

U.S. EMBASSY
MANILA

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

Security



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ACS NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 3

OCTOBER 2008

Register to Vote NOW!

One of the closest Presidential elections in the history of the United States is quickly approaching and both major party candidates are statistically tied in the polls. Hopefully all of you have registered to vote and have requested absentee ballots. If not, please take the time to do so. It doesn't matter what party you support, what matters is that you vote. As one of the world's oldest democracies, it is surprising that voter turnout is usually low. Perhaps we take the right to vote for granted and don't cherish it as much as we should. After all, the American people have had the right to vote for 220 years, right? Well, not really...

In the first presidential elections, held in 1788, only a select group of people, as mandated by each state individually, was allowed to vote. You had to be a free, white, Protestant male who owned property. In



www.fvap.gov

those days if you were a woman, an indentured servant, a slave, or from the lower classes you didn't have a say in the government. By 1830 many states had eliminated the property and religious requirements. After the Civil War the 14th and 15th Amendments recognized the former slaves as citizens and gave the males the right to vote. However, 50% of the population were still excluded – women. It was only in 1920 that the 19th Amendment to the constitution was passed granting women the right to vote. At that time

many of the states had special laws that were enacted to keep the right to vote away from minorities. It was not until 1947 that all states allowed Native Americans the right to vote. Also there was still the issue of the "poll tax" and "literacy tests" which excluded many people from being able to vote. Throughout the 1950s and 1960s these laws were challenged and finally in 1964 the 24th Amendment was passed and "poll taxes" were eliminated. In 1965 an amendment to the Voting Rights Act banned the use of literacy tests, poll taxes and other obstacles designed to keep people from voting. Finally in 1971 the voting age was lowered to 18 with the passage of the 26th Amendment.

So, please don't throw away what took 200 years to achieve – register to vote and then do so. Your vote counts!

The U.S. Embassy Regional Security Office is dedicated to providing useful security information and tips to U.S. Citizens overseas. This information will help you avoid being a target of criminal activity and provide information to enhance your safety while in the Philippines. A big part of staying safe while overseas is being alert. Most victims of crime are not alert to their surroundings and environment. In a foreign environment, you may be targeted if you are perceived as being affluent. The guidelines in this issue should assist you and your family in cutting down on the odds of becoming a victim of criminal activity.

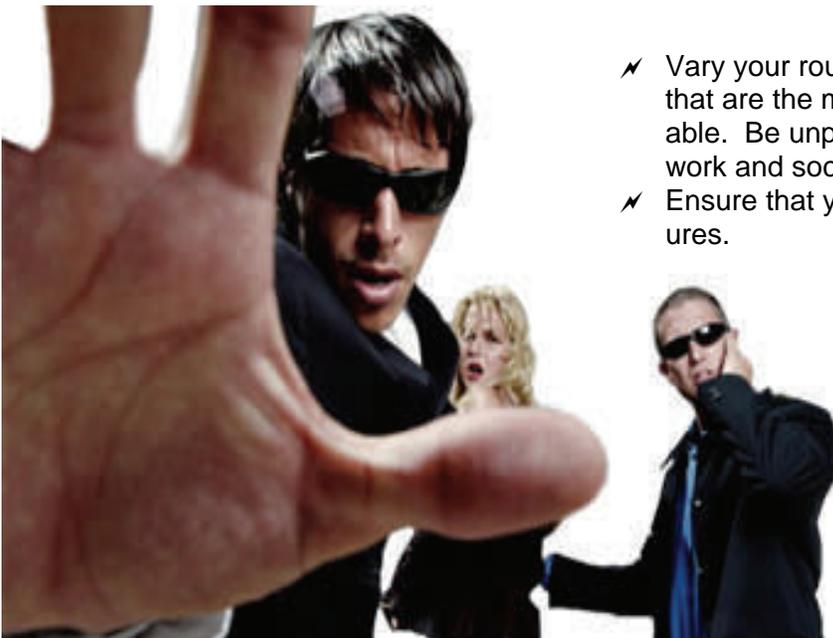
PERSONAL SECURITY

GENERAL SECURITY PRECAUTIONS

- ✦ Be aware of your surroundings. Use good situational awareness especially in more crowded areas such as shopping malls, markets, and other venues prone to attract larger numbers of people.
- ✦ Maintain a low profile and don't bring undue attention to yourself. Don't wear clothing which may identify you as an American or large amounts of jewelry.
- ✦ Always carry some type of identification with you.
- ✦ Do not flash money or any other personal possessions you are not willing to lose.
- ✦ Don't carry around large amounts of money. Take with you only what you will require for the moment and keep it in the front pocket of your pants or skirt. Purses with long straps are apt to be grabbed off your shoulder and sometimes you with it. Good rule of thumb: Don't take more with you than you can afford to lose.
- ✦ Avoid demonstrations or other large gatherings.
- ✦ If something does not appear normal, react to it and change your behavior/ actions.
- ✦ If you can avoid going out at night alone, do so. There is always safety in numbers.
- ✦ Avoid walking in dark or isolated areas. Know where you are going.

Always carry some type of identification with you at all times.

Ensure that you and your family members are registered with the American Citizen Services Section of U.S. Embassy, Manila.



- ✦ Vary your routes and times to and from work. Schedules that are the most predictable leave you the most vulnerable. Be unpredictable whenever possible in both your work and social schedules.
- ✦ Ensure that your entire family is briefed on security measures.

- ✦ Avoid ATM machines located on the street and use caution in shopping malls. If possible, use ATM machines inside bank lobbies.
- ✦ Ensure that your colleagues and family are aware of your daily plans and know how to reach you.

Continued on page 3...

Residential Security Suggestions



If you are at home during a burglary, DO NOT / DO NOT confront the perpetrators. They may be armed

Lock all internal doors if possible – this prevents ease of movement within a home if access is gained.



 Control the keys to your residence. Limit the keys given to household staff ensuring that you have control of one lock, preferably a deadbolt which can be locked from the inside.

 Make sure all doors and windows are secured before retiring for the evening. Close all drapes.

 During the day, keep the doors locked, even though you and your domestic help may be inside the house.

 Do not open your door until you have satisfactorily identified the visitor. This is very important for children and domestic help to understand.

 Do not leave valuables that can easily be picked up, such as money or jewelry, or personally sensitive documents (financial statements)

lying around the house.

 Keep perimeter gates closed.

 If you have a residential alarm system, use it.

 If you are at home during a burglary, DO NOT / DO NOT confront the perpetrators. They may be armed. Instead, secure yourself and the family in a safe area and contact the local police or other security authorities.

 It is good practice to have a room(s) identified as a safe area in the residence where a bolt lock can be installed on the door in case of emergencies.

