



Shanghai Consulate News for Americans

Issue 43

August, 2011

Leaving Shanghai Consular District?

If you are departing the Shanghai consular district and you formally joined the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP), please do not forget to end your enrollment when you leave. You can end your enrollment by visiting the <https://travelregistration.state.gov> site. If you previously submitted a paper enrollment form to the U.S. consulate in Shanghai, you may un-enroll yourself by sending an email request to: ShanghaiACS@state.gov

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New York, Nevada And Oregon To Hold Special Elections For Congress: September 13, November 8

NEW YORK – SEPTEMBER 13

On Tuesday, September 13, 2011, New York will hold a special election for the 9th Congressional District, to fill the seat vacated by Representative Anthony D. Weiner. The 9th Congressional District includes parts of southern Brooklyn and south central Queens. In Queens, the 9th District includes Maspeth, Fresh Meadows, Glendale, Howard Beach, Kew Gardens, Kew Gardens Hills, Middle Village, Forest Hills, Ozone Park, Ridgewood, Rego Park, Rockaway Beach, and Woodhaven. In Brooklyn the 9th District includes Flatlands, Gerritsen Beach, Marine Park, Midwood, Mill Basin and Sheepshead Bay.

Register to Vote and Request Your Ballot Now!

If you are not already registered to vote, you may do so by submitting a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA). Your FPCA must be received by your local New York Board of Elections Office by August 19, 2011. **Go to FVAP.gov and get started! It only takes a few minutes!** Alternately you may obtain an FPCA from your unit or installation voting assistance officer and at U.S. embassies and consulates worldwide; but you must follow the New York instructions given at FVAP.gov. Indicate on the FPCA how you would like to receive your absentee ballot, by mail, email, or fax. You **will not** receive a ballot automatically, even if you voted in the November 2, 2010 general election.

If you are already registered to vote, the deadline for submitting an FPCA to request a ballot is September 6, 2011.

To find out the status of your registration, you can refer to New York's voter registration verification website at: <https://voterlookup.elections.state.ny.us/votersearch.aspx>. To determine the status of your absentee ballot request, contact your local election office.

Send the FPCA by Email, Fax or Mail

If you choose to **email** your FPCA, you should send the form to the email address listed below for the correct county office where you reside in the 9th Congressional District. If you choose to **fax** your FPCA, fax the form to the fax number listed below for the correct county office where you reside. You may also use the DoD Electronic

Transmission Service to fax your FPCA toll-free. To use the Electronic Transmission Service, use the cover sheet available in the Voting Assistance Guide, or at FVAP.gov, and fax to: (703)-693-5527, DSN 223-5527, or toll-free from the U.S., Canada, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands to 1-800-368-8683. International toll-free numbers can be found at FVAP.gov. Voter Alert Telephone: 703-588-1584 E-mail: vote@fvap.gov.

Submit your FPCA to the District 9 election office in which you reside:

Find more details on where to submit your FPCA at: <http://www.fvap.gov/global/news/nr17-2011.html>.

Receive Your Ballot

Ballots will be mailed and emailed to you starting on **July 29th, 2011**. You may also access your ballot at: <https://www.secureballotusa.com/NY>

Vote Your Ballot

Your voted ballot must be **postmarked by September 12, 2011**, and must be **received by September 26, 2011**, in order to be counted.

You must return your voted ballot and signed affidavit by regular mail, or you can send it via a licensed motor carrier such as Federal Express, UPS or DSL.

Civilians residing outside the U.S.: Contact your closest U.S. Embassy or consulate for specific instructions on how voted ballots, with proper domestic postage attached, can be returned to the United States from any U.S. embassy or consulate. To locate your nearest U.S. embassy or consulate, visit <http://www.usembassy.gov/>.

If a voter is concerned about not receiving their ballot in time to vote, they may use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB, SF-186). The FWAB instructions are available at www.FVAP.gov. The FWAB is also available in embassies and consulates and military installations around the world.

To check the status of your absentee ballot visit: <http://www.secureballotusa.com/NY>.

