

CHARLES R. SNYDER
Acting Assistant Secretary of State
Bureau of African Affairs

- Biographical Statement -

Charles R. Snyder was appointed acting assistant secretary of state for African affairs on November 1, 2003. Before assuming his duties, Mr. Snyder served as the principal deputy assistant secretary for African affairs, where he managed the Bureau on a daily basis. He also was the central policy person for the Sudan peace initiative and provided policy focus for the southern African region.

Mr. Snyder, before becoming principal deputy assistant secretary, served as the deputy assistant secretary for African affairs from 2001 to 2003. He helped frame policy for the Horn of Africa and Central Africa, including the Great Lakes Region. From 1995 until 2001, Mr. Snyder was the director of the Office of Regional Affairs in the Africa Bureau. He advised the assistant secretary on crosscutting policy and program issues such as democracy, conflict resolution, human rights, and crisis management. A career Africanist, Mr. Snyder served in the Senior Intelligence Service at the Central Intelligence Agency as a national intelligence officer for Africa from 1992 until 1995.



Mr. Snyder retired from the U.S. Army in 1991 after twenty-two years of service. During these years, Colonel Snyder was responsible to the Army deputy chief of staff for operations for military training and assistance programs throughout sub-Saharan Africa. Previously, he established credentials as an expert in African matters as an analyst at the Defense Intelligence Agency and on the staff of Army assistant chief of staff for intelligence. Assigned to the Department of State in 1985 as an exchange officer, he served as military adviser to the Africa Bureau until his retirement from active duty.

He holds a Bachelor's Degree in economics from Fordham University and a Master's in Business Administration in international finance from American University. Mr. Snyder did additional post-graduate work in International relations at Catholic University. He is a fellow of the Inter-University Seminar on Armed Forces and Society, a life member of the African Studies Association, and a distinguished visiting lecturer of the Foreign Service Institute.