 Ensure that all fire safety equipment is inspected and in good working order. Create and practice a fire evacuation plan with all occupants of the residence.

Residential Security while Traveling

 Ensure all doors and windows are locked, using all locks available.

 Lock all internal doors if possible – this prevents ease of movement within a home if access is gained.

 Leave a light or two on inside the residence.

 Activate a security alarm if available.

 Do not leave an outside light on during the day. This is a clear signal that the residence is vacant.

 Unplug all electrical appliances, especially transformers to prevent fires.

 Ask a neighbor to keep an eye on the place and report any suspicious activity to the police.

Continued on page 4...

Vehicle Security



Do not leave personal items openly displayed in the car – you are inviting a smash-and-run thief to steal them.



Drive defensively at all times.

Always drive with the windows rolled up and the doors locked.

At home always park your car in the driveway or the designated parking garage.

Do not park in deserted or isolated areas. At night, park in well-lighted

areas. Take advantage of guarded paid parking.

Do not leave personal items openly displayed in the car – you are inviting a smash-and-run thief to steal them.

If confronted by armed carjackers, do not resist. The vehicle can always be replaced.

In traffic, always attempt to leave space in which to maneuver. Always leave yourself an exit. Be prepared to take evasive action at any time.



Vehicular Accidents

☞ Stop your vehicle and determine if anyone has been injured.

☞ Before exiting your vehicle, be aware of your surroundings. Observe the area you are in and the people in the immediate vicinity.

☞ If the other party involved in the accident is not injured, exchange driver information at the scene. Obtain as much information as possible, i.e., driver's license information, tag number, make and model of the vehicle, color, damage, etc. If you have a camera available, take photos of the vehicles and the damage that they have sustained. Try to locate a police officer in the area.

☞ Remain calm – cooperate with the local police.

☞ Do not admit fault or liability.

☞ Do not make statements or express opinions to others at the scene regarding the accident.

☞ Remember to have copies of your driver's license, registration and proof of insurance available to give to the police. This will prevent the originals from getting lost in the system.

☞ If you feel you are in immediate danger, stay inside of your vehicle and communicate with other individuals by rolling down your window a few inches. If the situation becomes violent, provide your name to the other party involved in the accident (if possible), and tell them to contact the police. Be prepared to drive away. Proceed to the nearest police station or other secure location. Do not go to your residence as you may be followed.

The Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act

The Uniformed and Overseas citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) is the law which allows overseas citizens, both military and civilian, the ability to vote for federal offices. This act states that:

- ✓ Members of the U.S. uniformed services or merchant marine and their families may vote absentee while away

from their place of voting residence.

- ✓ U.S. citizens residing outside the U.S. and its territories may vote in the state or territory where they last resided immediately prior to departing the United States, even if many years have elapsed and the citizen maintains no residence in

the state or territory and the intent to return to that state or territory may not be certain.

In addition, many states and territories have developed their own laws allowing citizens covered by the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act to register and vote absentee in state and local elections.

Registering to Vote

- ✓ A voter must be a U.S. citizen on the date of the election in which s/he wishes to vote.
- ✓ A voter must be at least 18 years old on Election Day in order to vote.
- ✓ Citizens outside of the United States vote in the state or territory where he or she last

resided immediately prior to departing the United States. If a person is not sure about their state of residence, s/he can also look at where they last registered to vote, obtained a drivers license, and/or owned property, a home, a bank account, etc.

- ✓ To determine registration status one needs to see if the person has registered to vote (where and when), where have they voted, have they changed their address, name, or party affiliation since last voting. If the last items have occurred they may need to re-register.

Federal Voting Assistance Program

The goals of the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) are:

- ✓ Inform and educate U.S. citizens worldwide of their right to vote
- ✓ Foster voting participation
- ✓ Protect the integrity of, and enhance, the electoral process at the federal, state, and local levels, and
- ✓ Promote effectiveness and efficiency in the administration of the UOCAVA.
- ✓ Development of the universal Federal Post Card Application, Standard Form 76 which is accepted by all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories.



**Your
vote is
your
voice**



**BE
HEARD**



ARE YOU REGISTERED TO
VOTE?

Federal Postcard Application

The Federal Postcard Application (SF76) serves as both an application for voter registration and/or a request for an absentee ballot.

You may not need to fill out this entire form. There are separate sets of requirements for Uniformed Service members and their families and for U.S. citizens residing outside the U.S. Select your state for state-specific instructions at <http://www.fvap.gov/shortcuts/get-registration-absentee-ballot-request-form/index.html>

WWW.FVAP.GOV

This website provides an overview of the FVAP as well as electronic access to online election information, access to the online FPCA, and links to state government home pages and other sites with election information.

The FVAP may be contacted directly by email at vote@fvap.ncr.gov, by telephone at 1 800 1 114 1341, or fax at 703 696 1352.



Mailing Options for Voting Materials

Voters in the Philippines have a number of options for mailing Federal Postcard Applications, voted state ballots, and Federal Write-in Absentee Ballots to their local election officials in the United States. Mailing addresses for local election officials and state mailing deadlines can be found in the Voting Assistance Guide, available on-line at www.fvap.gov.

1. **First Class Mail:** You may mail your Federal Postcard Application or voted ballot to the United States through the Philippine mail system, with appropriate international postage. Mail to the U.S. takes approximately two weeks.
2. **APO Military Mail:** APO mail to the United States takes approximately 7 to 12 days. Voters should submit their ballots to the U.S. Embassy no later than October 24, 2008 for APO mail. Ballots must be postage-paid or have first-class U.S. postage (42 cents).
3. **Diplomatic Pouch:** Diplomatic pouch to the East Coast takes approximately one week. Processing of mail at the diplomatic pouch facility in the Washington, D.C. area and onward delivery by the U.S. Postal Service to local election officials across the U.S. can take another four days. The Consular Section will place a date stamp and seal on your ballot as evidence of the date and location from which the ballot was mailed. However, this is not a postmark. Voters should make every effort to submit their ballots to the U.S. Embassy no later than October 20, 2008.
4. **Express Courier:** Last-minute voters can use express courier services such as FedEx, UPS and DHL to send their voted ballots to all states and territories except Alabama. Express courier companies cannot deliver to post office boxes, so you will need to know the street address of your local voting official in the United States. Mail sent by express courier companies is not postmarked. Contact information for some local express courier companies follows:

Fed Ex: www.fedex.com or <https://www.overseasvotefoundation.org/overseas/ExpressYourVote.htm>, Tel:(02) 855-8484. From September 15 to October 29, FedEx will ship voted ballots from the Philippines to the U.S. for **FREE**.