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Upcoming Holidays And Other Closures

A full list of all of our holiday closings is online at <http://shanghai.usembassy-china.org.cn/holidays.html>. The Consulate will be **CLOSED** on the following days:

September 5, Monday:

Labor Day

(劳动节 Láo Dòng Jié)

September 12, Monday:

Mid-Autumn Festival (a Chinese holiday) (中秋节 Zhōng Qiū Jié)

Upcoming Q&A Opportunity With The SSA

The Social Security Administration (SSA) does not have an office in mainland China. Americans residing here usually have to send their inquiries to the closest SSA office in Manila, Philippines. We are glad to announce that the Chief of Asia Pacific Rim SSA International Operations in Manila will be available at the U.S. Consulate General in Shanghai at 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 21 to answer questions by phone. During that time, you will have an opportunity to speak to him in person by calling the phone number: (86-21) 3217-4651.

This is a good opportunity for you to speak to a representative from the

SSA without having to make an international phone call or to travel to somewhere that has an SSA office. Feel free to ask any questions related to federal benefits, the Social Security Number (SSN) issuance process or what to do if you forget your SSN.

You are also encouraged to view the previously published newsletter regarding the frequently asked SSA questions at:
<http://photos.state.gov/libraries/shanghai/228904/ACSNews/201101ACSNewsletter.pdf>.

If you have an SSA related question but are unable to call in during the

above time, you may always contact the SSA office in Manila, which covers services for beneficiaries resident in China:

Mailing Address:

SSAD-VARO
 American Embassy
 1131 Roxas Boulevard, Ermita, 0930
 Manila, Philippines

Phone: (632) 301-2000 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday

Fax: (632) 525-9482

Email: FBU.Manila@ssa.gov

Website: www.socialsecurity.gov

Travel Warnings And Alerts

Security reminder: It is advisable that you and your family review your personal security profile and be aware of your surroundings at all times.

Since our previous Newsletter, the U.S. Department of State has issued new Travel Warnings for the following countries:

<u>Turks and Caicos</u>	08/23/2011
<u>Libya</u>	08/23/2011
<u>Somalia</u>	08/19/2011
<u>Chad</u>	08/16/2011
<u>Haiti</u>	08/08/2011
<u>Pakistan</u>	08/08/2011
<u>Syria</u>	08/05/2011
<u>Niger</u>	08/05/2011
<u>Saudi Arabia</u>	08/05/2011
<u>Central African Republic</u>	07/28/2011

Travel Warnings are issued to describe long-term, protracted conditions that make a country dangerous or unstable. A Travel Warning is also issued when the U.S. Government's ability to assist American citizens is

constrained due to the closure of an embassy or consulate or because of a drawdown of its staff. This information is available at

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html.

The U.S. Department of State also has issued new Travel Alerts:

<u>Bahrain</u>	08/19/2011
<u>Zambia</u>	08/11/2011

Travel Alerts are issued to disseminate information about short-term conditions generally within a particular country or region that pose imminent risks to the security of U.S. citizens. Natural disasters, terrorist attacks, coups, anniversaries of terrorist events, election-related demonstrations or violence, and high-profile events such as international conferences or regional sports events are examples of conditions that might generate a Travel Alert. This informa-

tion is available at :

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/pa/pa_1766.html.

The most up-to-date information regarding permitted and prohibited items on flights can be viewed online at

<http://www.tsa.gov/travelers/airtravel/prohibited/permitted-prohibited-items.shtm>.

For additional information, please visit "Americans Traveling Abroad" on the U.S. Department of State website: http://travel.state.gov/visa/americans/americans_1252.html. Students traveling abroad may wish to visit the State Department site designed for them: <http://studentsabroad.state.gov/>.

To obtain up-to-date information on security conditions, please call 1-888-407-4747 (toll free in the United States), or +1-202-501-4444 if you are outside the United States.

New York, Nevada And Oregon To Hold Special Elections For Congress: September 13, November 8

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Additional Information

State specific information on precincts, candidates, elections, and voting is available at the New York state board of elections website, <http://www.elections.state.ny.us/>.

FVAP can be contacted via 1-800-438-8683. Citizens may reach FVAP toll-free from 67 countries by using the toll-free numbers listed on the FVAP web portal, <http://www.fvap.gov/contact/index.html>. Questions regarding the above may also be referred to the Director, Federal Voting Assistance Program, Department of Defense, 1155 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC, 20301-1155, vote@fvap.gov, and on the World Wide Web at www.fvap.gov.

NEVADA – SEPTEMBER 13

On Tuesday, September 13, 2011, Nevada will hold a special election for the 2nd Congressional District, to fill the seat vacated by Representative Dean Heller. The 2nd Congressional District includes all of Nevada with the exception to some parts of Clark County.

