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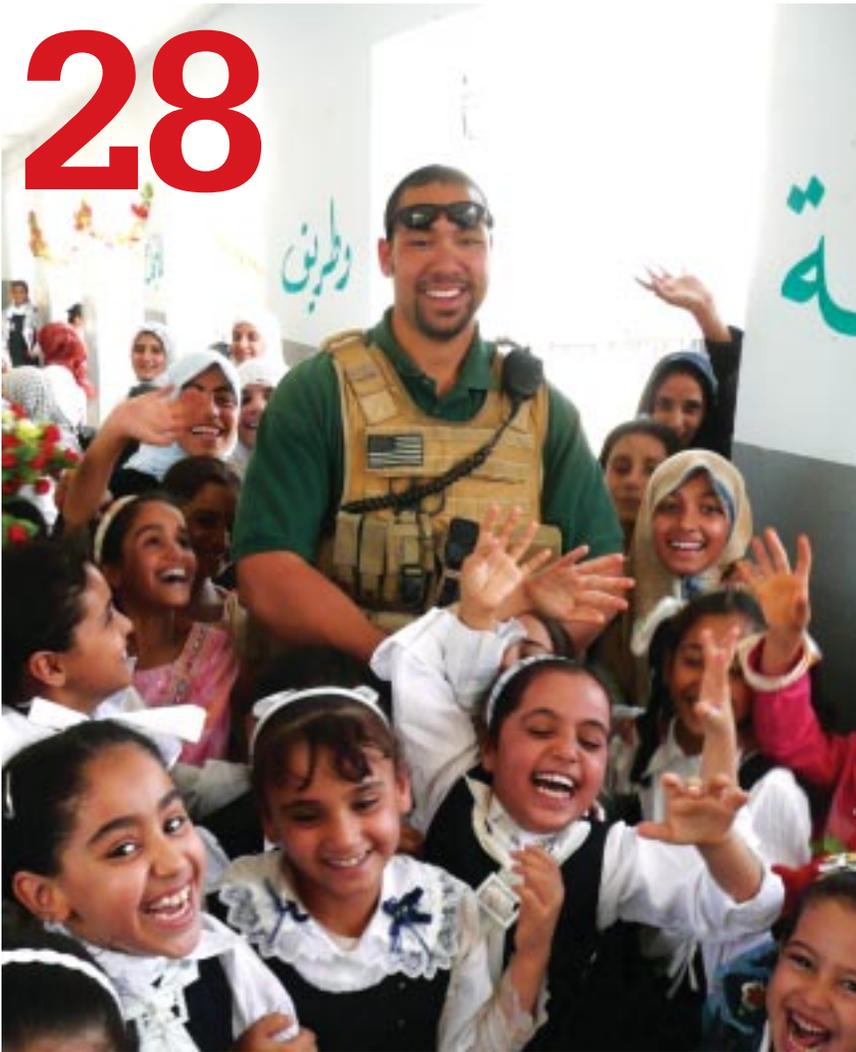
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ON THE COVER

This universal message reflects the ultimate goal of all diplomacy.
Photograph by Corbis

CDA Keeps the Assignment Process on Track



I wish all of you a joyous holiday season.

Our Foreign Service and Civil Service colleagues, not surprisingly, have once again come forward to answer the call in Iraq and Afghanistan. As a result, we have met our staffing goals in both countries and are making excellent progress in filling the remaining summer 2009 Foreign Service positions worldwide.

I would like to thank our brave volunteers for their admirable service to our nation. I also applaud the men and women in our Career Development and Assignments Office for all of their efforts. Their work, together with that of our colleagues in NEA and SCA, was key to making this a successful endeavor.

Our Career Development and Assignments officers are the face of the Bureau of Human Resources to the Foreign Service. The work they do affects the careers of all Foreign Service members and the wider Department.

At the entry level, they have a particularly critical role to play. As new recruits come on board, our entry-level

career development officers introduce them to the Foreign Service and guide them through their first tours and assignments. Under the able leadership of Ambassador Joe Mussomeli, the CDOs arrange the assignments and training schedules that will develop our new employees and guide them to success at the mid levels.

At the mid and senior levels, under the strong leadership of Jean Bonilla and Ambassador Bill Monroe, respectively, they see that the right people with the right skills go to the right jobs in spite of sometimes conflicting demands and pressures.

Employees need job-specific skills, language skills and, especially at the mid and senior levels, leadership and management skills to excel and, more practically, to be successful in their jobs. On the assignments officer side of CDA, the AOs, headed by Joyce Currie, are the chief representatives of the serviced bureaus up until paneling and, at that point, are critical to work out the timing and training for onward assignments.

Our CDOs and AOs are mentors. They are problem solvers. They enforce the rules and are voices for compassion. While we all tend to focus on one job at a time, CDA helps us see the broader picture so that we fulfill the requirements of the career development plans instituted over the past few years.

Due to the exceptional leadership of Ambassador Scott DeLisi, the director of HR/CDA since spring, we have made great progress. We have streamlined the assignment process, brought the number of advertised jobs into better balance with the number of bidders and tried to ensure that our foreign policy priorities are supported more effectively by our assignments.

We have placed an even stronger emphasis on sharing the burden of hardship assignments and, in response to calls for more timely assignments, I am pleased to tell you that the assignment cycle is currently at least two months ahead of last year's pace.

The work of CDA makes a real difference in the lives of our Foreign Service employees and to the smooth running of the Department. I am proud of the work they do in meeting both the needs of our employees and the needs of the Service.

We in HR want to serve you efficiently and well. If you have comments or suggestions, please feel free to send them to me via unclassified e-mail at DG Direct. ■



Americana Collection

The July/August issue's coverage of the Diplomatic Reception Rooms was great for a reader who did not know how much the collection had expanded in recent decades. I recall that when the area was first introduced to the Washington diplomatic corps with a reception, an undiplomatic and uncharitable French ambassador's wife looked at the rather assertive carpet and quipped, "I'll accept a glass of champagne, but you are not going to get me upstairs." Congratulations to Collections Manager Lynn Turner, and may I suggest that the early efforts of Clem Conger at giving the area its initial momentum should in a small way be memorialized, if this has not already happened.

John Howison

Retired Foreign Service officer



Hanoi Renovation

The picture of the ambassador's residence in Hanoi in the article about culturally significant property in the September issue of *State Magazine* caused me to reflect on the renovation of this property prior to its occupancy by the first U.S. ambassador to serve in Vietnam since the war. The renovations were performed by a Vietnamese-American contractor, Lat Nguyen. He was a helicopter pilot in the South Vietnamese army who ended up in Savannah, Ga., without money or English-language capability. He started working as a janitor and construction handyman, and eventually owned his own company that renovated historic properties in Savannah and Augusta.

He was uniquely qualified for this project because of his Vietnamese-language ability and cultural knowledge, as well as his experience with historic renovations.

The contract was awarded under the Small Business Administration's Business Development Program. My office was intimately involved with the contract. It is a wonderful example of the opportunities offered by our great country for people of humble backgrounds who are willing to work hard to succeed in life. In 1996, I accompanied Lat Nguyen on his first visit to Vietnam since fleeing from there. He was extremely proud of his project.

Louis H. Pruitt

*Office of Small and Disadvantaged
Business Utilization
Retired Foreign Service officer*

Paper vs. Online

As much as I enjoy receiving the paper edition of *State Magazine*—and I do read it cover to cover—I can't help but feel badly when eventually it goes in the recycle bin. It would be nice in these green days to promote unsubscribing from the paper

edition and elect to view online editions only. Maybe a post could be recognized if everybody elected to view the magazine online or maybe only receive 10 percent of the paper copies it now receives.

I know the State Intranet portal is rather cluttered, but certainly a link to the magazine can be promoted there instead of burying it with an unfriendly URL (<http://hrweb.hr.state.gov/prd/hrweb/er/statemag/>). I understand that's not HR's fault, but maybe that can be addressed, as well. Maybe the site's name should be statemag.state.gov, which would be much easier to promote.

Dominic "Doc" Meyer

*Information Management Specialist
Montevideo, Uruguay*

**To our readers: What do you think?
Should we reduce hard-copy distribution
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news

Embassy Kuwait Staffers Join Memorial Run

In August, more than 150 employees of the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait City and U.S. military personnel from all five military camps around Kuwait participated in a memorial event called the Run for the Fallen. U.S. Ambassador to Kuwait Deborah K. Jones and Army Lieutenant General James Lovelace also participated.

The participants were running the final

mile of what had been a 10-week cross-country run in the United States to commemorate the members of the U.S. military killed in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. That run, which began on Flag Day, June 14, went from Fort Irwin, Calif., to Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

As the cross-country runners were

completing their final mile at Arlington National Cemetery on August 24, the participants from the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait City and more than 250 other organizations worldwide also ran a mile. The event involved more than 9,000 participants from nine countries and 43 U.S. states. In all, they collectively ran 35,725 miles to remember the fallen.





Secretary Rice presents the award to Gen. Petraeus.

Petraeus, Crocker Honored for Distinguished Service

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice presented the Department's Distinguished Service Award to the two American leaders in Iraq who she said were most responsible for helping that nation achieve stability: then-commander of Coalition forces General David Petraeus and U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker.

Just two years ago, she said, violence in Iraq was "spiraling out of control." Today, she continued, "one is struck, not by the daily carnage, but by the silence...of Iraq returning to normal."

"It's been a very, very long road in Iraq...but that road has turned in a positive direction," she said, and Gen. Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker "have been a very big part of that story."

The Secretary called Crocker "a lion of America's Foreign Service" and Gen. Petraeus "an intellectual warrior and a warrior intellectual."

Gen. Petraeus said the award was not won by any one person or leader—"It's won by the team." He lauded the "the tremendous quality of the diplomatic contingent" and asked those in the

audience who had served in Iraq to stand for a round of applause.

The awards ceremony was video-conferenced with a gathering in Baghdad where Deputy Secretary John Negroponte presented the award to Ambassador Crocker. Crocker said he accepted it on behalf of his colleagues, as it was "well beyond my merits" to accomplish all that has been done. He also lauded Gen. Petraeus.

"No ambassador could have had a better military wingman," he said.

Crocker said the challenges facing U.S. diplomacy call for increased political-military cooperation. "Nowhere are these challenges and the need for unity greater than in Iraq," he said, adding that he expects he will continue to work with Gen. Petraeus in the general's new role as commander of U.S. Central Command.

The award recognizes exceptionally outstanding leadership, professional competence and significant accomplishment over a sustained period in foreign affairs.

Embassy Fire Veterans Hold Reunion

Ambassador Laura Kennedy worked in the general services office at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow when the building caught fire in 1977.

"For all of us in Moscow at that time, the fire and its aftermath were imprinted in our memories," said Kennedy, now deputy commandant of the National War College.

Three years ago, those who had served at the embassy then began holding annual reunions hosted by Terry and Jerry Ellis. Attendees have included then-Ambassador Malcolm Toon (now 92), former Deputy Chief of Mission Jack Matlock (later U.S. ambassador to the Soviet Union) and other staff and family members of the agencies represented there at the time. The latest reunion was in September.

"We are a strong group that has continued to serve the Department for many years," said Ellen C. Langston, now management officer at the U.S. Embassy in Kolkata, India.

Another reunion attendee, then-Administrative Counselor Tom Tracy, recalled that the fire started on the embassy's eighth floor. Since the fire occurred on Friday, the embassy had been largely secured for the weekend, but embassy team members, Marines and Seabees stood watch while Soviet firefighters put out the fire. Because communications were destroyed, a telex was briefly the sole means of written communications until emergency communications gear arrived the next day.

The U.S. business community and the staff of a visiting U.S. Information Agency exhibit offered help—exhibit guide John



Beyrle is now the ambassador to Russia—but it was months before embassy operations returned to normal. A new chancery was finished in 2000, and the old embassy building now houses consular and other staff.

