group of more than 40 Road Scholar program participants to Washington, D.C. AFSA's Road Scholar programs are designed to introduce Americans to U.S. foreign policy through the experiences of members of the Foreign Service.

It is AFSA's hope that they will return home with a new appreciation and understanding of the work carried out by diplomats both here and abroad. Participants traveled from California, New Mexico, Colorado, West Virginia and Maine to attend the five-day seminar.

This program's theme focused on the critical foreign policy issues related to the Middle East, Latin America and Africa. An ambitious agenda, to be sure, but through the 12 lectures and three field trips, participants were able to gain a comprehensive understanding of U.S. policy in those regions of the world.

Meeting with both retired and active-duty Foreign Service members, the group heard presentations on the Arab Spring, Israel and Palestine, Venezuela, Cuba, Sudan and Somalia, among other topics. To keep the conversation going, the group stayed at the Savoy Suites Hotel in northwest Washington.

Field trips included visits to the Brazilian embassy,



Road Scholar participants enjoy a tour of DACOR Bacon House as Kyle Longton, DACOR's associate director for operations, describes the historic house's collection of paintings, furniture and documents.

The group gathers in the house's beautiful garden, a popular venue for weddings and other special events.

PHOTOS BY DONNA AKERST

where they met with the embassy's political counselor; the Foreign Service Institute, where they received a consular briefing and a Pashto language lesson; and the DACOR Bacon House, where they were treated to a house and garden tour as well as a lovely lunch.

Since 1996, AFSA has partnered with the national

Road Scholar organization (formerly known as Elderhostel) to enhance understanding of foreign policy and the Foreign Service among the American public. During those 16 years, thousands of Americans have attended our programs, which are scheduled eight times a year in Washington and twice a year in Chautauqua, N.Y.

To learn more about the partnership and to see a list of upcoming programs, please visit [www.afsa.org/roadscholar](http://www.afsa.org/roadscholar). AFSA members who wish to volunteer as speakers for future Road Scholar programs are encouraged to get in touch with AFSA at [sigfusson@afsa.org](mailto:sigfusson@afsa.org). ■

*The Fallen, Continued from Page 73*

House passed a similarly strong resolution honoring our fallen colleagues. These heartfelt expressions of support encourage and inspire us and strengthen our resolve to serve the higher interests of our country regardless of the dangers and hardships that are part of the environment in which diplomats operate.

The lives and public service careers of Amb. John Christopher Stevens, Sean Patrick Smith, Glen Anthony Doherty and Tyrone S. Woods embody the values of service, courage and patriotism and their example will continue to inspire us all.

AFSA Executive Director Ian Houston recalled a moving poem that resonated with him, which he hopes will

comfort all those who grieve for our fallen colleagues in Benghazi. The 1932 poem by Mary Frye reads:

*Do not stand at my grave and weep,  
I am not there, I do not sleep.  
I am a thousand winds that blow.  
I am the diamond glint on snow.  
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.  
I am the gentle autumn rain.*

If you wish to make a contribution to support the families of the fallen, please go to [www.afsa.org/libyasupport](http://www.afsa.org/libyasupport) or send an email to Lori Dec at [dec@afsa.org](mailto:dec@afsa.org).

AFSA will always remember and honor the lives and service of these patriots. ■

**NEWS BRIEF**

**AFSA Speaker Series on Federal Benefits Continues**

Walton Francis, principal author of the annual Consumer Checkbooks' *Guide to Health Plans for Federal Employees and Annuity*, will be the third speaker in our Federal Benefits Speakers Series. Mr. Francis will speak about considerations in comparing federal health plans for federal employees and annuitants on Monday, Nov. 19, at 2 p.m. at AFSA headquarters, 2101 E St. NW, Washington, D.C. Please RSVP to [events@afsa.org](mailto:events@afsa.org).

Francis is a self-employed economist, expert in the analysis and evaluation of public programs and in government regulation. He holds Master's degrees from Harvard and Yale universities.

