

OPERA – fiche sociographique - défense

Prénom, Nom:

Elizabeth A. Phillips (Betsy)

Contact :

Catégorie : Législatif

Dates de naissance / décès :

1958 ou 1959

Lieu de naissance :

Boyne city, Mich.

Genre : Fem.

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

Formation :

BA/BS	BA, Un. Of West Florida
MA/MS	MA, Un. Of West Florida
PhD	
Law degree (JD...)	
Autre	

Profession initiale :

Carrière :

1985 - 92 : rejoint House Appro committee, subcomm defense

92 - 98 : staff House Appro Com, Subcom : Treasury, postal services, general government

98 - fev 2005 : subcom defense

fev 2005 - fin juin 2007 : house appro com. Subcom Foreign Operations

juin 2007 - juillet 2008 : Ambassade, Bagdad, Irak, Department of State

1 juillet 2008 - 31 décembre 2008 : house appro com.

3 aout 2009 - aout 2010 : house appro com., branch chief

2010 : executive vice president of McBee Strategic Consulting

mai 2012 - : president, Town creek consulting, public policy, Arlington, VA.

Sources biblio/bio, articles, divers.

Congressional Insiders Poll; Iraq

Support the Troops; Scrutinize the War

James Kitfield and Gregg Sangillo

2041 words

9 April 2005

National Journal

NTLJ

English

(c) 2005 by National Journal Group Inc. All rights reserved.

No vote is more agonizing for members of Congress than the decision to wage war. Hundreds of thousands of their fellow citizens will likely be thrown into harm's way. Many will never return. Many more will suffer debilitating wounds, psychological as well as physical. The lives of countless Americans and nameless foreign nationals, as well as the fates of nations, literally hang on those votes.

However, as all of the key congressional staffers on Iraq who are profiled in this section could surely attest, a congressional vote to authorize the use of force is just the beginning of a long and arduous journey. Lawmakers must cope with the war's costs and consequences, which cascade down through the years.

Appropriations committees have dealt with three successive emergency supplemental budget requests for the war, and will likely face more. At the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, a host of Iraq issues are on the agenda. Many of those will arise during hearings on the expected nomination of Zalmay Khalilzad as U.S. ambassador to Iraq. The effort to train and deploy Iraqi security forces; the slow political progress toward establishing a functioning Iraqi government and toward the writing of a constitution; and the lagging reconstruction effort -- all will be lines of questioning in coming months.

After finishing an initial markup of the Defense authorization bill in May, the Senate Armed Services Committee plans to take another look at whether U.S. forces in Iraq have all the equipment they need -- including armored Humvees, body armor, and technology to help thwart roadside bombs.

John Shank

Clerk

Defense Subcommittee

House Appropriations Committee

Shank started as clerk of the subcommittee under Chairman Bill Young, R-Fla., only in January. In a baptism by fire, Shank played a key role on the Iraq war supplemental, an \$81.4 billion package that successfully passed the House. Shank says that although the issues were new to him, the appropriations process was old hat. "I'm new to the job, but I've done appropriations for 22 years," Shank says. "I would be less than honest if I didn't say it obviously made it difficult, given the fact that it was a transition into a new job. But, I think, all things being equal, we did a very good job."

After the White House provided the committee with the supplemental request, Shank was part of an effort to measure whether the funding levels properly met the needs of U.S. armed forces in Iraq and Afghanistan. Shank and the subcommittee staff looked hard at what logistical support was needed to protect marines and soldiers. The staff also worked closely with the Pentagon comptroller's office. Although lawmakers wanted some components of the bill to become a part of the regular appropriations process, Shank says that much of the money was for immediate operational needs. "You can't wait. These funds are needed now."

Shank, a 50-year-old Seattle native, graduated from Willamette University in Salem, Ore. He started out in Washington as an intern for then-Rep.

Al Ullman, D-Ore. He has worked on the Commerce, Justice, and State Subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and he did two stints at the House Appropriations foreign operations subcommittee. He also spent a year working on intelligence issues at the Appropriations Defense Subcommittee.

Betsy Phillips

Clerk

Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Subcommittee

House Appropriations Committee

During deliberations on the emergency supplemental bill for Iraq this year, the staff of the foreign-operations subcommittee frequently asked the question, "What constitutes an emergency?" And Phillips, foreign-operations clerk under subcommittee Chairman Jim Kolbe, R-Ariz., was the one holding the bill's provisions up to a microscope.

Phillips and subcommittee staffers met with the budget staff of the State Department, pressing additional questions and asking for more details on the administration funding requests. "We asked the State Department, 'What are you guys going to do with this money?' " In scrutinizing these requests, Phillips based her judgment on what the committee recognized as an emergency, not necessarily on State's assertion that, 'Well, we need more money for something,' " she said. For instance, Phillips said, \$570 million for Afghanistan was cut because it was for construction projects that would not even start until after fiscal 2006.

Like Defense Subcommittee Clerk John Shank, Phillips, 46, is new to her position and has relied on other staffers for a lot of technical advice. But she, too, is a veteran of the appropriations process. Phillips has worked in a variety of positions at House Appropriations since 1985. She was a professional staffer at the Defense Subcommittee from 1985 to 1992, and did similar work at the Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government Subcommittee from 1992 to 1998. She subsequently returned to the Defense Subcommittee, where she remained until February.

Phillips is from Boyne City, Mich., and has bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of West Florida.

Charles (Chuck) Alsup

Majority Professional Staff Member

Senate Armed Services Committee

At first glance, a long career in the regimented, hierarchical, and apolitical culture of the U.S. military might seem strange preparation for duty in the more chaotic, informal, and hyperpolitical world of Capitol Hill. But Alsup seems a perfect fit as the top man on Iraq for committee Chairman John Warner, R-Va.

