

William A. Stanton



William A. Stanton assumed his position as Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Canberra, Australia on August 2, 2003. This followed assignments in the Department of State as Director of the Office of Egyptian and North African Affairs (2001-2003) and as Director of the Office of UN Political Affairs (1999-2001). A career Foreign Service Officer, Mr. Stanton returned to Washington in the summer of 1998 to participate in the Senior Seminar, the most advanced professional development program in the U.S. Government for foreign affairs and national security officials.

Much of Mr. Stanton's Foreign Service career has centered on China. He served as Minister Counselor for Political Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing from 1995 to 1998. This followed assignments as Deputy Director of the Office of Chinese and Mongolian Affairs (1994-95) and as Special Assistant for East Asia and Pacific Affairs for the Under Secretary for Political Affairs (1993-94). A Chinese-language officer, Mr. Stanton previously worked as a political officer in Embassy Beijing from 1987 to 1990, including a year as chief of internal political reporting (1989-90).

After joining the Foreign Service in 1978, Mr. Stanton served in the consular and political sections in Embassy Beirut (1979-81). Subsequent assignments included: watch officer in the Department of State Operations Center (1981-82); staff assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Near East and South Asian Affairs, (1982-83); country officer for Lebanon (1983-85); Mandarin-language training (1985-87); senior training at the Hoover Institute (1990-91) and political-military affairs officer in Embassy Islamabad (1991-93).

Mr. Stanton was promoted in 2002 to the rank of Minister-Counselor in the Senior Foreign Service. During his twenty-five year career in the Foreign Service, he has received three Superior Honor Awards, one superior group award, and three senior performance awards.

Mr. Stanton earned a B.A. from Fordham University in New York, and an M.A. and a Ph.D. (1978) in English literature from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In addition, Mr. Stanton spent a year studying at Albert-Ludwigs University in Freiburg, Germany. He is married to Karen Clark Stanton, a fellow Foreign Service officer. They have two daughters, Katherine and Elizabeth.