Moscow veterans keep meeting each fall to celebrate their community spirit. Those who served in Moscow from 1977 to 1979 and wish to be invited to future reunions may e-mail Ambassador Kennedy at kennedy@hotmail.com.



Clockwise from above: A jack-in-the-box might brighten a Washington, D.C., child's holidays, thanks to the Toys for Tots campaign; seasonal decorations adorn the Diplomatic Reception Rooms; ready to serve at Miriam's Kitchen are, from left, Lauren J. Krizner, Katherine Brill, Heather Wild, Chris Kisco, Rod Mackler and Rachel Mikeska.



DEPARTMENT GETS THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT

It's beginning to look a lot like the holidays in the halls of State Department facilities in the Washington, D.C., area.

For one, there's the arrival of more than 50 Toys for Tots donation bins at 25 buildings where the Department has operations locally. Employees may drop new toys into the bins, and on December 19 a high Department official, possibly Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, will host a 10 a.m. event at Main State where the toys will be presented to the United States Marine Corps Reserve. The Marines sponsor the campaign and will give the toys to low-income D.C.-area children.

Each year, employees donate an estimated 5,000 toys, which means the holidays will be brighter for approximately 2,500 local children, said Reserve Marine Lt. Col. Jonathon Myers. He serves with the Bureau of Diplomatic Security's Uniformed Protection Division, which runs the Department's collection effort. He said he and other volunteers used to individually count the donated toys until "we started getting so many toys."

He does know that the campaign got 50 bikes last year and that it takes two or three large trucks to haul them all to the Marine Corps Reserve's distribution point after the presentation ceremony.

Another seasonal event is the decorating of the Ben Franklin and Thomas Jefferson rooms on Main State's eighth floor. The rooms, which the Secretary uses for holiday entertaining, will likely have seasonal lighting and music, said April Guice, a ceremonials officer in the Office of the Chief of Protocol. Last year, there were lighted snowflakes and trees decorated with small musical instruments.

For many employees, the holidays mean serving the less fortunate. In that light, the helping hand may be that which writes a check to the Combined Federal Campaign, now under way, or which serves a hot, nutritious breakfast to the homeless every weekday morning at Miriam's Kitchen, a CFC participant located across Virginia Ave., N.W., from State Annex 1. There, at mid-month, at least four employees serve breakfast—and those who wish to help may contact Lauren Krizner at kriznerlj@state.gov.



Plane Crash Ends a Courier's Long Day

Diplomatic courier Andy Perez, aboard a Boeing 747 cargo plane on its way from Brussels to Bahrain, encountered more excitement than expected in May when the plane, full of Department of State mail and supplies, crashed on takeoff and broke into three pieces.

In the panic that ensued, Perez rapidly escaped the plane, which had just been refueled. He said the plane was traveling down the runway at 158 knots when "I heard a loud popping coming from its right side, and the engines powered down. A few seconds later, we ran out of runway and started bouncing as we hit rough terrain."

Amazingly, considering the damage to the plane, no one was injured. At the time of the crash, Perez had been on duty for 26 hours, having left Washington, D.C., at 6 a.m. with two containers and a pallet of diplomatic pouches in a tractor-trailer truck headed to New York's JFK Airport. After a long wait there, his flight left at 10:30 p.m.



Embassy Honors Fallen Ambassador



In August, U.S. Ambassador to Guatemala Stephen G. McFarland led a short ceremony in recognition of the 40th anniversary of the murder of Ambassador John Gordon Mein, who was killed by Guatemalan rebels during a kidnapping attempt. Ambassador Mein was the first U.S. ambassador to be assassinated in the line of duty.

The ceremony took place at the site of the murder, which is on a busy boulevard just a few blocks from the embassy. The pastor of the church that Ambassador Mein and his family attended offered a short prayer, and Ambassador McFarland spoke and laid a wreath near where Ambassador Mein fell.

At the commemoration, attendees listen intently to Ambassador Stephen G. McFarland's remarks.

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Writer/Editor

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Submissions

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Deadlines

The submission deadline for the February 2009 issue is December 15. The deadline for the March issue is January 15.



Above, embassy employees are in the pink; below, pink balloons form a large breast cancer awareness ribbon.



Embassy Brasilia Turns Pink for Breast Cancer Awareness

The U.S. Embassy in Brasilia, Brazil, had only two days to plan its Breast Cancer Awareness event in October, but these photos indicate the event was a colorful success. The post was decorated in pink, the color of the breast cancer awareness effort. There was pink at the main entrance to the chancery, the visa waiting area and the club where Ambassador Clifford Sobel and his wife joined staff for a get-together over coffee to increase awareness and raise donations for the cause.

Diversity Makes for a Vibrant Workplace



I am excited about the opportunity to lead the Office of Civil Rights and to serve as the Department's second Chief Diversity Officer. The Chief Diversity Officer position was established to advance the Department's commitment to diversity. The Department continues to be the only Cabinet agency to have an established Chief Diversity Officer position with oversight authority to integrate diversity principles into practice in all of the Department's operations.

Modern definitions of diversity begin for many with the Civil Rights Act of 1964's prohibiting of discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex and religion. Additional legislation, presidential Executive Orders and regulations subsequently provided protections on the basis of age, disability, status as a parent, sexual orientation, political affiliation and even genetics. Most institutions and corporations, including the Department, have moved today from simply monitoring operations to prevent discrimination to an active understanding and appreciation that the

diversity of America in all dimensions is most beneficial to a responsible and respectful community, a vibrant workplace and ultimately a civil society.

We acknowledge that American society and institutions have not always recognized the value of diversity, nor have America's leaders routinely exercised vigilance to prevent discrimination. Although we cannot redress America's negative history on these issues, we can direct that, for all our employees, disrespect for other persons, groups, races, religions and cultures simply will not be tolerated.

While the Department has been championing diversity in recruitment, hiring and retention, it must continue to promote diversity in all forms, assuming a proactive approach that actively recruits the best and the brightest from across America and respects and appreciates diversity in its broadest context—cultural background, ethnicity, race, gender, language proficiency, orientation, abilities, ideas and expertise. We must do more in addressing diversity in succession planning, career development and incorporating diversity in leadership development and accountability. Annual census trends confirm that the talent pool is becoming increasingly ethnically and culturally diverse. Our success will depend in part on our ability to value that diversity, our proficiency in protecting the principles of equity and fairness for all groups and classes of people, and our ability to lead in an increasingly diverse community. As Chief Diversity Officer, I will work to continue to promote fairness and inclusion at the Department of State and to ensure respect for all persons, groups, races, religions and cultures.

Next month I will discuss the business case for diversity and how that affects the average manager. ■

John Robinson joined the Department in March of 2008 after establishing the Equal Employment Opportunity and Diversity Office for the Director of National Intelligence. A Vietnam-era veteran/former naval officer, he has held leadership positions in the Department of Labor, Department of Energy and the Internal Revenue Service.



U.S. citizens who cast absentee ballots on Voting Day received "I Voted Absentee Stickers."

'Voting Central'

EMBASSY GETS OUT THE VOTE AMONG ARGENTINA'S RESIDENT AMERICANS **BY ROSEMARY MACRAY**

The U.S. Embassy in Buenos Aires, Argentina, became "voting central" in early October as more than 800 U.S.-citizen voters dropped off absentee ballots, completed federal write-in ballots and joined in a star-spangled party.

The turnout appears to have been the largest at any of the State Department posts worldwide holding events to promote voting by Americans living overseas (see sidebar story).

At the U.S. Embassy in Buenos Aires, the American Citizen Services unit

staged the event to provide voters with a taste of home and encourage them to cast their absentee ballots in time for the embassy to forward them to the United States for counting.

Americans overseas do not vote at their embassy or consulate, but if they voted early enough some were able to have the embassy send their ballots back to the United States in the diplomatic pouch or via APO mail. Typically, Americans overseas mail their absentee ballots directly to their home state's election authority, which

explains why ACS has no figures on the number of Americans voting overseas, said ACS Director Michelle Bernier-Toth.

"American citizens living overseas can sometimes feel left out during the election season," said Jennifer Noronha, consul general at Embassy Buenos Aires. "We wanted to give voters a chance to put their votes in a ballot box alongside their fellow citizens."

Though the post's "voting day" wasn't supposed to start until 9 a.m. on October 8, one American, 89-year-old

PHOTOGRAPHS: U.S. EMBASSY IN BUENOS AIRES



Consul General Jennifer Noronha helps 89-year-old veteran Jack McLeod deposit his ballot nearly two hours before the start of Voting Day.

Jack McLeod, arrived at 7 a.m. McLeod, a World War II veteran and former prisoner of war, said he was dropping off his absentee ballot because he was “proud to be an American.”

Joining McLeod were hundreds of American college students who were in Argentina on exchange programs, some casting their ballots for the first time in a presidential election. All together, about 900 persons gathered in the consular section’s waiting room and the balloon-laden embassy courtyard to join in the celebration of democracy.

Before he dropped his Maryland absentee ballot in the big blue box set up by the post—and got his “I Voted Absentee” sticker—Ambassador E. Anthony Wayne addressed the crowd.

“Though we may be voting far from home, we are united with each other and with our friends and family through the act of voting,” Ambassador Wayne told the diverse group of Americans. “By living in or visiting foreign nations, we have the opportunity to carry our new perspectives and experiences back to the United States, enriching our country’s wealth of diversity and varied opinions.”

To accommodate the large number of voters who had not yet received their absentee ballots and needed to complete federal write-in ballots, ACS enlisted the help of seven community members who had trained as voting assistance officers via video conference in August. A five-piece jazz band serenaded the crowd with American tunes, and various private-industry food providers joined bakers from embassy families to provide attendees with all-American foods.

Representatives from 21 local media outlets and journalists from U.S. television networks filed reports. American citizens thanked embassy staff for planning a party just for them.

John L. Gibson and his wife Patricia Gasave attended the party, although they had already mailed their absentee ballots from home. Gibson said Gasave, a recently naturalized U.S. citizen, cast her first U.S. ballot this year.

“The excitement of her first vote reached its pinnacle at the party today,” Gibson said. ■

The author is chief of American citizen services at the U.S. Embassy in Buenos Aires.

Posts Worldwide Promote Voting

The U.S. Embassy in Buenos Aires was not the only Department post to promote absentee voting by resident Americans. The U.S. Embassy in Berlin’s information fair for citizens attracted 250 people and similar events at the U.S. embassies in Beijing and Accra, Ghana, attracted approximately 150 and 110 attendees, respectively.

Those figures are from the Department’s Office of American Citizen Services in the Bureau of Consular Affairs. The office said it expanded voter outreach this year to the estimated 5 to 6 million Americans living overseas, including launching its get-out-the-vote promotion earlier than in past election years.

Several overseas posts held activities during ACS’s Absentee Voting Week, October 12–18. The U.S. Embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia, held a voting day at the city’s American Club that attracted more than 300 voters; the U.S. Embassy in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, set up voter information tables at three hotels and a school; and the U.S. Embassy in Doha, Qatar, held a voting day and collected ballots from 250 voters.

Several posts also placed information about absentee voting on their Web sites and linked to www.fvap.gov, a Department of Defense Web site with overseas voting information and forms for an American overseas to download to request an absentee ballot.

Although many posts abroad made laudable efforts to get out the American vote, ACS Director Michelle Bernier-Toth had a special thank-you for the U.S. Embassy in Buenos Aires. “They did a great job,” she said.

LOVE OF GIVING

CFC CAMPAIGN VOLUNTEERS SAY THEY LIKE TO HELP **BY ED WARNER**

What motivates employees to take on a part-time volunteer position with the Combined Federal Campaign when they already have full-time jobs?

For Frances Waller and other Department CFC coordinators, it was the enjoyment derived from working with others.