UPS: www.ups.com, Tel: (02) 853-3333

DHL: www.dhl.com, Tel: (02) 811-7000

Plan Your Retirement



A large number of Americans are retiring now. The figures are expected to steadily increase until 2010 – when the majority of the baby boomers reach retirement age. Whether you are about to retire or not, it is important to plan for it. Here are some important reminders from the Social Security Administration (SSA), the agency which provides retirement benefits.

The Social Security Administration (SSA) recently launched the online Retirement Estimator, located at www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator.

The Retirement Estimator provides immediate and personalized benefit estimates online to help people plan for their retirement. Deciding when to retire is one of the most important and difficult decisions many people face. The Retirement Estimator provides highly accurate benefit estimates for those nearing retirement age. For younger workers, it provides valuable information to help them plan and save for their retirement.

The Retirement Estimator is convenient. Since the estimate is tied to an individual's actual Social Security earnings record, it eliminates the need to manually key in years of earnings information. Because it is interactive, the Retirement Estimator allows users to compare different retirement options by changing their "stop work" dates or expected future earnings.

Just as important, the Retirement Estimator is secure. The only thing it provides online is retire-

ment benefit estimates. It does not show the earnings record information on which the final benefit estimate was calculated, nor does it reveal other personal information.

To use the Retirement Estimator, users must enter identifying information about themselves, including their first name, last name, date of birth, Social Security number, place of birth and mother's maiden name, which must match SSA records. The Retirement Estimator also has a "blocking" feature that lets concerned individuals prevent anyone from estimating their retirement benefit.

SSA has already demonstrated the Retirement Estimator to various groups, including the Social Security Advisory Board, Congressional staff, representatives of the financial planning and human resources industries, and national organizations like AARP. The Retirement Estimator received rave reviews, and SSA has commitments already from some organizations to place a link to the Retirement Estimator on their websites.

In conjunction with the Retirement Estimator, SSA launched a

new fact sheet, "When To Start Receiving Retirement Benefits." This fact sheet provides important information people should consider when deciding at what age to start receiving their Social Security retirement benefits. It is intended to help the public make an informed decision about when to apply for benefits based on their individual and family circumstances. The fact sheet is located at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10147.html.

Deciding when to retire is one of the most important and difficult decisions many people face.

The Retirement Estimator provides highly accurate benefit estimates for those nearing retirement age.

Reference:
www.socialsecurity.gov



Tuberculosis Alert

Tuberculosis (TB) remains a major public health concern in the Philippines. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the Philippines has the ninth highest number of tuberculosis cases in the world and the second highest in southeast Asia. Globally, there were more than nine million new cases and about 1.7 million deaths from the disease in 2006; the WHO estimates there are more than 14 million people living with TB, which kills 75 Filipinos each day, according to the Department of Health. TB ranked sixth amongst the 10 leading cause of morbidity and mortality in Philippines.

Tuberculosis (TB) is a contagious disease. Many years ago, this disease was referred to as "**consumption**" because without effective treatment, these patients often would waste away. Today, of course, tuberculosis usually can be treated successfully with antibiotics. Like the common cold, it spreads through the air. Only people who are sick with TB in their lungs are infectious. (Active TB). When infectious people cough, sneeze, talk or spit, they propel TB germs, known as bacilli, into the air. A person needs only to inhale a small number of these to be infected. Left untreated, each person with active TB disease will infect on average between 10 and 15 people every year. But people infected with TB bacilli will not necessarily become sick with the disease. It is also possible to have the TB bacilli in your system, but it is under the control of your immune system and is not currently active so you are not infectious (Latent TB). The immune system "walls off" the TB bacilli which, protected by a thick waxy coat, can lie dormant for years. When someone's immune system is weakened, the chances of becoming sick are greater.

- Someone in the world is newly infected with TB bacilli every second.
- Overall, one-third of the world's population is currently infected with the TB bacillus.
- 5-10% of people who are infected with TB bacilli (but who are not infected with HIV) become sick or infectious at some time during their life. People with HIV and TB infection are much more likely to develop TB.

Most challenging for health officials are new forms of multi-drug resistant tuberculosis and complicated cases in which the patient has other conditions, including diabetes and HIV/AIDS. First and foremost, people have to have health-seeking behavior. If you think that you, or someone you know, may be infected, please seek treatment as soon as possible. People infected with tuberculosis disease may experience any of the following signs and symptoms:



- Cough for more than 2 weeks
- Nausea / weakness / **fatigue**
- Rapid **weight loss**
- **Fever**
- Night sweats
- Chest pain
- **Hemoptysis** - the coughing up of blood. The blood may appear as pinkish froth, mucus with a bloody streak or clot, or pure blood. Hemoptysis may be the result of forceful coughing or a sign of a serious respiratory illness.

If you are experiencing any of the above signs and symptoms of tuberculosis, see your doctor immediately. Please ask your doctor or nurse if you have other questions about latent TB infection or TB disease.

For more information on the signs and symptoms of TB see the CDC's website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/features/tbawareness/>

Reference: www.cdc.gov



"The Philippines has the ninth highest number of tuberculosis cases in the world and the second highest in southeast Asia. "

The 2008 American Citizen Services Conference was held in the Charles Parsons Ballroom at the United States Embassy on Friday, September 26, 2008. American Wardens from all over the Philippines were in attendance. Guests from other embassies and local government offices also participated. Attendees heard welcoming remarks from the Deputy Chief of Mission, Paul W. Jones.

any type of emergency was essential given the Philippines is one of the countries most often affected by calamities. He mentioned that the PNRC had donated money to the United States Red Cross to assist with the hurricane Katrina relief effort and that the Philippines had, in turn, received U.S. aid to assist with Typhoon Fengsheng. Senator Gordon highlighted the PNRC project called "Red Cross 143" where he hopes to have 14

preparedness. Members of the ACS section talked about voter registration (see further information in this newsletter), the new passport card and electronic passport, Embassy registration, and privacy act waivers (PAW). This was followed by presentations from the U.S. Social Security Administration, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Department of Homeland Security. Representatives from the Embassy's Re-



Consul General Richard D. Haynes awarding a certificate of appreciation to Mr. Jim Boyd, the very first volunteer to the U.S. Embassy Warden program.

Warden Conference 2008



ACS Deputy Chief, Bradley G. Wilde & ACS Chief, Linda E. Daetwyler with PNRC Chairman, Sen. Richard L. Gordon

Senator Richard Gordon, Chairman of the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC), was one of the featured speakers and in his inspiring speech talked about the importance of volunteerism. He said that being prepared for

Red Cross volunteers in all of the barangays in the Philippines. More information on the project can be found at www.redcross.org.ph/site/pnrc/proj143.aspx. Senator Gordon finished his presentation by accepting questions from the audience.

