

Joanne Cummings

Joanne Held Cummings is a career Foreign Service Officer (FSO) of the Department of State (DOS). She has served extensively in the Middle East, North Africa, and East Africa. Daughter of an FSO, she was raised in Lebanon, Iran, and Saudi Arabia. In the private sector and for DOS, she has worked in Iraq, Afghanistan, Jerusalem, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Cyprus, Syria, and Ethiopia, as well as nine years working regionally from Morocco through Pakistan. Ms. Cummings has served as POLAD, Refugee Coordinator, Consular Officer, Political Officer, and Economic and Pol/Econ Section Chief in various posts. She has lived through, and served in, a variety of stress and conflict environments. She was evacuated from Syria and now serves in Yemen as Political/Economic Section Chief. She speaks Arabic fluently (Lebanese, Egyptian, Saudi, and Iraqi dialects) and French, and is familiar with Spanish, Hebrew, Farsi, and Kurdish.

Ms. Cummings was born in Lincoln, Nebraska. She attended schools overseas and was graduated summa cum laude in History from the American University in Beirut. She received her MA in Geography from the University of Texas at Austin, and has studied economics and finance at the graduate level. Ms. Cummings is married with two sons, and her family home is in Austin, Texas.