

# BUREAU OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS

U.S. Department of State



## Who We Are and What We Do: Consular Affairs by the Numbers

The mission of the **Bureau of Consular Affairs (CA)** is to protect the lives and interests of Americans overseas and to strengthen U.S. border security through the vigilant adjudication of U.S. passports and visas.

### Overseas Citizens Services – Our Priority Is To Help 5a YfWbg

The Department estimates 6.8 million American citizens live abroad and over 65 million Americans travel abroad annually.

- **Emergency Services:** Births, Deaths, Welfare/Whereabouts Inquiries, Illness/Injury, and Prison Visits. In FY 2012, we conducted 9,239 Prison Visits, registered 64,991 overseas births to U.S. parents; assisted the families of 10,952 Americans who died while abroad, handled 24,000 Welfare/Whereabouts Inquiries, and issued 37,741 emergency passports.
- **Children's Issues – Adoptions:** In FY 2012, there were 8,668 intercountry adoptions (including 99 U.S. children adopted by foreign families); see *adoption.state.gov* for country-by-country statistics, alerts & notices.
- **Children's Issues – International Parental Child Abductions:** In CY 2012, there were 1,144 children who were reported abducted from the United States, and over 510 children who were reported returned. In CY 2012, there were 473 children who were reported abducted to the United States.
- **Toll free Number:** OCS Call Center: 1-888-407-4747 (overseas: 202-501-4444)
- **Website:** Visit *travel.state.gov* for Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and Country Specific Information to help Americans travel abroad safely; *studentsabroad.state.gov* provides information for young travelers.

### Passport Services – World's Premier Travel Document

There are 23 domestic passport agencies, three processing centers, two printing facilities and more than 8,400 passport application acceptance facilities nationwide.

- **Passports and passport cards issued:** In FY 2012, we issued 13.1 million passports and passport cards. Since FY 2007, we have issued 89.2 million passports and passport cards.
- **Passport cards issued to date:** 6 million (as of January 2013).
- **Passports in circulation:** Nearly 114 million valid U.S. passports are in circulation – about 37 percent of Americans have a passport (compared to 14 million in circulation in 1991).
- **Passport cards:** Entrance via land and sea from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Bermuda.
- **Toll free Number:** 1-877-4USAPPT (1-877-487-2778); TTY/TDD 1-888-874-7793.

### Fraud Prevention – Ensuring Fraud-Free Passport And Visa Services

- **Fraud Alerts posted on FPP's web site:** 195 fraud alerts were posted in FY 2012.
- **Fraud cases referred to Fraud Prevention Units domestically and overseas:** In FY 2012, more than 160,000 cases were referred.

### U.S. Visa Facts

- **Visa Waiver Countries:** 37 (see *travel.state.gov* for latest information).
- **Visa Adjudicating Posts:** Over 220, each with its own post-specific website.
- **NIV applicants and issuances:** In FY 2012, we processed 10.3 million non-immigrant visa applications and issued 8.9 million visas, including 497,044 student and 31,424 exchange visitor visas –

44.6% more students and exchange visitors than before 9/11. *The Department of Commerce estimates that international travelers contribute \$152 billion to the U.S. economy with foreign students adding \$22.7 billion more.*

- **Security:** Visa applicants are screened in cooperation with interagency partners; fingerprint and facial recognition checks are also conducted.
- **Immigrant Visas Issued:** In FY 2012, we issued 481,172 immigrant visas.
- **Diversity Visa Lottery entrants:** 14.6 million people entered the DV 2014 lottery (includes family members). Up to 50,000 DV visas may be issued in FY 2014.

### Additional CA Facts

- **Website and Social Media:** *travel.state.gov* – In FY 2012, there were 63.7 million unique visitors to our website. @TravelGov has almost 289,000 Twitter followers & *Facebook.com/TravelGov* has more than 40,000 “likes.” Nearly 600,000 people have downloaded the Smart Traveler smart phone app. We have more than 3,200 followers on FourSquare since going live in September 2011.
- **More than 11,000 direct hire and contract employees in 300 offices worldwide.**
- **Consular fees retained:** In FY 2012, the Bureau of Consular Affairs generated approximately \$3.14 billion in consular fee revenue, of which 78% (\$2.45 billion) was retained by the Department of State and shared among its regional and functional bureaus. **CA is almost entirely fee funded.**

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