"I love to help people," said Waller, a program specialist in the executive office of the Bureau of Administration. Waller is a former Pentagon police officer who said she assisted burn victims and victims' families in the wake of the 9/11 attack.

Each bureau has a CFC coordinator to recruit and assist the bureau's "key workers," who call on employees individually and provide them with CFC pledge forms. With the CFC hoping to have a ratio of one key worker for every five employees, the coordinator's role can involve lots of oversight. Waller is unusual in that she is coordinator for two bureaus, A and the Bureau of Information Resource Management.

This year, the CFC campaign aims to approach every Department employee, to address what the Department's "loaned

executive" Yvonne Sims said was a major finding about the 2007 CFC campaign: 62 percent of employees polled afterwards said they would have donated but no one contacted them.

This year, Hersel Gunn, a key worker in A bureau, said he's aiming for 100 percent participation by those he approaches for contributions, even if they just give one dollar.

"It's like voting," he said. "I don't care who you vote for, just vote."

To cast his or her philanthropic "vote," an employee can choose from more than 4,000



Hersel Gunn, left, a CFC key worker in the Bureau of Administration, chats with Frances Waller, the bureau's CFC coordinator.



AFSA's Lori Dec explains the scholarship to a visitor to the AFSA table.

charities and may split the donation among several, using the CFC pledge form to indicate how much will go to each. The donation can be made in a lump sum or withdrawn from the employee's paycheck during the year.

Sims herself is a volunteer. She was loaned by the Department of Labor to the Department of Transportation in 2005 to help with that agency's CFC campaign and said she enjoyed it so much she asked to be loaned again this year. She trains the Department's 600 key workers and coordinators.

Experience in lending a hand also motivated Jamila Gantenbein to become a CFC coordinator. Gantenbein, who will coordinate 10 to 15 key workers in the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, has helped with a New York City charity founded after 9/11, the Memorial Scholarship Fund, which lets city youth compete athletically on the national and Olympic levels.

Gantenbein is new to EAP's executive office—she is on rotation from her home office, Recruitment, Examination and Employment—and said she sees CFC volunteerism as a way to get to know her new coworkers better.

Another CFC coordinator, Rebecca Schaeffer of the Bureau of Population Refugees and Migration, also was drawn to the work because of her background in helping others. She built houses with Habitat for Humanity while in college and in high school in North Carolina.

"Volunteering has always been a part of my life," she said. ■

The author is deputy editor of State Magazine.

CFC Charities on Display At Kick-off Event

If employees are responding to the current economic situation by going out less, the October kick-off event of the Combined Federal Campaign was prepared. On display in the Exhibit Hall at Main State were two gift baskets full of at-home entertainment options that were being sold to raise funds for the CFC. One included a DVD player, flat-screen television and several movies.

The wicker gift baskets heightened the "county fair" feel of the kick-off event. Several CFC charities had tables to explain their work, and the event's keynote speaker, Ambassador Nancy Brinker, told of the importance of giving. Brinker is director of the Office of the Chief of Protocol but may be best known nationally as the founder of the Susan G. Komen Foundation, which she established to fight breast cancer, the disease that killed her only sister.

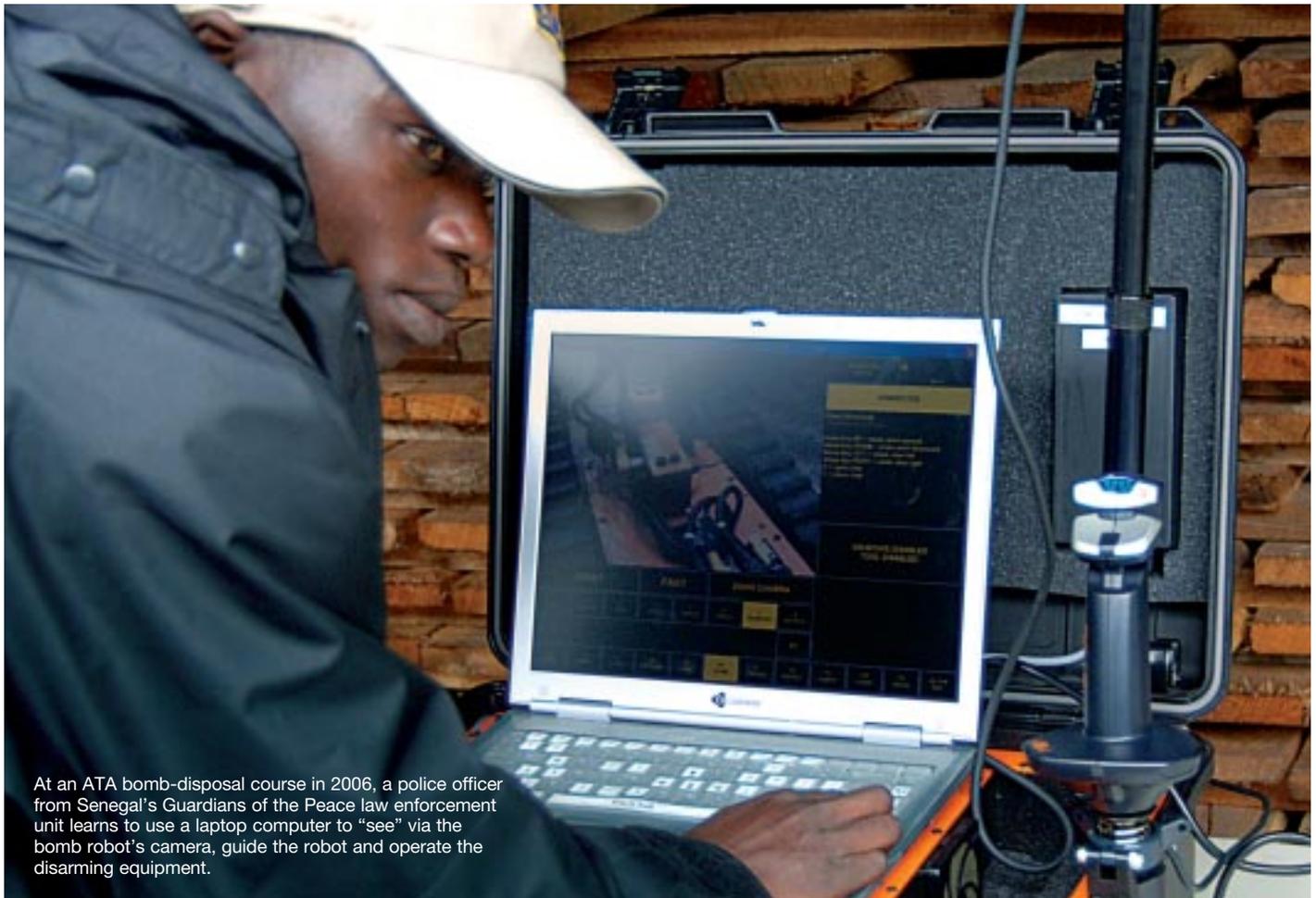
"We've seen the greatness of America...through the generous donation of [peoples'] time and energy," she said as she urged the roughly 200 employees and visitors who attended to support the CFC campaign.

These difficult times, she said, are also "opportunities to make a difference."

The CFC, which runs through early next year, hopes to raise \$2.195 million from Department employees.

Among the charities with tables at the kick-off event were the Yellow Ribbon Fund, which helps the families of patients at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, and the American Foreign Service Association's Scholarship Fund and Fund for American Diplomacy. The latter fund operates public- and media-education efforts such as a recent speech on diplomacy at American University by retired diplomat Ambassador Thomas Pickering.

The AFSA scholarships, which range from \$1,000 to \$4,000, now are available to those studying at colleges outside the United States. Applications are due by February 6, said AFSA Scholarship Director Lori Dec.



At an ATA bomb-disposal course in 2006, a police officer from Senegal's Guardians of the Peace law enforcement unit learns to use a laptop computer to "see" via the bomb robot's camera, guide the robot and operate the disarming equipment.

Stronger Partners

PROGRAM CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF FIGHTING TERRORISM
BY JEFFREY W. CULVER

This year marks the 25th anniversary of one of the Department of State's most successful programs to train civilian law enforcement personnel from friendly governments in procedures to prevent, respond to and investigate terrorism.

The Antiterrorism Assistance program, authorized by Congress in 1983, aims to build counterterrorism capacity, enhance bilateral relationships and increase respect for human rights.

ATA has trained allied nations' law enforcement personnel in such disciplines as

bomb detection, crime scene investigation, critical infrastructure protection, maritime security and VIP protection.

Although the program started with a small staff and modest budget, it expanded significantly after the August 1998 bombings of the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania and the September 11, 2001, attacks in the United States.

Since its inception, the program has trained and assisted more than 61,000 foreign security and law enforcement officials from 154 countries. In fiscal year 2007

alone, ATA trained 4,671 participants from 68 countries in 213 courses.

Americans Protected

ATA-trained law enforcement professionals have applied their newly acquired skills to respond to and mitigate the impact of terrorist attacks in or aimed at their nations. By strengthening antiterrorism capabilities of law enforcement agencies in participating countries, ATA also has helped protect Americans living or traveling overseas.



Left: A Trinidad and Tobago police officer, right, fires a training round at a target while an ATA instructor observes. The officer is with a police unit that protects domestic and foreign dignitaries. **Bottom:** Personnel from the Philippine National Police and National Bureau of Investigations practice executing a search warrant involving computers during ATA's Identification and Seizure of Digital Evidence training.



ATA-trained law enforcement agencies have scored several dramatic successes against international terrorism and transnational crime. These include:

- In Indonesia, an antiterrorism unit trained and equipped by ATA killed one of Southeast Asia's most wanted terrorists, dismantled his organization, arrested several other suspected terrorists and seized several explosive devices and a large quantity of bomb-making material. Separately, it also assisted in the arrest of Abu Dujana, the military leader of the Jamaah Islamiyah

terrorist group, and five cohorts.

- In Pakistan, investigators trained by ATA recovered from a bombing site a cellular phone, from which an ATA-funded Pakistani forensics lab unearthed data that led to several arrests and the seizure of two bombs.

- In Thailand, an ATA-trained Royal Thai Police team rescued a kidnapped American and arrested eight suspects.

- In Liberia, ATA-trained Special Situation Services personnel assisted local police in resolving a hostage-taking at the home of a former Liberian minister and

rescued the hostages.

- In Afghanistan, ATA organized, trained, equipped and mentored the 340-person detail that protects Afghan President Hamid Karzai. The new force has on several occasions thwarted assassination attempts against the Afghan president.

- In the Philippines, graduates of the ATA's Identification and Seizure of Digital Evidence training course played a major role in the successful 2007 prosecution

of a Manila hacker group that defrauded U.S. telecommunications firms of approximately \$55 million. Philippine authorities said the defendants had engaged in large-scale telephone fraud, money laundering and possibly terrorist financing.

Managing Partners

The ATA program is managed as a partnership between the Department's Office of the Coordinator for Counterterrorism, which provides policy guidance, and the Bureau of Diplomatic Security, which manages its operational implementation. The program, now funded at approximately \$130 million annually, requires no quid pro quo from partner nations. However, participating nations must agree to use the training effectively and develop educational institutions to sustain their newly acquired capabilities.

The program headquarters is staffed with approximately 100 DS special agents, Civil Service employees and contractors. Their roles range from assessment team leader, intelligence analyst and regional program manager to training manager and instructional systems designer. They all have one mission in common—helping partner nations stamp out terrorism. ■

The author is director of the Office of Antiterrorism Assistance.



Save the Tigers

BUREAU HELPS TARGET ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE **BY BILLIE GROSS**



At left, the PSAs were screened in the central square in Vladivostok, Russia, during the 9th Annual Tiger Day parade.

The illicit trade in wildlife is a growing black market valued at \$10 billion or more a year globally and thought by many to be a greater threat to wildlife than the loss of habitat. This illegal trade is fueled by unchecked demand for live wild animals as exotic pets or for their body parts, which are used as rare foods or trophies or in traditional medicines.