Register to Vote and Request Your Ballot Now!

If you are not already registered to vote, you may do so by submitting a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA). Your FPCA must be received by your local Nevada Board of Elections Office by August 13, 2011. **Go to FVAP.gov and get started! It only takes a few minutes!** Alternately you may obtain an FPCA from your unit or installation voting assistance officer and at U.S. embassies and consulates worldwide; but you must follow the Nevada instructions given at FVAP.gov. Indicate on the FPCA how you would like to receive your absentee ballot, by mail, email, or fax. You **will not** receive a ballot automatically, even if you voted in the November 2, 2010 general election.

If you are already registered to vote, the deadline for submitting an FPCA to request a ballot is September 6, 2011.

To find out the status of your registration, you can refer to Nevada's voter registration verification website at: <https://nvsos.gov/votersearch/>. To determine the status of your absentee ballot request, contact your local election office.

Send the FPCA by Email, Fax or Mail

If you choose to **email** your FPCA, you should send the form to the email address listed below for the correct county office where you reside in the 2nd Congressional District. If you choose to **fax** your FPCA, fax the form to the fax number listed below for the correct county office where you reside. You may also use the DoD Elec-

tronic Transmission Service to fax your FPCA toll-free. To use the Electronic Transmission Service, use the cover sheet available in the Voting Assistance Guide, or at FVAP.gov, and fax to: (703)-693-5527, DSN 223-5527, or toll-free from the U.S., Canada, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands to 1-800-368-8683. International toll-free numbers can be found at FVAP.gov. Voter Alert Telephone: 703-588-1584 E-mail: vote@fvap.gov.

Submit your FPCA to the District 2 election office in which you reside:

We recommend you mail your voted FWAB or regular State ballot to your County Clerk as soon as possible. Voters in Iraq, Afghanistan, on ships at sea, and other overseas locations without access to the military postal system may want to explore electronic ballot transmission options. A list of addresses for County Clerks may be found at <http://www.nvsos.gov>.

Receive Your Ballot

Ballots were mailed and emailed to you on **July 29th, 2011**.

Vote Your Ballot

Your voted ballot must be **received by September 13, 2011 at 7:00pm**, in order to be counted.

You must return your voted ballot and signed affidavit by regular mail, or you can send it via a licensed motor carrier such as Federal Express, UPS or DSL.

Civilians residing outside the U.S.: Contact your closest U.S. Embassy or consulate for specific instructions on how voted ballots, with proper domestic postage attached, can be returned to the United States from any U.S. embassy or consulate. To locate your nearest U.S. embassy or consulate, visit <http://www.usembassy.gov/>.

If a voter is concerned about not receiving their ballot in time to vote, they may use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB, SF-186). The FWAB instructions are available at www.FVAP.gov. The FWAB is also available in embassies and consulates and military installations around the world.

To check the status of your absentee ballot visit: <https://nvsos.gov/votersearch/>

Additional Information

State specific information on precincts, candidates, elections, and voting is available at the Nevada Secretary of State website, www.nvsos.gov.

FVAP can be contacted via 1-800-438-8683. Citizens may reach FVAP toll-free from 67 countries by using the toll-free numbers listed on the FVAP web portal, <http://www.fvap.gov/contact/index.html>. Ques-

tions regarding the above may also be referred to the Director, Federal Voting Assistance Program, Department of Defense, 1155 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC, 20301-1155, vote@fvap.gov, and on the World Wide Web at www.fvap.gov.

OREGON – NOVEMBER 8

On Tuesday, November 8, 2011, Oregon will hold a special primary election for the 1st Congressional District, to fill the seat vacated by Representative David Wu. The 1st Congressional District includes parts of northwestern Oregon. This is a Special Primary election applicable only to those registered with the Democratic and Republican Parties. The General election will be held on Tuesday, January 31, 2012. In Oregon, the 1st District includes Clatsop County, Columbia County, Washington County, Yamhill County and part of Multnomah County which includes some of the Portland metropolitan area.

Register to Vote and Request Your Ballot Now!

If you are not already registered to vote, you may do so online at oregonvotes.org, or by submitting a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA). Your FPCA must be received by your local Oregon Elections Office by October 18, 2011. **Go to FVAP.gov and get started! It only takes a few minutes!** Alternately you may obtain an FPCA from your unit or installation voting assistance officer and at U.S. embassies and consulates worldwide; but you must follow the Oregon instructions given at FVAP.gov. Indicate on the FPCA how you would like to receive your absentee ballot, by mail, email, or fax. You **will not** receive a ballot automatically, even if you voted in the November 2, 2010 general election.

