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The Secretary of State presents his compliment to Their Excellencies and Messieurs and Mesdames the Chiefs of Mission and has the honor to inform all missions of the introduction of a new type of U.S. passport. The service passport may be issued to individuals traveling abroad to carry out duties in support of, and pursuant to a contract with, the U.S. government.

The new passport has a gray cover and is labeled "Service Passport." It contains the same security and process features as other U.S. passports. Bearers of the service passport will be issued an endorsement which reads: THE BEARER IS ABROAD IN SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. Service passports may also contain an endorsement limiting the book's period of validity.

The Department appreciates the assistance that will be provided to bearers of the new service passport to facilitate their important work in support of the U.S. government.

Missions may contact Passport Services by email:

CA-PPT-SIA-Entitlement@state.gov with any questions or concerns.

Department of State,

Washington, December 7, 2016.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized 'S' or similar character, located to the right of the date.