For instance, the endangered Sumatran tiger faces extinction because of the trade in tiger parts in Indonesia, according to a February report from the wildlife trade-monitoring group TRAFFIC. The group said its 2006 survey in Sumatra, an island in Indonesia, found 23 tigers had been killed for their body parts.

Ending this trade is an important priority for the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs. It participates in the U.S.-led Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking, along with six other governmental groups and 13 international nongovernmental organizations. CAWT works with international anti-trafficking law enforcement and conservation organizations. For instance, it assisted the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the nations of South Asia in setting up wildlife enforcement networks.

A Public Service

In November 2007, actor Harrison Ford, who sits on the board of CAWT partner Conservation International, filmed three public service announcements for CAWT. In the effort, OES also collaborated with CAWT partner WildAid. The videos, which

are aired by broadcasters at no cost, aim to encourage people to stop buying illegal wildlife products.

The State Department launched the PSAs worldwide on World Environment Day in June. The event at the United Nations involved OES Assistant Secretary Claudia A. McMurray and representatives from CAWT's partner nations and NGO partners, and the Secretary of State's Special Envoy on Wildlife Trafficking Issues, actress Bo Derek, introduced the PSAs.

OES has provided 215 U.S. posts in 137 countries with copies of the PSAs, and more than 80 media outlets—with a combined audience of more than 580 million people worldwide—reported on the launch or aired the PSAs. The PSAs have since been

used on television and radio, in movie theaters and on the television systems of hotels and airlines. Hundreds of millions of viewers in Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Mongolia and Thailand have seen them. They also received media coverage in Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Costa Rica and Trinidad and Tobago.

In the United States, 13 news organizations reported on the launch. The United States is the second largest market after China for illegal wildlife and wildlife products.

Second Launch

Another launch event was held in Beijing by U.S. Ambassador to China Clark T. Randt in July. There, Assistant Secretary McMurray, Derek and others spoke on wildlife trafficking and the U.S. commitment while introducing the PSAs.

OES and WildAid have since filmed two new PSAs on wildlife trafficking featuring conservationist Dr. Jane Goodall. The PSAs will be distributed worldwide with the help of U.S. embassies.

Through this and other public education efforts, future generations won't learn about tigers or elephants only from books—they'll still be able to see them alive and well in their natural habitats. ■

The author is a public affairs specialist in the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs



From left are WildAid director Peter Knights, Harrison Ford and OES Assistant Secretary McMurray.

Holiday Outreach

EMBASSY USES RAMADAN TO SUPPORT NATION'S FEMALE LEADERS
BY DANNA VAN BRANDT

Though Sierra Leone is still struggling with the repercussions of a brutal decade-long civil war, the people of this lush country have made tremendous progress in recent years toward democratic governance and development.

Sierra Leone's population is more than 60 percent Muslim. So the U.S. Embassy in Freetown used Ramadan, the Islamic month of fasting, to hold programs celebrating the country's advances in democracy and women's empowerment.

To kick off the September-long holiday and commemorate Patriot Day on September 11, Ambassador June Carter Perry hosted more than 30 newly elected female members of local councils from around the country. All of the council members had

participated in a program funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development to increase women's involvement in the political process. The women said they believe their positions afforded them opportunities to improve their local communities.

The most recent elections saw a 65 percent increase in the number of women sitting on local councils, due in part to USAID's efforts and those of its nongovernmental partners.

Local Connection

As Ramadan progressed, embassy staff members took the annual Iftar celebration, the breaking of the daytime fast, outside the embassy walls into the heart of Sierra Leone's Muslim community.



From left, Office Management Specialist Becky Cheney, Foreign Service Health Practitioner Laura Kustaborder, the author and Public Affairs Section Program Assistant Marilyn Kamara at the Masjid Aqsa Mosque.

PHOTOGRAPHS: (LEFT): IBRAHIM TOMMY; (OPPOSITE PAGE, FROM TOP): JAMES TAYLOR; DANNA VAN BRANDT; AND IBRAHIM TOMMY



Top: Members of Women in the Media-Sierra Leone watch the U.S. presidential debates at the PAO's residence. **Center:** From left, embassy employees Samuel Vandi, Alice Clarke, Sam Foday and Jeneba Tucker pack food packages for the Iftar distribution. **Bottom:** Members of the public watch the U.S. debates at a cinema center.

They observed the celebration's Salaat prayers and distributed food, focusing on women in the rear of the mosque. Members of the Muslim community expressed appreciation for the embassy's initiative. The chief imam of the Freetown municipality praised American tolerance and diversity, and local Islamic radio stations covered the event.

Throughout Ramadan, the embassy also fed the keen local interest in the coming U.S. presidential elections. The first presidential debate fell on Laylat al Qadr, which celebrates when the first verses of the Quran were revealed to the Prophet Muhammad and is a night of prayer for salvation. That evening, the embassy showed the debate live at local cinema centers, which usually broadcast British Premier League soccer.

More than 1,000 people watched the debate, many going back and forth between it and their prayers. Open debate, typical of American democracy, provides a contrast to elections in Sierra Leone, where open policy disagreement between candidates is

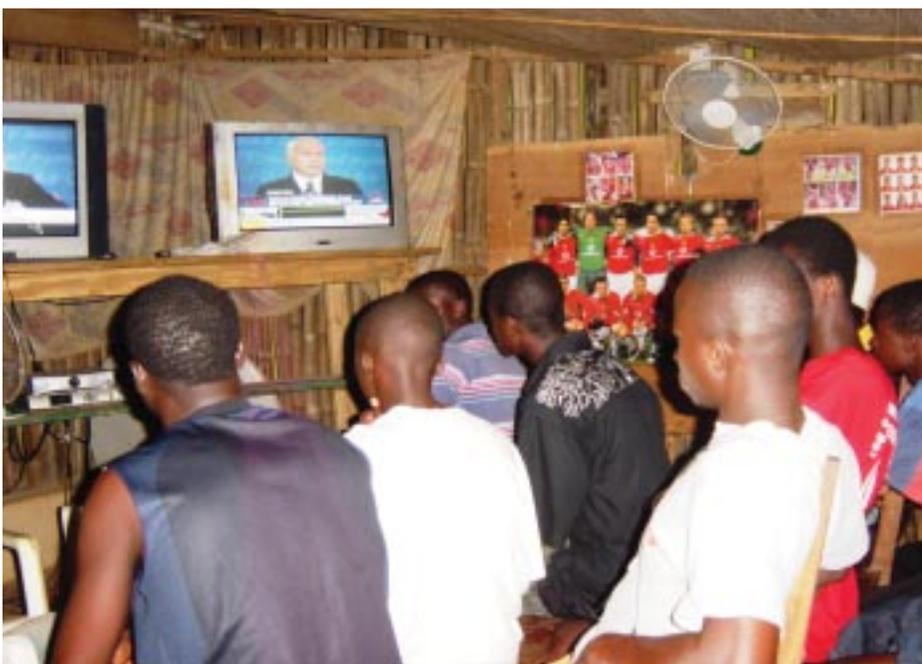
rare and can divide the country.

Debate Night

The same night, members of Women in the Media-Sierra Leone joined the embassy's public affairs officer at her home to watch the debate on a big screen. The crowd was divided regarding the candidates, with each woman cheering her favorite. The audience was lively, despite the late hour—the debate started at 1 a.m. local time.

Ramadan is a time for reflection, learning and hope. The staff of Embassy Freetown used the holiday to join the people of Sierra Leone in reflecting on the strong historical ties between that nation and the United States and the two nations' devotion to democracy. ■

The author is a public affairs officer at the U.S. Embassy in Freetown, Sierra Leone.





Mercy's Mission

FSOs HELP U.S. NAVY NAVIGATE POLITICAL SHOALS **BY JEFF COLLINS**

Natalia Dos Santos, a 10-year-old from the nation of Timor-Leste, suffered from severe nausea and acute headaches for as long as she could remember. Lack of modern medical facilities in her homeland prevented her from receiving badly needed care. So the July 12 arrival of a floating hospital—the USNS *Mercy*—into the port of Dili was a dream come true. Like more than 9,000 other Timorese, Natalia was diagnosed and treated by the ship's international team of medical personnel who participated in this four-month mission to the Philippines, Vietnam, Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea and Micronesia.

Six Foreign Service officers—Jeff Collins, Christine Jackson, Melissa A. Brown, Kristine Pelz, Trevor Monroe and Tim Davis—

served as political advisers for each leg of the mission. They provided political advice to the mission commander, Commodore William Kearns, and helped educate the *Mercy's* crew about the politics, cultures and social norms of the countries visited. The crew included medical staff from Australia, Canada, Chile, India, Indonesia, Japan, Portugal and the Republic of Korea.

The officers found the experience exciting and fulfilling. Vietnam desk officer Brown briefed mission staff on the fast-progressing U.S.-Vietnam relationship, including Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung's June visit to Washington and bilateral cooperation to address legacies of the Vietnam conflict, such as POW/MIA accounting and the impact of Agent Orange. As a result, in interac-



At left, the USNS *Mercy* arrives in Dili; below, Admiral Robert Willard, commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, gives a coin to a Timorese child.



tions with the Vietnamese government and media, Commodore Kearns could have the support of provincial authorities and articulate U.S. policy, which received wide media coverage.

The ship's band played at a medical site, which marked the first time a U.S. military band had played in Vietnam in the more than 30 years since the end of the Vietnam conflict.

Brown said her contributions energized her about the Foreign Service and gave her a fresh perspective on interagency cooperation.

To provide a sense of what life was like for those on this mission, let me offer my experiences. I joined the mission in Timor-Leste, Asia's youngest and poorest country. After adjusting to life on a Navy ship (where breakfast is served at 5 a.m. and roommates' alarms ring throughout the night), I helped coordinate visits to the ship by that nation's foreign minister, minister of health, secretary of state for security and members of the national parliament. I also organized soccer games with local teams, recruited university students to assist with interpretation, drafted press articles and kept mission leadership abreast of local political events.

The excursion provided an exciting diversion from my job in Ankara, but what was most gratifying was the opportunity to work

with a multinational group of military and civilian officers and see tangible results.

For Natalia, the visit meant the chance for a new life. U.S. Navy Lieutenant Commander Kathleen O'Mara, a general pediatrician, examined the youth and noticed her eyes had a see-saw-like motion called a nystagmus. A team of ophthalmologists and technicians conducted a brain scan that revealed a mass that could result in a severe neurological event or death. Working with the Portuguese Embassy and Timor-Leste government, the *Mercy's* staff arranged for Natalia to be flown to Portugal for surgery, which doctors believe has a high chance of success.

More important, the *Mercy's* visit provided many Timorese patients their first opportunity to meet an American and receive quality medical care. The goodwill generated from the visit was immeasurable.

Helping patients like Natalia improve their quality of life epitomizes the transformational diplomacy necessary to confront new challenges in the 21st century. ■

The author is a political officer at the U.S. Embassy in Ankara, Turkey.

The Nagoya Station area has some of Japan's most expensive real estate.



post of the month



**Industrial heart of Japan is
open for U.S. business**

By Jonas Stewart

Known as the land of *monozukuri*, or making things, Nagoya is the heart of Japan's manufacturing sector. The city is the capital of Aichi Prefecture and the center of commerce, industry and culture in central Japan. Greater Nagoya has more than 12 million residents, making it Japan's third-largest metropolis after Tokyo and Osaka. Economic activity in central Japan is such that, if separated from the rest of Japan, it would still have one of the world's 10 largest economies, producing about 2 percent of the world's gross domestic product.

Nagoya is also the cultural center of the region, hosting the Nagoya/Boston Museum of Fine Arts, the Tokugawa Art Museum and many top institutions of higher learning, including Nagoya University, Nagoya Institute of Technology and Nanzan University.