If you are already registered to vote, the deadline for submitting an FPCA to request a ballot is November 8, 2011.

To find out the status of your registration, or your absentee ballot request you can refer to Oregon's elections website at: www.oregonvotes.org and go to MyVote.

Send the FPCA by Email, Fax or Mail

If you choose to **email** your FPCA, you should send the form to the email address listed below for the correct county office where you reside in the 1st Congressional District. If you choose to **fax** your FPCA, fax the form to the fax number listed below for the correct county office where you reside. You may also use the DoD Electronic Transmission Service to fax your FPCA toll-free. To use the Electronic Transmission Service, use the cover sheet available in the Voting Assistance Guide, or at FVAP.gov, and

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Forewarned Is Forearmed – SCAMS Endemic To Shanghai

The American Citizen Services (ACS) unit is regularly contacted by Americans victimized by scams that take advantage of their generosity or ignorance of local norms and culture. While petty theft remains the most prevalent type of crime Westerners encounter in China, the diversity and sophistication of scams is increasing. While the following list is not meant to be all-encompassing it does forewarn and forearm you against the most common scams encountered by Americans in the Shanghai area:

“Art Show / Art Student” scam – “Hi, I’m an art major at a Chinese university (usually Xi’an). We are showing our work nearby and would love for you to have a look. Don’t worry, entrance is free and there’s no need to buy anything.” If you follow this “art student” you will be pressured to purchase expensive, low-grade art prints.

“Tea Ceremony / English student” scam – “Hi, we are English students at a local university. Would you mind helping us practice our English? In exchange, we will treat you to a traditional Chinese tea ceremony.” After ordering tea and snacks they will excuse themselves. Moments later the bill will arrive and very large men will force you to pay an exorbitant amount of money before allowing you to leave. Real English students will not mind going to a place of your choosing for a chance to practice their English for an hour.

“Bar tabs” - Better to pay as you go. Starting a tab makes it possible for a bartender to hand you a bar bill of \$500. If you decline to pay you could be threatened with physical violence until you pay (usually by credit card), before being escorted out.

“Injured Relative / Arrested Relative” scam – “Hi, I’m a friend of your grandchild here in China and she was just seriously injured (usually in a traffic accident) and/or arrested. In order for her to receive medical care in China you must pay all fees upfront. The American Consulate won’t help. Please wire \$2000 to my account so I can ensure your granddaughter receives the necessary medical treatment.” Always best to try and contact your relative directly, or call ACS to help you find out the facts, if someone tells you that they are in trouble and need you to wire them money ASAP. In China medical facilities will usually contact the U.S. Consulate if an American citizen is admitted without anyone to assist. We will never refuse to assist American citizens in need.

“Please Hold the Line for the Police” – You receive a phone call from someone claiming to be from your bank or the police station and you are told that someone assumed your identity and used your credit card to commit credit card fraud, which is now under investigation by the Public Security Bureau (PSB). You are informed that the PSB requires your bank account information to complete their investigation. After providing your personally identifiable information over the phone that included your savings account information, your account is liquidated. You later find out that the person who called you was not from your bank or the police station. If you receive a call from the police asking for personal information you should ask them to wait, and contact your nearest police station to inquire into the situation in person.

“Business Deal” – You have been doing business with a Chinese company for some

time and receive an email asking you to send the next wire transfer to a new account number. After wiring the money you are asked to resend the payment because it never arrived. After rewiring the payment you are again notified that the payment did not arrive and that you should try sending it to another account number. At which time you become extremely suspicious and discover the email address is slightly different from the company’s real e-mail address and/or the person who has been contacting you left the company a month before.

“IRS scam” – You received an email from the IRS claiming they cannot process your recent tax return because you did not include a photocopy of your state or federal ID. The IRS does NOT generally initiate fax or emails to taxpayers, nor does the IRS discuss tax account matters with taxpayers via email or fax. Moreover, the IRS never requests security-related personal information, such as your SSN or PIN numbers. **“Diversity Visa”** – You receive an email congratulating you because you’ve won a Diversity Visa and although the Diversity Visa participation was free, U.S. law and regulations require every diversity visa winner to pay a visa processing fee of \$819. The email goes on to state the fee must be paid using a Western Union money transfer and will be processed by the U.S. Embassy in the United Kingdom. **“UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES** should money be sent to anyone to participate in the DV Lottery. The Department of State’s Kentucky Consular Center (KCC) does not send email notifications to DV entrants informing them of their winning entries.

