



Consular Newsletter  
Consulate General of the United States  
Jeddah, Saudi Arabia  
November – December 2010

### U.S. Citizen Registration: Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)

On November 10, 2010, the formerly named “Internet-Based Registration Service (IBRS) changed its name to become the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP). The Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) is a free service provided by the U.S. Government to U.S. citizens who are traveling to, or living in a foreign country. STEP allows you to enter information about your upcoming trip abroad so that the Department of State can better assist in an emergency. STEP also allows Americans residing abroad to get routine information from the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate. By changing the name of the registration link and designating it the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program, we hope more U.S. citizens will be encouraged to utilize the service. If you have previously utilized the registration service, the change in the name to STEP will not affect your ability to continue to utilize the service. Following is the link to registration in STEP:

<https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/>

### Social Security Numbers Requirement for Passport Forms

American citizens are reminded that Social Security Numbers are required, if you have been issued one, when submitting forms to renew or apply for a U.S. passport. Failure to do so can result in a \$500 fine enforced by the IRS. For more information on how to correctly fill out passport applications forms, please ensure that you read the "Tips for Completing..." page of the appropriate passport application form.

### New Fee Schedule for USCIS

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' (USCIS) new fee schedule went into effect on November 23, 2010. USCIS fees commonly charged overseas include the DHS I-130 Petition for Alien Relative, which changed from \$355 to \$420.

USCIS information on fees is available at:

<http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis> under "Before I File – Check Filing Fees."

### Tax Information for U.S. Citizens Abroad

If you are a U.S. citizen or resident alien, the rules for filing income, estate, and gift tax returns and paying estimated tax are generally the same whether you are in the United States or abroad. Your worldwide income is subject to U.S. income tax, regardless of where you reside.

**When to File:** If you reside overseas, or are in the military on duty outside the U.S., you are allowed an automatic 2-month extension to file your return until June 15. However, any tax due must be paid by the original return due date (April 15) to avoid interest charges.

If you are unable to file your return by the due date, you can request an additional extension to October 15 by filing [Form 4868](#) before the return due date. However, any payments made after June 15 would be subject to both interest charges and failure to pay penalties.

**Where to File:** If you are a U.S. citizen or resident alien (Green Card Holder), and you live in a foreign country or you are a non resident alien, mail your U.S. tax return to:

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service Center  
Austin, TX 73301-0215

Estimated tax payments should be mailed with form 1040-ES to:

Internal Revenue Service  
P.O. Box 660406  
Dallas, TX 75266-0406  
USA

For complete information and downloadable forms, please visit the IRS website at <http://www.irs.gov>. The Internal Revenue Service recently announced the availability of expanded Twitter feeds to share timely information with taxpayers and the tax professional community. The IRS Twitter news feed, [@IRSnews](https://twitter.com/IRSnews), provides the latest federal tax news and information for taxpayers. The focus of the IRS Twitter messages will be on easy-to-use information, including tax tips, tax law changes and important IRS programs such as e-file, the earned income tax credit and "Where's My Refund." Anyone with a Twitter account can follow [@IRSnews](https://twitter.com/IRSnews) by going to <http://twitter.com/IRSnews>.

### Recent Travel Warnings/Public Announcements:

Saudi Arabia Country Information Sheet – updated October 23, 2009 – [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/cis/cis\\_1012.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1012.html)

Travel Warning – Saudi Arabia – issued February 18, 2010 – [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/tw/tw\\_932.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_932.html)

Worldwide Caution – issued August 12, 2010 – [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/pa/pa\\_4787.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/pa/pa_4787.html)

### Upcoming Consulate Holiday Closures:

December 25 – U.S. Christmas  
January 1 – U.S. New Year's Day  
January 15 – U.S. Martin Luther King, Jr., Birthday

### Useful Contacts/Links:

U.S. Consulate Jeddah: <http://jeddah.usconsulate.gov/>  
American Citizens Services, Jeddah: email- [JeddahACS@state.gov](mailto:JeddahACS@state.gov)  
Warden Messages: <http://riyadh.usembassy.gov/service/advisories-for-americans-in-ksa/warden-messages.html>  
Registration: <https://travelregistration.state.gov>  
Useful Information: <http://travel.state.gov>

*U.S. Consulate Jeddah*

*American Citizens Services Section*

*Public Service Hours: Sat/Mon/Tues/Wed – 1-3 pm (except US and Saudi holidays)*

*Tele: 966/2/667-0080, ext. 4610*

*Fax: 966/2/669-3078 or 3098*

*After hours **Emergency:** 966/2/667-0080 ext. 0*