Nagoya and its residents have long been associated with commerce and manufacturing. Located along historical transportation routes between eastern and western Japan, the town prospered from trade with both regions. Its early industries included textiles, steel and ceramics, a legacy reflected today in the region's cutting-edge research and development in next-generation ceramics and other industrial technologies.

The first of Japan's Tokugawa shoguns, Tokugawa Ieyasu, was from the Nagoya area. He recognized the town's strategic importance in the early 17th century and built an imposing castle in its center. Nagoya grew in economic and political importance during the long, peaceful Tokugawa era, becoming the commercial and industrial hub of central Japan. The castle, along with almost all of downtown Nagoya, was leveled by Allied bombing toward the end of World War II. The castle was rebuilt in 1959, and the rest of Nagoya rose from the ashes of war with an

enhanced industry-friendly infrastructure, including wider streets and easier market access.

Located close to the Pacific Ocean, Nagoya features mountain hiking and some of Japan's top onsen, or hot-spring baths, which have helped it become one of Japan's top cities for tourism as well as industry.

The U.S. Consulate in Nagoya has six American officials and a Japanese staff of 10, plus four part-time contract guards. Two of the American officials are from the Department of State, one is from the Department of Commerce and three are from the Department of Homeland Security. The senior Foreign Service officer is the principal officer, and the other FSO is the public affairs officer, who also handles Nagoya's limited consular operations.

SUPPORTING U.S. BUSINESS

Consulate Nagoya monitors and reports on political, economic and societal developments in central Japan, including elections, party politics, relations with China and North Korea, macroeconomic trends, infrastructure and business aviation. The consulate also supports U.S. interests on a number of region-specific matters, including:

- Automotive sector: About one in twelve cars manufactured in the world is produced in the greater Nagoya area, and approximately half of Japan's auto and auto-parts production occurs there. American firms have had increasing success in supplying the sector with such parts as transmission chains, stereos, hoses, gas tanks, auto-dimming mirrors and gears.

- Aerospace: Greater Nagoya is the center of Japanese aerospace manufacturing. About 35 percent of Boeing's next-generation 787 Dreamliner,



❖ An actor portrays Tokugawa Ieyasu at the Nagoya festival's "Three Feudal Lords" parade.



Cherry blossoms and Nagoya Castle combine to make a quintessential Japanese scene.



❖ Vehicles march down a computerized assembly line at Toyota's Motomachi plant.



❖ The consulate staff poses behind visiting Deputy Chief of Mission James Zumwalt, seated at left, and Principal Officer Max Kwak, seated at right.





From left, Minae Suzuki, Chikako Onabe and Miyuki Ikeyama greet guests at the Consulate's Independence Day celebration.

Nagoya Tower and the futuristic Oasis 21 shopping area are two downtown landmarks.

including the wings and forward fuselage, is manufactured in the area, as are H-IIA rockets, Japan's primary satellite launch vehicle.

- Defense production: Lockheed Martin and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries produce PAC-3 Patriot missile systems in Nagoya. MHI produces the F-2 fighter in Nagoya under license from Lockheed Martin.

Due to the strong economy, there are about 50 percent more jobs than workers in the greater Nagoya area. In response, the Japanese government has allowed foreigners of Japanese heritage to receive special work visas. These foreign workers have become the key to the manufacturing power of central Japan. There are also nearly 200,000 Brazilians and 19,000 Peruvians in the region. As the population of Japan continues to age and decrease, this immigration trend will likely spread to the rest of Japan. How immigrant workers adapt to living in Japan and how Japan adapts to hosting them will be important factors in determining if Japan can maintain growth in the face of a declining population.

NAGOYA AMERICAN CENTER

Nagoya's public affairs section, also known as the Nagoya American Center, produces a robust schedule of speaker programs and cultural events throughout its district, which has a population of 20 million. NAC audiences include multinational corporation executives, Japan Self-Defense Force officers and professors and students from central Japan's top universities. Because Nagoya is Japan's industrial heartland, a good deal of NAC programming concerns economic and trade issues. The NAC also focuses on security, political and legal issues.

The NAC has established "American shelves" in six local jurisdictions. Located at public libraries, these public shelves include hundreds of award-winning, English-language children's books and American Studies materials. The American shelves give the NAC a springboard to develop programming outside of Nagoya in

areas not usually reached by Mission Japan. For example, working with the city of Nissin, one of Japan's fastest growing communities, the NAC recently presented a blues concert featuring American singer/songwriter Steve Gardner.

The NAC regularly works with major media outlets in the region, including the newspaper *Chunichi Shimbun*, with a circulation of 2.5 million, and the Japan Broadcasting Corp.

Routine American citizen services such as notariats, reports of birth and passport renewals are provided at Consulate Nagoya by consular staff from Consulate General Osaka-Kobe who visit Nagoya monthly. Nagoya's public affairs officer/consul and one Locally Employed staff member provide emergency services to approximately 3,000 American citizens. Consulate Nagoya does not issue visas to foreign nationals or passports to American citizens.

Nagoya's Foreign Commercial Service office helps U.S. companies learn about opportunities in the region and navigate hazards on the road to success. U.S. companies have made tremendous progress here in areas as diverse as television marketing, industrial machinery and aerospace. One service FCS Nagoya has refined in recent years is the single-company promotion. This is a "trade fair of one" in which a single U.S. firm is showcased in a half-day seminar/product exhibition oriented to an invitation-only group of potential buyers or business partners.

The largest port in cargo volume in Japan, the Port of Nagoya is one of 58 ports worldwide participating in the DHS Container Security Initiative. The initiative aims to prevent terrorist use of a shipping container by screening the manifest at the foreign port of origin before the shipment goes to the United States. In fiscal year 2007, CSI Nagoya reviewed approximately 86,000 bills of lading. ■

The author is director of the Nagoya American Center and public affairs officer at the U.S. Consulate in Nagoya.



Opened in 1987, the Port of Nagoya ranks first in Japan in trade volume and value.

At a Glance



Country Japan

Capital Tokyo

Total area 377,835 sq km

Approximate size Slightly smaller than California

Government type
Constitutional monarchy with a parliamentary government

Population 127 million

Language Japanese

Currency yen (JPY)

Per capita income \$33,500

Unemployment rate 3.8 percent

Import partners China (21 percent), United States (11.6 percent) and Saudi Arabia (5.7 percent)

Export partners United States (20.4 percent), China (15.3 percent) and South Korea (7.6 percent)

Internet country code .jp



Iraqi veterinarians inoculate livestock at a PRT-sponsored event.

Fertile Ground

RECONSTRUCTION TEAM PROMOTES GROWTH IN IRAQI PROVINCE
BY AARON D. SNIPE

PHOTOGRAPHS: AARON SNIPE

Muthanna Province rarely makes international headlines. Roughly the size of Maine, Iraq's second-largest province is that nation's least economically developed. A place where temperatures can reach upward of 140 degrees, unemployment is high and agriculture supports a large percentage of residents, Muthanna faces myriad challenges.

Located far from the decision-makers in Baghdad, the province might seem fertile ground for violent extremism, but in the almost two years since the troop surge in Iraq, the Provincial Reconstruction Team in Muthanna has seen residents embracing peace, striving for a brighter future and eagerly starting to rebuild.

"We benefited from the surge," PRT Team Leader Brad Lynch said, "but there are provinces in Iraq where the citizens decided, even long before the surge, that they would not stand for violence and extremism, and Muthanna is one of those provinces."

Stable Environment

The stable security environment gave the PRT the chance to spend a great deal of time in the province and to interact with residents at every level. Additionally, the PRT's work has been very well received because years of neglect had left this province with few resources. Whereas many essential services elsewhere were destroyed or disrupted by war and sectarian violence, Muthanna simply lacked many of these services to begin with. In many cases, PRT Muthanna is helping provide citizens access to clean water, electricity and health care for the very first time.

PRT Muthanna is involved in multiple projects that affect practically every sector and has a diverse bench of experts in such areas as agriculture, government and public diplomacy. One of the sectors where the PRT has engaged with the community is journalism. Soon after the new team arrived, it reached out to the local media and conducted a training seminar for local journalists. This training helped expand the important relationship with the Fourth Estate established by the prior team. Led by the PRT's public diplomacy officer, the training was held in a "mudhif," or traditional Iraqi meeting house, the PRT constructed. Completed in January, the mudhif has been an integral part of the team's engagement with local Iraqis.

"Building a traditional Iraqi meeting house where PRT members and Iraqis can assemble, break bread and discuss the business of the province in a culturally sensitive atmosphere was a terrific investment made by the previous team," Lynch said. "Meeting Iraqis on their own turf reinforces our message that we are doing all that we can to understand and help remedy the concerns of all Iraqis."

Not long after this training, members of the PRT were invited to give an hour-long interview on the province's most-watched

trip to India that focused on agricultural development. The visit reflected how the PRT leverages its expertise to reach beyond Iraq's borders.

Within the province, the PRT is working on an important bovine artificial insemination program. The decline in the number of breeding bulls has created an agricultural and financial crisis for Iraq's farmers. Government neglect, war and other economic factors have forced many of them to slaughter their livestock to feed their families. The PRT-inspired and Iraqi-led



PRT Team Leader Brad Lynch and tribal sheikhs participate in a ribbon-cutting for a water pump in rural Muthanna.

television station, where they briefed the people of Muthanna on the role and projects of the PRT.

Agricultural Effort

Of all the reconstruction assistance and goodwill the PRT has generated in Muthanna, no sector has benefited more than agriculture. The team's agricultural and water experts have traveled the province and beyond, working with the relevant Iraqi ministries to tackle the complex challenges in both fields. In August, the PRT's senior agricultural adviser led a delegation of high-ranking Iraqi agricultural officials from Muthanna and Maysan provinces on a 10-day research

artificial insemination program will help revitalize a central part of Muthanna's agricultural sector and economy.

Measuring the impact of development is often difficult to do quickly. However, at a recent visit to a project on the banks of the Euphrates, Lynch said, "Helping Iraqis repair this water pumping station that the government is now helping maintain is what our work is all about. This irrigation project has had an impact on thousands of people, and it was brought to you by the Iraqi government with a little help from the PRT." ■

The author is a public diplomacy officer with the PRT in Muthanna.



Helicopter House Calls

The isolated communities of Costa Rica's Punta Burica region, including some indigenous groups, received much-needed medical care from U.S. military and Costa Rican civilian doctors who arrived at the remote area in September via Blackhawk helicopters. Many patients and local elders said they never dreamed they would receive such medical treatment.

Village leader Kanaki Carrera called it "a dream come true."

In just three days the Medical Readiness Training Exercise team

addressed two years of backlogged medical problems, including tooth decay, parasites, skin infections, tooth extractions, prenatal care, diarrhea and respiratory infections. Inhabitants of the region abutting Panama along Costa Rica's southernmost Pacific coast are too poor and too far from doctors to receive regular medical care.

The MEDRETE team consisted of 36 members of the Honduras-based U.S. Joint Task Force-Bravo, 40 Costa Rican medical personnel and six translators from the U.S. Embassy in San

Jose. U.S. Ambassador to Costa Rica Peter Cianchette, the Costa Rican minister of public security, three national legislators and several embassy officers also visited the treatment sites.

The U.S. Embassy in San Jose's Office of the Defense Representative coordinated the MEDRETE mission, supported by the post's administrative, political, regional security and public affairs offices. The embassy also held a food collection drive, and several hundred pounds of food were donated to the region's people. Many Costa

U.S. MEDICAL
TEAM TREATS
NEARLY 1,000
IN COSTA RICA

**BY
STACY L.
COMP
AND
ROBERT B.
ANDREW**



Clockwise from above: A Blackhawk helicopter brings medical personnel and equipment and several tons of food to Punta Burica; high-tech equipment is used to provide dental care in Punta Burica; a local teenager with long-standing medical problems is readied for medical and dental care; Ambassador Peter Cianchette, second from left, and a Costa Rican government delegation recognize Punta Burica for its efforts toward being a safe community.

