

William V. Roebuck
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Egypt and Maghreb Affairs

William Roebuck was promoted to the Senior Foreign Service in January 2013 and appointed Deputy Assistant Secretary for Maghreb Affairs that same month. He served as Chargé d’Affaires in Tripoli for six months from January to June 2013. From September 2010 until December 2012, he served as Director for the Office of Maghreb Affairs in the State Department’s Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs. Roebuck served as Deputy Political Counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad from July 2009 to August 2010, covering Iraq’s external relations and leading the Embassy’s and the resident international community’s efforts to support the critical March 2010 national elections. Roebuck served as the Deputy Office Director for Arabian Peninsula Affairs from 2007 to 2009 focusing on our relations with key Gulf allies such as Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Qatar, and on counter-terrorism cooperation with Yemen. From 2004-2007, he served as the Political Counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Damascus. In his last year of that assignment, Roebuck served as the acting Deputy Chief of Mission. Prior to his assignment in Syria, he covered political issues in the Gaza Strip, while assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv from 2000 to 2003. In preparation for his work in Gaza, Roebuck studied Arabic from 1998-2000 at the Foreign Service Institute in Washington and at the FSI language school in Tunis. He served in Washington as the staff assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern Affairs from 1997-98.

Roebuck joined the Department of State in 1992, serving initially as a consular officer in Kingston, Jamaica (1992-94), and subsequently as a political officer at the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem (1995-1997). Prior to joining the State Department, Roebuck worked as an English teacher and school administrator in Taif, Saudi Arabia from 1982-87. He served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Cote d’Ivoire from 1978-81, teaching English in a small coastal town.

Roebuck speaks French and Arabic. He hails from Rocky Mount, North Carolina and received his Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in English literature from Wake Forest University in 1978 and 1981, and his law degree from the University of Georgia in 1992. He is married and has a 17-year-old son. He has published articles in *The Foreign Service Journal*, the *University of North Carolina Law Review*, and the *University of Georgia Journal of International Law*. His most recent article is *Bloomsday in Baghdad: Reading Joyce in Iraq*, in the September 2012 issue of the *Foreign Service Journal*.