

Patricia (Kit) Norland

Born into a Foreign Service family that has included her parents, siblings, and spouse, Kit Norland is pleased to continue lifelong involvement in the Foreign Service through service on the Foreign Service Grievance Board. Ms. Norland's career with State spanned over twenty years before she retired in April, 2016.

As a Public Diplomacy officer, Ms. Norland managed people, programs, budgets and grants that foster mutual understanding and promote a more stable world. Serving as a division chief in the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), for example, she managed millions of dollars with the utmost attention to the integrity of grantee selection and program implementation. As Public Affairs Officer in Ho Chi Minh City, she led a team in implementing information, education, media, and cultural programs – all in a lingering atmosphere of distrust of USG personnel in the former Saigon. As Public Affairs Officer in Laos, also a communist country with which the United States has a complicated past, Ms. Norland established relationships across Lao civil society to build trust and promote bilateral ties. At the embassy in Thailand, Ms. Norland oversaw vibrant exchange programs for young leaders of this long-time ally.

In addition to a domestic tour in ECA, Ms. Norland served as a course coordinator at the Foreign Service Institute and as State liaison to the United Nations Environment Program.

Growing up with her parents at posts in Europe and Africa, Ms. Norland learned Dutch and French. Later, at FSI, she studied Thai, Lao and Vietnamese.

Before joining the Foreign Service, Ms. Norland worked with: a public relations firm as their representative in Lomé, Togo; a non-profit promoting exchanges with Southeast Asia, during which time she translated a book from French that was published by St. Martin's Press; and the Smithsonian Associates.

In addition to serving on the AFSA Awards Committee, she enjoys volunteer opportunities centered on civic engagement, environmental conservation, and animal rescue.