

David B. Monk

David Monk joined the United States Information Agency (USIA) as a Foreign Service Information Officer in 1978, moved to the Department of State when USIA merged with the Department in 1999, and retired from the Senior Foreign Service in 2005. Throughout his Foreign Service career, he worked in public diplomacy, mostly at American embassies overseas.



His final overseas position was counselor for public affairs in the U.S. Embassy in Hanoi, Vietnam, with responsibility for embassy media relations, cultural and educational exchanges, including Fulbright scholarships. Previously, he served as press attaché at embassies in Madrid and Moscow, deputy press attaché in Tokyo, and various public diplomacy positions in Lagos, Nigeria; Nicosia, Cyprus; and Lima, Peru.

In Washington, D.C., prior to retirement, David helped to establish the Office of Policy, Planning, and Resources for the new State Dept. position of Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, and earlier served as deputy director of the public diplomacy office in the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs. At USIA headquarters, he was country officer for anglophone West Africa.

David graduated from Yale College with a B.A. in Russian language and literature. In addition to Russian and high school French, the Foreign Service Institute taught him to speak Spanish, Japanese, and a little Vietnamese.

Before joining the Foreign Service, David worked in the mid-1970s as a guide on two USIA exhibits in the Soviet Union, and as a Russian-English interpreter at the New York Association for New Americans, assisting Soviet Jewish emigrés.

In retirement, he has volunteered in community organizations. Currently he chairs the Ethics Commission of the City and County of Honolulu.

David resides in Honolulu, Hawaii, with his wife Amy Monk, a retired Foreign Service officer and volunteer community and political activist.