“Real Estate” scam – You sign a contract

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Oregon To Hold Special Elections For Congress: November 8

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fax to: (703)-693-5527, DSN 223-5527, or toll-free from the U.S., Canada, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands to 1-800-368-8683. International toll-free numbers can be found at FVAP.gov. Voter Alert Telephone: 703-588-1584 E-mail: vote@fvap.gov.

Submit your FPCA to the District 1 election office in which you reside:

Find more details on where to submit your FPCA at: <http://www.fvap.gov/global/news/nr19-2011.html>.

Receive Your Ballot

Ballots will be mailed and emailed to you starting on **September 24, 2011**.

Vote Your Ballot

Your voted ballot must be **received by 8:00pm**

on November 8, 2011, in order to be counted.

You must return your voted ballot and signed affidavit by regular mail or fax, or you can send it via a licensed motor carrier such as Federal Express, UPS or DSL.

Civilians residing outside the U.S.: Contact your closest U.S. Embassy or consulate for specific instructions on how voted ballots, with proper domestic postage attached, can be returned to the United States from any U.S. embassy or consulate. To locate your nearest U.S. embassy or consulate, visit <http://www.usembassy.gov/>.

If a voter is concerned about not receiving their ballot in time to vote, they may use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB, SF-186). The FWAB instructions are available at www.FVAP.gov. The FWAB is also available in embassies and consulates and military

installations around the world.

To check the status of your absentee ballot visit: <http://www.oregonvotes.org>.

Additional Information

State specific information on precincts, candidates, elections, and voting is available at the Oregon Elections Division website, <http://www.oregonvotes.org>.

FVAP can be contacted via 1-800-438-8683. Citizens may reach FVAP toll-free from 67 countries by using the toll-free numbers listed on the FVAP web portal, <http://www.fvap.gov/contact/index.html>. Questions regarding the above may also be referred to the Director, Federal Voting Assistance Program, Department of Defense, 1155 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC, 20301-1155, vote@fvap.gov, and on the World Wide Web at www.fvap.gov.

West Virginia To Hold Special Election For Governor

On Tuesday, October 4, 2011, West Virginia will hold a statewide, special general election for Governor, to fill the vacancy created when former Governor Joe Manchin won election to the United States Senate. The elected candidate will serve the remainder of the unexpired term, through January 13, 2013.

Register to Vote

To vote in this election you must **register** by submitting a post-marked Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) or a West Virginia Voter Registration Application. West Virginia allows you to email or fax the FPCA, but if this is your first time registering to vote in a particular West Virginia county, you must mail the original FPCA. Applications must be post-marked and sent to the local county clerk by **September 13, 2011**. Voter Registration Applications transmitted by other methods must be received by the county clerk no later than close of business **September 13, 2011**.

Request Your Ballot Now!

You **will not** receive a ballot automatically, even if you voted in the November 2, 2010 general election! Use the FPCA to request an absentee ballot. **Go to [FVAP.gov](http://www.fvap.gov) and get started! It only takes a few minutes!** Alternately you may obtain an FPCA from your unit or installation voting assistance officer and at U.S. embassies and consulates worldwide; but you must follow the West Virginia instructions given at [FVAP.gov](http://www.fvap.gov). Indicate on the FPCA how you would like to receive your absentee ballot: by mail, email, or fax.

If you are already registered to vote, the deadline for submitting an FPCA to request a ballot is **September 28, 2011**.

Send the FPCA by Email, Fax or Mail

If you choose to **email** your FPCA, you should send the form to the email address listed for your county clerk at <http://www.sos.wv.gov/public-services/contacts/Pages/ClerkCountyComm.aspx>. If you choose to **fax** your FPCA, fax the form to the fax number listed for the county clerk's office where you reside. You may also use the DoD Electronic Transmission Service to fax your FPCA toll free. To use the Electronic Transmission Service, use the cover sheet available in the Voting Assistance Guide, or at [FVAP.gov](http://www.fvap.gov), and fax to: (703)-693-5527, DSN 223-5527, or toll-free from the U.S., Canada, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Is-

lands to 1-800-368-8683. International toll-free numbers can be found at [FVAP.gov](http://www.fvap.gov). Voter Alert Phone: 703-588-1584 E-mail: vote@fvap.gov.

