

Nomination for Jason Foley for Roger Jones Award

Biographical Sketch

Jason Foley has spent the last 20 years helping to lead and reform U.S. national security agencies. His Federal government experience includes service at the Peace Corps, Department of State, Department of Homeland Security, and currently the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). He also worked in the private sector as an international financial sector reform consultant. Throughout his career, Mr. Foley has earned a number of agency-wide awards and is recognized as an expert in policy development and implementation, strategic and resource planning, performance monitoring, project design, and program management.

After graduating with honors from the University of Michigan in political science and economics, Mr. Foley joined the Peace Corps. He departed for Benin and lived for 18 months in a mud hut with no electricity or running water. When he first arrived in his village, Mr. Foley discovered that most children suffered from severe malnutrition. He also understood from a community needs assessment that given the poor quality of the soil, improved diets would require increased marketplace earnings for the women who fed the children. He established a micro-credit village bank that provided loans to women's collectives in return for their pledge to pay back each other's loans upon default and to participate in small business development training. Within a year, the bank had over 100 members and achieved a 98 percent repayment rate. Based on his bank's success, Mr. Foley persuaded a German nongovernmental organization to open four additional banks. In the end, more than 1,000 children became healthier as a result of increased marketplace earnings funded by village banks that Mr. Foley helped to establish.

Hooked on development, Mr. Foley returned to Georgetown University, where he earned a Master's Degree in Foreign Service (with highest honors). At this time, the Asian Financial Crises began to rattle world markets and Mr. Foley broadened his practical understanding of credit markets by studying international financial markets. While studying at Georgetown, Mr. Foley began interning for KPMG Consulting where he worked with David Cooke, the former head of the U.S. Resolution Trust Corporation (RTC). Anticipating the needs for RTC-like global services, Mr. Foley helped establish a new consulting practice to advise foreign governments on reforming their financial sectors. After graduation, KPMG Consulting hired Mr. Foley as a Senior Manager and Deputy Director of the new practice from 1999 to 2003. During this time, he helped to recruit and manage 30 employees and contractors. Mr. Foley managed projects with the Central Banks and Finance Ministries in Indonesia, Thailand, South Korea, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Mexico, and Mozambique. He co-authored studies for the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and USAID and presented his findings at global conferences on financial sector reform.

In 2003, Mr. Foley brought his talents to the State Department, which had just established a new Office of Strategic and Performance Planning. Mr. Foley was one of its first employees and over the next five years, he rose to become Office Director. Recognizing the need for closer State-USAID collaboration, he oversaw the development of the first-ever State/USAID Joint Strategic Plan and helped create two new structure – the Joint Policy Council and a Joint Management Council – to ensure its implementation. Under his stewardship, agreement was reached on

appropriate agency responsibilities for dealing with refugees and internally displaced persons and a shared financial management system. Citing his exceptional leadership skills in helping to align U.S. diplomacy and development, the Department awarded Mr. Foley two Superior Honor Awards.

Mr. Foley was then tapped to serve as Budget Director at Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) at the Department of Homeland Security. At 36 years old, he became one of the youngest career Senior Executive Service officers in the federal government. During his tenure there, Mr. Foley developed operational budget procedures, conducted regular financial reviews, resolved an Antideficiency Act violation, filled many vacancies, and renewed an open and direct dialogue with the Office of Management and Budget and Congress. As a result, ICE's Administrator asked Mr. Foley to lead a cross-functional effort to develop and begin implementing a \$500 million initiative to identify and remove criminal aliens from every prison and jail in the United States. Working two full-time jobs, Mr. Foley launched the initiative, subsequently endorsed in briefings to Secretary Chertoff and the Chairmen of House and Senate Appropriations Committees. ICE awarded its highest civilian award to Mr. Foley for his efforts.

Returning to the development arena, Mr. Foley then accepted an SES position as the Deputy Policy Director at USAID in late 2008. President Obama had just been elected and excitement ran high that global development would be a Presidential priority. In this transition period, Mr. Foley stepped up to serve as acting Chief Operating Officer – the agency's third highest ranking officer – on a temporary basis to support the acting Administrator. In this capacity, he represented USAID at senior meetings at the White House and the Department of State and helped to manage efforts to provide input into the President's Policy Directive on Global Development. Mr. Foley also played a leading role in the development of the Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review (QDDR) – a roadmap for reforming how USAID and the Department of State work together.

With the arrival of a new Administrator in 2010, Mr. Foley moved to his current capacity as Director of Strategic and Program Planning, where he is spearheading major reform efforts for USAID under the banner of "USAID Forward." He is also helping lead the QDDR implementation through strategic planning and project design processes agency-wide. Mr. Foley received a Special Achievement Award from the Administrator for helping to re-establish the discipline of development at the agency.