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## AFSA NEWS

### NEWS BRIEF

#### Support the Fund for American Diplomacy with a CFC Donation

Please consider supporting AFSA's Fund for American Diplomacy with a pledge to CFC #10646, listed under "Diplomacy Matters – AFSA." The FAD helps promote AFSA's mission of bringing American diplomacy and the Foreign Service to the public through various outreach programs, including AFSA's Memorial Plaque in the State Department lobby, the Road Scholar Program, the Speakers Bureau, the Sinclair Awards, the High School Essay Contest. It also provides funding for events, such as AFSA's speaker series, book notes programs and panels, and honors members of the Foreign Service community who have performed courageous and exemplary service. For more information on FAD, please go to [www.afsa.org/fund\\_for\\_american\\_diplomacy](http://www.afsa.org/fund_for_american_diplomacy) or contact Tom Switzer, AFSA director of communications, at (202) 944-5501.

### NEWS BRIEF

#### 2012 Special Education Needs Seminar Videos Available on the Internet

Videos from the most recent seminar for employees who have children with special education needs and who are, or will be, assigned to a U.S. mission abroad are now available on the Foreign Service Institute Transition Center's Internet site. The presentations paint a comprehensive picture of the department's special education support system and resources, helping parents to plan for their children's education overseas.

Experts from within the department present the following segments:

- Navigating the System, Dr. Stanley S. Piotroski, Director, Employee Consultation Services
- Educating My Child, Dr. Pamela A. Ward, Regional Education Officer, Office of Overseas Schools
- Parent to Parent, Dianna Rooney and Charles Roe, Crisis Management Team, Family Liaison Office

To view the videos online, please visit [www.state.gov/m/fsi/tc/fslstraining/specialeducation](http://www.state.gov/m/fsi/tc/fslstraining/specialeducation).

On Sept. 14, the remains of the four American diplomatic personnel who died in the terrorist attack on the U.S. mission in Benghazi, Libya, on Sept. 11 returned to American soil. Their coffins, each draped with an American flag, arrived aboard a military aircraft at Andrews Air Force Base, where they were solemnly received by President Barack Obama, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, other government officials, family members, friends and State Department colleagues.

AFSA President Susan Johnson, AFSA Governing Board members and staff were also in attendance at the ceremony.

“Four Americans, four patriots,” President Barack Obama said in formal remarks on the occasion. “They had a mission, and they believed in it. They knew the danger, and they accepted it. They didn’t simply embrace the American ideal; they lived it, they embodied it: the courage, the hope and, yes, the idealism—that fundamental American belief that we can leave this world a little better than before.”

■ **John Christopher Stevens**, 52, a career FSO who had been confirmed as the U.S. ambassador to Libya in May, was on his third tour in that country when he was killed.

Christopher Stevens was born in 1960 in Grass Valley, Calif., and grew up in the East Bay community of Piedmont. He was an American Field Service Intercultural Programs exchange student in Spain during the summer of 1977. After graduating from Piedmont High School the next year, he went on to earn a B.A. degree in history at the University of California, Berkeley in 1982.

In 1983 he undertook his first overseas service, teaching English as a Peace

Corps Volunteer in the Atlas Mountains of Morocco for two years. “In our Peace Corps training in Morocco, there was a tall, blond kid who was known, among other things, as the one with the unfailing old-school courtesy toward all,” Valerie Staats, now Peace Corps director in Sierra Leone, states in a tribute to her slain colleague on Stevens’ Facebook page. Mr. Stevens, she recalls, “always said he wanted to be an ambassador, and we didn’t doubt him.”

Returning to the United States, he entered law school, graduating with a J.D. from the University of California’s Hastings College of the Law in San Francisco in 1989. He received an M.S. degree from the National War College in 2010.

Mr. Stevens joined the Foreign Service in 1991, after working for two years as an international trade attorney in Washington, D.C. Fluent in Arabic and French, he focused on the Middle East during his 21-year diplomatic career. His overseas assignments included service as consular/economic officer in Riyadh, consular/political officer in Cairo, political officer in Damascus, and deputy principal officer and political section chief in Jerusalem.

In Washington, he served as director of the Office of Multilateral Nuclear and Security Affairs, a Pearson Fellow with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, a special assistant to the under secretary for political affairs, an Iran desk officer and a staff assistant in the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs.

