

U.S. Global Health Diplomacy and the Role of Ambassadors

Monday, March 17, 2014

9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

BIOGRAPHIES

Jeanine Jackson

U.S. Ambassador to Malawi

Ambassador Jackson was nominated by President Obama on May 9, 2011 and confirmed by the Senate on June 30, 2011 to become the next ambassador to Malawi. Jackson, a native of Wyoming, recently completed a two-year assignment as Minister Counselor for management at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad. As such, she provided in a war zone, the support platform for the world's largest embassy. She simultaneously led the planning and implementation processes required to expand the number of diplomatic establishments throughout Iraq and to take over myriad support functions currently provided by the U.S. military. Ambassador Jackson received the Secretary's Distinguished Honor Award for leading the Iraq military to civilian transition effort.

She is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service and a retired colonel of the U.S. Army Reserve. She has served as a diplomat in Switzerland, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Hong Kong, Kenya, and Afghanistan. She was appointed as U.S. Ambassador to Burkina Faso where her focus from 2006-2009 was improved military cooperation and increased infrastructure and development assistance for that West African Country. Ms. Jackson has been a key player in activities related to creating, adapting, rebuilding, and reopening different U.S. Embassies: As post management officer for the Soviet Union at the time of its dissolution, she managed from Washington the establishment of U.S. Embassies in the 14 new countries left in its wake.

In Hong Kong she established programs to protect the interests of all U.S. Government civilian, military, and local employees at the time of the British Colony's reversion to Chinese sovereignty. In Kenya following the Al Qaeda bombing, she served as supervisory general services officer of the largest embassy in Africa and was key to reestablishing its operations and infrastructure. In Afghanistan in 2001, she led the team that reopened the U.S. Embassy and then returned to Kabul in 2002 and served as the Embassy's management counselor until 2003. From Kabul she went to Washington where she was the Department of State's Management Coordinator responsible for the Inter-Agency effort to reestablish the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad.

In Burkina Faso she achieved a bilateral agreement which enabled U.S. Special Operations Command to regularize and accelerate its counterterrorism work against Al Qaeda in the Maghreb and a five hundred million dollar Millennium Challenge Corporation grant for infrastructure, education and agricultural projects. Concurrently, she orchestrated a greatly improved, bilateral development relationship, cementing strong and mutually supportive ties between the governments and peoples of Burkina Faso and the United States.

Prior to entering the Foreign Service, Ms. Jackson worked in Saigon as a civil service employee in the Office of the U.S. Defense Attaché and then served 10 years as an active duty Army officer, primarily in Germany and Korea. She continued her military service for another 20 years as a reservist while pursuing her Foreign Service career.

Ambassador Jackson earned a bachelor's degree in art education followed by a master's degree in business administration.

Jen Kates**Vice President and Director of Global Health & HIV Policy, Kaiser Family Foundation**

Dr. Jen Kates is Vice President and Director of Global Health & HIV Policy at the Kaiser Family Foundation. She oversees the Foundation's policy analysis and research focused on the U.S. government's role in global health and on the global and domestic HIV epidemics. Widely regarded as an expert in the field, she regularly publishes and presents on global health and HIV policy issues and is particularly known for her work analyzing donor government investments in global health; assessing and mapping the U.S. government's global health architecture, programs, and funding; and tracking and analyzing major U.S. HIV programs and financing, and key trends in the HIV epidemic, an area she has been working in for twenty-five years. Prior to joining the Foundation in 1998, Dr. Kates was a Senior Associate with The Lewin Group, a health care consulting firm, where she focused on HIV policy, strategic planning/health systems analysis, and health care for vulnerable populations. Prior to that, she directed the Office of Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Concerns at Princeton University.

Dr. Kates serves on numerous federal and private sector advisory committees on global health and HIV/AIDS issues. Currently, she is a member of the CDC/HRSA Advisory Committee on HIV, Viral Hepatitis and STD Prevention and Treatment (CHACHSPT). She recently served on the Institute of Medicine's (IOM) Congressionally-mandated evaluation of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), and on two IOM study committees commissioned by the White House to inform the implementation of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy.

Dr. Kates received her Ph.D. in Health Policy from George Washington University, where she is also a lecturer. She holds a Bachelor's degree from Dartmouth College, a Master's degree in Public Affairs from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs and a Master's degree in Political Science from the University of Massachusetts.

Walter E. North**U.S. Ambassador to Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu**

Ambassador Walter North is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service holding the rank of Career Minister.