Rican government ministries also worked behind the scenes to support the MEDRETE visit.

MEDRETE member Luis Jimenez, a dental assistant with a Costa Rican group, said, “It would have been very difficult for us to provide care to these areas without the (airlift that JTF-Bravo) provided.”

Due to the rough terrain and lack of roads, local residents needing emergency care face a three-hour trip by horseback to the nearest medical facilities, across the border in Panama where medical care is not guaranteed to Costa Ricans. Village

leader Carrera said some die on the arduous journey. Routine health care languishes until Costa Rican public health workers make their infrequent visits.

“We are very thankful for the support,” Carrera said of the doctors’ visit. “It is something very kind.”

Coast Guard Commander Mark Camacho, the embassy’s ODR chief, stressed the value of these joint projects. “Because there is no military in Costa Rica, it is important for people to see how we can provide humanitarian assistance and joint training with the police force in

Costa Rica,” he said.

While Costa Rica is relatively more developed than the rest of Central America, it still has remote, mostly indigenous areas of high poverty, such as Punta Burica.

“The U.S. has prided itself for years on helping our friends,” said Ambassador Cianchette. “This is just another example of how we can assist where needed.” ■

Stacy L. Comp is a public diplomacy officer serving as vice-consul and Robert B. Andrew is the political and narcotics affairs officer at the U.S. Embassy in San Jose.

Printed
on recycled
paper.



Shades of Green

GLOBAL PUBLISHING USES BEST ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES
BY THE GLOBAL PUBLISHING SERVICES STAFF

The Bureau of Administration's Global Publishing Solutions prints many colors, but its environmental view is decidedly green.

Even before the new GPS printing facility in Cairo, Egypt, opened, plant managers took a "green" view, investing in the right paper, inks and environmentally friendly and safe practices.

Worldwide, GPS' printing plants use paper from mills that are certified "green," meaning they use recycled content and

participate in at least one of several organizations' programs, such as those of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative or the Forestry Stewardship Council. The programs promote sustainable forest management and protect water quality, biodiversity, wildlife habitat and the forests themselves.

GPS also evaluates whether the paper it uses contains waste paper from offices and homes. Some GPS paper has as much as 30 percent post-consumer recycled content. GPS also considers whether the bleaching process used to make the paper white is free of chlorine, making it easier to recycle the paper and complying with the regulations of the Environmental Protection Agency and World Health Organization.

Another consideration for GPS: Does the paper contain fibers that do not come from trees? Paper can be made without using trees. In fact, U.S. currency is made from cotton. Some papers use sources other than trees for as much as 60 percent of their content.



GPS Manila Production Manager Mike Stinson, left, and Press Manager Sonny Estevanez hold tins of "green" ink in front of their new printing press.

Paper can be made without using trees. In fact, U.S. currency is made from cotton. Some papers use sources other than trees for as much as **60 percent** of their content.

GPS uses inks based to some degree on vegetable or soybean by-products that are low in volatile organic compounds. This reduces the amount of hydrocarbons released in printing, minimizing toxic emissions.

GPS ink is largely environmentally friendly. In fact, its four-color inks have extremely low levels of volatile organic compounds, and vegetable-based oils make up 35 percent or more of their content.

In addition to using environmentally friendly paper and ink, GPS has been

actively greening its operations. It has replaced fluorescent lightbulbs in its print shops with new "green tip" low-mercury lamps that last twice as long as those that contain more mercury.

GPS also updated its production and design computers to models that are Energy Star-rated, meaning they draw little power when idle or asleep and manage their power more efficiently.

GPS recycles almost everything, including scrap paper and the metal plates used on its presses. Any waste that can't be

recycled is disposed of by companies that use environmentally friendly waste handling.

Last year, the White House issued an Executive Order calling for greater use of environmental management systems by those printing federal materials. This makes the green practices used by GPS more likely to spread throughout the printing industry.

For more information on GPS' green papers and how to design a green publication, contact GPS at gps@state.gov. ■

Global Publishing Services produces a number of the Department's publications.



FIRE PROTECTION

DEPARTMENT'S FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC STRATEGIES DIFFER— BUT WORK **BY ED WARNER**

It makes perfect sense. In the United States, the Department of State uses some of the latest advances in fire protection. As a result, its fire-detection, fire-suppression sprinkler and emergency voice communications systems exceed the national building and fire codes. Overseas, the Department uses tried-and-proven technologies that exceed local fire codes.

The difference arises because a fire-protection system, once installed, must be maintained. Some of the latest high-tech fire-protection systems can be maintained only by expert fire technicians sent out from the United States, said Bruce Sincox, director of the Fire Protection Division in the Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations. The Department simply has too many locations worldwide for the OBO fire systems maintenance engineers to travel around the world to maintain and test systems, he said.

In the United States, the Department doesn't face that problem, and it has implemented systems that might make a fire chief envious. One is an underground network of fiber optic cable linking fire-detection and warning systems at several of the Department's chief properties with a control center at Main State.



Donald Traff points to an exit point sounder at Main State

Donald Traff, chief of the Domestic Environmental and Safety Division's Fire Protection Section, said the network lets someone at the control center see when a smoke detector goes off at, say, the Global Financial Services Center in Charleston, S.C., and identify what GFSC personnel are doing in response. If necessary, the control center can directly communicate with employees near the potential fire or cut the power inside a room where no firefighter can go without the highest security clearance, he explained.

SECURE Network

Fiber optic systems are unaffected by radio-type interference, which also protects them from being spied upon, and because the network lets Main State know what's happening at other locations, Traff said it would be useful were there a concerted attack on Department properties.



Left: Here are the results of a 2007 kitchen fire in the deputy chief of mission staff residence in Tunis, caused by an electrical short in a portable stereo situated next to the stove. **Below:** OBO engineer Dave Stobaugh says fire protection overseas depends on proven technology.

“We’re the only complete fiber optic network for fire protection in the United States,” Traff said.

In addition to Main State and GFSC, the network encompasses all 15 buildings at the Foreign Service Institute, Navy Hill, the International Chancery Center and the Beltsville, Md., communications center.

Those buildings, plus State Annex-1, are also using new “exit point sounders,” which provide employees with a non-visual way to find an exit when evacuating a building. In an evacuation involving lots of smoke, employees need only move toward the rhythmic “whooshing” sound emanating from speakers recently installed near building exits. The sound’s waves even travel through walls, another advantage over exit lights.

FASTER Evacuation

Traff said tests showed the sounders caused people to exit buildings 75 percent faster than exit signs alone because the sounders make clear which exit is closer. In a test involving two nearby exits, Traff said a blind man was regularly able to identify the closer exit to within a few feet.

The technology used is so new, he continued, the Department had to have the housings for the sounders custom made.

The Department is also using fire detectors with separate sensors for smoke and heat that advise their site’s control center when they are about to go off. This lets fire protection employees rush to the trouble spot before an alarm sounds, Traff said.

Other improvements are less high-tech, Traff said. For instance, emergency lighting of Main State’s exits far exceeds the fire code, and all domestic buildings now have emergency voice communication systems with generator power available for up to 60 hours, he said.

Overseas, it’s a different story. There, tried-and-proven makes more sense because if state-of-the-art or advanced technologies were used, the Department would regularly have to “put a guy on a plane” to come fix them, said OBO fire protection engineer Dave Stobaugh.

“We can’t have high-tech in low-tech countries,” he said.

STRONGEST Protection

Nonetheless, the Department always builds facilities overseas to the most stringent fire code applicable, usually that of the United States, and it uses centrally monitored fire alarm

systems that show which detector is sounding an alarm.

Sincox said the presence of fire sprinklers should never be underestimated. The spray from just two sprinklers in a sprinkler-protected building is sufficient to put out 98 percent of fires, he said. He added that OBO also trains Marine security guards and other employees at post in using fire extinguishers.

In developing nations, the Department’s sprinkler systems typically use a reservoir tank and a pump, not local water pressure. To ensure the sprinklers are the best, OBO inspects the factory that makes the pump and tanks to certify them at the plant and then tests them after installation.

Sincox, who represents OBO’s Operations Office, said he is in a “constant dialogue” with Stobaugh and his colleagues on the facility-design side of the bureau. Their aim, he said, is to see that designs promote fire protection, ensure local fire equipment can access a structure and see that nothing gets installed that can’t be maintained.

Sincox said his goal is simple: “Get the wet stuff on the red stuff.” ■

The author is the deputy editor of State Magazine.



Comfort Zone

AMBASSADOR'S WIFE SOOTHES
WOUNDED SERVICE MEMBERS

BY ANN E. REHME

Ambassadors' wives often play active roles in their embassy community, engaging in voluntary charitable activities having lasting impact and paralleling official programs.

Sue Timken is one such spouse. Since she and her husband, Ambassador William R. Timken Jr., arrived in Berlin in the fall of 2005, she has visited thousands of U.S. service members, civilians and contractors receiving treatment at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center for injuries sustained in operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Two to three times a month, Timken begins the day with an early flight from Berlin to Frankfurt and then an hour-and-a-half drive to the hospital, where she spends three to four hours visiting and listening to patient's stories. Frequently, she is the first and only visitor they will have while receiving medical care in Germany. At the end of her day, she returns to Berlin.

At the hospital, she pushes a chaplain's services cart through the wards and intensive care unit. The cart, loaded with candy and the hundreds of magazines she and her husband purchase for the troops, is a welcome sight to the medical staff and patients.

Challenging Mission

One of the chaplains who accompanied her at the hospital was Captain Erik Harp. He said he told Timken when she first arrived that visiting the ICU means meeting greatly disfigured patients, some just off the battlefield.

"She unflinchingly said she would like to see all the wounded on every ward, starting with the most severely injured in the ICU," he recalled. He said she stood at the bedside of wounded soldiers and Marines and held their hands and comforted them much like a loving mother or friend would comfort someone dear to them.

"I received countless words of gratitude from these families and the staff for her compassion and being there when they felt alone and empty," Captain Harp said.

Demurring, Timken said the visits enrich her life. "These visits mean more to me than [the service members] will ever know," she said.

While patients could not speak for the record due to privacy concerns, First Lt. Andrea Ruff, a nurse, said Timken "brings smiles

to the faces of all the patients and staff, and her gifts and donations are appreciated by all."

Commemorative Coin

Soon after she began making regular visits, she and her husband designed a military-type commemorative coin that she now gives each patient they visit, along with a personal thank-you for his or her service. Six to eight times per year, Ambassador Timken accompanies his wife on her visits.

The visits' scope has expanded in the past two years after members of the National Confectioners' Association began



Sue Timken and Counselor for Agricultural Affairs Bobby Richey with the chaplain's cart.

contributing truckloads of sweets for the project. This year's donation exceeded 13 pallets of sweets. Representatives from several private companies accompanied the Timkens on a visit to the medical center in January.

The U.S. Consulate in Frankfurt also has expanded its volunteerism. There, the Community Outreach Group now assembles teams monthly to provide meals to some 20 guests of the two houses at the hospital complex that provide free housing for family members of hospitalized service members. The post's general services office is authorized to dispose of surplus furniture left over from auctions by donating it to the Warrior Transition Unit in Wiesbaden, Germany. The COG also challenged the consulate community to a dollar-for-dollar donation-match to sponsor rooms at the unit. It raised more than \$2,500. ■

The author is an office management specialist at the U.S. Consulate in Frankfurt.



Annual Talent Show Entertains Capacity Crowd

By John Bentel

The Foreign Affairs Recreation Association and the State of the Arts Cultural Series recently presented an instrumental trio, piano prodigies, a tenor, a classical pianist and the much-anticipated yearly talent show.