Prior to his appointment as the first U.S. ambassador to post-Qadhafi Libya, Amb. Stevens had already served in the country twice. From 2007 to 2009, following the resumption of U.S. diplomatic relations with Moammar Qadhafi’s government when the mercurial

leader was trying to mend relations with Washington, Stevens was deputy chief of mission in Tripoli.

Later, from March to November 2011, during the uprising that eventually overthrew the Qadhafi regime, he served as a special representative to the National Transitional Council. During that assignment, Stevens displayed the qualities of courage, commitment, resourcefulness and unflappability for which he had become known.

With a civil war in progress in Libya, Ambassador Stevens and his team arrived at post in an unconventional manner: on a Greek cargo ship from Malta. Describing the experience in a talk at Diplomats and Consular Officers, Retired, on May 3, he downplayed the obvious dangers of his work, as he did routinely, to focus on the mission: support for a democratic transition in Libya.

“It’s especially tragic that Chris Stevens died in Benghazi, because it is a city that he helped to save,” President Barack Obama said in a brief tribute at the White House on Sept. 12. “He worked tirelessly to support this young democracy.”

“Funny and charming, with a broad smile and wide curiosity” is the way colleagues described Mr. Stevens to *Washington Post* correspondent Anne Gearan, pointing out that he made friends easily and kept them. He was candid and had a direct style of speaking, they added, a trait that won him fans among Arabs and a following among journalists who covered Middle East hot spots.

Stevens was well-known for haggling at the shops of the Old City in Jerusalem and lingering over coffee in the walled Old City in Tripoli. He enjoyed mingling with Arabs and sought a street-level view of events, often chafing at the post-9/11 security measures that sometimes con-

strain diplomats. As a political officer in Jerusalem, with the sensitive assignment of working with the Palestinian leadership, he tried to get into the West Bank even when violence flared between Palestinians and Israelis.

As Ghaith al-Omari, a former top adviser to the Palestinian Authority who dealt with Amb. Stevens during peace negotiations, told the *Washington Post*: “We were on opposite sides in a way. During a meeting, he was very proper and professional. Having a coffee after the meeting, he was very friendly and asked a lot of questions. You ended up with a diplomat who had texture.”

“He understood so much about the Middle East,” Austin Tichenor, a high school classmate and lifelong friend, told the *Post*. “The only small solace is that he died the same way he lived,” he added—in the thick of things.

“I was honored to know Ambassador Chris Stevens,” Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said in her remarks at Andrews Air Force Base on Sept. 14. “I want to thank his parents and siblings for sharing Chris with us and with our country. What a wonderful gift you gave us. Over his distinguished career in the Foreign Service, Chris won friends for the United States in far-flung places.”

“One of the very finest officers of his generation in the Foreign Service” is how Deputy Secretary of State William J. Burns described Christopher Stevens on Sept. 12. “I last saw Chris on a visit to Libya about six weeks ago, shortly after his arrival as ambassador, and I remember thinking on the plane ride home that his was the kind of courage and talent and leadership that would inspire another generation of American diplomats,” Burns told the *Washington Post*. “We will miss him deeply, but long remember his example.”

Mr. Stevens maintained a daily regimen of running even in Libya, jogging through goat farms, olive groves and vineyards. He played tennis, was a Los Angeles Lakers fan and enjoyed playing the saxophone. He was a member of AFSA and DACOR.

His father, Jan S. Stevens, is a lawyer. His mother, Mary Commandy, a cellist with the Marin Symphony Orchestra from 1976 to 2004, is a Chinook Indian, and Stevens and his siblings are direct descendants of Chinook Chief Comcomly. The Stevenses divorced in 1975, and both remarried.

Christopher Stevens is survived by his father, Jan Stevens; his mother and stepfather, Mary and Robert Commandy of Piedmont, Calif.; a sister, Anne; a brother, Thomas; and a stepsister, Hilary.

The family has created a Web site, *Remembering Chris Stevens* ([www.rememberingchrisstevens.com](http://www.rememberingchrisstevens.com)) and established a fund in his name to support the work of building bridges between the people of the United States and the Middle East, the endeavour to which he dedicated his life.

■ **Sean Patrick Smith**, 34, a State Department information management officer and 10-year veteran of the Foreign Service, was in Libya on a temporary assignment when he was killed.