To find out the status of your registration/absentee ballot request, contact your local election office or refer to West Virginia's website at: <https://apps.sos.wv.gov/elections/voter/track-my-ballot.aspx>.

Receive Your Ballot

If you request that a ballot be mailed to you, it will be sent within one day after receipt of your request. If you request a ballot to be emailed, the ballot will be sent to the email address you supplied on your absentee ballot application. If you request a ballot by fax, the ballot will be sent to the fax number you supplied on your absentee ballot application.

PLEASE NOTE: Be sure you include a fax number or email address on your absentee ballot application.

If you are concerned about not receiving your ballot in time to vote, you may use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB, SF-186). The FWAB instructions are available at [www.FVAP.gov](http://www.fvap.gov). The FWAB is also available in embassies and consulates and military installations around the world.

Return Your Ballot

You may return the voted ballot by mail, email or fax. Your voted ballot must be postmarked by October 4, 2011 and must be received by October 11, 2011, in order to be counted.

You may fax or email the ballot directly to your local election official. Include ballot, voter affirmation, and cover sheet with secrecy waiver. Fax numbers and email addresses can be found at www.sos.wv.gov/public-services/contacts/Pages/ClerkCountyComm.aspx.

Civilians residing outside the U.S.: Contact your closest U.S. Embassy or consulate for specific instructions on how voted ballots, with proper domestic postage attached, can be returned to the United States from any U.S. embassy or consulate. To locate your nearest U.S. embassy or consulate, visit www.usembassy.gov/.

Additional Information

Find more at: <http://www.fvap.gov/global/news/nr21-2011.html>.

News: Passengers Face Tighter Security At Airports

(from Shanghai Daily, Aug. 29, 2011, by Zha Minjie)

China's civil aviation authority yesterday raised security levels at airports. Passengers are now asked to remove shoes and belts during security checks and more luggage is opened. The Civil Aviation Administration of China didn't give any reason for the increased security and passengers hadn't been notified in advance but there was speculation the move was related to the recent discovery of knives and other banned items at an airport in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Regions in the country's northwest. Similar security measures were put in place during the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing and the World Expo in Shanghai last year.

The sudden imposition of stricter checks caused problems at Beijing Capital International Airport with long queues, arguments and even scuffles breaking out among passengers having to wait a much longer time to get through the security checks. "The longest journey in the world is from the security checkpoint to the boarding gate and the most painful thing in the world is that you finish the journey but the plane door has closed," one passenger complained on his microblog. He missed his flight and had to wait for the next one. Photos posted online showed the airport crowded with passengers in scenes that were described as like a

"busy and noisy railway station during the annual spring rush." Passengers said it took them more than an hour to get through security and about half of them had their luggage opened and subjected to detailed inspections.

There were no problems in Shanghai, however, as more security channels were opened and the checks went smoothly, airport officials said. They said the level of checks was raised according to the requirements of the civil aviation authority but "no passengers missed flights because of the checks." Security staff will not demand that all luggage be checked in order to maintain passenger flow, they said. Normally passengers need to wait no more than 10 minutes before passing through the checks at Pudong International Airport and no more than 15 minutes at Hongqiao International Airport, the officials said. However, airline companies are advising passengers to arrive at airports two to three hours ahead of their departure time rather than the previous one to two hours.

On August 3, security staff at Xinjiang's Urumqi airport found a knife hidden in a water bottle and another one in an umbrella a few days later. Around the same period, other banned items such as inflammable goods and electric shock devices were also seized from passengers.

Forewarned Is Forearmed – SCAMS Endemic To Shanghai

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for an apartment you want to rent and hand over the deposit and first few months rent to who you believe is the landlord. Everything seems legitimate until you return home one night to discover the real landlord in the apartment demanding to know who you are and why you have moved into his apartment. You find that the person you signed the contract with has skipped town with your money and the real estate agent has no recollection of you.

“Black Taxi” – “Where do you want to go?” or “Taxi?” If you get in, make no mistake, you will be grossly over charged and potentially robbed in a secluded area by the driver’s friends. The same goes for motorcycle and moped operators charging for transportation.