Trio Romantica, consisting of pianist Li-Ly Chang, violinist Ronald Mutchnik and cellist Kristin Ostling, seamlessly played Max Bruch's *Trio* and Debussy's *Trio*. The audience warmly received these highly professional musicians.

The piano prodigies included the winners of the 2008 International Young Artists Piano Competition sponsored by Li-Ly Chang. They ranged in age from eight to early teens. Anning Wang, Evelyn Mo and Bryan Ho played with an ease that belied their ages. Kimberly Hou gave a spectacular performance of York Bowen's

Toccata, Op.155 that required great speed and facility.

Back for his second performance, tenor Antonio Nebuchadnezzar Adams performed African American spirituals with heartfelt sensitivity. Audience favorites were *Ride On, King Jesus!* and *He's Got the Whole World in His Hands*.

Dr. Sonya Suhnhhee Kim, an International Steinway Artist who has performed many solo recitals and chamber music concerts over the past decade in Germany, Austria and the United States, played Liszt's *Les jeux d'eau a la Villa D'Este* and Beethoven's *Sonata Op.57 in F-minor, "Appassionata,"* with great aplomb and won resounding applause.

The 3rd Annual Talent Show played to a capacity crowd and proved highly entertaining. As is the tradition, singer Barbara

Pollard opened the festivities with an original song, *I Really Love the Lord*. Ben Perry sang a satisfying *You Know I Love You*. Paul Hopper recited humorous poems, some of his own composition.

Katie Kirkpatrick's costume fired up the audience, and then she wowed them with Brazilian samba. Robert Byla's believable Elvis impersonation also delighted. Dyrone Johnson and Caryl Traten Fisher danced some lively steps to *Whatever Lola Wants,*

Lola Gets from *Damn Yankees*. And Steve Black and Jackki Newton offered an entertaining interpretation of popular music. At the end of the show, the audience was on its feet. ■

The author is a computer specialist in the Executive Secretariat.



Coming Events

December 3

The T-Tones, satirical chorale ensemble performing holiday music

December 17

Fabian Faccio, Argentinian holiday music

Performances are on Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m. in the Dean Acheson Auditorium.





Good Tidings

BE SAFE FOR THE HOLIDAYS **BY KRISTIN GWIN**

The holiday season has arrived. For many, this is a time of celebration and tradition. Whether finding the perfect Christmas tree, setting up a menorah, decking the halls with holly or entertaining family and friends, there's a lot to think about to ensure your loved ones stay safe and happy. Here are some tips:

THE TREE

Whether the tree is real or artificial, consider these tips. Artificial trees should be fire-resistant, and live trees should be fresh. Look for flexible needles that are hard to pull from the branches. Water a live tree daily to keep it moist. Trees should be placed in a sturdy tree stand designed not to tip over. Keep a watchful eye on children, and do not let them play with wiring or lights. Ensure trees do not block doorways or paths to exits and are placed at least one meter from any heat source. When a tree begins dropping needles it should be discarded, not thrown in the garage or left leaning against the house.

THE DECORATIONS

Whether hanging just a few strands of lights or creating an extensive display, plan ahead. Inspect light strings for frayed wires, loose or broken plugs and loose bulb connections before using them. Purchase only lights and electrical decorations that have been tested by an independent lab such as Underwriters Laboratory or Factory Mutual. Ensure lights used outside are certified for outdoor use, and

plug outdoor lights and decorations into circuits or extension cords with ground-fault-circuit interrupter protection. Use no more than three standard-size sets of lights per extension cord. Do not run cords under rugs or across the floor or mount lights in any way that can damage the wires' insulation. Use clips to mount strings of lights, not nails. Avoid electrical shocks—never add lights to a metallic tree. Always turn off electric decorations before going to bed or leaving the house.

THE CANDLES

The top five days for home fires arising from candles are Halloween, Christmas Eve, Christmas, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. Thirty-eight percent of home candle fires start in the bedroom, and more than half start when something that can burn, such as furniture, mattresses, bedding, curtains or decorations, is too close to the candle. Therefore, keep candles at least 12 inches from anything that can burn, use safe candleholders and never leave a burning candle unattended. Extinguish candles when you leave a room, do not splatter wax when extinguishing a candle and avoid using candles in sleeping areas. Always use a flashlight, not a candle, for emergency lighting. Consider using battery-operated flameless candles.

THE TOYS

Toys are fun for children but can be dangerous. Before buying a toy or allowing your child to play with a toy received as a gift, read the

warning labels to ensure the toy suits your child's age and ability. Millions of toys have been recalled recently due to lead, small parts and other potential dangers. Routinely check the Consumer Product Safety Commission Web site www.cpsc.gov, and send in product registration cards so you're notified about toy recalls. Occasionally, check toys for broken or torn parts that may result in sharp edges or a choking hazard. To prevent burns and electrical shocks, don't give young children toys that must be plugged into an outlet. Electric toys should be UL- or FM-listed or approved. Teach young children that electric toys and water don't mix.

THE TRAVEL

For trips, check the weather forecast along your route before hitting the road. Let others know when you leave and your projected arrival time. Have your vehicle inspected, and pack an emergency car kit that includes blankets and warm clothes. Traffic jams, detours and sudden storms can lengthen the best-planned trips. Pull off the road and rest when you get tired. If your celebrations will include drinking alcoholic beverages, find a designated nondrinking driver beforehand. Slow down, drive according to conditions and always wear your seat belt.

'Tis the season to make safety planning a new holiday tradition, a gift that will keep on giving. ■

The author is a certified industrial hygienist with the Safety, Health and Environmental Management Division.



Appointments



Assistant Secretary for Diplomatic Security

Eric J. Boswell of the District of Columbia, a senior U.S. and international security and management official, is the new Assistant Secretary for Diplomatic Security, to serve concurrently as Director of the Office of Foreign Missions with the rank of Ambassador. Previously, he was assistant deputy director for security in the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. He has held senior positions in the United Nations system and the Foreign Service, from which he retired in 1998 with the rank of Minister-Counselor.



U.S. Ambassador to the Kyrgyz Republic

Tatiana C. Gfoeller-Volkoff of the District of Columbia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Counselor, is the new U.S. Ambassador to the Kyrgyz Republic. Previously, she was consul general in Jeddah. Her other overseas postings include Poland, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the Soviet Union, Belgium, Russia and Turkmenistan, where she was deputy chief of mission. She was a Rusk Fellow and wrote a book on U.S. foreign policy interests in the Caspian Basin. She is married and has a son.



U.S. Chargé d'Affaires to Burma

Larry Miles Dinger of Iowa, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, is the new U.S. chief of mission to the Union of Burma. Previously, he was ambassador to Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Tonga and Tuvalu, and earlier was ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia. Prior to that, he served as deputy chief of mission in Kathmandu and Suva. His other postings include Canberra, Jakarta and Mexico City. He is married and has three children.



U.S. Ambassador to Fiji

C. Steven McGann of New York, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, is the new U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of the Fiji Islands, serving concurrently as the ambassador to Nauru, Tonga, Tuvalu and Kiribati. Previously, he was director of the Office for Australian, New Zealand and Pacific Island Affairs. His other postings include Taiwan, Zaire, South Africa, Australia and Kenya. He is married and has five children.



U.S. Ambassador to the Congo

Alan W. Eastham of Arkansas, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, is the new U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of the Congo. Previously, he was ambassador to Malawi. Before that, he was director of the Office of Central African Affairs. His other postings include Kathmandu, Peshawar, Nairobi, Kinshasa, Bordeaux, New Delhi and Islamabad, where he was deputy chief of mission.



U.S. Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates

Richard G. Olson of New Mexico, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Counselor, is the new U.S. Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates. Previously, he was deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Mission to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. His other postings include Mexico, Uganda, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Ethiopia, Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Iraq. He is married to U.S. Ambassador to Kuwait Deborah Jones. They have two daughters.

Appointments



Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs

Matthew A. Reynolds of Massachusetts, a senior official in Congress and the Department, is the new Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs. Previously, he was the bureau's principal deputy assistant secretary. He has served as deputy assistant secretary for Senate Affairs and director of House Affairs. In Congress, he was staff director of the House Rules Committee and on the staff of the House International Relations Committee and Senate Foreign Relations Committee.



U.S. Ambassador to Korea

D. Kathleen Stephens of Montana, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, is the new U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Korea. Previously, she was political adviser and principal deputy assistant secretary in the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs. Before that, she was deputy assistant secretary in the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs. Her other postings include Lisbon, Belfast, Guangzhou, Busan, Belgrade and Yugoslavia. She has a son.

retirements

FOREIGN SERVICE

Aranaga, Carlos E.
Arietti, Michael R.
Bagchi, Plaban K.
Bainbridge, John R.
Barnes, Douglas M.
Barnes, Jerald H.
Bartlett, William M.
Bennett, David R.
Bochantin, Dennis W.
Bochart, Gerald W.
Boris, John J.
Boyle, Michael J.
Braum, Donald Edgar
Browning, Michael J.
Brzozowski, Clifford E.
Bustamante, David A.
Cason, James C.
Charlton, Milton Lewis
Cheever Jr., Francis S.
Chermak, Anne M.
Christenson, Richard A.
Cohen, Efraim Alan
Colquhoun, Richard Andrew
Conlon, Margaret A.
Connelly, Patrick S.
Covington, Ann
Crodody Jr., Arnold J.
De Soto, Oscar G.
Denig, Paul
Devlin, Joseph M.
Dreher, David Ross
Ereshfsky, Marilyn Carole
Estes, Ellis Merrill
Ewing, Elizabeth A.
Gianfranceschi, Robert E.
Glover, Roy A.
Goff, Edward H.
Gordon, Ann Vincent
Gorjance, Mary A.
Hibben, Barbara A. P.
Hill, Leonard A.
Hinson-Jones, Robyn E.
Hofer, Curt
Horning, Raymond W.
Imwold, Dennis
Jardine Jr., Clyde Lawton
Jarrett, Kenneth Howard
Jewell, Linda
Johnson, Donald C.
Jones, Richard H.
Kelly, Thomas E.
Kirchofer, Damaris A.
Koch, Katharine Elsie
Kowalchek, Kenneth C.
Kuehl, Craig L. M.
Lemmon, Michael Craig
Lowther, Charles Allen
Luftig, Laura R.
MacCurdy, Carol Lynn
Malloy, Eileen Anne
Martinez, Sylvie Lynn
McGhee, Janet M.
McGrath, Edward Paul
Medvigy, Christopher A.
Middleton, Victoria Sharon
Miller, Lavay L.
Moore, Sandra
Morales Colon, Hector E.
Morris, Greta N.
Nebel Jr., Claude J.
Ortiz, Isis Margarita
Parent, Ruth E. Bright

Puccetti, Michael Dean
Rasmussen, Douglas K.
Reichelderfer, Thomas S.
Rich III, Santiago
Rosenblatt, Josiah B.
Running, Eric William
Saturni, Fabio M.
Sawkiw, Nickolas
Schmidt, John Richard
Schuh, Thomas E.
Schweitzer, Joleen A.
Semmes III, Raphael
Sherman, Richard Morey
Smith, Stephen T.
Smolik, Robert J.
Southern, George Smith
Steers, Howard J. T.
Strotz, Judith A.
Sullivan, Joseph Gerard

Syrett, Ann Sanborn
Taylor, Wade A.
Tedford, Terri Lee
Thomas, Bruce E.
Van Laningham, James R.
Van Valkenburg, David R.
Vancio, William J.
Wadley, Harlan D.
Wagner, David Goforth
Walkley, R. Barrie
Ward, Christopher D.
Ward III, Francis B.
Whitaker, Roy L.
Witajewski, Robert M.
Yamauchi, Emi Lynn
Yoas, Michael J.
Young, Mark
Zetkovic, Jack Matthew
Zimmerman, Kathryn L.