A native of San Diego, Calif., Mr. Smith enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1995 at the age of 17. He served for six years as a ground radio maintenance specialist, including a deployment to Oman, before leaving the Air Force in 2002 as a staff sergeant. He joined the Foreign Service that year as an information management specialist.

Hailing Sean Smith as “one of our best,” Secretary of State Clinton praised

his service to the country in previous postings to Brussels, Baghdad, Pretoria, Montreal and The Hague. “He enrolled in correspondence courses at Penn State and had high hopes for the future,” Clinton continued in her remarks at Andrews Air Force Base.

Referring to the many grieving family members, friends, and colleagues Smith leaves behind, Clinton added: “And that’s just in this world. Because online in the virtual worlds that Sean helped create, he is also being mourned by countless competitors, collaborators and gamers who shared his passion.”

Mr. Smith was well known as a computer expert and an active member of the online gaming community. In particular, he was an avid participant in EVE Online, the intergalactic multi-player game of space combat, diplomacy and political intrigue where he was known as “Vile Rat”—a smart but tough diplomat and spy who worked on behalf of a major alliance called Goonswarm.

Online gamers were among the first to learn of his death. Mr. Smith, who had been online with fellow gamer and Goonswarm director Alex Gianturco shortly before the Sept. 11 attack on the U.S. consulate erupted, signed off temporarily with this fateful message: “...assuming we don’t die tonight. We saw one of our ‘police’ that guard the compound taking pictures.”

It had happened before. “In Baghdad, the same kind of thing happened—incoming sirens, he’d vanish, we’d freak out and he’d come back ok after a bit,” Gianturco recalled later. But, “this time he said ‘F---’ and ‘Gunfire,’ then disconnected and never returned.”

That night Gianturco, known in the EVE world as The Mittani, posted this: “My people, I have grievous news. Vile Rat has been confirmed to be KIA in



Benghazi; his family has been informed, and the news is likely to break out on the wire services soon. Needless to say, we are in shock, have no words, and have nothing but sympathy for his family and children. I have known Vile Rat since 2006; he was one of the oldest of old-guard goons and one of the best and most effective diplomats this game has ever seen.”

Within minutes of the official announcement that Smith was among the dead in Benghazi, tributes from players flooded social media, gaming boards and instant messaging in honor of a “true American hero,” as the gaming writers and staff at *The Inquisitr* put it.

Sean Smith was also a member of the player-elected government, the Council of Stellar Management, that is authorized in-world to liaise with the game’s developers in Iceland.

“This was very real ‘parallel’ diplomatic work in which Smith was engaged, and he is clearly missed deeply by those who were engaged in it with him and who understood the level of skill required,” Anne Collier noted in a Sept. 13 blog post on the *Christian Science Monitor* site. “EVE Online is a fascinating experiment in online plus offline governance. It’s an experiment in starting ‘civilization’ from scratch.”

In the weeks since the tragedy, gaming friends and others have raised more than \$100,000 for the Smith children’s college fund through an online campaign at YouCaring.com that ends on Dec. 1.

Sean Smith is survived by his wife, Heather, and their two young children, Nathan and Samantha.

■ **Glen Anthony Doherty**, 42, a former Navy SEAL, was assigned to a State Department security detail at the time of his death.

Mr. Doherty, the second of three children, grew up in a close-knit family in Winchester, Mass. He attended Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Arizona following high school, but left to become a “ski bum” at Snowbird, Utah, and work as a whitewater rafting guide on the Colorado River.

In 1996, he joined the Navy, becoming a SEAL with skills as a paramedic and a sniper. He was assigned to West Coast-based special warfare units, responding to the bombing of the USS *Cole* in 2000 and serving two tours in Iraq.

He was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with Combat Distinguishing Device. Mr. Doherty left the Navy in 2005 as a petty officer first class to work for private security firms in the Middle East region.

“He, too, died as he lived, serving his country and protecting his colleagues,” said Sec. Clinton in her remarks at Andrews Air Force Base. “Glen deployed to some of the most dangerous places on Earth, including Iraq and Afghanistan, always putting his life on the line to safeguard other Americans.”