Director Josefina Timoteo, of the National Disaster Coordinating Council, part of the Office of Civil Defense spoke on the responsibilities of her office during and after a crisis. She provided the contact numbers for all of the Regional Directors and handed out a brochure on disaster

regional Security Office spoke about personal security issues and the Embassy Medical Officer reviewed information about Dengue fever, tuberculosis, Avian Influenza, and other diseases found within the Philippines.

The conference ended with closing remarks from Consul General Richard Haynes and a reception where the wardens were able to meet each other, exchange ideas, and talk over issues one on one with ACS staff.



2008 American Citizen Services Warden Conference at the Charles Parsons Ballroom, U.S. Embassy, Manila on September 26, 2008



Philippines Country Specific Information

The Department of State provides information to assist travelers in better understanding foreign countries they may visit and the known risks that they should consider. Travelers are encouraged to inform themselves about their country of destination prior to commencement of travel. It is the traveler's responsibility to obtain a U.S. passport from the Department of State and appropriate visas from the embassy or consulate of the country of destination. Canceling a scheduled trip abroad may cost money. When making reservations, travelers should discuss cancellation policies with their travel agent, travel insurer or airline. The Department of State strongly urges Americans to consult with their medical insurance company prior to traveling abroad to confirm whether their policy applies overseas and whether it will cover emergency expenses such as a medical evacuation; Medicare does not cover medical expenses abroad.

Americans planning travel to *Philippines* should read [Intercountry Adoption Philippines](#), [International Parental Child Abduction Philippines](#), [Travel Warning for Philippines](#), [Avian Flu Fact Sheet](#) and [Worldwide Caution Public Announcement](#) available on the Department of State web site at <http://travel.state.gov>

June 17, 2008

COUNTRY DESCRIPTION: The Philippines is an emerging economy with a democratic system of government, located in Southeast Asia. The archipelago consists of more than 7,000 islands, of which over 800 are inhabited. The major island groupings are Luzon in the north, the Visayas in the center and Mindanao in the south. Tourist facilities are available within population centers and the main tourist areas. English is widely spoken in the Philippines, and most signs are in English. Read the Department of State [Background Notes](#) on the Philippines for additional information.

ENTRY/EXIT REQUIREMENTS: U.S. citizens may enter the Philippines without a visa upon presentation of their U.S. passport, valid for at least six months after the date of entry into the Philippines, and a return ticket to the United States or an onward ticket to another country. Upon arrival immigration authorities will annotate your passport with an entry visa valid for 21 days. If you plan to stay longer than 21 days you must apply for an extension at the Philippine Bureau of Immigration and Deportation's main office at Magallanes Drive; Intramuros, Manila, Philippines or at any of its provincial offices at <http://www.immigration.gov.ph>.

Persons who overstay their visas are subject to fines and detention by Philippine immigration authorities. American citizens are urged to remain aware of their visa status while in the Philippines and to strictly follow immigration laws and regulations. Travelers departing the country from international airports must pay a Passenger Service Charge in Philippine Pesos. Visit the Embassy of the Philippines web site at <http://www.philippineembassy-usa.org> for the most current visa information.

Special requirements exist for the entry of unaccompanied minors. In an effort to prevent international child abduction, the Philippine government requires that a waiver of exclusion be obtained from a Philippine Embassy or Consulate or from the Bureau of Immigration and Detention in Manila for a child under 15 years of age who plans to enter the Philippines unaccompanied by either a parent or legal guardian prior to the child's entry into the Philippines.

Information about [dual nationality](#) or the prevention of [international child abduction](#) can be found on our web site. For further information about customs regulations, please read our [Customs Information](#) sheet.

SAFETY AND SECURITY: U.S. citizens contemplating travel to the Philippines should carefully consider the risks to their safety and security while there, including those due to terrorism. While travelers may encounter such threats anywhere in the Philippines, the southern island of Mindanao and the Sulu Archipelago are of particular concern. Travelers should exercise extreme caution in both central and western Mindanao as well as in the Sulu Archipelago.





Philippines Country Specific Information (continued)

Kidnap for ransom gangs operate in the Philippines. In October 2007, one such gang abducted a visiting U.S. citizen whose whereabouts are unknown at this time. Several other foreigners were also kidnapped for ransom in 2007. The New People's Army (NPA), a terrorist organization, operates in many rural areas of the Philippines, including in the northern island of Luzon. While it has not targeted foreigners in several years, the NPA could threaten U.S. citizens engaged in business or property management activities, and it often demands "revolutionary taxes."

Terrorist groups, such as the Abu Sayyaf Group, the Jema'ah Islamiyah and groups that have broken away from the more mainstream Moro Islamic Liberation Front or Moro National Liberation Front, have carried out bombings resulting in deaths, injuries and property damage. In November 2007, a bombing outside the House of Representatives in Metro Manila resulted in a number of deaths and injuries to bystanders. On January 3, 2008, a bomb exploded at a Cotabato City disco pub, killing one and injuring eight. The central and western areas of Mindanao have also experienced bombings targeting bus terminals and public buildings. While those responsible do not appear to have targeted foreigners, travelers should remain vigilant and avoid congregating in public areas; U.S. Government employees must seek special permission for travel to Mindanao or the Sulu Archipelago. When traveling in Mindanao, U.S. official travelers attempt to lower their profile, limit their length of stay and exercise extreme caution. Some foreigners who reside in or visit western and central Mindanao hire their own private security personnel.

For the latest security information, Americans traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs web site at <http://travel.state.gov> where the current [Travel Warnings and Travel Alerts](#), including the [Worldwide Caution](#), can be found.

Up-to-date information on safety and security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll free in the United States and Canada, or for callers outside the United States and Canada, a regular toll-line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

The Department of State urges American citizens to take responsibility for their own personal security while traveling overseas. For general information about appropriate measures travelers can take to protect themselves in an overseas environment, see the Department of State's pamphlet [A Safe Trip Abroad](#).

CRIME: As in many of the major metropolitan areas in the United States, crime is a significant concern in Metro Manila. As a rule of thumb, Americans should exercise good judgment and remain aware of their surroundings. Reports of confidence games, pick pocketing, internet scams and credit card fraud are common. Be wary of unknown individuals who attempt to befriend you, especially just after you arrive in country. A number of robberies and assaults involving the "date rape drug" (known locally as Ativan) have occurred; the drug is generally administered to unwitting male or female victims via food or drink. It is best not to accept food, drink, or rides in private vehicles from strangers, even if they appear legitimate. While Americans are not typically targeted for kidnapping, kidnappings and violent assaults do occur in the Metro Manila area.

