William C. Hannas served in the US Navy 1966-70 on submarines and as a specialist in foreign codes and ciphers. He was awarded a B.A. degree in Asian and Russian history at Temple Univ. in 1974, an M.A. degree in Chinese language at the Univ. of Chicago in 1975, and a Ph.D. in East Asian languages and linguistics at the Univ. of Pennsylvania in 1988. Between degrees he studied and taught at Yonsei Univ. in Seoul and National Taiwan Normal Univ. in Taipei. He also served with the Joint Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg. In 1989, Hannas became Assistant Professor of Chinese at Georgetown, where he taught Chinese and Korean languages. That same year he accepted a concurrent appointment at the Foreign Broadcast Information Service monitoring Asian language publications. He was appointed to the Central Intelligence Agency's Senior Intelligence Service in 2009, where he served as executive expert for advanced technical projects until retiring in 2019. He returned to Georgetown that year as a research professor and lead analyst for its Center for Security and Emerging Technology. Hannas is a three-time recipient of the CIA's McCone award and other decorations. He has published five books on Asian languages, technology, and security issues. Hannas reads or speaks nine languages. His hobbies are reading and vigorous exercise.