Although drawn fearlessly to action and adventure, Mr. Doherty would generally return every few months to the United States to visit friends and family. “He was the glue that kept many social scenes together,” his brother, Greg, told the *Washington Post*. “He never met a stranger,” a friend and former SEAL recalls. “There is nothing he wouldn’t do to help those that were close to him.”

Glen Doherty is survived by his parents, Bernard and Barbara; his brother, Gregory, and sister, Kathleen, and their families.

■ **Tyrone S. Woods**, 41, who served for two decades as a Navy SEAL, had been working for the State Department

protecting U.S. diplomatic personnel at posts in the Middle East and Central America since 2010.

“He had the hands of a healer as well as the arm of a warrior,” Sec. Clinton said in her remarks at Andrews Air Force Base. President Obama described Woods as a “quiet, consummate professional.”

The *Washington Post* quoted his mother’s description of her son: “He was a guy you would want to have in your corner if you were in a tight situation.”

A native of Portland, Ore., Mr. Woods enlisted in the Navy out of high school in 1990 and was attached to SEAL units on the West Coast. He deployed on multiple tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as serving at the Naval Medical Center in San Diego, earning distinction as a registered nurse and certified paramedic.

He retired from the Navy in 2007 as a senior chief petty officer, with decorations that included a Bronze Star with Combat V.

Known to friends as Rone, Mr. Woods had previously owned the Salty Frog Bar in Imperial Beach, Calif., that catered to SEALs and other military personnel stationed in the area. “Everyone’s very upset,” Stacy Forrestal, a former neighbour of Woods who works at a nearby establishment, is quoted as saying. “It’s a tight-knit community.”

Mr. Woods is survived by his wife, Dorothy, a dentist in La Jolla, Calif.; a son, Kai, born several months ago; two teenage sons from a previous marriage, Tyrone Jr. and Hunter; and his mother, Cheryl Croft Bennett, of San Diego, Calif. ■

# Inside a U.S. Embassy

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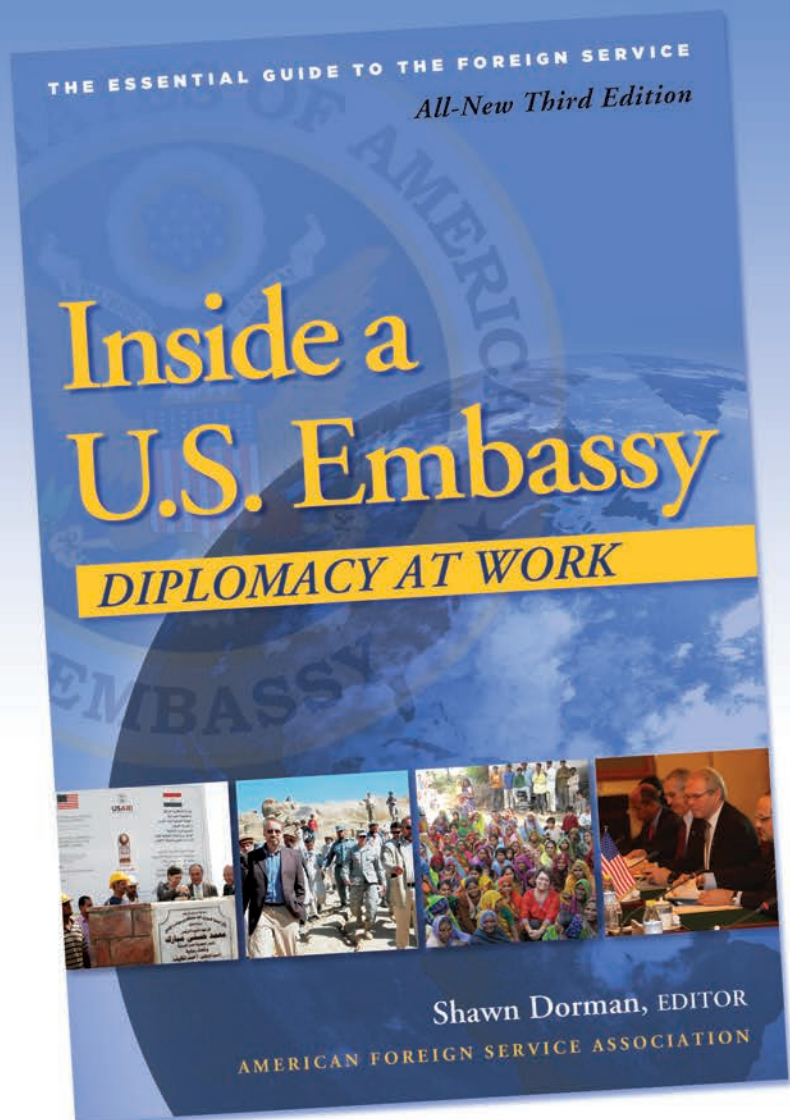
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# Nicholas Katzenbach's Enduring Service

