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U.S.-MIDDLE EAST *and* NORTH AFRICA TRADE *and* INVESTMENT CONFERENCE

U.S. SENIOR COMMERCIAL OFFICER BIOGRAPHIES

NASIR ABBASI **U.S. EMBASSY RIYADH**

Nasir Abbasi, a career member of the U.S. Foreign Service, is the Commercial Counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Overseeing an operation that includes three offices in Saudi Arabia (Riyadh, Jeddah and Dhahran) and partnership post responsibilities with Doha, Qatar and Sana, Yemen, Mr. Abbasi and his staff are responsible for maintaining and increasing U.S. commercial interests and investments in Saudi Arabia. He has extensive knowledge in industry sectors such as oil and gas, petrochemicals, telecommunications, automotive, and franchise. From 2002-2006, Mr. Abbasi served in Melbourne, Australia, where he managed the States of Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania, Western Australia and the Northern Territory, nearly two thirds of the Continent, primarily focusing on the oil and gas and automotive sectors. From 1997-2002, Mr. Abbasi was assigned to Saudi Arabia as the Commercial Consul at the U.S. Consulate General in Dhahran and as the Commercial Attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh.

Mr. Abbasi began his tenure with the U.S. Commercial Service in Baltimore, Maryland, where he worked with high-level business delegations organized by the U.S. Commercial Service around the world. He participated on panels with Secretaries of State and Commerce, addressing the needs of U.S. exporters. Before joining the U.S. Commercial Service, Mr. Abbasi had five years of experience working in the private sector. He worked for an international transportation firm based in Michigan and for a multinational corporation based in London, England.

A resident of Maryland, he received his MBA in International Business from the American Graduate School of International Management (Thunderbird) in Glendale, Arizona and his Bachelors Degree in Management from Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Florida.

FRANK G. CARRICO **U.S. EMBASSY BAGHDAD**

Frank Carrico is the Senior Commerce Officer (SCO) in at U.S. Embassy Baghdad. He manages Embassy and Provincial Commerce offices in Baghdad and Erbil and cooperates closely on U.S. engagement in Iraq's private sector development with many agencies, provincial reconstruction teams (PRTs), and DOD Civil Affairs programs at post.

Before serving in Baghdad, Frank Carrico was the Principal Commercial Officer and interim Deputy SCO in São Paulo (2004-early 2007) and responsible for U.S. business development in the southern half of Brazil. He supervised a staff of 30 Brazilians, two U.S. officers, and an office in Porto Alegre. He has very good Portuguese.

Before Brazil, Frank was the SCO at U.S. Embassy in Kyiv, Ukraine (2001-2004), responsible for commercial programs and trade issues, including SABIT training and NIS outreach programs, and supervised 12 Ukrainian and Russians. For his work in developing U.S. markets, he received Commerce's Bronze Award. He has good Russian.

Prior to Ukraine, Frank was U.S. Embassy Japan Commercial Officer and Trade Events Programs Director (1997-2001) where he was responsible for management of Embassy Tokyo commercial programs, supervised 10 Japanese, and one U.S. officer. He has good Japanese.

Before Japan, Frank served as the Commercial Officer at the new U.S. Embassy Office Berlin, Germany (1991-1996) where he established the new office after German re-unification and was responsible for U.S.-German trade and M&A work in Eastern Germany. He has good German.

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(CONTINUED)

FRANK G. CARRICO

U.S. EMBASSY BAGHDAD

Before entering Department of Commerce Foreign Commercial Service (US&FCS), Frank worked in California as the International Marketing Director for Lansmont Corporation and Cyberware Labs, both manufacturers of electronics and software for test and measurement equipment. He developed markets overseas in medical, aerospace, and computer simulation, and expanded sales to foreign companies in Japan, Europe, Latin America, medical research universities, Hollywood film studios, and to the U.S. Air Force.

