

# Red Seas, White Sands, Blue Skies: An American Citizens Services Newsletter

## Message from Consul General

Summer break is almost upon us. For those leaving Saudi Arabia during the school break and summer holiday season, please take note of the following for a worry-free vacation:

- **Plan ahead.** Review your current U.S. passport and make sure you have at least six months validity. Allow two weeks for renewal. More information about the passport renewal process can be found [online here](#).
- **Register** with the STEP program so the Embassy can better assist you in an emergency. Record your travel plans or overseas residence online at <https://step.state.gov>. In accordance with the Privacy Act, information on your welfare and whereabouts will not be released to others without your express authorization.
- Leave **copies** of your itinerary, passport data page and visas with family or friends so you can be contacted in case of an emergency.
- Check your overseas medical **insurance** coverage. Ask your medical insurance company if your policy applies overseas, and if it covers emergency expenses such as medical evacuation. If it does not, consider supplemental insurance. Medical treatment and evacuations can cost thousands of dollars.
- Familiarize yourself with **local conditions and laws**. While in a foreign country, you are subject to its laws. The State Department web site at [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/cis/cis\\_4965.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_4965.html) as useful safety and other information about Saudi Arabia and other countries you may visit.

David A. Tyler, Consul General

Schedule Appointment

### American Citizens Services (ACS) All Appointment System **All services are provided by appointment only**

The ACS Units at the Embassy and Consulates General require appointments for all non-emergency, routine services. This is a worldwide policy for all U.S. embassies and consulates. Routine services include applications for passports and additional pages, Consular Reports of Birth Abroad, Social Security card and benefits and notarial services. **Plan ahead!** Note that passport and notarial services are rarely “emergency” situations. Of course, in the event of a genuine emergency, we will do our best to accommodate the U.S. citizen.

By use of the appointment system we are able to serve everyone more quickly and efficiently. It decreases the long lines and busy waiting room that we experienced during non-appointment sessions.

To schedule an appointment:

Riyadh: <https://evisaforms.state.gov/acs/default.asp?postcode=RID&appcode=1>

Dhahran: <https://evisaforms.state.gov/acs/default.asp?postcode=dhr&appcode=1>

Jeddah: <https://evisaforms.state.gov/acs/default.asp?postcode=JDD&appcode=1>



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## How to Reach Us

The US Embassy is located in the Diplomatic Quarter, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

**Public hours:** Saturdays, Sundays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, 1:00pm-3:30pm

Schedule an Appointment:  
<https://evisaforms.state.gov/acs/default.asp?postcode=RID&appcode=1>

**Phone:** (966)(11)488-3800

**US Consulate Jeddah**

**Public hours:** Saturday/Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday, 1:00–3:00pm

Schedule an Appointment:  
<https://evisaforms.state.gov/acs/default.asp?postcode=JDD&appcode=1>

**Phone:** (966)(2)667-0080

**US Consulate Dhahran**

**Public hours:** Saturday through Wednesday, 1:00-3:30 pm

Schedule an Appointment: <https://evisaforms.state.gov/acs/default.asp?postcode=dhr&appcode=1>

**Phone:** (966)(3)330-3200

Please see Saudi Arabia’s updated Country Specific Information - Jan 2013

[http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/cis/cis\\_1012.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1012.html)

## UPCOMING HOLIDAY CLOSURES:

Saturday May 25, 2013 — Memorial Day  
Wednesday July 3, 2013 — Independence Day

## **FVAP IS UPDATING KEY FORMS FOR 2014 – THEY NEED YOUR INPUT**



The Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) (SF-76) and Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) (SF-186) forms are being updated to increase their ease-of-use and effectiveness. Both forms must now receive OPM approval and the public comment period is now open. Department of State Voting Assistance Officers and Private U.S. citizens have until May 31, 2013 to submit their comments via the links below.

### **To view Federal Register Notices:**

FPCA : <https://federalregister.gov/a/2013-07485>

FWAB: <https://federalregister.gov/a/2013-07486>

### **To view Draft Forms and submit comments:**

FPCA: <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail:D=DOD-2013-OS-0061>

FWAB: <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail:D=DOD-2013-OS-0065>

Online: Comments and usability feedback should be submitted on the Federal eRulemarking Portal.

Use the links above or <http://www.regulations.gov>.