In a 28-year career in Army intelligence and Special Operations forces, Alsup served in Korea, Germany, and Panama, and on the Joint Staff, where as a colonel and an intelligence expert he frequently briefed Congress. That's how he caught the attention of Warner's staff. Since the 9/11 terror attacks, Alsup has accompanied Warner on three trips to Afghanistan and Iraq, and more are expected.

"I think my Army background has been very helpful, because it gave me knowledge of regional issues associated with the Middle East and an understanding of organizational structures in the military that was useful as we studied the operational requirements for Iraq and Afghanistan," said Alsup. "My experience in Special Operations also helped Senator Warner understand what was being proposed, first in Afghanistan, and then in

the initial phase of the Iraqi Freedom campaign. Finally, my intelligence background has proven useful ... as we debated [both] military operations in Iraq and the larger subject of intelligence reform."

Alsup, 59, grew up in upstate New York and earned an undergraduate degree from Duke University and a master's from the University of Missouri.

Kim Savit

Majority Senior Professional Staff Member

Senate Foreign Relations Committee

With 21 years of experience working in the Defense and State departments, Savit often views her role as helping those two behemoths bridge the considerable gaps separating their approaches to Iraq, even when their Cabinet-level leaders are unable to find common ground. In that, she very much reflects the mediating influence of her boss, Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Ind., chairman of the committee.

"Perhaps because of my background at Defense and State, I very strongly believe that we need to bridge these institutional gaps to conduct an effective foreign policy, because the challenge of Iraq is so multifaceted," said Savit, 50, who grew up in Sacramento, Calif.

Because the Defense, State, and Treasury departments, as well as the intelligence agencies and the Office of Management and Budget, are all involved in Iraq, "you have virtually every committee on Capitol Hill engaged in oversight on Iraq," Savit said. "And I think Senator Lugar has been critical in exploring all aspects of this really complex problem, and pushing the administration to be more forward-thinking in how it was going to coordinate the government so that everyone is pulling in a common direction."

Savit, who has an undergraduate degree in international relations from the University of California (Davis), and a master's from Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies, sees high-profile hearings as the committee's primary oversight tool. Last year alone, she said, the committee held 23 hearings on Iraq.

"We've held hearings on virtually every aspect of Iraq, from the strategic implications of the war and efforts to internationalize the reconstruction effort, to how to stand up Iraqi government structures and improve the interaction of the State and Defense departments in Iraq," Savit said.

Dan Cox

Minority Senior Professional Staff Member

Senate Armed Services Committee

Cox is a testament to the fact that there really are second acts in American lives, especially for career Army officers. Upon retiring as a colonel in 1997, he became the go-to guy on Iraq for ranking minority member Carl Levin, D-Mich. Cox, 57, has used his experience in uniform, his extensive contacts in the U.S. Army leadership, and his frequent trips to Iraq to closely track the war there and to make policy recommendations.

"This job has really been a perfect fit for me," said Cox, a native of New Orleans and a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He also has a master's degree in public administration from Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government, and a master's in business from Long Island University.

"In the Army, I was a combat arms officer in the cavalry, and I taught political science and international relations at West Point. That was an ideal combination, in terms of transitioning to working on Capitol Hill during an extraordinary time. We're trying to help the Army transform itself for the future, even while it fights what has become principally an Army-Marine Corps war."

Although Levin was critical of the way the administration went to war, he nevertheless believes that the United States cannot afford to fail in Iraq. Thus Cox has kept his focus on making sure that U.S. troops receive whatever equipment and resources they need. That job includes ensuring that Iraqi military forces can gradually assume responsibility for Iraq's security and pave the way for the eventual withdrawal of U.S. forces. "When units rotate out of Iraq, we also have to make sure they have the resources and wherewithal to conduct required maintenance, replace combat losses, and also reorganize and transform themselves for the future," Cox said.

Puneet Talwar

Minority Senior Professional Staff Member

Senate Foreign Relations Committee

There's little wonder that Sen. Joseph Biden, D-Del., the ranking minority member on the committee, designated Talwar as his point man on Iraq and Afghanistan. It wasn't Talwar's master's degree in international affairs, his stint at the State Department, or his time as a staffer on the House side. No, it was an altogether different experience that made Talwar a natural fit for the job.

In the critical weeks after the 9/11 terrorist attacks, with U.S. forces poised to enter Afghanistan to topple the Taliban and target Al Qaeda, Talwar told his boss that in the early 1990s he had spent two years in Afghanistan, helping to coordinate United Nations relief efforts there. He knew better than most on Capitol Hill the complexities of the task that the United States was about to undertake.

"I recounted to Senator Biden my experiences in that first U.N. operation, when frankly things didn't go very well, because the world community quickly lost interest," said Talwar. "There was a civil war under way at that time as well, so I had seen up close and personal the problems created by a lack of fundamental security. I knew that it was one thing to topple the Taliban, and quite another to try and rebuild Afghanistan. So all of my experiences and understanding of the situation seemed to have direct relevance at that moment. It was almost as if my career had come full circle."

Talwar helped plan and manage the key hearings on Iraq that were held in July and August of 2002 before the fall vote on use of force. A native of Washington, D.C., Talwar, 39, received his undergraduate degree from Cornell University and his master's from Columbia University. He joined Biden's personal staff in 1995, and the committee in 1997.

Source : Accessed 13 juin 12

Sources additionnelles :
First Street, Who's who.