

## **ANN WRIGHT**

As military officer and diplomat, Colonel, USA (Ret.) Ann Wright served repeatedly in crisis situations on three continents during the last thirty years. She was Deputy Chief of Mission in four U.S. Embassies: Micronesia, Sierra Leone, Afghanistan in 2001 - 2002, and Mongolia. She also was assigned to Nicaragua, Grenada, Somalia, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan. Secretary Albright presented Ann Wright the Department of State's Award for Heroism for her successful management of the largest post-Vietnam evacuation of civilians (2500) from Sierra Leone, where she was Chargé d'affaires during the violent coup there in 1997.

Colonel Wright, who is airborne qualified, served primarily with special operations units during her combined 26 year regular Army/Army Reserve career. She was executive officer of the only active duty Civil Affairs (civil reconstruction) unit in the US Army. In 1983-1984 she was a member of the 18th Airborne Corps international law team in Grenada that settled property claims arising from military operations there. From 1985-87, Wright commanded the US Southern Command's Civic Action and Humanitarian Assistance office set up to coordinate large civil construction projects in Honduras.

Colonel Wright earned Master's and Law Degrees from the University of Arkansas and a Master's Degree in National Security Affairs from the US Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island. She taught Special Forces and 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne units at the JFK School of International Studies at Fort Bragg, NC, on the responsibilities of occupying powers detailed in the Law of Land Warfare and the Geneva Conventions. In 1993-94 she was director of a United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) office set up to reconstruct the justice system there. She concurrently oversaw more than 10,000 Somali police returning to work, and the creation of 8 courts and 4 prisons.

On March 19, 2003, while Deputy Chief of Mission at the US Embassy in Mongolia, Ms. Wright resigned her Foreign Service commission because she disagreed with the Bush administration's decision to go to war in Iraq and also "with the Administration's policies on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, North Korea and curtailment of civil liberties in the U.S. itself". Of several U. S. Foreign Service Officers who also resigned at that time for similar reasons Ms. Wright was the most highly placed.

Since her resignation Ms. Wright has spoken to many civic associations and college and university groups on her views of current US foreign policy. She has spoken also about the ethical and moral dilemmas facing government employees who do not agree with major policies of an administration. She has been featured in the Washington Post magazine, Government Executive magazine, the Foreign Service Journal, and she has been interviewed on radio and TV. She participated in the documentary film "Truth Uncovered: The Whole Truth About the Iraq War". Her book, DISSENT: Voices of Conscience. Government Insiders Speak Out Against the War in Iraq, co-authored with Susan Dixon, will be published by Koa Press [www.koabooks.com](http://www.koabooks.com) , Kihei, Hawaii on January 15<sup>th</sup>.