Mail: **Federal Docket Management system Office**

4800 Mark Center Drive, East Tower, Suite 02G09

Alexandria, VA 22350-3100

## **IRS: U.S. Citizens and Resident Aliens Abroad – Automatic 2 month extension of time to file 2012 Tax Return:**



You may be allowed an automatic 2-month extension of time to file your return and pay any federal income tax that is due. You will be allowed the extension if you are a U.S. citizen or resident alien and on the regular due date of your return:

You are living outside of the United States and Puerto Rico and your main place of business or post of duty is outside the United States and Puerto Rico, or You are in military or naval service on duty outside the United States and Puerto Rico  
If you use a calendar year, the regular due date of your return is April 15, and the automatic extended due date would be June 15.

If you file a joint return, either you or your spouse can qualify for the automatic extension. If you and your spouse file separate returns, this automatic extension applies only to the spouse who qualifies.

To use this automatic 2-month extension, you must attach a statement to your return explaining which of the two situations listed.

**New ITIN procedures : Effective January 1, 2013, new ITIN procedures took effect for the Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) application process. Please [click here](#) for details on instructions for how to obtain an ITIN from Abroad. Some of the information, including the documentation requirements for individuals seeking an ITIN, has been superseded by these changes. Taxpayers and their representatives should [review these changes](#), which are further explained in these [Frequently Asked Questions](#), before requesting an ITIN.**

## **DEADLINES FOR THE JUNE 4 MISSOURI SPECIAL EDITION**

The State of Missouri will conduct a Special Election on Tuesday, June 4, 2013, for the 8th Congressional District, which consists of the following counties: Bollinger, Butler, Cape Girardeau, Carter, Crawford, Dent, Douglas, Dunklin, Howell, Iron, Jefferson, Madison, Mississippi, New Madrid, Oregon, Ozark, Pemiscot, Perry, Phelps, Reynolds, Ripley, Scott, Shannon, Ste. Genevieve, St. Francois, Stoddard, Texas, Washington, Wayne and Wright. The vacancy is due to the resignation of Representative JoAnn Emerson.

Voter registration is not required for this Special Election; however military and overseas voters must submit a new Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) to request a ballot. **Any military or overseas voter who wishes to participate in this election must complete a new FPCA; participating in a previous election will not trigger a ballot being sent for this election.**

Missouri allows you to submit the FPCA by mail, email or fax. You may choose to use the automated tool at [FVAP.gov](http://FVAP.gov) to prepare and print your FPCA. FPCAs are also available in embassies, consulates and military installations around the world. Be sure to indicate on the FPCA how you would like to receive your absentee ballot (by mail, email or fax).

Your spouse, parent, grandparent, sibling, child or grandchild may, on your behalf, make an in-person request with your local election official to mail a ballot to your current location.

You may also choose to register to vote using the FPCA; this will allow you to vote in State and local elections during 2013. If you choose to register using the FPCA the form must be mailed directly to your local election official with a postmark no later than Wednesday, May 8. **However, to vote in this Special Election only, your FPCA must be received by mail, email or fax by 5 p.m., CST, Wednesday, May 29. \*\*Important Dates\*\***

Ballot sent to you from election authority (if requested by April 20)	Saturday, April 20
FPCA request deadline for military and overseas voters	5 p.m., CST, Wednesday, May 29
Voted paper ballot must be <b>received</b> by local election office	7 p.m., CST, Tuesday, June 4
Voted ballot transmitted by fax or email for members of the military in imminent danger pay zones only	7 p.m., CST, Tuesday, June 4

Missouri only allows you to **return a voted ballot by email or fax if you are a member of the military and are serving in an Imminent Danger Pay location.**

If you applied for a ballot in a timely fashion and are concerned about not receiving your ballot in time to vote, use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB). The FWAB automated tool is available at [www.FVAP.gov](http://www.FVAP.gov). The FWAB is also available in embassies, consulates, and military installations around the world. To determine the status of your absentee ballot request, contact your local election office. You can find contact information for your voting jurisdiction at <https://www.fvap.gov/r3/jurisdictions/MO>. You can also track the status of your ballot at <http://www.sos.mo.gov/elections/military/default.asp#trackBallot>.

Go to [www.FVAP.gov](http://www.FVAP.gov) to fill out and print your forms today! Additional information on the completion and submission of these forms is available on the site along with Missouri voter-specific information.

## Get in STEP to receive ACS Newsletter Spread the Word!



Please remind your American friends to enroll in the U.S. State Department's free [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#) in order for them to be included on the ACS Newsletter mailing list. It is a great way to keep abreast of any public announcements on safety and security issues in Saudi Arabia and elsewhere. Another benefit is that if you travel to another country, updating your enrollment in STEP ensures you continue to get timely information for that country!

The Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) is a free service provided 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 U.S. Embassies and Consulates can better assist you in an emergency, including situations where your family or friends in the U.S. are having problems contacting you with important news.

When you sign up, you will automatically receive the most current information Embassies compile about the country where you will be traveling or living. You will also receive any applicable Travel Warnings and Travel Alerts

**Americans Overseas Domestic Violence Center** : The Americans Overseas Domestic Violence Crisis Center works with abused American women and children in foreign countries to provide domestic violence and child abuse advocacy resources and tools so that they can navigate the complicated jurisdictional legal and social international landscapes to be able to live their lives free of abuse either in the foreign country or back in the United States. To learn more about this organization please [visit their website](#).  
[International Toll-Free 866-USWOMEN Email Us](#)

**The Ministry of Social Affairs** - General Directorate for Social Protection runs 17 Protection Committees in various provinces to serve victims of domestic abuse, the Human Rights Commission and the National Society for Human Rights also address violence against women and children, and the Saudi National Health Council has approved a hospital-based child protection teams project..

**General Directorate for Social Protection Toll free : 1919**

### National Family Safety Program

Tel: 011-8040115 / 8040154  
Fax: 011-8040107  
Website: <http://nfsp.org.sa/>

### Human rights Commission

Tel: 011-4628839 / 4628071  
Fax: 011- 4612061  
Website: <http://hrc.gov.sa>

### National Society for Human Rights

Tel: 011- 2102223  
Fax: 011-2102201 / 2102202  
Website: <http://nshr.org.sa>

**Novel Coronavirus:** Information about the novel coronavirus in the Arabian Peninsula and the United Kingdom has been posted on the CDC Travelers' Health website at <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/in-the-news/coronavirus-saudi-arabia-qatar.htm>. The linked page contains more detailed information about the new coronavirus, tips for travelers, and useful links to other sources of information. At this time, CDC does **not** recommend that travelers change their travel plans to or from Saudi Arabia. CDC does recommend that U.S. travelers to countries in or near the Arabian Peninsula monitor their health and see a doctor right away if they develop fever and symptoms of lower respiratory illness, such as cough or shortness of breath.



**Dengue Fever:** The Saudi Ministry of Health has reported an outbreak of dengue fever in the city of Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Avoidance of mosquito bites, particularly during daylight hours, by covering up with clothing, the use of repellent and bed nets is advised. Elimination of breeding sites around hotel rooms/houses is advised for longer term stays. Further information is available at CDC's website: <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/watch/dengue-tropical-sub-tropical.htm>.



Saudi Ministry of Health launched a new emergency service number **937** dedicated to health services on an emergency basis.

### Passport Renewal – Plan Ahead

Please carefully review the validity of your current U.S. passport. Regular passports are processed in the U.S. and are usually received within 2 weeks after the application is submitted to the U.S. Embassy or Consulate. More information about the passport renewal process can be found [online here](#).

Please apply early if you need a new passport or additional pages added to your current passport. Additional page requests require 24 hours to process and cannot be affixed to a limited validity or a damaged passport.

Many governments require travelers to have at least six months validity left in their passports for entry into their countries. Check our Country Specific Information Sheets to learn the Entry and Exit Requirements for your destination. These information sheets are available [online here](#)

### CBP Begins Implementation of Form I-94 Automation for Foreign Travelers



On April 30, 2013, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) started implementing the automated version of Form I-94, Arrival/Departure Record, at air and sea ports of entry and will by week's end include Charlotte Douglas International Airport in North Carolina, Orlando International Airport in Florida, McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas, Chicago O'Hare International Airport, Miami International Airport and George Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston. Implementation will continue across the nation through May 21, to include air and sea ports of entry that support international arrivals. For more information on the implementation schedule, please see [CBP's Travel Advisory](#).

Foreign travelers entering the United States at air or sea ports of entry will be able to access their electronic Form I-94 by visiting [www.cbp.gov/I94](http://www.cbp.gov/I94). Upon inspection at the point of entry, CBP will give foreign travelers a tear sheet with instructions on how to look up their electronic Form I-94 on CBP's website. From this website, they can print out their Form I-94 in paper format. Foreign travelers may need their Form I-94 when requesting certain USCIS benefits, or when applying for public benefits from other government agencies.

