

## Frank Sesno



Widely respected from the newsroom to the classroom, Frank Sesno has been chronicling world events as a journalist for more than 25 years. Sesno is a University Professor of Public Policy and Communication at George Mason University in Virginia, where he teaches about the media and its impact on the shape and direction of public policy in America. As part of his academic appointment, he is a Senior Fellow for the University's Critical Infrastructure Protection Program, where he moderates "Critical Conversations" between key public and private sector leaders. In conjunction with the nonprofit Council on Excellence in Government, Sesno has conducted a series of national town hall meetings on homeland security. He served as Media Subject Matter Expert for the TOPOFF 2 full scale terrorism exercise in 2003, and he has worked with journalists, homeland security officials and political leaders on issues relating to terrorism and the media.

Today, Sesno continues to be an active journalist by serving as a Special Correspondent for CNN where he contributes special reports to the network and as an independent filmmaker and documentarian. In March 2006 he completed "*We Were Warned: Tomorrow's Oil Crisis*," a CNN Presents production, which examined America's unhealthy reliance on oil and energy consumption. In 2004-05, public television aired "*Sesno Reports*," a series of programs focusing on key issues facing the country, some winning awards. In 2003 he hosted "*worldtalk*," an Emmy award-winning globally-focused public affairs series on WETA. Other public television projects include an hour-long program on election reform, and "Avoiding Armageddon," an eight-hour documentary series that aired in April 2003 about weapons of mass destruction. Other recent work includes a two-hour documentary about the life and legacy of Ronald Reagan and an hour long program on the creation of the Department of Homeland Security with Secretary Tom Ridge, both of which aired in prime-time on the History Channel.

From 1996 to 2002 Sesno served as the Washington, D.C., bureau chief and senior vice president for CNN. In this capacity, he supervised the network's largest newsgathering team and oversaw the bureau's operations and its editorial direction. Prior to being named Washington bureau chief, Sesno served as White House correspondent, anchor and analyst for CNN. As executive editor and bureau chief, he reorganized the CNN Washington newsroom, created several new beats and upgraded the graphics department. His experience in news management as well as his reporting of national and international events gives him unique insight and perspective.

Sesno has anchored and reported many major international news events, including presidential and economic summits, Middle East Peace talks, and the 50th anniversary of D-Day from Normandy. He has interviewed four American presidents – George W. Bush, Bill Clinton, George H.W. Bush, and Ronald Reagan. Among other diverse personalities he has interviewed include Hillary Rodham Clinton; Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak; Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat; Israeli Prime Ministers Sharon, Netanyahu, and Rabin; King Hussein of Jordan; and Czech President Vaclav Havel.

Sesno originally joined CNN in 1984 from AP Radio where he was an overseas correspondent based in London and later a White House correspondent. Before joining AP Radio, Sesno was with the *Voice of America*. He started his broadcast career with WCFR Radio in Springfield, VT.

In 2004, Sesno won a CINE Award as executive producer and discussion segment moderator of the public television series "Avoiding Armageddon." He won an Emmy for his coverage of the 1993 flooding in the Midwest, a CableACE Award for his coverage of the superpower summits, a Houston International Film Festival Award for his interview with the president of Mexico, and Lincoln University's Unity Award for reporting on economic dislocation in the United States. While based in London, Sesno received the Overseas Press Club Award for Best Spot News Reporting from Abroad.

Currently, Sesno is a senior fellow with the Center for Strategic and International Studies and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. He serves on the advisory board of the Washington, DC chapter of the POSSE Foundation, which identifies, recruits, and trains outstanding inner-city high school students and sends them to top colleges and universities. He is a former trustee of Middlebury College and is a former board member of the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Journalism awards.

Conversant in Spanish and French, Sesno earned an honors degree in American history from Middlebury College in Vermont, graduating cum laude. He holds an honorary doctorate from the Monterrey Institute of International Studies.

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