

## JOHN W. LIMBERT

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## EDUCATION

<b>Doctor of Philosophy</b>	Harvard University History and Middle Eastern Studies	1974
<b>Bachelor of Arts (<i>magna cum laude</i>)</b>	Harvard University History	1964

## CAREER HISTORY

**2006-Present**

**Distinguished Professor of International Affairs  
United States Naval Academy; and  
Director, Office of Force Transformation,  
United States Naval Academy.**

Teach advanced undergraduate courses on Middle East and Iranian affairs in both the history and political sciences departments. Enhance language, cultural, and regional studies programs for both students and faculty. With funds from Office of Force Transformation, support travel and

scholarly activities in the above areas. Address scholarly conferences and media events on Iranian affairs and on Iran-U.S. relations.

**1973-2006**

**Foreign Service Officer  
U.S. Department of State**

### **FOREIGN SERVICE CAREER HIGHLIGHTS**

**9/2005-**

**Dean, School of Language Studies, Foreign Service Institute, Department of State, Washington, D.C.**

Supervise training in about 70 foreign languages for members of the Foreign Service and employees of about 20 other government agencies. Manage a staff of about 500 teachers, training specialists, and support personnel with a total budget of about \$20 million. Responsible for ensuring that the Institute's approximately 1000 full-time language students receive the training the need to carry out their professional responsibilities overseas.

**7/2005-9/2005**

**Chargé d'Affaires, U.S. Embassy, Khartoum, Sudan.**

On an interim basis, took charge of the U.S. Embassy in Khartoum when Sudan was forming its new Government of National Unity (GNU) designed to end decades of civil war between northern Arabs and non-Arab southerners. Responsible for a staff of about 50 American and 200 Sudanese employees. Responsibilities included ensuring the success of the GNU, encouraging a settlement of the Darfur conflict, and maintaining safety and security during the riots that followed the untimely death of John Garang in early August.

**9/2003-7/2005**

**President, American Foreign Service Association  
Washington, D.C.**

Elected by the association's membership in 2003 for a two-year term. President of the Foreign Service's professional association and labor union (AFSA), the sole bargaining agent for 23,000 active duty and retired Foreign Service personnel in five government foreign affairs agencies. As president, I represent the men and women of the Foreign Service before the senior management of the State Department and other agencies. I directed a staff of 25 full-

time AFSA employees who serve a membership of about 13,000. I also presided over a governing board of elected representatives of our five constituent agencies and our retired members.

**March-May 2004**

**Mission Team Leader  
Iraq**

Detached for sixty days from my AFSA post, I led a thirty-person team to Iraq to undertake a special mission requiring high levels of language skills and area specialization. I was responsible for recruiting team members with the required qualifications, defining the mission, organizing the team, and ensuring its security and logistics in a remote, austere location. After completing the mission, I brought the team safely out of Iraq a few days ahead of schedule.

**2000-2003**

**Ambassador of the United States  
Nouakchott, Islamic Republic of Mauritania**

As the president's personal representative, I directed the official relationship between the United States and Mauritania. I was in charge of all U.S. government programs, with a yearly operating budget of about \$5.5 million and an annual humanitarian assistance budget of about \$8 million in the fields of food aid, anti-HIV/AIDS programs, humanitarian demining, girls' education, and small- and medium-scale construction projects.

I led an official U.S. mission that included about 200 staff, both American and Mauritanian, in addition to about 60 Peace Corps volunteers. I was responsible not only for directing their work but for maintaining their (and their family members') health, safety, and morale in a very harsh environment. In June 2003, I ensured the safety of all American citizens during a violent coup attempt against the Mauritanian government. In this difficult setting I helped Mauritania stay on a politically stable path, supported its own citizens' efforts to improve human rights and democracy, and, especially after the events of 9/11/2001, enlisted the Mauritanian government's help in our efforts against world-wide terrorism.

**March-May 2003**

**Senior Advisor for Cultural Affairs**

**Organization for Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance (ORHA)  
Kuwait City, Kuwait, and Baghdad, Iraq**

While Ambassador to Mauritania, I served for two months on the staff of ORHA chief General Jay Garner. On April 23, 2003 I flew to Baghdad with Gen. Garner and his team of civilian officials to begin working on restoring civil administration after the end of fighting.

In Baghdad, as the senior Arabic-speaking Foreign Service Officer in ORHA, I oversaw coalition efforts to protect and restore the looted Iraq Museum. I made contact with the museum staff, ensured the security of the premises, and arranged for museum and other Ministry of Culture employees to receive their salaries. I oversaw the recovery of stolen artifacts, arranged a “buy-back and amnesty” program for antiquities, and escorted Iraqi antiquities officials on visits to Assyrian sites in the Mosul region.

I arranged protection and restoration of other valuable facilities, including the National Library, the Iraq Manuscript Center, and the National Publishing House, the last housing millions of dollars in modern printing equipment. In that case, I worked closely with both the U.S. military and local militias to keep that vital installation out of the hands of Iraqi factions that would have used it to spread a message provoking religious and ethnic hatred.