Taxis are the recommended form of public transportation. However, the following safeguards are important: do not enter a taxi if it has already accepted another passenger; and request that the meter be used. If the driver is unwilling to comply with your requests, it is best to wait for another cab. It is also a good idea to make a mental note of the license plate number should there be a problem. When driving in the city, make certain that the doors are locked and the windows rolled up. All other forms of public transportation, such as the light rail system, buses and "jeepneys" should be avoided for both safety and security reasons.

Visitors should also be vigilant when using credit cards. One common form of credit card fraud involves the illicit use of an electronic device to retrieve and record information, including the PIN, from the card's magnetic strip. The information is then used to make unauthorized purchases. To limit your vulnerability to this scam, never let your card out of your sight.





Philippines Country Specific Information (continued)

A continuing problem is the commercial scam or sting that attempts to sell or to seek negotiation of fraudulent U.S. securities. Visitors and residents should be wary when presented with supposed Federal Reserve Notes or U.S. securities for sale or negotiation. For further information, consult the Federal Reserve System's web site at <http://www.federalreserve.gov/>.

In many countries around the world, counterfeit and pirated goods are widely available. Transactions involving such products may be illegal under local law. In addition, bringing them back to the United States may result in forfeitures and/or fines. More information on this serious problem is available at <http://www.cybercrime.gov/18usc2320.htm>.

INFORMATION FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME: The loss or theft abroad of a U.S. passport should be reported immediately to the local police and the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. If you are the victim of a crime while overseas, in addition to reporting to local police, please contact the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate for assistance. The Embassy/Consulate staff can, for example, assist you to find appropriate medical care, contact family members or friends and explain how funds could be transferred. Although the investigation and prosecution of the crime is solely the responsibility of local authorities, consular officers can help you to understand the local criminal justice process and to find an attorney if needed. The Philippines has a victim compensation program to provide financial compensation to victims of violent or personal crime and of unjust imprisonment. Information may be obtained from the Philippine Department of Justice at 011-632-536-0447 or via the Internet at <http://www.doj.gov.ph/>.

The local equivalent to the "911" emergency line in the Philippines is: 117.

See our information on [Victims of Crime](#).

MEDICAL FACILITIES AND HEALTH INFORMATION: Adequate medical care is available in major cities in the Philippines, but even the best hospitals may not meet the standards of medical care, sanitation, and facilities provided by hospitals and doctors in the United States. Medical care is limited in rural and more remote areas.

Serious medical problems requiring hospitalization and/or medical evacuation to the United States can cost several or even tens of thousands of dollars. Most hospitals will require a down payment of estimated fees in cash at the time of admission. In some cases, public and private hospitals have withheld lifesaving medicines and treatments for non-payment of bills. Hospitals also frequently refuse to discharge patients or release important medical documents until the bill has been paid in full. A list of doctors and medical facilities in the Philippines is available on the web page of the U.S. Embassy in Manila at <http://manila.usembassy.gov/>.

Information on vaccinations and other health precautions, such as safe food and water precautions and insect bite protection, may be obtained from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's hotline for international travelers at 1-877-FYI-TRIP (1-877-394-8747) or via the CDC's web site at <http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/default.aspx>. Tuberculosis is an increasingly serious health concern in the Philippines. For further information, please consult the CDC's Travel Notice on TB, <http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/yellowBookCh4-TB.aspx>.

For information about outbreaks of infectious diseases abroad consult the World Health Organization's (WHO) web site at <http://www.who.int/en>. Further health information for travelers is available at <http://www.who.int/ith/en>.

MEDICAL INSURANCE: The Department of State strongly urges Americans to consult with their medical insurance company prior to traveling abroad to confirm whether their policy applies overseas and whether it will cover emergency expenses such as a medical evacuation. Please see our information on [medical insurance overseas](#).

TRAFFIC SAFETY AND ROAD CONDITIONS: While in a foreign country, U.S. citizens may encounter road conditions that differ significantly from those in the United States. The information below concerning the Philippines is provided for general reference only, and may not be totally accurate in a particular location or circumstance.





Philippines Country Specific Information (continued)

Travel within the Philippine archipelago is possible by boat, plane, bus or car. Few tourists rent cars to drive, as the road system is crowded and drivers are undisciplined. Driving off the national highways and paved roads is particularly dangerous, especially at night, and should be avoided. To avoid overcrowded or unsafe transport, exercise caution in planning travel by older, inter-island ferryboats, or other public conveyances.

For specific information concerning Philippine driver's permits, vehicle inspection, road tax and mandatory insurance, please contact the Philippine Embassy in Washington, D.C. at tel. (202) 467-9300 or one of the Philippine consulates in the United State (Chicago, Honolulu, Los Angeles, New York, and San Francisco) or via the Internet at <http://www.philippineembassy-usa.org/home.htm>. Please see also related information from the Philippine Department of Tourism at <http://www.tourism.gov.ph> and <http://www.dotpcvc.gov.ph>.

Please refer to our [Road Safety](#) page for more information. Visit the web site of the country's national tourist office and national authority responsible for road safety at <http://www.lto.gov.ph/>.

AVIATION SAFETY OVERSIGHT: The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has assessed the Government of the Philippines' Civil Aviation Authority as not being in compliance with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) aviation safety standards for the oversight of the Philippines' air carrier operations. For more information, travelers may visit the FAA's web site at http://www.faa.gov/safety/programs_initiatives/oversight/iasa.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES: Marriage in the Philippines: The Philippine Government requires foreigners who wish to marry in the Philippines to obtain from the U.S. Embassy a "Certificate of Legal Capacity to Contract Marriage" before filing an application for a marriage license. Because there is no national register of marriages in the United States, the U.S. Embassy cannot provide such a certification. As a result, the Philippine Government will accept an "Affidavit in Lieu of a Certificate of Legal Capacity to Contract Marriage" in its place. Americans may execute this affidavit at the U.S. Embassy in Manila Monday-Friday, between 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m., except for Philippine or American holidays. The American must present his/her U.S. passport. There is a fee of \$30.00 or its peso equivalent for the affidavit. Philippine authorities will not accept any substitute document issued in the United States. Before traveling to the Philippines to be married, U.S. military personnel should contact their personnel office regarding Department of Defense joint service regulations.

Execution of the affidavit by a U.S. consular officer is a notarial act, and the consular officer is authorized by U.S. law to refuse to perform the service if the document will be used for a purpose patently unlawful, improper, or inimical to the best interests of the United States (see 22 C.F.R. section 92.9b). Entering into a marriage contract for the principal purpose of facilitating immigration to the United States for an alien is an unlawful act, and the U.S. Code provides penalties for individuals who commit perjury in an affidavit taken by a consular officer. Relationship fraud is a persistent problem in the Philippines, and it is not uncommon for Filipinos to enter into marriages with Americans solely for immigration purposes. Relationships developed via correspondence, particularly those begun on the Internet, are particularly susceptible to manipulation.

