

**Robert Geers Loftis**  
**Ambassador (retired)**

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Proven leader with over 30 years experience as a diplomat, including peace and stability operations, human rights, democracy promotion, political-military affairs, international health, business and development. Highly regarded teacher and mentor, accomplished public speaker and persuasive communicator with broad experience dealing with the highest levels of governments in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and Europe. Proficient in Portuguese, conversant in French.

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**OBJECTIVE**

Professor of the Practice of International Diplomacy  
Boston University

**EDUCATION**

B.A. in Political Science, with Honors, with Distinction  
Phi Beta Kappa  
Outstanding Senior in Political Science  
Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado, 1979

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**Industrial College of the Armed Forces (ICAF), National Defense University, Washington, D.C**

**Deputy Commandant, Senior Advisor for International Affairs**

**Member of Faculty, Department of Strategic Leadership**

August 2007 to March 2009

ICAF (now the Eisenhower School) awards a Masters in National Resource Strategy

- Taught core course on *Strategic Leadership*
- Developed and taught elective course on *The Practice of Diplomacy*
- Taught elective course on *Negotiation*
- Delivered college-wide lectures on *Ethics and Statecraft* and *Strategic Negotiations*
- Certified counselor in the *Executive Assessment and Development Program*
- Led extensive revision of Strategic Leadership course curriculum
- Primary and Secondary advisor for independent study programs
- Senior counselor for all State Department students at ICAF
- Rated by students as one of the most effective faculty members

## **DIPLOMATIC EXPERIENCE**

### **Officer in Charge, Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations (Formerly, Acting Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization), Department of State, 2010-2012**

- Assistant Secretary of State equivalent position
- Oversaw the transition of the Office of the Coordinator to the new Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations
- Responsible for conducting stabilization and peacebuilding activities in 22 countries, including Sudan, Kyrgyzstan and Afghanistan
- Led an office of 230 people, representing nine federal agencies, with an annual budget of \$70 million

### **Special Representative for Avian and Pandemic Influenza, Department of State, 2009**

- Led the State Department Task Force responding to the H1N1 influenza pandemic
- Advised Cabinet Secretaries and senior leadership on preparation for and response to pandemic influenza
- Coordinated international policy among all U.S. government components, including the Departments of State, Defense, Health and Human Services, and Transportation, and the US Agency for International Development and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative
- Lead U.S. negotiator at the World Health Assembly on *“Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework for the Sharing of Influenza Viruses and Access to Vaccines and Other Benefits”*

### **Deputy Commandant and Senior Advisor for International Affairs, Industrial College of the Armed Forces, National Defense University, 2007-2009**

### **Head of Delegation, U.S.-Iraq Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) Negotiations, 2008**

- Drafted the first SOFA for use in a wartime environment by U.S. forces
- Led the negotiations of a SOFA with Iraq

### **Senior Advisor for Security Negotiations and Agreements, Department of State, 2004-2007**

- Deputy Assistant Secretary of State-level position
- Headed multi-agency teams that negotiated dozens of Status of Forces Agreements globally
- Negotiated the first agreements giving U.S. forces access to military bases in former Warsaw Pact countries (Romania and Bulgaria)
- Negotiated multi-billion dollar “Special Measures Agreements” with Japan and the Republic of Korea to offset stationing costs for U.S. military personnel in those countries
- Played a key role in establishing the Defense Department’s Africa Command (USAFRICOM) as Deputy Director of the Implementation Planning Team

#### **United States Ambassador to the Kingdom of Lesotho, 2001-2004**

- Working with the United Nations and Commonwealth, promoted Lesotho's first peaceful elections and fostered political reconciliation
- Coordinated international efforts in the fight against HIV/AIDS as Co-Chair of the UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS
- Advanced economic development and bilateral trade with the United States, using the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA)

#### **Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy Maputo, Mozambique, 1999-2001**

- As *Charge' d'Affairs*, led multi-million dollar U.S. relief effort during the massive 2000 floods, coordinating closely with the UN, other embassies, and the government of Mozambique
- Managed complex embassy operations directed at helping Mozambique emerge from decades of war and conflict

