

Peter Tomsen  
Ambassador in Residence  
University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO)

Ambassador Tomsen teaches courses in American foreign policy and Eurasia at UNO. Additionally, he writes articles on Afghanistan and Central Asia, conducts research for a book he is preparing on Afghanistan, and lectures on international affairs to community groups around the country. In recent weeks, he has given numerous T.V, radio and press interviews to national and international media outlets on the developing situation in Afghanistan.

Ambassador Tomsen was American Ambassador to Armenia from 1995 to 1998. He was President G.W. Bush's Special Envoy on Afghanistan with the rank of Ambassador, 1989-1992. In this capacity, he met many Afghan tribal leaders, commanders and ulema who remain active today. Ambassador Tomsen was one of the last foreign visitors to meet Ahmed Shah Masood on June 23-24, 2001. He has visited Zahir Shah, Afghanistan's former king, in Rome in July and September of this year.

Before assuming his duties as Ambassador to Armenia, Ambassador Tomsen was Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs in the Department of State. Under the Assistant Secretary, he was the senior manager of United States diplomacy in this area, from Burma to Micronesia, China to Australia. He was United States Deputy Chief of Mission in China, 1986-1989. He served in Moscow as First Secretary in the American Embassy's Political Section, 1977-1979

Beginning his Foreign Service career in 1967, Ambassador Tomsen was assigned to Thailand. He then was posted to Vietnam's Mekong Delta, 1969-1970, as a District Senior Advisor to an ARVN Lieutenant Colonel. He subsequently served in India for five years, 1971-1976, and in China for five years. After two years as Political Officer in the American Embassy in China, he was the Director of the State Department's Office of India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Maldives Affairs, 1983-1985.

Among the awards Ambassador Tomsen has received: three Presidential Meritorious Service Awards, one State Department Superior and two Meritorious Honor awards. He speaks Russian, Vietnamese, and Hindi-Urdu.

Ambassador Tomsen graduated from Wittenberg University in 1962. After receiving a Master's degree from the University of Pittsburgh, he served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Nepal, 1962-1966.

Ambassador Tomsen was born in Cleveland, Ohio on November 19, 1940. He is married to Kim Tomsen. They have two daughters.