

## **OPERA – fiche sociographique - défense**

### **Prénom, Nom:**

Daniel J. Cox Jr.

### **Contact :**

### **Catégorie : Législatif**

### **Dates de naissance / décès :**

Né en 1946 ou 47.

### **Lieu de naissance :**

New Orleans

### **Genre :** Male

### **Lieu de résidence (si DC avant l'accession à un poste retenu, avec si possible l'année de l'emménagement à DC):**

### **Formation :**

<b>BA/BS</b>	
<b>MA/MS</b>	MPA, Harvard, 1978 MBA, Long Island, 1981
<b>PhD</b>	
<b>Law degree (JD...)</b>	
<b>Autre</b>	BA, West Point, 1969

### **Profession initiale :**

### **Carrière :**

1969 – 1997 : US army, 28 ans

West Point Professor

United Nations peacekeeper in Sarajevo

1993 – 1997 : Military advisor, United States Department of State

1997- 17 avril 2008 (resigned) : professional staff member, SASC

### **Sources biblio/bio, articles, divers.**

### **Senate Armed Services Committee**

Megan Scully

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Daniel Cox

Majority Professional Staff Member

A Vietnam War and Desert Storm veteran, Cox spent 28 years in the Army, retiring as a colonel before coming to the committee in 1997. He is no stranger to politics, however, having taught political science and international relations at his alma mater, West Point. "I was always fascinated by Congress," he said. Despite the change of venue, Cox, 60, still focuses heavily on Army matters, overseeing issues ranging from the Iraq war to the development of the service's Future Combat System. "What they hired me for was my operational experience," said Cox, a New Orleans native and an avid skier. "The argument that I made was that I could give advice knowing actually what the commanders in the field knew, what they wanted, what they needed, what the troops needed." A retired Army official who knows Cox calls him a "well-grounded, competent, and savvy" staffer. "He is one of the few who actually takes time to go out and visit soldiers to understand their challenges and missions, and then takes action to make things better."

### **The Aide Who Wrote the Question**

POLITICO

1/31/07 6:23 PM

Daniel J. Cox Jr. doesn't look like a troublemaker, but the Senate Armed Services Committee aide knows how to stir things up.

The committee's principal staff member for Iraq issues, Cox ignited a firestorm when he fed his boss a simple but profound question to ask Gen. Eric Shinseki, the former Army chief of staff, at a 2003 pre-Iraq war hearing.

"General Shinseki," asked Sen. Carl Levin, Mich., then senior Democrat on the panel, "could you give us some idea as to the magnitude of the Army's force requirement for an occupation of Iraq following a successful completion of the war?"

Shinseki's candid answer -- that it would take "several hundred thousand soldiers" to pacify Iraq -- still reverberates.

It became powerful ammunition for those who see the U.S. occupation as a tableau of preventable blunders. It stoked criticism that the Bush administration low-balled Iraq war needs. And, many believe, it eventually cost Shinseki his job, particularly since his assessment was so publicly dismissed by the Bush administration.

"That was a question I wrote for Levin," said Cox, a 28-year Army veteran, who acknowledged in an interview that it was probably the best -- and most famous -- question he had ever recommended to Levin, who now chairs the committee.

The incident marked a turning point in Cox's career, catapulting him into the center of one of the most controversial conflicts in U.S. history. An unassuming career armor officer and former helicopter pilot, Cox had patiently worked behind the scenes in the committee's Democratic office since joining the staff in 1997.

Cox said he provides professional insight and a "muddy-boots perspective" on billion-dollar weapons and military policy.

"I've always been interested in coming to Capitol Hill. To me it was the more interesting, more fascinating of the branches of government," Cox said. "The role that it plays in oversight of the executive branch and the checks and balances of the constitutional system was fascinating."

With his experience as a senior Army trainer during Operation Desert Storm, as a West Point professor and as a United Nations peacekeeper in Sarajevo, Cox seemed the perfect choice to become one of Levin's most trusted advisers when the Bush administration was gearing up for a war to topple Saddam Hussein in late 2002.

Throughout the run-up to the Iraq war, the budget and policy battles during the invasion, and the domestic political brawls that have punctuated the violent occupation, Cox has helped his boss shape the debate over a war that Cox feels has tarnished America's image. Though he previously leaned Republican, Cox said the Iraq war soured his view of the GOP and left him frustrated with an administration that he believes "has flat out failed."

"Our position in the world is a lot less than it was before," Cox said. "I think the last six years have damaged our relations with the rest of the world ... At least in my lifetime, I do not think it is going to recover fully."

Now Cox plays a key role in strengthening the intellectual underpinnings of Levin's Iraq strategy, in which he calls for the withdrawal of U.S. troops within months to demonstrate to the Iraqi government that the United States will not remain there indefinitely. Cox also believes that President Bush's troop "surge" won't do much good. And he is worried that the burden of the "war on terrorism" falls disproportionately on the small segment of the population that makes up the volunteer military.

"This country is not mobilized like it could be," Cox said. "There's a lot of the U.S. population that doesn't even know we're at war and doesn't even care."

When he's not working on Iraq issues, Cox focuses on the ground equipment needs of the Army and the Marine Corps, dealing with budget requests and program oversight, and assists the Airland Subcommittee chairman, Sen. Joseph I. Lieberman, I-Conn.

Bruce Hock, a Republican aide who has worked with Cox on Army and Iraq issues for five years, described his counterpart as fiercely protective of soldiers and Marines, particularly in making certain they are well equipped.

But the two have had major differences over the administration's Iraq policy. "When you're on the opposite side, there's a little bit of a distrust there," Hock said.

Soon, Cox will have to shift his focus from the high-profile Iraq hearings to the Pentagon budget, which will likely result in more contentious hearings.

Though he's an avid downhill skier who likes to take at least one trip to the Rocky Mountains each year, the committee schedule may keep Cox from his favorite slopes.

"There's no doubt in my mind that Levin will do everything he possibly can to take a bipartisan approach" to military issues, Cox said. "There will be differences, and they will be debated. But they will be heartfelt debates."

Source : Politico, accessed 30 mai 12

<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0107/2578.html>

**Sources additionnelles :**

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[http://www.legistorm.com/person/Daniel\\_J\\_Cox\\_Jr\\_/7698.html](http://www.legistorm.com/person/Daniel_J_Cox_Jr_/7698.html)