Contents

Introductory Section .......................................................... 1

Why This Book?
By Shawn Dorman ......................................................... 1

What Is the Foreign Service?
By John Naland and Susan Johnson ................................. 2

U.S. Presence in the World in 2011 .................................. 4

Map: Department of State Locations ............................... 6

Flow Chart: Foreign Affairs Agencies Inside U.S. Embassies 8

PART I
Profiles: Who Works in an Embassy? ................................. 9

Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch, Embassy Yerevan, Armenia . 10
Deputy Chief of Mission Dan Piccuta, Embassy Beijing, China . 12
Consul General Elisabeth Millard, Embassy Casablanca, Morocco . 15
USAID Mission Director Hilda Arellano, Embassy Cairo, Egypt . 17
Commercial Officer (Foreign Commercial Service) Richard Steffens,
Embassy Kyiv, Ukraine ................................................... 20
Agricultural Officer (Foreign Agricultural Service) Holly Higgins,
Embassy New Delhi, India ................................................ 22
Political Officer Dereck J. Hogan, Embassy Moscow, Russia .... 24
Economic Officer Susannah Cooper, Embassy Abu Dhabi,
United Arab Emirates ..................................................... 27
Consular Officer Donald Moore, Embassy Port-au-Prince, Haiti . 29
Public Affairs Officer Christopher Teal, Consulate General
Guadalajara, Mexico .......................................................... 31
Management Officer Rachna Korthonen, Embassy Kuwait City, Kuwait . 34
Regional Security Officer Nicholas Collura, Embassy Sana’a, Yemen . 36
Provincial Reconstruction Team Director Jim DeHart, PRT Panjshir,
Afghanistan ........................................................................ 38
USAID Democracy Officer Bruce Abrams, *Embassy Lima, Peru* ............ 41
Refugee Coordinator Nancy Cohen, *Embassy Belgrade, Serbia* ............ 43
Regional Environmental Officer Bruce Hudspeth, *Embassy Astana, Kazakhstan* ............................................................. 45
Entry-Level Officer Carolyn Dubrovsky, *Embassy Kathmandu, Nepal* .... 48
Office Management Specialist Elizabeth Babroski, *U.S. Mission to the OSCE, Vienna, Austria* .................................................. 50
Information Management Officer Mark Butchart, *Embassy Pretoria, South Africa* ................................................................. 53
Facility Manager Gary Hein, *Embassy Cairo, Egypt* ......................... 55
Medical Officer Mark Cohen, *Embassy Nairobi, Kenya* ..................... 58
Diplomatic Courier Edward Bent, *Embassy Bangkok, Thailand* .......... 60
Locally Employed Staff Mimy Santika, *USAID Mission, Jakarta, Indonesia* .... 62
Locally Employed Staff Edgar Zamudio, *Consulate General Tijuana, Mexico* .... 65

**PART II**

**Foreign Service Work and Life: Embassy, Employee, Family** .... 69

The Embassy and the Country Team ............................................. 69

- Minds Wide Open: The FSN-FSO Relationship
  By Galina Sabeva ................................................................. 71
- The Visit: The Foreign Service on Call
  By Matthew A. Cenzer, Scott Kofmehl, Tristram Perry, and Michael Mullins . 77

Not Just a Job: The Foreign Service Life .................................... 83

- Twenty-Eight More Weeks: Life in Language Training
  By Brendan M. Wheeler ......................................................... 85
- Outside Opportunities: Sabbaticals, Fellowships, and Details
  By Kelly and Steve Adams-Smith ............................................ 89
- What If I Disagree? Dissent in the Foreign Service
  By Ambassador Thomas Boyatt ............................................... 94

The Foreign Service Family .................................................... 97

- Tai Tai: A Diplomat’s Wife in the Middle Kingdom
  By Donna Scaramasutra Gorman ............................................ 99
- A (Non-Traditional) Tandem in India
  By Clayton Bond ........................................................................ 104
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Waking Up in Vietnam</td>
<td>Benjamin Winnick</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Cross-Cultural Friendship</td>
<td>Rachel Midura</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Spouse at Work in the Mission</td>
<td>Aryani Manring</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PART III</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Day in the Life of the Foreign Service: One-Day Journals</td>
<td></td>
<td>119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Consular Officer in Chennai, India</td>
<td>Kris Fresonke</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Principal Officer in Recife, Brazil</td>
<td>Diana Page</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An Economic Officer in Dhaka, Bangladesh</td>
<td>Carter Wilbur</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Consul General in Vladivostok, Russia</td>
<td>Tom Armbruster</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An Economic and Commercial Officer in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso</td>
<td>Pamela Hamblett</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Cultural Affairs Officer in Dushanbe, Tajikistan</td>
<td>Anne Benjaminson</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An Environment, Science, Technology, and Health Officer in Tegucigalpa, Honduras</td>
<td>Jason McInerney</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An Office Management Specialist in Stockholm, Sweden</td>
<td>Lynn C. Stapleton</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Counselor for Public Affairs in Nouakchott, Mauritania</td>
<td>Heather Carlin Fabrikant</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Consular Officer in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam</td>
<td>James P. Du Vernay</td>
<td>139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Community Liaison Office Coordinator in Buenos Aires, Argentina</td>
<td>Candace Brasseur</td>
<td>141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Political Officer in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo</td>
<td>Tracy Whittington</td>
<td>144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Political Officer and Arms Control Delegate in Vienna, Austria</td>
<td>Hugh Neighbour</td>
<td>146</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A Foreign Service Spouse in San Jose, Costa Rica  
*By Kelly Schierman* ................................................................. 148