He was sworn in as the U.S. Ambassador to Papua New Guinea on November 7, 2012. Prior to that, Ambassador North served as the Mission Director of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in Egypt.

He served as the mission director in India, Indonesia and Zambia. Other overseas postings include Ethiopia and Bangladesh.

Ambassador North held a number of positions at USAID's Washington headquarters including as assistant administrator for the Bureau for Africa, senior deputy assistant administrator for the Bureau for Asia and the Near East, and senior deputy assistant administrator for the Bureau for Policy and Program Coordination, which included responsibility for the Agency's budget. He has also served with the Offices of East Asian Affairs and East African Affairs.

Ambassador North has a master's in public administration from Harvard University and a law degree from the George Washington University. He did his undergraduate studies at Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin.

Leslie Rowe

Acting Special Representative in the Office of Global Health Diplomacy

Ambassador Leslie Rowe serves as Acting Special Representative in the Office of Global Health Diplomacy. In this role, she is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the office, fulfilling the mission of the office to support ambassadors as they engage in diplomatic efforts to advance our global health goals and help countries eventually own their health care response.

As a Foreign Service Officer, Ambassador Rowe has served our nation in a number of positions at posts throughout the globe. From 2010 to 2012, she served as U.S. Ambassador to Mozambique, representing the Embassy on issues relating to global health, regional security, democracy and good governance, food security, and the promotion of bilateral trade. From 2006 to 2009, she was U.S. Ambassador to Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu and also served as Deputy Chief of Mission from 2003 to 2006 at the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya.

From 2000 to 2003, she served as Consul General in Bangkok, Thailand with regional responsibilities for U.S. Embassies in Burma, Cambodia and Laos. She was Consul General in Lisbon, Portugal from 1996 to 2000 and was the first Director of the State Department's Office of Children's Issues from 1994 to 1996. She also served in the Human Resources Office from 1993 to 1994 and was Country Desk Officer for Chile from 1992 to 1993. From 1988 to 1992 Ambassador Rowe was Principal Officer of the U.S. Consulate in Recife, Brazil covering politics, human rights, and economic development in seven states in northeast Brazil. She served as Deputy Consul General at the U.S. Embassy in San Jose, Costa Rica from 1986 to 1988 and was a consular officer in Sao Paulo, Brazil from 1984 to 1986.

Ambassador Rowe holds a B.A. from Washington State University, an M.A. from the Tufts University's Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy and a M.Ed. from Northeastern University. She studied at the Sorbonne in Paris, France and was a Fulbright Scholar in Germany. Prior to joining the Foreign Service, she was Director of the International Office at Tufts University.

Pamela A. White

U.S. Ambassador to Haiti

Ambassador Pamela A. White was officially sworn in as Ambassador to the Republic of Haiti on July 18, 2012. Previously, she served in Haiti from 1985-1990. Ambassador White previously served as Ambassador to The Gambia from 2010-2012. Prior to this role she served as Mission Director for United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Liberia where she managed USAID's second largest development budget in Africa, averaging over \$200 million a year.

Ambassador White holds the rank of Career Minister. She has over 35 years of experience from serving mostly in Africa where she began her public service as a Peace Corps volunteer in Cameroon (1971-1973). Ambassador White joined the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in 1981 after several years of work in education and research.

At USAID Ambassador White has served as: community liaison officer in Burkina Faso, Deputy Director Executive Officer in Senegal and Haiti and Executive Officer in Haitian, Egyptian, and South African missions. As Deputy Director for East Africa in Washington, DC, she coordinated the delivery of much-needed food to Ethiopia and Eritrea, helped to develop a six-year Ugandan strategy, and oversaw the expansion of programs in the Sudan and Congo.

In Mali, Ambassador White's work as Deputy and Mission Director for USAID is credited with tripling the number of girls in primary school, increasing the number of elected women leaders by 200 percent, and doubling the percentage of children receiving vaccinations. For her extraordinary work she was awarded the highest decoration given to foreigners, the Knight of the National Order of Merit (Ordre national du Mali). She is one of four Americans who share in this honor.

Following her work in Mali, Ambassador White was appointed Mission Director in Tanzania where she managed a \$130 million aid program focused on HIV/AIDs prevention, malaria control, primary education, conservation of natural resources, and control of corruption.

Ambassador White studied at the University of Maine and the School for International Training where she earned a master's degree in international development. In 1999, she graduated from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. In May 2012, she received the Medal of Honor from The Gambia, one of the only foreigners to ever receive this award.