BY RENNIE A. SILVA

**F**ormer Under Secretary of State Nicholas Katzenbach, who died in May at the age of 90, stood near the center of presidential power throughout some of the tensest moments in his country's history. What lessons does his public service offer to Americans joining the ranks of the State Department today?

An accomplished lawyer, decorated World War II veteran and Rhodes Scholar, Katzenbach guided foreign policy decision-making at the highest levels in Washington with exceptional precision and prescience. While serving at the Justice Department, he advised President John F. Kennedy as the Cuban Missile Crisis unfolded and drafted a memo supporting a naval blockade of Cuba. Following Katzenbach's advice, the president averted nuclear war with the Soviet Union.

Katzenbach later relinquished his Cabinet-level position leading the Justice Department in 1966 to fill the sub-Cabinet-level position of under secretary at the Department of State. He moved to Foggy Bottom at the behest of Lyndon Johnson, who was eager to find a replacement for outgoing Under Secretary George Ball—someone who would be capable of bringing American involvement in Vietnam to a close.

Ever loyal to the leaders he served, Katzenbach stayed on as the deputy to Secretary of State Dean Rusk through

An accomplished lawyer, decorated World War II veteran and Rhodes Scholar, Nicholas Katzenbach guided foreign policy decision-making at the highest levels in Washington with exceptional precision and prescience.

the end of the Johnson administration, even as the war consumed the energies of both men and irreversibly diminished the public support of the president. During his tenure, he identified a handful of young Foreign Service officers to work on his staff, including Lawrence Eagleburger, Anthony Lake and Richard Holbrooke. Each went on to fill senior-level positions in the department and at the White House over the ensuing four decades.

Despite his contributions to foreign policy, Nicholas Katzenbach is most often remembered for his work at home to advance the cause of civil rights, such as confronting recalcitrant Alabama Governor George Wallace during his defiant 1963 "stand in the schoolhouse door." Katzenbach's symbolic triumph over steadfast and often violent resistance to desegregation in the South was accompanied by long hours of work behind closed doors on Capitol Hill to pass groundbreaking legislation of the Great Society era.

After helping to secure the landmark victories of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

and Voting Rights Act of 1965, he successfully defended the constitutionality of the latter before the Supreme Court.

"Leadership in a democracy does not equate with the power to decide, but the power to persuade," Katzenbach reflected in his memoirs, published in 2008.

His departure from the scene comes at a time when those joining the U.S. government agencies that he once helped lead, this author included, face significant challenges around the world. At the same time, widening political, socioeconomic and cultural divisions at home exert an increasingly negative influence on the ability of public institutions to formulate and implement solutions.

Nicholas Katzenbach's career reminds us that these challenges are neither unprecedented nor insurmountable. His remarkable intellect, unwavering patriotism and persistent pragmatism allowed him to shape the events during an equally tumultuous era—from the civil rights movement to the Cuban Missile Crisis and the war in Vietnam—and have a lasting positive impact on the values and future of his country. His life should inspire new generations of American diplomats to aspire to achieve the same. ■

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*Rennie A. Silva is a Presidential Management Fellow in the Office of eDiplomacy at the State Department. The views expressed here are his own and do not necessarily reflect those of the U.S. government.*



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*Beth Payne is a 20-year veteran of the Foreign Service and a member of the FSJ Editorial Board. She has served in the Middle East, Africa and South Asia, and is now posted in Washington, D.C., where she is director of the Office of Children's Issues in the Bureau of Consular Affairs. She is an avid photographer. You can see more of her photographs at <http://backroadtravels.worldpress.com>.*

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