“Fake Police” – You are stopped on the road (usually near an area frequented by expats) and asked to show your passport to a person claiming to be a police officer. When you cannot produce your passport, you are asked to pay an on-the-spot fine of RMB500. First, if they are real police they will have no problem with showing you their I.D. when requested. Furthermore, real police officers will go with you to their police station where you will be issued a receipt for the fine.

“Pickpockets” – Typically, a single man or a pair of women with babies strapped to their chests approach you from behind during your walk near a popular tourist area (Nanjing Rd). Unbeknownst to you, they unzip your bag and quickly steal everything that looks expensive. Remember to keep

your bags in front of you and do not place valuables in your back pocket.

“Child Beggars and Flower Sellers” – “Money, money, money!” or “Flowers, Flowers, Flowers!” Money dropped into their cup will be taken by their adult handler (perhaps even their kidnapper) who is exploiting the child and your humanitarian nature. If you want to help, consider offering food instead.

“Buy a Car” scam – A Chinese based website states you can pay 30% of the total cost of the car now through Western Union and the balance upon delivery. In the end you never receive your car or see your money again.

“Black Money” - In order to prevent the theft of U.S. currency being shipped overseas, the U.S. government has a process to coat \$100 bills with a special ink (usually black). I have intercepted one shipment but need your help purchasing a special solvent to “clean” the bills. I am happy to share the proceeds with you. Of course, the process is bogus, and you will lose whatever money you invest.

“Stolen Wallet” – “Hi, my wife and I (dressed nicely) are tourists and had our wallets stolen. Could you please loan us RMB100? When we return home we will send you the money back.” You will not receive any money back and have just been victimized by a con artist.

“Dropped Metro Card” scam – The taxi driver drops your transportation card as he attempts to hand it back to you in the backseat. The next time you go to use it you find the card has a zero balance. What

happened to your money? The taxi driver saw that you had a lot of money on your card and dropped it by his feet to quickly switch it for an empty one. Circumvent this scam by placing a sticker or other clear identifying marker on your transportation card to confirm the card handed back to you is indeed your own.

General Safety Advice

- Shanghai is a big city with big city problems.
- It is not a good idea at home; it is probably not a good idea here.
- If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- Always be aware of your surroundings. Look at the people close to you and watch out for “accidental” nudging and touching.
- Think about leaving valuable and extra cash behind in a safe place when you go out.
- Don’t carry all you valuable, cash, credit cards, etc in one pocket or bag – distribute.
- Enter into your phone: 110 (police) and 962288 (bilingual assistance).

American Citizen Services (ACS) Contact Information

U.S. Consulate General, Shanghai, China
1038 West Nanjing Road, 8/F Westgate Mall
梅龙镇广场 (Méi lóng zhèn guǎngchǎng)
24 Hours Phone: (86-21) 3217-4650
Fax: (86-21) 6217-2071
Email: ShanghaiACS@state.gov
8:00am - 11:30am and 1:30pm - 3:30pm
Monday to Friday *Closed on Wednesday afternoons, weekends, and holidays.
<http://shanghai.usconsulate.gov>

National Security Language Initiative For Youth (NSLI-Y)

The State Department’s National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y) provides merit-based scholarships to U.S. high school students and recent graduates interested in learning less-commonly studied foreign languages.

Eligibility Requirements

All applicants must be:

- A U.S. citizen who is currently enrolled in or just graduated from high school;
- 15-to-18.5 years old at the start of the program;

Languages Offered

There are seven languages: Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), Hindi, Korean, Persian, Russian and Turkish. Read more detailed information about the individual language programs at <http://exchanges.state.gov/youth/programs/nsli/progdetails.html>.

Application Deadline

Applications for 2011/2012 programs (for programs in summer 2011 and continuing through academic year 2011/2012, fall 2011 and spring 2012) closed in November 2010. Applications for 2012/2013 programs (for programs in summer 2012 and continuing through academic year 2012/2013, fall 2012 and spring 2013) will be available in fall 2011.

For more information, please contact American Councils, the current Department of State award recipient, at 1.866.790.2086, by email: nsliy@americancouncils.org, or visit the American Councils’ NSLI-Y website at <http://www.nsliforyouth.org/nslicms-1.1/>.

NSLI-Y Alumni

Shared stories of experiences before, during and after exchange:
<http://exchanges.state.gov/youth/programs/nsli/nsliy-audio.html>.

Still Have Questions?

Visit <http://exchanges.state.gov/youth/programs/nsli/faqs.html>.