Before work in California, Frank worked in Texas as oil and gas transportation executive with Tesoro Petroleum, as a manager of package express company, and as owner of a property development and sales company in Austin, Texas. He received his MBA from the University of Texas after serving as a Russian translator in Germany. He and his wife have three sons, a professor at Stony Brook, NY, a graduate student at Berkeley, and the third with Pfizer Corp.

MS. NANCY CHARLES-PARKER

U.S. EMBASSY KUWAIT CITY

Nancy Charles-Parker assumed responsibility as the Senior Commercial Officer in Kuwait City, Kuwait in July 2007. Previously she served as the Regional Senior Commercial Officer for Central America, stationed in San Salvador, El Salvador, where she was responsible for coordinating U.S. Department of Commerce export promotion programs and for trade agreement compliance and standards through out the CAFTA countries of Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Costa Rica.

Ms. Charles-Parker served as the Counselor of Commercial Affairs in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia from August 2004 to June 2006. Between 2000 and 2004 she served as the Commercial Counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Abu Dhabi. During that time, she and her Commercial team in Abu Dhabi and Dubai facilitated \$6.5 billion in export sales to the UAE.

From 1997 until 2000, she was director of the Rocky Mountain U.S. Export Assistance Center (USEAC) in Denver, a joint U.S. Government effort to assist exporters in five U.S. states. Under her leadership, USEAC-assisted client exports increased from \$15 million to \$245 million a year. She also served short assignments as Senior Commercial Officer in South Africa and Azerbaijan.

Ms. Charles-Parker was U.S. Commercial Attaché at the U.S. Embassy in London from 1994 to 1997, where she had responsibility for U.S. commercial activities in Northern Ireland. Concurrently she supervised U.K. market research and client outreach in energy, medical technology and a number of high-tech sectors. She also directed the International Marketing Center in the U.S. Embassy, London, which annually coordinates 100 conferences and product promotions in support of U.S. exports.

From 1992 to 1994, Ms. Charles-Parker was a Commercial Officer in Taiwan, responsible for assisting U.S. firms secure environmental, power, transportation and other major infrastructure tenders.

Prior to joining the Commercial Service, Ms. Charles-Parker was a Department of State Economic Officer in Jakarta, Brussels, Hong Kong, Buenos Aires, and Washington D.C. Her portfolios included shipping, export controls, energy, and bilateral trade. In the private sector, she managed athletic and recreational programs and facilities at Torrejon Air Base, Spain, was an administrator at Columbia University, and raised funds and conducted public relations for a non profit youth development organization in Philadelphia.

Ms. Charles-Parker has an M.A. from Columbia University and completed further graduate work at Columbia University, Yale University and the University of Madrid. Her foreign languages include Spanish, Mandarin Chinese, French, and Indonesian. In 1999, the Department of Commerce awarded her the Silver Medal for leadership. In 2003, she received the International Trade Administration's Customer Service Award for a Supervisor, the only Senior Commercial Officer to be nominated by her staff for this annual award.

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JOHN A. HARRIS
U.S. EMBASSY, TEL AVIV

John A. Harris presently serves as Senior Commercial Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv, Israel. Formerly John served as Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Brazil, Commercial Counselor in Santiago Chile and Mexico City, and as Consul for Commercial Affairs in the Consulate of the United States of America in Monterrey, Mexico. Also, during his stay as Diplomat in Residence at Brigham Young University, he was an Adjunct Professor of International Business at the Marriott School of Business.

John has an equal wide range of experience in international business, marketing, finance and technology. Previous to the Foreign Commercial Service his activities have always been connected with high technology and international business. He started his business career in IBM where he served in the Americas/Far East Operating Division, mainly in international finance and treasury. It was at IBM that he attended the IBM International Finance School in La Hulpe, Belgium, after which he served as treasury manager in IBM Venezuela. After IBM he held positions of CFO, VP of Business Development, VP of International, Division President and Chief Operating Officer in several high technology companies.

Prior to his career in business, John graduated with a Bachelor of Engineering Sciences (Cum Laude) and a Masters in Electrical Engineering at the Brigham Young University. He later graduated with a MBA (with distinction) at the same institution. During his years in academic life he taught international business and ancient scripture at the Brigham Young University, ordinary and partial differential equations at the Medical University in Lima, and Economics at a college in Connecticut.

