

Background Notes

n *Inside a U.S. Embassy*

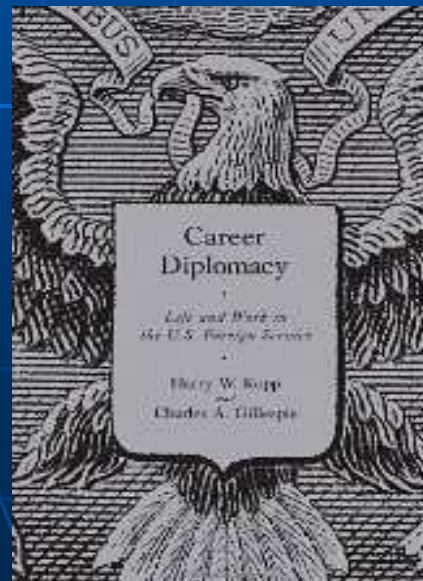
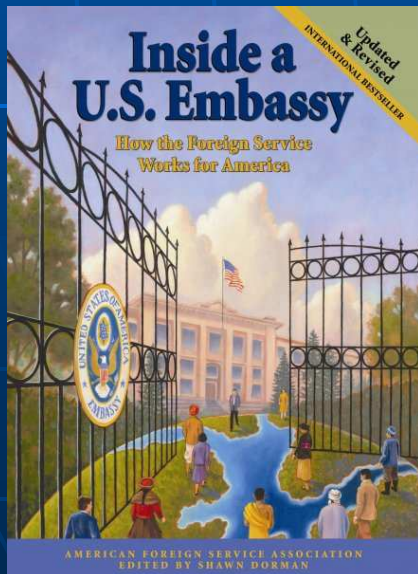
n *Career Diplomacy*

n *Foreign Service Journal*

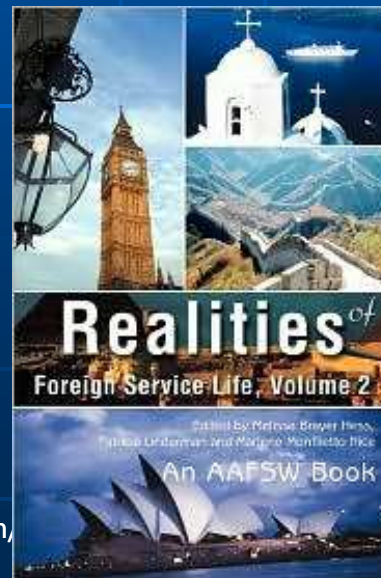
n *Realities of Foreign Service Life*

n DIPNOTE at <http://blogs.state.gov>

DIPNOTE
BLOG



many



Your New Best Friend ...

careers.state.gov

The screenshot shows the homepage of the U.S. Department of State's careers website. At the top left is the official seal of the U.S. Department of State. To its right, the text reads "U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE" and "★ CAREERS REPRESENTING AMERICA ★". On the top right, there is a "Career Navigator" logo with a world map and the tagline "FINDING THE BEST CAREER OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU". Below the header is a navigation menu with links: HOME, GENERAL INFORMATION, CAREER OPTIONS, STUDENTS, CAREER RESOURCES, OPPORTUNITIES, EVENTS, and CONTACT US. The main content area features a large background image of a group of people in a developing country. Overlaid on this image is the text: "I will show the world a side of America it has never seen." followed by "The U.S. Department of State is the lead U.S. foreign affairs agency." and a paragraph: "We begin our mission of diplomacy in Washington, D.C., where we hire Foreign Service, Civil Service and Student employees to work at our offices in the U.S. and over 265 posts abroad. Join us in helping shape a freer, more secure and prosperous world as we formulate, represent and implement U.S. foreign policy." Below this text is a "HELP ME GET STARTED" section with a dropdown menu labeled "I am a(n)..." and a search button. On the right side of the main content area, there are four vertical navigation bars: "FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER" (blue), "FOREIGN SERVICE SPECIALIST" (light blue), "CIVIL SERVICE" (red), and "STUDENT PROGRAMS" (yellow).

Prep Resources for the FSOT

- n *State Guide to the FSO Selection Process*
- n *FSOT Study Guide* from ACT
- n Review *The Elements of Style*
- n Read the Constitution
- n Review basic/AP/dummy books on areas of weakness – history, economics, government.

Course of Study Suggestions

- n English Composition/Rhetoric
- n American History
- n American Studies (including cultural and social history)
- n American Political Thought
- n United States Political System
- n American Economic History
- n Introduction to Economics (micro and macro)
- n World History
- n World Geography
- n International Economics
- n World Religions
- n Introduction to Statistics
- n Introduction to Management Principles
- n Intercultural Communication
- n Mass Communication
- n Psychology

The 6 Core Competencies

- n Leadership skills
- n Managerial skills
- n Interpersonal skills
- n Communication and
foreign language skills
- n Intellectual skills
- n Substantive knowledge

The 13 Dimensions

- n **Composure**
- n **Cultural Adaptability**
- n **Experience and Motivation**
- n **Information Integration and Analysis**
- n **Initiative and Leadership**
- n **Judgment**
- n **Objectivity and Integrity**
- n **Oral Communication**
- n **Planning and Organizing**
- n **Quantitative Analysis**
- n **Resourcefulness**
- n **Working With Others**
- n **Written Communication**

Critical Needs Languages (as opposed to *Super CNL*)

Arabic (other than Modern Standard, Egyptian, and Iraqi), Azerbaijani, Bengali, Chinese (Cantonese), Kazakh, Korean, Kurdish, Kyrgyz, Nepali, Pashto, Punjabi, Russian, Tajik, Turkish, Turkmen, and Uzbek

Summary: Hiring Process for State Department FSO

- Foreign Service Officer Test (FSOT)
- Mini-Essays & Super Critical Lang.
- Qualifications Evaluation Panel (QEP)
- Oral Assessment
- Medical & Security Clearances
- Suitability Review Panel
- Hiring Register
- The Call to Join
- A100 Basic Training

Apply for a Job with USAID, FCS, or FAS

n USAID: www.usaid.gov

n FCS:
www.trade.gov/cs/employment.asp

n FAS: www.fas.usda.gov/

Online Resources

n careers.state.gov

n www.usajobs.gov

n www.facebook.com pages:

- Careers in Foreign Affairs
- Foreign Service Officer
- Inside a U.S. Embassy and AFSA

n Yahoo groups: [fswe](#) and [fsoa](#)

n FSOT wiki: <http://fsot.wikidot.com/>

n Unofficial guide: www.thehegemonist.com