#### **Counselor for Political and Specialized Agency Affairs, U.S. Mission to the United Nations, Geneva, Switzerland, 1995-1999**

- Managed United States relations with the High Commissioner for Human Rights, UN Commission on Human Rights, World Health Assembly, International Labor Organization and the Geneva Group (promoting UN reform)
- Supported multiple special negotiations, including 4 Party Talks (Korea) and pre-Dayton Yugoslavia negotiations

#### **Deputy Director, Office of Peacekeeping and Humanitarian Operations, Department of State, 1993-1995**

- Established new office for working with United Nations on peacekeeping operations and doctrine
- Co-authored first U.S. doctrine on support to peacekeeping operations
- Managed U.S. contributions to and policy toward UN peacekeeping operations in Asia and Africa

#### **Other Foreign Service Assignments, 1980-1993**

- Action Officer, Strategic and Theater Affairs, Department of State (arms control)
- Political Officer, U.S. Embassy Wellington, New Zealand (labor, internal political)
- Country Officer for Burma, Department of State (general)
- Staff Assistant, Bureau of Inter-American Affairs (general)
- Political/Economic Officer, U.S. Embassy Brasilia, Brazil (internal politics and economics, narcotics control)
- General Services Officer, U.S. Embassy Bissau, Guinea-Bissau (management)

## **OTHER EXPERIENCE**

### **Interagency Professional in Residence, United States Institute of Peace (USIP)**

Washington, DC, 2012

- Six month detail from Department of State
- Developed strategy for better USIP cooperation with the Department of Defense
- Developed strategy for greater USIP contribution to U.S. government policy deliberations in conflict situations
- Served as a resource for USIP experts

### **Independent Consultant, Washington, DC, 2010**

- Advised company on developing new strategic directions and opportunities
- Helped company develop framework for responding to pandemic influenza

## **FEATURED SPEAKER/PANELIST**

- Association of the United States Army (6/2012) *The Interagency and Whole of Government in Expeditionary Conditions*
- Partnership for a Secure America, Congressional Partnership Program (6/2012) *Post Conflict Reconstruction and Conflict Prevention*
- Civil-Military Affairs Conference, Australia (5/2012) *Developing Civilian Capacity for International Interventions*
- U.S. Army Command and General Staff College (3/2012) *State Department Culture*
- PINNACLE, Joint Warfighting Center (newly-promoted 3 star generals and admirals) (3/2012) *The Civilian Role in Stabilization Operations*
- Information Resources Management College, National Defense University (11/2011) *The Art of Interagency Management*
- Industrial College of the Armed Forces, National Defense University (10/2011) *Strategic Negotiations*
- University of Wisconsin-Madison, Washington Program (10/2011) *Preventing Mass Atrocities*
- Seton Hall/American Academy of Diplomacy (10/2011) *Organizing the USG for Conflict Prevention* (panelist)
- American University (10/2011) *Cross-Cultural Negotiation*
- George Mason University (8/2011) *Is Conflict Preventable?*
- University of Kansas (6/2011) *Conflict Prevention*
- Denver Council on Foreign Relations (3/2011) *Responding to Fragile States*
- U.S. Army Command and General Staff College (3/2011) *Civilian Power*
- Department of State (2/2011) *Conversations with America* (video blog [http://blogs.state.gov/index.php/site/entry/cwa\\_stabilization\\_conflict\\_prevention](http://blogs.state.gov/index.php/site/entry/cwa_stabilization_conflict_prevention))

- Wilson Center (1/2011) *Southern Sudan: Using Innovative Tools for Local Empowerment* (<http://www.wilsoncenter.org/event/southern-sudan-using-innovative-tools-for-local-empowerment>)
- Industrial College of the Armed Forces, National Defense University (10/2010) *Strategic Negotiations*
- American Veterinary Medical Association Annual Convention (7/2009) *Confronting the Threat of Pandemic Influenza*
- Center for Strategic and International Studies (6/2009) *U.S. Overseas Military Basing Options* (panelist)
- Industrial College of the Armed Forces, National Defense University (10/2008) *Ethics, Morality and Statecraft*
- Catholic University, Columbus Law School (9/2008) *Peacekeeping and Military Justice*