AMER M. KAYANI
U.S. EMBASSY CAIRO

Amer Kayani, based at the U.S. Embassy Cairo, is the Regional Senior Commercial Officer for Egypt, Lebanon, and Libya. Prior to his current assignment, he was the Regional Senior Commercial Officer in Turkey where he was responsible for overseeing U.S. trade promotion efforts in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, North Cyprus, Turkey, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. In addition, Amer has served as the Senior Commercial Officer in Pakistan, Director at the U.S. Department of Commerce's office in Hawaii, Commercial Attaché in Israel, and in various positions at the U.S. Department of Commerce in Washington, D.C.

Amer is a career member of the U.S. Foreign Service. He joined the U.S. Department of Commerce in 1990. Before joining the Department of Commerce, Amer held positions at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and the U.S. General Accountability Office.

Amer graduated with a bachelor's degree in International Relations from the University of Southern California. He received his master's degree in Economic Development and Management from the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, University of Pittsburgh. Amer speaks Arabic, Hindi, Turkish, and Urdu. He is the recipient of various honors and awards from both the government and the private sector including the U.S. Department of Commerce's highest honor, Gold Medal, for distinguished achievement in the Federal Service. His persistent efforts for U.S. companies earned him the "IP Award for excellence in international intellectual property advocacy" from the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America.

ENRIQUE "RICK" ORTIZ
U.S. CONSULATE GENERAL CASABLANCA

Rick Ortiz is a career foreign service officer with the United States Commercial Service, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce. He is currently the Regional Senior Commercial Officer based at the American Consulate General in Casablanca and covers Morocco, Algeria, and manages a partner post in Tunis, Tunisia.

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ENRIQUE "RICK" ORTIZ

U.S. CONSULATE GENERAL CASABLANCA

In 1998 Rick was commissioned by President Bill Clinton into the Foreign Service of the United States of America. His first diplomatic tour was as Commercial Attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Bogotá, Colombia, 1998 – 2000.

In June 2000, Rick was assigned as the first permanent Senior Commercial Officer to Amman, Jordan, to open a new office for the Commercial Service. Rick collaborated effectively on the implementation of the U.S.-Jordan Free Trade Agreement.

From May 2003 until January 2004, among other roles, Rick acted as Senior Advisor to the Iraqi Ministry of Industry and Minerals, Baghdad, Iraq, responsible for the largest number of state owned enterprises and over 114,000 employees. In February 2004, Rick received the Commerce Department's Gold Medal Award for his participation on Iraq Reconstruction. (He returned to Baghdad for a three-month TDY in summer 2004 to RE-open the Commercial Service operation in Baghdad.)

Rick completed his Bachelor of Arts in International Relations Management from Claremont McKenna College in 1983. After five successful years in international sales and marketing throughout Latin American, the Middle East and Africa representing a number of U.S. educational publishing companies, he obtained his Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy from the Fletcher School of International Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University in 1990.

From 1990 – 1995, Mr. Ortiz held numerous designations with the U.S. Department of Commerce in Washington, D.C., including account executive and delegate to the OECD Industry Committee in Paris, France. Rick became the manager of the Market Research Branch, Export Promotion Services (1995-98). Rick is a Presidential Management Fellow, former American Field Service exchange student, a certified American Council on Exercise Group Fitness Instructor, and a certified PADI scuba diver.

ROBERT PEASLEE

U.S. EMBASSY DOHA

Robert Peaslee is the incoming Regional Senior Commercial Officer for Qatar. He will move to Doha in August 2006 to establish the first Commercial Service office in Qatar, with regional responsibility for Pakistan.

Mr. Peaslee is currently the Principal Commercial Officer at the American Consulate General in Finland, as well as Norway and Estonia, a position he has held since August of 2004.