To ensure that Form I-94 automation will not disrupt USCIS's adjudication of benefit requests, USCIS has begun updating certain forms requesting applicants and petitioners to enter the admission number from their Form I-94 and/or their: Passport information, including passport number, country of issuance and expiration date; and Travel Document information, including Travel Document number, country of issuance and expiration date.

As evidence of lawful admission submitted with a benefit request, USCIS will accept the electronic Form I-94 in paper format obtained from CBP's website ([www.cbp.gov/I94](http://www.cbp.gov/I94)). This document is the equivalent of the paper versions of Form I-94 issued by CBP and USCIS. In lieu of submitting the electronic Form I-94 in paper format, USCIS will also accept photocopies of the passport pages that contain the individual's biographical information, visa and admission stamp. These alternatives will allow applicants and petitioners more ways to provide proof of lawful U.S. entry in order to establish eligibility for certain USCIS benefits.

For more information regarding CBP's I-94 automation or to access an electronic Form I-94, please see CBP's News Release or visit their website at [www.cbp.gov/I94](http://www.cbp.gov/I94). For more information on USCIS forms and procedures, please visit [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov) or call our toll-free National Customer Service Center at 1-800-375-5283.

### Saudi Arabia to implement changes in telephone area codes



According to the Saudi Communication and Information Technology Commission (CITC), one more digit -- the number one (1) - is being added to the six telephone geographic zone codes in the Kingdom. On Monday, May 13, 2013, the number (1), has been added to the Riyadh land-line phone area code, making it 011 instead of 01. The rest of the Kingdom's land line numbers will be converted similarly on or about Sunday, Aug 18, 2013, adding the digit (1) after the zero in the current area codes. Thus, the area codes 01 (Riyadh), 02 (Jeddah), 03 (Dhahran), 04, 06 and 07 will become 011 (Riyadh), 012 (Jeddah), 013 (Dhahran), 014, 016 and 017, respectively.

This change will not affect dialing between land lines within the same city, which will continue to require only the last seven digits. This change will affect dialing to land line numbers outside the local calling area, calling from mobiles to land lines, or dialing to Saudi Arabia from outside the Kingdom. Emergency and 800 and 9200 prefixed numbers will remain the same.

There is a grace period. The old and new area codes will work in parallel for four weeks from the date of conversion, and, in the case of calling Saudi Arabia from outside the Kingdom, both the old and new area codes will work in parallel for three months from the date of conversion. **For complete information, please visit:** [http://www.citc.gov.sa/English/MediaCenter/awarenesscampaigns/Pages/PR\\_AWR\\_004.aspx](http://www.citc.gov.sa/English/MediaCenter/awarenesscampaigns/Pages/PR_AWR_004.aspx)

**Are you or is someone you know a newcomer to Saudi ?**  
Help newcomers to the Kingdom by reminding them to register with the Embassy or nearest Consulate using **STEP** online at: <https://step.state.gov/step/>  
This free service offers registered U.S. citizens updates on important regional issues, travel warnings and alerts, and provides a point of contact for citizens and their families in case of emergency.

### Three-Month Grace Period for Illegal Expatriates in the Country ends July 3, 2013



According to news reports, Saudi Arabia's Interior Ministry has urged foreigners staying illegally in the country to take advantage of the three-month grace period to regularize their situation. "Expatriates who are staying illegally should promptly contact the relevant authorities to rectify their status in accordance with the rules and regulations. There will be no extension of the grace period and there will be a zero-tolerance policy for those who fail to regularize their status," the Ministry said in a statement carried by the official news agency.

The Saudi Ministries of Interior and Labor announced that expatriates who violated residency and labor laws before April 6, 2013, will be allowed to correct their status and stay in the Kingdom for work without facing penalties and fines. The grace period to correct status and comply with residency laws ends July 3, 2013. The grace period and exemptions do not apply to persons who entered the Kingdom illegally. Violators caught after the grace period face imprisonment and heavy fines. Individuals may visit the following Saudi Government websites for information on procedures to be followed: <http://www.moi.gov.sa>, [www.mol.gov.sa](http://www.mol.gov.sa) or contact customer service at **920001173**.

### Health Advisory on Dust Storms

Dust storms are a fact of life in Saudi Arabia. We have had a number of storms recently, and current weather forecasts are for more storms in the coming weeks. Dust storms contain particulate matter that irritates lung tissue and causes respiratory complications, such as coughing, sneezing, and other allergic responses. We would like to advise everyone, especially those with chronic respiratory and cardiac problems (i.e., allergies, asthma, reactive airway disease, emphysema, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and congestive heart failure) to, as much as possible, remain indoors and avoid exposure to the dust storms.