The Marriage Application Process: Once an American citizen has obtained from the U.S. Embassy an "Affidavit in Lieu of a Certificate of Legal Capacity to Contract Marriage," he/she may file an application for a marriage license at the office of the Philippine Civil Registrar in the town or city where one of the parties is a resident. The U.S. citizen applicant must present: (a) the affidavit; (b) divorce decree(s) or death certificate(s), if applicable (required to verify civil status and legal capacity to contract marriage); (c) his/her U.S. passport; and (d) documentation regarding parental consent or advice, if applicable. (Persons aged 18 to 21 must have written parental consent to marry in the Philippines; those aged 22 to 24 must have received parental advice. Philippine law prohibits marriage for persons under the age of 18.) A judge, a minister, or other person authorized by the Philippine Government can perform the marriage.

Marriage to a U.S. citizen confers neither citizenship nor an automatic eligibility for entry to the United States. A foreign spouse requires an immigrant visa to live in the United States. Questions about filing a petition to bring a foreign spouse to the United States may be directed to the nearest U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service office, to the



Philippines Country Specific Information (continued)

U.S. Department of State's Visa Office (telephone: (202) 663-1225) or, while in the Philippines, to the U.S. Embassy's Immigrant Visa Unit at <http://manila.usembassy.gov/>.

Disaster Preparedness: The Philippines is a volcano-, typhoon- and earthquake-prone country. From May to December, typhoons and flash floods often occur. Flooding can cause road delays and cut off bridges. Typhoons in the vicinity of the Philippines can interrupt air and sea links within the country. Updated information on typhoons is available at <http://www.pagasa.dost.gov.ph>. Volcanic activity is frequent, and periodically the Philippine Government announces alerts for specific volcanoes. Updated information on volcanoes in the Philippines is available at <http://volcanoes.usgs.gov>. Earthquakes can also occur throughout the country. General information about natural disaster preparedness is available via the Internet from the Philippines National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) at <http://ndcc.gov.ph/home/> and from the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) at <http://www.fema.gov>.

Customs: Philippine customs authorities enforce strict regulations concerning temporary importation into or export from the Philippines of items such as firearms and currency. It is advisable to contact the Embassy of the Philippines in Washington, DC or one of the Philippine consulates in the United States (Chicago, Honolulu, Los Angeles, New York and San Francisco) for specific information regarding customs requirements. Counterfeit and pirated goods are widely available in the Philippines; transactions involving such products are illegal and bringing them back to the United States may result in forfeitures and/or fines.

Please see our [Customs Information](#).

CRIMINAL PENALTIES: While in a foreign country, a U.S. citizen is subject to that country's laws and regulations, which sometimes differ significantly from those in the United States and may not afford the protections available to the individual under U.S. law. Penalties for breaking the law can be more severe than in the United States for similar offenses. Persons violating the Philippines' laws, even unknowingly, may be expelled, arrested or imprisoned. Penalties for possession, use, or trafficking in illegal drugs in the Philippines are severe, and convicted offenders can expect long jail sentences and heavy fines. Engaging in sexual conduct with children or using or disseminating child pornography in a foreign country is a crime, prosecutable in the United States. Please see our information on [Criminal Penalties](#).

CHILDREN'S ISSUES: For information see our Office of Children's Issues web pages on [intercountry adoption](#) and [international parental child abduction](#).

REGISTRATION / EMBASSY LOCATION: Americans living or traveling in the Philippines are encouraged to register with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate through the [State Department's travel registration web site](#) so that they can obtain updated information on travel and security within the Philippines. Americans without Internet access may register directly with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. By registering, American citizens make it easier for the Embassy or Consulate to contact them in case of emergency. The U.S. Embassy is located at: 1201 Roxas Boulevard, Manila, Philippines, tel. (63) (2) 301-2000. The American Citizen Services (ACS) section's fax number is (63) (2) 301-2017 and the ACS web page is at <http://manila.usembassy.gov/>.

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This replaces the Country Specific Information for the Philippines dated January 17, 2008 to update sections on "Country Description," "Safety and Security," "Crime" and "Medical Facilities and Health Information."



Travel Warning

United States Department of State
Bureau of Consular Affairs
Washington, DC 20520

PHILIPPINES

February 13, 2008

This Travel Warning updates information on the security situation and reminds Americans of the risks of travel in the Philippines . This Travel Warning supersedes the Travel Warning for the Philippines issued April 27, 2007.

U.S. citizens contemplating travel to the Philippines should carefully consider the risks to their safety and security while there, including those due to terrorism. While travelers may encounter such threats anywhere in the Philippines , the southern island of Mindanao and the Sulu Archipelago are of particular concern. Travelers should exercise extreme caution in both central and western Mindanao as well as in the Sulu Archipelago.

Kidnap for ransom gangs operate in the Philippines . In October 2007, one such gang abducted a visiting U.S. citizen whose whereabouts are unknown at this time. Several other foreigners were also kidnapped for ransom in 2007. The New People's Army (NPA), a terrorist organization, operates in many rural areas of the Philippines , including in the northern island of Luzon . While it has not targeted foreigners in several years, the NPA could threaten U.S. citizens engaged in business or property management activities, and it often demands "revolutionary taxes."

Terrorist groups, such as the Abu Sayyaf Group and the Jema'ah Islamiyah, and groups that have broken away from the more mainstream Moro Islamic Liberation Front or Moro National Liberation Front, have carried out bombings resulting in deaths, injuries and property damage. On January 3, 2008, a bomb exploded at a Cotabato City disco pub, killing one and injuring eight. The central and western areas of Mindanao have also experienced bombings targeting bus terminals and public buildings. While those responsible do not appear to have targeted foreigners, travelers should remain vigilant and avoid congregating in public areas; a recent bombing outside the House of Representatives in Metro Manila resulted in a number of deaths and injuries to bystanders.

U.S. Government employees must seek special permission for travel to Mindanao or the Sulu Archipelago. When traveling in Mindanao , U.S. official travelers attempt to lower their profile, limit their length of stay, and exercise extreme caution. Some foreigners who reside in or visit western and central Mindanao hire their own security.

The Department strongly encourages Americans in the Philippines to register with the Consular Section of the U.S. Embassy in Manila through the State Department's travel registration website, <https://travelregistration.state.gov>. The U.S. Embassy is located at: 1201 Roxas Boulevard , Manila , Philippines , tel. 63-2-301-2000. The American Citizen Services (ACS) section's fax number is 63-2-301-2017 and the ACS web page is at <http://manila.usembassy.gov/wwwh3004.html>.

