

Mission Sierra Leone Celebrates 240th Anniversary of Independence

On July 12, the U.S. Mission Sierra Leone celebrated the 240th anniversary of American independence. U.S. Ambassador John Hoover spoke on the theme of the celebration: “Red, White and the Blues.” He noted that “the Blues” is a music form uniquely American, with ties to West Africa and with universal appeal as a source of humor and hope in the face of hardship and oppression. To support the celebration, a five-piece, U.S. Air Force Band came to Sierra Leone for three days. On the evening of the celebration, they played renditions of the Blues to the more than 150 guests who attended. In the following days, they delighted children at the SOS orphanage and The Blind School and joined fellow musicians from the RSLAF and Ballanta Music Academy for a musical exchange - an enjoyable week for all!