CIVIL SERVICE

Abalos, Ligaya J.
Argoff, H. David
Beck, Nancy L.
Causey, Paula J.
Cernik, Jiri
Champ, Renee C.
Chen, Ying Chih
Cunningham, Charles S.
Drahos, Hazel E.
Fannin, Mary C.
Farrar Jr., John H.
Fitts, James Edward
Glasgow, Gloria J.
Hammond, Rose M.
Hammontree, John L.
Hovey, Susan M.

Hunter, Donald R.
Johnson, Jill H.
Keefer, Edward C.
Lassiter, Immy R.
Macon, George C.
Margolis, Robin L.
Marino, Margot U.
Mayo, Wanda Dianne
Mozingo, Donald E.
Mylko, Yuriy
Nelligan, Joanne
Patten, Patsy J.
Ponomaryova, Marina M.
Williams, Carnella
Wilson, Barry N.
Wood, Rosetta R.

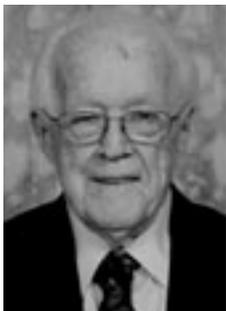


Obituaries



Lawrence Albert Beery Jr., 94, a retired Foreign Service officer who worked for the Department of Agriculture and U.S. Agency for International Development, died June 29 in Lake Wales, Fla., after a short illness. He served in

Brazil, Indonesia, Cameroon, Honduras, Tunisia and Zaire. He retired to Lake Wales in 1975, where he was active in community affairs, especially literacy and the arts.



Halbert Thompson "Hal" Cupps, 92, a retired Foreign Service employee of the Voice of America, died Feb. 14 in Scottsdale, Ariz. He served in Europe, North Africa, the Middle East and Southeast Asia. He retired

in 1973. He was an avid ham radio operator and Rotarian. In his 80s, he became interested in personal computers.

Irmgard Emmel, 76, a retired Foreign Service employee, died Sept. 1 in Albuquerque, N.M., after a long illness. She served in the Netherlands, Papua New Guinea, Tanzania, Ceylon, Pakistan, Japan, Oman and Nepal. She retired in 1982. She collected shells—which she donated to a museum—and loved reading and crocheting.



Donna Ruth Houser, 60, died June 26 in Boyds, Md. She served in the Foreign Service for 10 years. Her assignments included Zaire, El Salvador, Malaysia, Morocco and Switzerland. She also was a Civil Service employee for 20

years, working for the General Services Administration in Ft. Worth, Texas, among other positions. She retired in 2001.

Albert Jennings, a retired Foreign Service officer, died July 6 from pneumonia and skin cancer. He lived in Bethesda, Md., and loved camping in the Adirondacks. He served in the Army during World War II.



Thomas E. "Tom" Kelly, 48, a retired Foreign Service officer, died of cancer Oct. 7 in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. He was a Peace Corps volunteer in Sri Lanka before joining the U.S. Information Agency in

1998. He served in Nicosia, Havana and Mexico City. He loved travel and barbecuing. He was married to Foreign Service officer Holly Peirce.



Richard "Dick" Milton, 69, a retired Foreign Service officer, died June 27 after a long illness. He lived in Colorado Springs, Colo. During his 30-year career, he served overseas in Peru, Mexico, Colombia, Nicaragua, Poland,

Thailand and Ecuador. He became a volunteer Court-Appointed Special Advocate for abused and neglected children, serving more than 30 children and becoming Colorado's 1999 CASA volunteer of the year. He and his family also provided a home to international Air Force Academy students.



Joseph Molofsky, 53, a regional training operations manager for the Africa Contingency Operations Training Assistance peacekeeper program in the Bureau of African Affairs, died Sept. 3 of cancer. He managed

ACOTA's West African training. A retired Marine Corps colonel, he served in the 1991 Gulf War and in Cairo, Jerusalem, Jeddah and Manama.



Carol Messing O'Connor, 42, wife of Foreign Service officer Daniel B. O'Connor, died June 5 of cancer. She lived in Rockville, Md. She accompanied her husband on postings to Santo Domingo and Nassau.

Earlier, she had been a prosecuting attorney for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, specializing in marine mammal protection.



Jeanne Marie Porrazzo Tousignant, 53, wife of Foreign Service officer Alan R. Tousignant, died April 26 of colon cancer in Sturbridge, Mass. She accompanied her husband and their three daughters on assignments in

Brussels, Cotonou, Oslo, Pretoria and Hanoi. A Catholic, she became involved in church activities, community aid and school organizations in the countries where they lived.



Helen Steinacker, 93, a retired Civil Service employee in the Office of Procurement, died Sept. 1 of natural causes in Oakton, Va. She retired in 1981. She volunteered in the gift shop at Arlington Hospital and loved traveling,

sports, her pets, giving to charities and the outdoors.



Anthony H. Wallace, 67, a retired Foreign Service officer, died Sept. 4 at his home in Arlington, Va. He had Lou Gehrig's disease. He served in the Army before joining the Department in 1965. He served in Ecuador, India,

Pakistan, Tunisia and England. After retiring in 1988, he was deputy director for international affairs for Westinghouse Electric and an adjunct professor at George Mason University. He collected stamps, coins, rare books, prints and maps. He played the flute and enjoyed golf and tennis.

*In the event
of a death*

Questions concerning employee deaths should be directed to the Office of Casualty Assistance at (202) 736-4302. Inquiries concerning deaths of retired employees should be directed to the Office of Retirement at (202) 261-8960.

Diplomacy Builds Bright Futures



With the holiday season upon us, let's take a quick look at some of the good works our colleagues around the world tackle.

The unlawful trade in wildlife, a black market valued at \$10 billion or more a year globally, is fueled by unchecked demand for live wild animals as exotic pets or for their body parts. The Bureau of Oceans and Inter-

national Environmental and Scientific Affairs is deeply involved in worldwide efforts to end this trade, and has joined the U.S.-led Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking and its partner WildAid in focusing some serious star power on the problem.

Actor Harrison Ford, known internationally for various movie roles but especially for his turn as archeologist-adventurer Indiana Jones, filmed three public service announcements for CAWT to encourage people to stop buying illegal wildlife products. OES and the Department helped launch the public awareness campaign in June by providing copies of the PSAs to 215 U.S. posts in 137 countries. OES has since joined WildAid in filming two new PSAs on wildlife trafficking featuring conservationist Dr. Jane Goodall.

Diplomacy is often where you find it, and the Provincial Reconstruction Team in Muthanna, Iraq, found success far from the decision-makers in Baghdad. In the last two years, this PRT has seen residents embrace peace, strive for a brighter future and eagerly start rebuilding. Interacting with residents at every level in a province with few resources and lacking many essential services, PRT

Muthanna helped provide citizens access to clean water, electricity and health care. And in this predominantly agricultural area, the team's agricultural and water experts worked with relevant Iraqi ministries to tackle complex challenges in both fields.

Costa Rica may be more developed than other Central American countries, but there are still several remote areas of high poverty. Inhabitants of Punta Burica, the region next to Panama along Costa Rica's southernmost Pacific coast, are too poor and too far from doctors to receive regular medical care. In September, the U.S. Embassy in San Jose's Office of the Defense Representative—supported by the post's administrative, political, regional security and public affairs offices—coordinated a Medical Readiness Training Exercise that brought much-needed medical care to the area.

Last but not least, a final salute to our colleagues en route to their final posting: *Lawrence Albert Beery; Halbert Thompson "Hal" Cupps; Irmgard Emmel; Donna Ruth Houser; Albert Jennings; Thomas E. "Tom" Kelly; Richard "Dick" Milton; Joseph Molofsky; Carol Messing O'Connor; Helen Steinacker; Jeanne Marie Porrazzo Tousignant; and Anthony H. Wallace.* ■

Correction

The story on the U.S. Consulate General in Belfast (*State Magazine*, November 2008) incorrectly identified the host nation. It is the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Rob Wiley
Rob Wiley
Editor-in-Chief

Coming in January

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- Post Helps Bermuda Celebrate 400 Years
- Embassy Teaches Democracy by Example ... and much more!

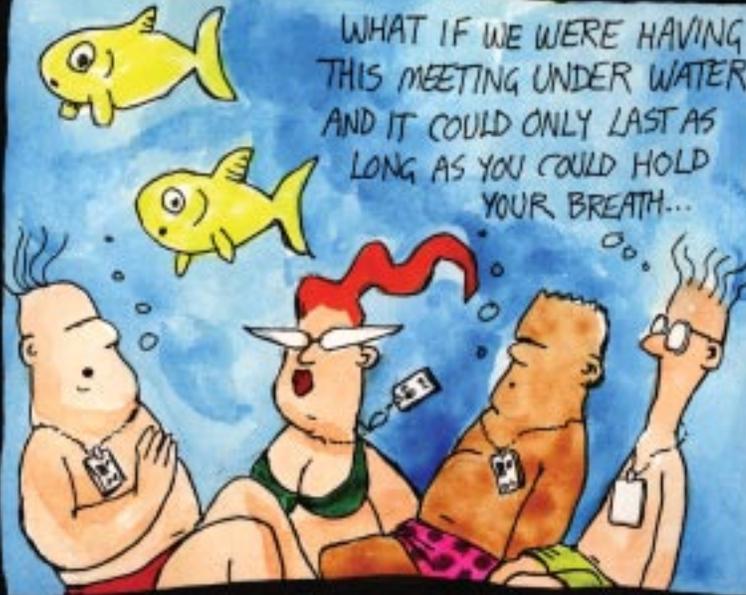
LYING IN STATE: THE WANDERER

AND I THINK WE NEED
TO GO INTO MUCH MORE
DETAIL ON HOW THE NEW
POLICY ON TRAVEL VOUCHERS
IMPACTS THE
CONSULAR SECTION...

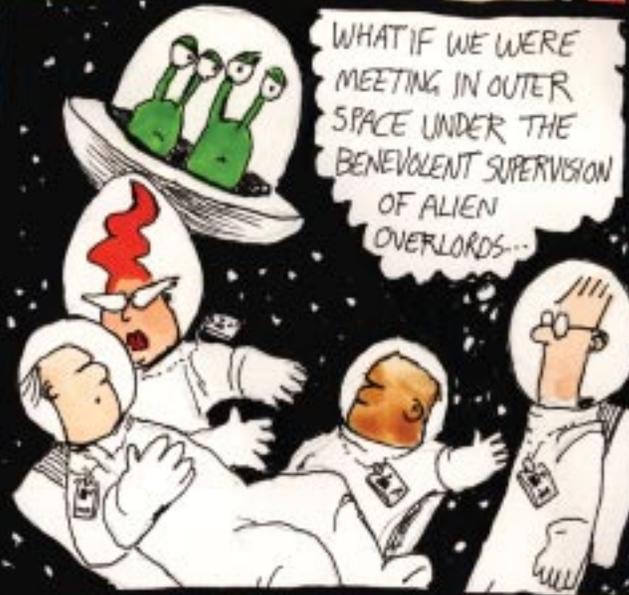
THIS IS THE MOST
BORING MEETING -
CAN'T CONCENTRATE...
MIND WANDERING...



WHAT IF WE WERE HAVING
THIS MEETING UNDER WATER
AND IT COULD ONLY LAST AS
LONG AS YOU COULD HOLD
YOUR BREATH...



WHAT IF WE WERE
MEETING IN OUTER
SPACE UNDER THE
BENEVOLENT SUPERVISION
OF ALIEN
OVERLORDS...



WHAT IF ALL THESE PEOPLE WERE DUCKS AND
JUST QUACKED WHAT THEY HAD TO SAY...
QUACK, QUACK. QUACK?
BOYD? QUACK?



BOYD? WHICH OF
THESE OPTIONS WILL
YOUR SECTION
IMPLEMENT, BOYD?

UH, QUACK?



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