

ORAL INTERVIEW WITH KIMMIT, March 28, 2005

Worked originally as a summer intern in June 1976 while at Georgetown Law School on military scholarship after West Point in Planning Office/Arms transfer issues Worked Congressional legislation - especially arms transfer issues. During Ford Admin. - survived the election and continued to work during early Carter admin.

Left NSC in August 1977 and clerked for Federal Judge in DC

Returned to NSC on July 1, 1978 working for Les Denna as Staff Counsel responsible for FOIA, Legal work, ethics officer (financial disclosures, etc) work for NSC in its "agency" function.

1979 Worked in Office of Global Issues, NSC Jessica Tuckman Matthews - Arms Sales, still kept legal functions. Les Denna returned to Arms Transfer work

Early Reagan Admin 1981 "topsy turvy" not much organization or functionality at NSC

Continued work on Arms transfer - AWACS fight in Fall 1981 also kept legal job

Legal Affairs - worked on POW/MIA issues so got to know Congress/Robert McFarlane

Beginning 1982- Clark/McFarlane take over

1982 - Because of association with POW/MIA issues Sen. John Tower asked him to leave the military and join the Armed Services Committee. After talking to McFarlane, he said if he was going to leave military might as well get a bump up at NSC.

So on April 7, 1982 went from Major Kimmit on active duty to Major Kimmit on reserve.

Now made head of new office - Legal and Legislative Affairs/Security Assistance

Working for him - Peter Sommers, legislative

Col. Robert Lilac on Arms transfer issues plus did legal work

1983 Kimmit assumed Executive Secretariat and General Counsel. As part of this Kimmit insisted that 10 titles for staff - Special Assist to the President - these guys would be the "Senior Directors" of Directorates 5 regional guys and 5 functions (Find out who this was) Kemp for Southeast Asia....etc...

Explained history of Executive Secretary position - actually mandated in NSC legislation- dropped in Kissinger's time due to his paranoia about control, and

authority. Changed to staff secretary. So from 1969-1983 only SS at NSC. Dick Moore, David Ahren , Martin Halpirin Then Jean Davis for Nixon/Ford Years, Christine Dodson for Carter Years and into early 1981, then Mike Wheeler. "Wheeler did not work" and left in 1981/82. Then Kimmit took over in 83.

So in late 83 McFarlane takes over as APNSA, so now you have McFarlane, Poindexter and Kimmit in charge and all military guys. Everything starts straightening up in 1982 and becomes quite military in 1983. Material must follow a line of command and go through Kimmit to get to McFarlane. Poindexter is very tech savvy, so start to really rely on and use the profs system the STAIRS search and retrieval system for the system files, etc. which also contributed to the straightening and tightening of control of paperwork flow. (George Van Ehron, retired; Kathy Millison, NSC; Brian Merchant, NSC can really talk about the automation)

Full scale use of profs revealed the essential problem with hierarchical paper systems. They can be by-passed with email. Email was originally set up to go through Kimmit, but staff quickly figured out that replying directly to an email set up a direct communication with that person. Kimmit noted that this is where some of the Iran-Contra troubles came from - Exec Sec didn't see north-mcfarlane-poindexter communications so couldn't farm out to legal, etc for more opinions.

After NSC, 1985-1987 at Treasury as General Counsel

Ambassador to Germany in first Bush Admin
Time/Warner
State Department?

The Honorable Robert M. Kimmitt

The Honorable Robert M. Kimmitt graduated from West Point Military Academy in 1969. Upon graduation he was assigned to Vietnam where he earned three Bronze Star Medals, the Purple Heart, the Air Medal and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry during his course of service. After the war, Ambassador Kimmitt attended Georgetown University Law Center, graduating in 1977. While a student at the Law Center he served as Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Law and Policy in International Business*.

Ambassador Kimmitt clerked for Judge Edward Tam of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit from 1977 to 1978. Upon completion of his clerkship he began an exceptional career in public service where he held a multitude of high-level government appointments. He was awarded the Presidential Citizen's Medal, the second highest civilian award, for his service during the Gulf Crisis and War. As the American Ambassador to Germany, he was awarded Germany's highest honor, the *Bundesverdienststkreuz*, as well as the United States Defense Department's Distinguished Public Service Award.

Ambassador Kimmitt joined AOL Time Warner in July 2001 as Executive Vice President, Global and Strategic Policy. He is

responsible for setting AOL Time Warner's strategic course on major public policy issues affecting the company in the United States and around the world. Prior to joining AOL Time Warner, Ambassador Kimmitt was President and Vice Chairman of Commerce One, Inc., an electronic commerce company headquartered in Pleasanton, California.

Ambassador Kimmitt continues to serve Georgetown University and was recently awarded the Paul R. Dean Alumni Award in honor of his dedicated service. He currently is a member of Georgetown University's Board of Directors and the Law Center's Board of Visitors, where he was Chairman of the International Committee. He was co-chair of his reunion class in 1997 and served as a reunion volunteer in 2002.

Ambassador Kimmitt lives in Arlington, Virginia with his wife, Holly and their children.