

RICHARD A. VIRDEN

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Background

Born and raised in Minnesota
St. John's University, Collegeville, MN

Washington, DC: USIA Headquarters; Writer and Editor, Near East/South Asia 1963-1966

Work assignments
USIA Wireless File
Civil Rights Movement
Entered the Foreign Service (USIA) 1966

State Department: FSI: Thai language training 1967

Bangkok, Thailand: USIA, Rotation Officer 1967

Chiang Mai, Thailand: Assistant Branch Public Affairs Officer 1967-1968

Phitsanulok, Thailand: Branch Public Affairs Officer 1968-1969

Vietnam War
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State Department: FSI; French language training 1969

Saigon, Vietnam: Wireless File Correspondent 1970-1971

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Press reporting Invasion of Laos South Vietnam government Military vs Political solutions Marriage 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Belo Horizonte, Brazil: Branch Public Affairs Officer Environment Operations Peace Corps Government International Visitors Program Vietnam War Relations Brasilia 	1972-1973
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sao Paulo, Brazil: Information Officer Economic hub Government censorship Media Environment USAID World Bank assistance programs Economy Racial issues Family 	1973-1974
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Washington, DC: USIA; Press and Publications Service, Chief, European Branch/Special Assistant, Press & Publications Operations Publications Divisions and organization NATO Edward R. Murrow USIA/State Department merger 	1974-1975
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Department: FSI: Polish language study 	1976-1977
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Warsaw, Poland: Information Officer and Press Attaché Environment Polish media US publications President Carter visit Local hostility Interpreter problem Carter press conference 	1977-1980

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Washington, D.C: USIA Headquarters: Policy Officer, Office of American Republics	1984-1986

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- Grenada War
- Regional Policy
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- General comments on USIA role
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Lisbon, Portugal: Counselor for Public Affairs 1986-1990

- Ambassador Frank Shakespeare
- Post-revolution
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- Political Parties
- Portuguese ex-colonials
- Africa
- Local media
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- Communists
- NATO in a Multi-polar World Conference
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- Economy
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State Department: FSI: Romanian language study 1990

Bucharest, Romania: Counselor for Public Affairs 1990-1993

- Post-Ceausescu atmosphere
- Demonstrations
- Political revolution
- USIS Library
- US policy
- Security forces
- Television monopoly
- Independent broadcasting
- Local media
- US Ambassadors
- Bulgaria
- Book drive for National Library
- Fulbright Commission
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Warsaw, Poland: Minister-Counselor for Public Affairs	1993-1997
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Ambassador Nicholas Rey	
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Diplomat in Residence, Georgetown University	1997-1998
Teacher: “The Evolution of Public Diplomacy”	
Georgetown contribution to Foreign Service	
Jesse Helms activities	
Washington, DC: Headquarters, USIA: Deputy Director, Europe	1998-2000
USIA/ State Department merger	
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Brasilia, Brazil: Deputy Chief of Mission 2002-2004
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Retirement 2004
Diplomat-in-Residence: St. John's University and the
College of St. Benedict
Great Decisions Program
Speaking engagements