For information on general crime and security issues, U.S. citizens should also consult the Department of State's Country Specific Information for the Philippines and the Worldwide Caution, located at <http://travel.state.gov/>. American citizens may also obtain up-to-date information on security conditions by calling 1-888-407-4747 from the United States and Canada , or 202-501-4444 from overseas.

Worldwide Caution

United States Department of State
Bureau of Consular Affairs
Washington, DC 20520

July 16, 2008

This Worldwide Caution updates information on the continuing threat of terrorist actions and violence against Americans and interests throughout the world. In some countries, the rise in oil and food prices has caused political and economic instability and social unrest. American citizens are reminded to maintain a high level of vigilance and to take appropriate steps to increase their security awareness. This supersedes the Worldwide Caution dated January 17, 2008.

The Department of State remains concerned about the continued threat of terrorist attacks, demonstrations and other violent actions against U.S. citizens and interests overseas. Current information suggests that al-Qaida and affiliated organizations continue to plan terrorist attacks against U.S. interests in multiple regions, including Europe, Asia, Africa and the Middle East. These attacks may employ a wide variety of tactics including suicide operations, assassinations, kidnappings, hijackings and bombings.

Extremists may elect to use conventional or non-conventional weapons, and target both official and private interests. Examples of such targets include high-profile sporting events, residential areas, business offices, hotels, clubs, restaurants, places of worship, schools, public areas and locales where Americans gather in large numbers, including during holidays. A July 9, 2008 terrorist attack on Turkish police guarding the U.S. Consulate General in Istanbul killed three police officers and wounded other police personnel. On March 15, a bomb was detonated at an Italian restaurant in Islamabad, killing two and injuring twelve, including five Americans. Also on March 15, two bombs exploded at the CS Pattani Hotel in southern Thailand killing two and injuring thirteen. In January, a bomb in a disco pub in the Philippines killed one and injured eight.

Americans are reminded of the potential for terrorists to attack public transportation systems. Recent examples include multiple anti-personnel mine detonations on passenger buses in June 2008 in Sri Lanka, multiple terrorist attacks on trains in India in 2006, the July 2005 London Underground bombings, and the March 2004 train attacks in Madrid. Extremists may also select aviation and maritime services as possible targets, such as the August 2006 plot against aircraft in London, or the December 2006 bomb at Madrid's Barajas International Airport. In June 2007, a vehicle was driven into the main terminal at Glasgow International Airport and burst into flames, but the bomb failed to detonate.

The Middle East and North Africa

Credible information indicates terrorist groups seek to continue attacks against U.S. interests in the Middle East and North Africa. Terrorist actions may include bombings, hijackings, hostage taking, kidnappings, and assassinations. While conventional weapons such as explosive devices are a more immediate threat in many areas, use of non-conventional weapons, including chemical or biological agents, must be considered a possible threat. Terrorists do not distinguish between official and civilian targets. Increased security at official U.S. facilities has led terrorists and their sympathizers to seek softer targets such as public transportation, residential areas, and public areas where people congregate, including restaurants, hotels, clubs, and shopping areas.

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On March 18, 2008, a mortar attack on the U.S. Embassy in Yemen injured several Yemeni citizens in the vicinity. On January 15, a roadside explosion in Beirut, Lebanon damaged a U.S. Embassy vehicle, killing three Lebanese and injuring an American citizen. On December 11, 2007, two vehicle-borne explosive devices were detonated at the UN headquarters in Algiers and the Algerian Constitutional Council. Three suicide bomb attacks in July and September of 2007 in Algeria killed more than 80 people. In July 2007, suspected al-Qaida operatives carried out a vehicle-borne explosive device attack on tourists at the Bilquis Temple in Yemen, killing eight Spanish tourists and their two Yemeni drivers. There was a series of bombings in Morocco in March and April 2007, two of which occurred simultaneously outside the U.S. Consulate General and the private American Language Center in Casablanca. Additionally, an attack took place on the American International School in Gaza in April 2007. These events underscore the intent of terrorist entities to target facilities perceived to cater to Westerners. The September 2006 attack on the U.S. Embassy in Syria and the March 2006 bombing near the U.S. Consulate in Karachi, Pakistan illustrate the continuing desire of extremists to strike American targets.

Potential targets are not limited to those companies or establishments with overt U.S. ties. For instance, terrorists may target movie theaters, liquor stores, bars, casinos, or any similar type of establishment, regardless of whether they are owned and operated by host country nationals. Due to varying degrees of security at all such locations, Americans should be particularly vigilant when visiting these establishments.

The violence in Iraq, clashes between Palestinians and Israelis, and clashes between terrorist extremists and the Lebanese Armed Forces have the potential to produce demonstrations and unrest throughout the region. Americans are reminded that demonstrations and rioting can occur with little or no warning. In addition, the Department of State continues to warn of the possibility for violent actions against U.S. citizens and interests in the region. Anti-American violence could include possible terrorist actions against aviation, ground transportation, and maritime interests, specifically in the Middle East, including the Red Sea, Persian Gulf, the Arabian Peninsula, and North Africa.

The Department is concerned that extremists may be planning to carry out attacks against Westerners and oil workers on the Arabian Peninsula. Armed attacks targeting foreign nationals in Saudi Arabia that resulted in many deaths and injuries, including U.S. citizens, appear to have been preceded by extensive surveillance. Tourist destinations in Egypt that are frequented by Westerners were attacked in April 2006 resulting in many deaths and injuries, including Americans. Extremists may be surveilling Westerners, particularly at hotels, housing areas, and rental car facilities. Potential targets may include U.S. contractors, particularly those related to military interests. Financial or economic venues of value also could be considered as possible targets; the failed attack on the Abqaiq oil processing facility in Saudi Arabia in late February 2006 and the September 2006 attack on oil facilities in Yemen are examples.

East Africa

A number of al-Qaida operatives and other extremists are believed to be operating in and around East Africa.

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As a result of the conflict in Somalia, some of these individuals may seek to relocate elsewhere in the region. Americans considering travel to the region and those already there should review their plans carefully, remain vigilant with regard to their personal security, and exercise caution. Terrorist actions may include suicide operations, bombings, kidnappings or targeting maritime vessels. Terrorists do not distinguish between official and civilian targets. Increased security at official U.S. facilities has led terrorists to seek softer targets such as hotels, beach resorts, prominent public places, and landmarks. In particular, terrorists and likeminded extremists may target international aid workers, civil aviation and seaports in various locations throughout East Africa, including Somalia. Americans in remote areas or border regions where military or police authority is limited or non-existent could also become targets.

