

**AMBASSADOR CYNTHIA EFIRD** - Ambassador Cynthia Grissom Efird, a career Senior Foreign Service officer, has worked on strategic information and public diplomacy, international trade negotiations, conflict resolution, media and democracy development in Central and Eastern European countries and Africa for more than thirty years. Following three years of service as U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Angola (2004-2007), she was Deputy Commandant for International Affairs at the U.S. Army War College (2007-2009), and an Associate at the Institute for the Study of Diplomacy, Georgetown University (2009-2010). After joining the U.S. Foreign Service in 1977, Ambassador Efird served with U.S. Embassies in Yugoslavia (1978-1982), the German Democratic Republic (1983-1985), and Mozambique (1988-1989). In Vienna, Austria (1989-1993), she was on the staff of both the U.S. Embassy and the U.S. Delegation to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), as well as volunteering for temporary duty in Somalia with the U.S. Liaison Office. She was Deputy Counselor for Public Affairs, U.S. Embassy Moscow, from 1997 to 2000, and then detailed to the Organization for Cooperation and Security in Europe (OSCE) to oversee post-conflict reconstruction of the media sector in Kosovo. From 2001 to 2002, she was an Adviser to the Associate United States Trade Representative. She directed all public diplomacy and public affairs for the Bureau of African Affairs at the Department of State, from August 2002 to July 2004. Ambassador Efird holds degrees from Georgetown University, Duke University and the National Defense University. She has received several State Department Meritorious Honor and Superior Honor Awards, an honorary degree from the U.S. Army War college, and a Decoration for Distinguished Civilian Service from the U.S. Army.