



GEORGE F. RUFFNER

Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs
American Embassy Germany

Mr. Ruffner assumed his duties as the Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs in Germany on September 18, 2006. Prior to his assignment to Berlin, he served at the U.S. Embassy in Singapore. As the Senior Commercial Officer in Singapore from 2002-2006, he played a key role in promoting the U.S./Singapore Free Trade Agreement, which was the first U.S. free trade agreement in Asia.

Mr. Ruffner's career with the U.S. Department of Commerce began when he was selected for the U.S. Government's Management Intern Program. After four years with the Department's Office of International Marketing, he completed Spanish language training and was assigned to Mexico City where he served as the Trade Promotion Officer at the U.S. Trade Center. When the Commercial Service was formed in 1980, he was one of only fifty officers selected for this elite corps of trade promotion professionals.

In 1982, Mr. Ruffner transferred to Santiago, Chile, where he served as the Commercial Attachè until 1984, when he moved to Netherlands to assume the position of Principal Commercial Officer at the U.S. Consulate General in Amsterdam. After a five year stint in Holland, he became the Senior Commercial Officer at the American Embassy in Singapore in 1989. Mr. Ruffner returned to Washington, D.C. in 1993 for Italian training in preparation for his assignment to Italy, where he served as the Principal Commercial Officer in Milan from 1994 - 1999. During this period, he was instrumental in developing and implementing the trade event portion of the Service's Showcase Europe Program. From 1999-2002, he served as the Senior Commercial Officer in Manila, the Philippines, where he developed and implemented two of the Commercial Service's leading programs, Show Time and the Platinum Key Service.

Mr. Ruffner received his BA in Economics from Hobart College in 1967 and his MBA from Columbia University in 1969. Following two years in the U.S. Army, he returned to Columbia University's School of International Affairs where he received his Master's Degree in International Affairs in 1972. Mr. Ruffner's professional achievement awards include the U.S. Department of Commerce's Gold and Silver Medals. In addition, he received the Lawrence M. Payne Memorial Award in 2005 for his work promoting international trade through cooperative efforts between the public and private sectors.

Mr. Ruffner is married to the former Marjon Huisman, a native of the Netherlands. They have four cats.

