



## POLITICAL OFFICER CAREER DEVELOPMENT

At the beginning of the career  
(years 1 - 4), you may:

- do an average of three years of consular work, testing your ability to work in a high-speed environment requiring maximum contact with the foreign public and host national colleagues
- rotate through other sections of an overseas mission
- be assigned to reporting, analysis, and advocacy duties at overseas posts.
- develop a wide range of foreign contacts, in and out of politics and government to advance U.S. political interests
- organize and run a Congressional visit, or accompany the Ambassador on a call to the host country leadership.

At the mid-career level  
(years 4 - 16), you may:

- be the liaison to the host government concerning human rights, environmental, science and other political issues
- be part of a mission-wide team dealing with host government agencies and parliamentary party leaders on issues like U.S. military basing rights
- in Washington, serve as Country Desk Officer, knowing all there is to know about every issue in the U.S. bilateral relationship with a country and knowing everyone in Washington who is involved with "your" country.

At the senior level  
(years 16 - 27), you may:

- manage an entire political section of an embassy or consulate
- serve as a member of the "country team" and help the Ambassador develop the Mission Program Plan – confirming the United States' priority objectives for several years ahead, and the strategy for achieving them
- serve as the Deputy Chief of Mission or Ambassador
- in Washington, serve as a Country Director or Deputy Assistant Secretary for one of the regional or functional policy bureaus.