A Political/Economic Section Chief in Conakry, Guinea  
*By Shannon Nagy Cazeau* ...................................................... 150

A Political Officer/Stabilization Coordinator in Port-au-Prince, Haiti  
*By David Becker* .................................................................. 152

A Public Affairs Officer in Baghdad, Iraq  
*By Michael McClellan* ............................................................ 155

A Commercial Counselor in Mexico City, Mexico  
*By Michael Lally* .................................................................. 158

A Regional Medical Officer in Moscow, Russia  
*By Larry Padget* .................................................................. 160

A Public Affairs Officer in Guangzhou, China  
*By Ed Dunn* ........................................................................ 162

A Consular Officer in Guangzhou, China  
*By Esther Pan Sloane* ............................................................. 164

A Political Officer in Dhi Qar, Iraq  
*By Jon Dorschner* ................................................................. 165

A Consular Officer in Shanghai, China  
*By Jaimee Macanas Neel* ........................................................ 168

An Ambassador in Harare, Zimbabwe  
*By Charles Ray* .................................................................. 170

**PART IV**  
**The Foreign Service in Action: Tales from the Field** ............ 173

Democracy Under Construction: Maldives, 2006  
*By Anamika Chakravorty* ....................................................... 174

After the Asian Tsunami: Thailand, 2004  
*By Mike Chadwick* ................................................................. 176

Ten for a Dollar: Liberia, 1996  
*By Michael Bricker* ............................................................... 178

Madonna in Kunduz: Afghanistan, 2008  
*By Matthew Asada* ............................................................... 179

Surviving a Terrorist Attack: Yemen, 2008  
*By David Turnbull* ............................................................... 182

One Riot, One Ambassador: Macedonia, 1999  
*By Charles A. Stonecipher* .................................................... 184
Anatomy of an Evacuation: Guinea, 2007
By Rosemary Motisi ......................................................... 186

Cyclone Sidr Relief: Bangladesh, 2007
By Heather Variava ......................................................... 189

A Hot August in Kirkuk: Iraq, 2008
By Jeffrey Ashley ......................................................... 190

In the Wake of Terrorist Attacks: Egypt, 2005
By Jacqueline Deley ....................................................... 192

Disarming Iran’s Nuclear Campaign: Austria, 2005
By Matthew Boland ....................................................... 194

A New Country is Born: Kosovo, 2008
By Christopher Midura .................................................. 196

Watching Your Embassy Burn: Serbia, 2008
By Rian Harker Harris ................................................... 198

By Sean O’Brien ............................................................. 201

Al-Qaida Attack on the Consulate: Saudi Arabia, 2004
By Heather E. Kalmbach .................................................. 202

By Andrew R. Young ..................................................... 204

PART V
So You Want to Join the Foreign Service? .......................... 207
A Guide to State Department Generalist (FSO) Hiring ............ 207

  Disabled and in the Foreign Service
  By Avraham Rabby ..................................................... 209

  Which Career Track Is Right for Me?
  By Kelly Adams-Smith ............................................... 215

  Acronyms and Terms for the Assessment Process ................. 223

  Weeding Out the Dummies
  By Anonymous .......................................................... 224

  The Thirteen Dimensions of Foreign Service Work ................. 229

  Preparing for a Career in the Foreign Service:
  What to Read, Study, and Do
  By Mark Palermo ...................................................... 234

  A Guide to State Department Specialist (FSS) Hiring ........... 236
Joining the U.S. Agency for International Development ............... 241
Joining the Foreign Agricultural Service ................................. 247
Joining the Foreign Commercial Service ................................ 249
Joining the International Broadcasting Bureau ....................... 250
Internships and Fellowships
By Scott Kofmehl and Danielle Derbes .................................. 251

Appendix ................................................................................. 257
Acronyms and Abbreviations .................................................. 257
   Agencies and Organizations .................................................. 257
   Embassy Offices, Positions, and Related Terms .................... 259
Foreign Affairs Online Resources ............................................ 262
Selected Readings ................................................................... 263
Study Resources for the Foreign Service Officer Test ................ 264