**1999-2000**

**Deputy Coordinator for Counterterrorism  
Office of the Ambassador-at-large for Counterterrorism  
Department of State, Washington, D.C.**

I was responsible for developing counter-terrorism policy, coordinating efforts to combine America’s diplomacy, intelligence, law-enforcement, and military tools in our counter-terrorism efforts. I worked on stopping money flows, designating foreign terrorist organizations, and blocking terrorists’ use of NGOs as front organizations. I dealt with media and the think-tank community, negotiated with G-8 members on coordinating policy, and oversaw the Congressional relations of our office.

**1992-94**

**Director of Orientation  
Foreign Service Institute**

**Department of State, Washington, D.C.**

I directed a professional staff of 10, which did initial training of all new employees at the U.S. State Department. We trained all new Foreign Service Officers, Foreign Service specialists, and Civil Servants. We also provided specialized training to employees of other government agencies going to work in U.S. missions overseas. My work was a combination of dean of freshmen and Marine drill instructor: to turn a group of teachers, lawyers, graduate students and others into Foreign Service officers. Others would teach them the specific job skills they needed. My job was to “socialize” the new employees into the values and mission of the organization they had joined.

**1988-91**

**Consul-General  
Consulate General of the United States  
Dubai, United Arab Emirates**

Under the direction of the Ambassador, resident in the national capital of Abu Dhabi, I coordinated American security, commercial, consular, cultural, economic, and other interests in the six northern emirates of the UAE. Dubai is the country’s commercial center, and I fostered American trade and built contacts with the sophisticated and multi-national Dubai business community. I helped the American business communities build strong ties to both local government and businesses in the Dubai American Business Council.

In 1990-91, during the time of operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, I re-enforced measures for the safety of resident American citizens. I negotiated arrangements between local authorities and the large numbers of American military personnel – mostly air force and navy – who visited Dubai. Dubai was a popular port of call for the U.S. Navy, and we ensured that American sailors and marines had a safe and enjoyable visit and that they respected local customs and sensitivities in a conservative Islamic society.

**1981-84**

**Professor of Political Science  
United States Naval Academy  
Annapolis, Maryland**

On assignment from the Foreign Service to teach political science at the U.S. Naval Academy, I taught undergraduate courses in Middle East politics, African politics, and the basic course "Introduction to International Relations". I performed all the duties of a college teacher: syllabus design, lecturing, exams, and student advising.

While at the Academy I did guest speaking and lecturing on Middle East subjects. I organized contact between the Naval Academy's students and faculty and foreign affairs practitioners at the Department of State. I acted as mentor to students and emphasized the relation between the profession of naval officer and diplomat.

**1979-81**

**Political Officer  
U.S. Embassy  
Tehran, Iran**

As one of the State Department's experts on Iran and as its best Persian speaker, I served in Iran as part of an attempt to rebuild American-Iranian relations following the Islamic revolution of February 1979. I established contact with the new authorities and reported the realities of tumultuous, chaotic post-revolutionary Iran. I traveled widely, spoke with clerics, intellectuals, journalists, teachers, and many others.

This assignment ended abruptly and tragically on November 4, 1979, when I became captive of the "Muslim Student Followers of the Imam's Line" who seized the U.S. Embassy and who held staff members hostage for 14 months until our release in January 1981.

**OTHER FOREIGN SERVICE POSTINGS**

<b>1973-76</b>	Economic/Commercial Officer, Abu Dhabi and Dubai
<b>1976-77</b>	Intensive Arabic Course, Tunis, Tunisia
<b>1978-79</b>	Political Officer, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
<b>1984-86</b>	Deputy Chief of Mission, Djibouti, Rep. of Djibouti
<b>1986-88</b>	Political Officer, Algiers, Algeria
<b>1991-92</b>	Senior Fellow, Center for International Affairs, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.
<b>1994-97</b>	Deputy Chief of Mission, Conakry, Guinea
<b>1997-98</b>	Member of Senior Seminar, Department of State

## OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

- 1964-66** Peace Corps Volunteer English Teacher  
Sanandaj (Kurdistan), Iran
- 1969-72** Instructor in English and History  
Pahlavi University  
Shiraz, Iran

## AWARDS, LANGUAGES, AND MEMBERSHIPS

- Dept. of State Awards** Award for Valor after captivity in Iran (1981)  
Superior Honor Award for service in Dubai (1991)  
Superior Honor Award for service in Iraq (2003)  
Superior Honor Award for a special mission in Iraq (2004)  
Distinguished Honor Award for national service (2006)  
Meritorious Hnr. Award for service in Saudi Arabia (1979)
- AFSA Award** Rivkin Award for Creative Dissent (1981).
- Foreign Languages** Persian (near native fluency)  
Arabic (professional knowledge)  
French (professional knowledge)
- Fellowships** Princeton University, Middle East Center (AY 1982-83)  
Harvard University, Center for International Affairs (AY 1991-92)
- Memberships** American Foreign Service Association  
Middle East Studies Association  
Society for Iranian Studies
- Personal Interests** Music, Persian poetry, reading, sports, fishing