Mr. Peaslee was previously the Principal Commercial Officer at the American Consulate General in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. He held that position from August 2002 to May 2004. His office managed all of the U.S. Commercial Service programs in the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia, as well as in Bahrain, Qatar, and Yemen. Mr. Peaslee was also the Senior Commercial Officer for Pakistan (based in Dhahran), with responsibility for overseeing Commercial Service operations in Islamabad, Karachi, and Lahore.

Mr. Peaslee's previous assignments include two years as the Commercial Attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and two years as a Commercial Specialist at the U.S. Commercial Service's Export Assistance Center in Santa Fe, New Mexico. He has been with the U.S. Department of Commerce's Commercial Service since 1998.

Mr. Peaslee earned a BA in Political Science (May 1989) from Colorado State University. He earned an MBA in International Management and an MA in Latin American Studies (May 1991) from the University of New Mexico. He is a certified Eximbank City/State Counselor and is fluent in Spanish. Mr. Peaslee is married with two children.

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SHERYL PICKNEY-MAAS **U.S. EMBASSY AMMAN**

In August 2007, Sheryl Maas became the Senior Commercial Officer for the U.S. Commercial Service at the U.S. Embassy in Amman, Jordan. Prior to her arrival, she was the Senior Commercial Officer in The Hague, Netherlands from 2005-2007 where in addition to supervising six commercial specialists and three administrative staff members, Mrs. Maas spent her time developing trade promotion strategies for U.S. companies and doing outreach to minority business organizations to help develop potential partners for U.S. clients. She was a member of the Embassy's Integration Working Group, which implemented the Ambassador's strategies on building relationships with the Dutch Muslim communities.

From 2002-2005, Mrs. Maas served in the North Texas Export Assistance Center in Dallas, Texas. She was responsible for the Automotive, Environmental and Consumer Goods sectors, and was National Co-Leader for the Environmental Technologies Team. Mrs. Maas helped small and medium sized companies become export ready. From 2000-2002, she was the second officer and deputy Principal Commercial Officer at the U.S. Consulate in Monterrey, Mexico. She promoted and developed markets for U.S. products and services in Mexico's fastest growing regions with a then GDP of US\$135 billion. As a direct result of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), Mexico was ranked the second largest trading partner to the U.S. Sheryl served in Johannesburg, South Africa from 1996-2000, where she supervised the budget and administrative staff and managed all the logistics for four secretarial missions and one presidential visit when President Clinton dedicated the Ron Brown Commercial Center. In 1998 she and her colleagues received the Gold Medal Award for innovation and quality performance on high-level events. She also served in Beijing, China from 1993-1996. Prior to her service at the Department of Commerce, Mrs. Maas worked for the American Textile Manufacturers Association and two members of Congress from her home state of South Carolina.

Mrs. Maas is married with two children, a daughter and a son. She enjoys snow skiing, reading and learning about real estate investment opportunities in the U.S.

R. CHRISTIAN REED **U.S. EMBASSY ABU DHABI**

Christian Reed is currently Senior Commercial Officer at the US Embassy in Abu Dhabi. Before arriving at post in August 2004, he completed a 40-week intensive Arabic course at the Foreign Service Institute in Virginia.

From 1999 through 2003, Christian served as Deputy SCO in Canada, the United States' largest trading partner, where he played a key role in producing over \$150 million worth of success stories for US exporters.

Christian joined the Foreign Service of the US Department of Commerce in 1991, serving five years as Deputy Director of the Frankfurt office of the US Travel and Tourism Administration, followed by three years as Senior Commercial Officer in Copenhagen. He came to the USG with ten years of professional experience, including four years teaching English at a German university and at a Saudi post-graduate institution. He also worked in the travel sector, for KD German Rhine Line and for Austrian Airlines.

Originally from Los Angeles, Christian studied at the University of Texas at Austin and at Albert-Ludwigs-Universitaet in Freiburg, Germany. He holds a B.A. in German language and literature (1975), an M.A. in teaching English as a foreign language (1978), and an M.B.A (1984). He and his wife, Elizabeth, a clinical social worker, have two young sons, who make sure that life in the Reed household is never boring.

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