

CHANGED LIVES: ARMENIA AND AMERICA 25 YEARS AFTER THE SPITAK EARTHQUAKE

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Armenia Earthquake Response Team 1988

Armenia: A Personal Story

Cambridge/IISS Soviet-US
Defense Spending

KU Medical School

Afghanistan 1985-86

DC Surgery

White House Fellow to
Presidents Reagan and
Bush

Member USAID Armenia
Team



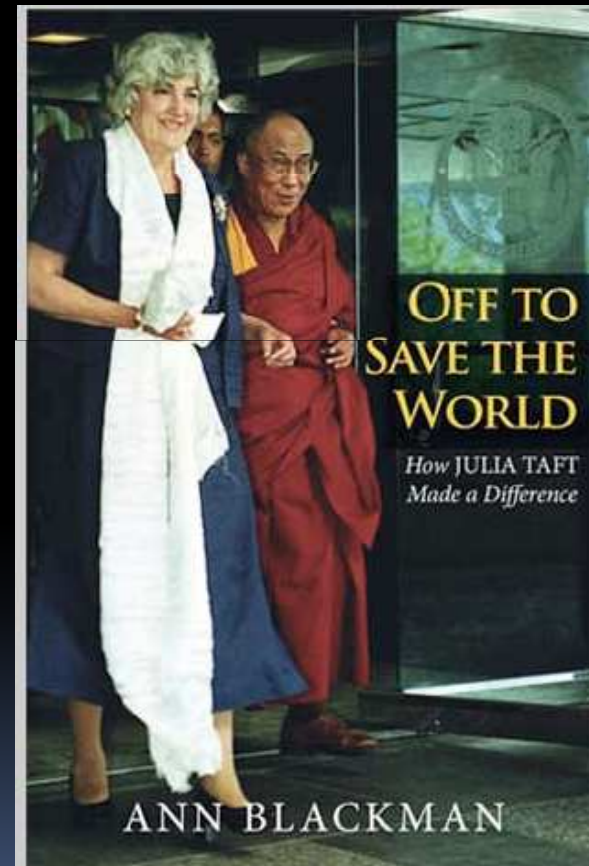
Key Players: Julia Taft

Director, Office of
Foreign Disaster
Assistance (OFDA)

Relief efforts Five
Presidents

Former White House
Fellow

Husband Dep Sec DoD



Key Players: Fred Cuny

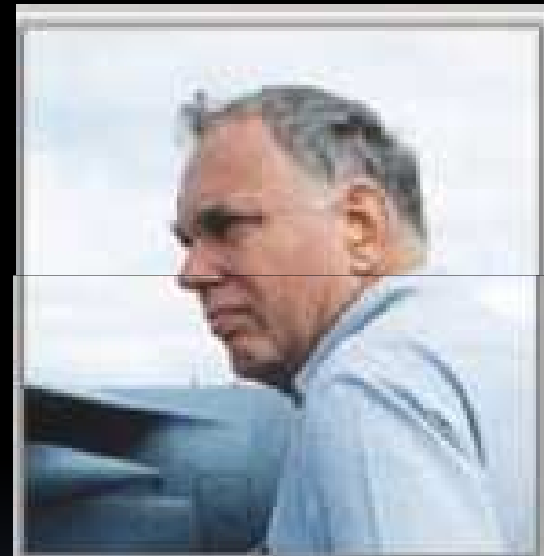
Founder, Intertect

Involved in multiple
disaster relief efforts

Key OFDA Contractor

Changed relief
programs worldwide

Founder, International
Crisis Group



Washington/New York

December 7, 1988

Last Summit at UN with
Reagan, Bush, and
Gorbachev

Afghanistan pullout

Polisario shot down two
OFDA planes

Satellite Photos

Woods calls President
Reagan



The Go Ahead to OFDA

Chartered 727

Julia Taft & Fred Cuny

Robert Gale, M.D.

US Armenian Leaders

Dade and Fairfax Fire

Search&Rescue Dogs

Physicians

Engineers



Teams Deployed to Gyumri & Spitak

Impressed with
Armenian resilience

Cautious in USSR

Civil Unrest

Communications

Snowfall

Shock to a very
experienced team

SaRs Teams



Search and Rescue

Fairfax/Dade
Firefighters
SaR Dog Teams
Worked Closely with
Armenians
Multiple Rescues



Medical Assessment

Loss of Armenian
Providers

Impressed with the high
quality of Armenian
Providers

Loss of Facilities



Medical Assessment

Large Number of
Walking Wounded

Crush Syndrome

Wounds/Ortho

Cold

PTSD

Future Needs



Engineering Assessment

Assist SaR Team

Begin evaluation of
seismic wave effects

Begin evaluation of
construction issues

Assist future rebuilding



Fred Cuny: Address the Next Phase

Snow was unique factor

Look at local coping strategies

Plastic Sheeting

Tents and Appropriate Response

“It’s the economy”



Long Term US Assistance

Sort Appropriate
Donations

Nasa Bridge

Healthcare

Engineering/Housing

Questions 25 years later



American Lessons

Bravery and Ingenuity of
our Armenian Friends

Respect for Armenian
Democratic Yearning

Effect of the Earthquake
lasts for generations

Missed Opportunities



American Lessons

DART Teams with better
management/training

Complex Disasters are
the norm—natural
disaster combined
with weather, civil
unrest, & economics

It's all about the
economy



American Lessons

Look at Short Term and
Medium Term Medical
Issues from the
Beginning

Appropriate Technology
is difficult

PTSD affects everyone



Ronald Reagan: “This may be the straw that broke the camel’s back.”



American Lessons

US-Armenian ties are
very important

Kansas National
Guard/Armenia 10th
Anniv

Peacekeeping/Humanita
rian Asst

Trade and Culture



A Bright Future is in Our Hands