If your job requires you to be outdoors for prolonged periods of time, consider using a face mask.

Road accidents are a particular hazard during dust storms because of poor visibility and slippery road surfaces. Avoid driving during dust storms or stop in a safe area, well removed from traffic lanes.

Get your exercise indoors and avoid unnecessary exposure to the dust.

It is advisable for children with chronic respiratory problems to limit their physical education time outdoors at school.

Smokers are of course already at heightened risk for a variety of respiratory problems, such as cough, congestion, and bronchitis. Dust storms will further exacerbate the risk of respiratory difficulties.

People who wear contact lenses may experience increased eye irritation. Always keep your lenses clean, keep your eyes moisturized, and consider wearing eyeglasses during the dust storms and in the hours following a storm.

Dust storms present a very real health hazard. If you follow the guidance provided above, you will be better able to yourself and your family safe and healthy. Get a mask and be protected!



**Mother's Day** is the annual celebration of motherhood on the second Sunday in May in the U.S. Many people honor their mother, female guardian or mentor by giving gifts, treating them to a meal, and spending time with them. The holiday also honors other types of mother figures, such as

step-mothers, foster mothers, and grandmothers. **Father's Day** in the U.S. is celebrated on the third Sunday in June, honoring fathers grandfathers, sons, brothers, uncles and other special father figures.

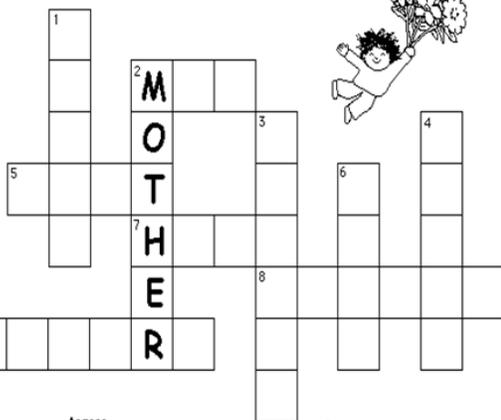
### Did you know?

- The first Mothers Day was celebrated on May 10, 1908.
- Mother's Day was signed into national holiday by President Wilson in 1914.
- 122.5 million phone calls are made on Mother's Day, making that the busiest phone day of the year.
- 152 million Mother's Day Cards are given each year
- The first Father's Day was celebrated on June 19, 1910.
- Nearly 95 million Father's Day cards were given in the U.S. last year

### Mother's Day Crossword



Mother



**Word List**

- card
- gift
- mom
- visit
- hugs

**Across**

- 2. A short name for Mother
- 5. A present
- 7. How about some \_\_\_\_\_ and kisses
- 8. The season is \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. She might plant these in her garden

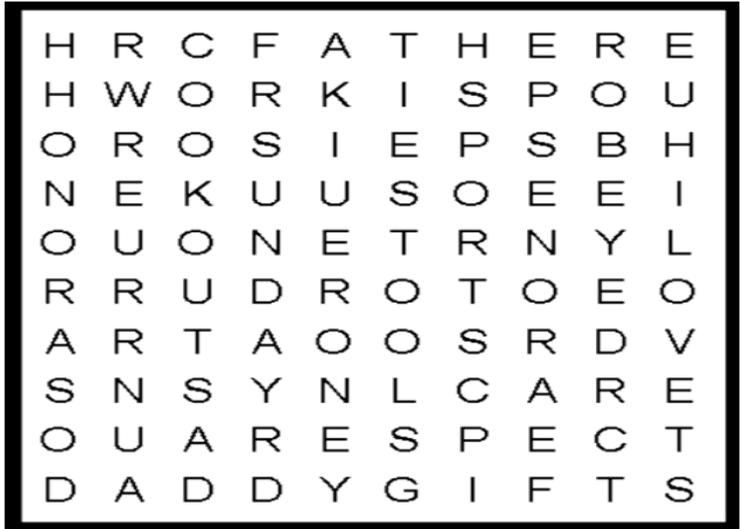
**Down**

- 1. We might go \_\_\_\_\_ Grandma
- 3. How about some hugs and \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. We say \_\_\_\_\_ you for the gifts
- 6. Mail a \_\_\_\_\_ to Grandma

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- COOKOUTS
- RESPECT
- FATHER
- HONOR
- SUNDAY

- SPORTS
- TOOLS
- OBEY
- LOVE
- DADDY

- CAR
- TIES
- GIFTS
- WORK