Americans considering travel by sea near the Horn of Africa or in the southern Red Sea should exercise extreme caution, as there have been several incidents of armed attacks, robberies, and kidnappings for ransom at sea by pirates during the past several years. Merchant vessels continue to be hijacked in Somali territorial waters, while others have been hijacked as far as 300 nautical miles off the coast of Somalia in international waters.

The U.S. Government maritime authorities advise mariners to avoid the port of Mogadishu, and to remain at least 200 nautical miles off the coast of Somalia. In addition, when transiting around the Horn of Africa or in the Red Sea, it is strongly recommended that vessels travel in convoys, and maintain good communications contact at all times.

South and Central Asia

The U.S. Government continues to receive information that terrorist groups in South and Central Asia may be planning attacks in the region, possibly against U.S. Government facilities, American citizens, or American interests. The presence of al-Qaida, Taliban elements, indigenous sectarian groups, and other terror organizations, many of which are on the U.S. Government's list of foreign terror organizations, poses a potential danger to American citizens in the region. Continuing tensions in the Middle East may also increase the threat of anti-Western or anti-American violence in the region.

Terrorists and their sympathizers have demonstrated their willingness and capability to attack targets where Americans or Westerners are known to congregate or visit. Their actions may include, but are not limited to, vehicle-borne explosives, improvised explosive devices, assassinations, carjackings, rocket attacks, assaults or kidnappings. On June 2, 2008, a large bomb exploded in front of the Danish Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan killing at least six people and wounding nearly 20. In May 2008, a series of coordinated bombings occurred in market and temple areas of the tourist city of Jaipur in Rajasthan, India. In Afghanistan, kidnappings and terrorist attacks on international organizations, international aid workers, and foreign interests continue. In Sri Lanka, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and other groups have conducted suicide bombings at political rallies, government buildings, and major economic targets, and in recent months have increasingly targeted public transportation. Although there is no indication that American citizens were targeted in these



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attacks, and none were injured, there is a heightened risk of American citizens being victims of violence by being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Previous terrorist attacks conducted in Central Asia have involved improvised explosive devices and suicide bombers and have targeted public areas, such as markets, local government facilities, and, in 2004, the U.S. and Israeli Embassies in Uzbekistan. In addition, hostage-takings and skirmishes have occurred near the Uzbek-Tajik-Kyrgyz border areas.

Before You Go

U.S. citizens living or traveling abroad are encouraged to register with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate through the State Department's travel registration web site at <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/> so that they can obtain updated information on travel and security. Americans without Internet access may register directly with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. By registering, American citizens make it easier for the Embassy or Consulate to contact them in case of emergency. U.S. citizens are strongly encouraged to maintain a high level of vigilance, be aware of local events, and take the appropriate steps to bolster their personal security. For additional information, please refer to "A Safe Trip Abroad" found at <http://travel.state.gov>.

U.S. Government facilities worldwide remain at a heightened state of alert. These facilities may temporarily close or periodically suspend public services to assess their security posture. In those instances, U.S. embassies and consulates will make every effort to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens. Americans abroad are urged to monitor the local news and maintain contact with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate.

As the Department continues to develop information on any potential security threats to U.S. citizens overseas, it shares credible threat information through its Consular Information Program documents, available on the Internet at <http://travel.state.gov>. In addition to information on the Internet, travelers may obtain up-to-date information on security conditions by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the U.S. and Canada or, outside the U.S. and Canada on a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm Monday through Friday, Eastern Time (except U.S. federal holidays.)



Dates of Interest



2008 U.S. Embassy Holiday Closings

Columbus Day (U.S.) _____	Mon, Oct 13
Veterans Day (U.S.) _____	Tues, Nov 11
Thanksgiving Day (U.S.) _____	Thurs, Nov 27
Bonifacio Day (PHL) _____	Mon, Dec 1
Christmas Day (U.S./PHL) _____	Thurs, Dec 25
Special non-working Day (PHL) _____	Fri, Dec 26
Last Day of the Year (PHL) _____	Wed, Dec 31

2009 U.S. Embassy Holiday Closings

New Year's Day (U.S./PHIL) _____	Thurs, Jan 1
M.L. King Jr Day (U.S.) _____	Mon, Jan 19
President's Day (U.S.) _____	Mon, Feb 16
Bataan & Corregidor Heroism Day (PHIL)-Mon,	April 6
Maundy Thursday (PHIL) _____	Thurs, Apr 9
Good Friday (PHIL) _____	Fri, Apr 10
Labor Day (PHIL) _____	Fri, May 1
Memorial Day (U.S.) _____	Mon, May 25
Independence Day (PHIL) _____	Fri, June 12
Independence Day (U.S.) _____	Fri, Jul 3
Ninoy Aquino Day (PHIL) _____	Fri, Aug 21
National Heroes Day (PHIL) _____	Mon, Aug 31
Labor Day (U.S.) _____	Mon, Sept 7
Eid-ul-Fitr (PHIL) _____	TBD
Columbus Day (U.S.) _____	Mon, Oct 12
Veterans Day (U.S.) _____	Wed, Nov 11
Thanksgiving Day (U.S.) _____	Thurs, Nov 26
Bonifacio Day (PHIL) _____	Mon, Nov 30
Christmas Day (U.S./PHIL) _____	Fri, Dec 25
Rizal Day (PHIL) _____	Wed, Dec 30
Last Day of The Year _____	Thurs, Dec 31

American Citizen Services

U.S. Embassy

1201 Roxas Blvd.

Consul General: Richard D. Haynes
 ACS Chief: Linda E. Daetwyler
 Office: (63)(2) 301-2246 or 301-2555
 Fax: (63)(2) 301-2017

Passports

Mon through Fri 7:30am - 11:00am
 By phone: M-F, 2-4pm x2555
 For applications: FedEx - 02-879- 4747 or
<http://manila.usembassy.gov>

Citizenship and Birth Registration

By phone: M-F, 2-4pm x2532
 By appointment only for forms/applications: FedEx -
 02-879-4747 or <http://manila.usembassy.gov>

Notary Services

Mon through Fri 7:30am - 10:00am

Legal Capacity to Marry

Mon through Fri 7:30am - 10:00am

Emergencies

For emergencies after hours please call (63) (2)
 301-2000 and ask for the Duty Officer.

Website: <http://manila.usembassy.gov>

Email: acsinfomanila@state.gov

Virtual Consulate Davao:

<http://www.usvirtualconsulatedavao.org.ph>

Online Registration:

<https://travelregistration.state.gov>

Cebu Consular Agency

Waterfront Hotel, Lahug, Cebu City
 Mon through Fri, 9:00am - 11:00am
 Tel: (032) 231-1261
 Fax: (032) 231-0174