



NEWSLETTER

U.S. MISSION IN TURKMENISTAN

PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION

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The United States Embassy Welcomes a New Ambassador to Turkmenistan



*U.S. Ambassador to Turkmenistan
Robert E. Patterson*

Ambassador Robert Patterson arrived in Ashgabat in May, 2011, where he is now the Chief of Mission of the Embassy of the United States of America to Turkmenistan. He was nominated by President Barack Obama on March 3, 2011, and confirmed by the Senate on April 14, 2011. He was sworn in as the U.S. Ambassador to Turkmenistan on April 26, 2011.

Ambassador Patterson is a career officer in the Senior Foreign Service. He has had foreign assignments in Central and Eastern Europe, the North Caucasus, Russia, the USSR, and East Africa since joining the State Department in 1985.

Immediately before coming to Turkmenistan, Ambassador Patterson served as Counselor for Somalia Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya. He has also served as Chief of the Political/Internal Office in Moscow, and has headed the political sections at U.S. embassies in Hungary, Ukraine, and Armenia.

A native of Greensburg, Pennsylvania, Ambassador Patterson received a B.A. degree from Reed College, and M.A. and M.Phil degrees from Columbia University, as well as an M.A. from the U.S. Naval War College. He served in the U.S. Air Force, from which he received an Honorable Discharge in 1974. He speaks Russian, Ukrainian, Hungarian, and German. Ambassador Patterson is married to fellow Foreign Service Officer Inmi Patterson, who is currently the U.S. Consul General in Hamburg, Germany.

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A Message from the New U.S. Ambassador to Turkmenistan Robert E. Patterson: Perspectives of Turkmen-American Relations

As the newly arrived Ambassador of the United States of America in Turkmenistan, the last few months have been ones of great excitement, appreciation, and learning for me. Since May, I have had the honor of representing the people of the United States in Turkmenistan and, with the early opportunity I was given to present my credentials to President Berdimuhamedov, I have had the complementary honor of being very warmly welcomed by the people of Turkmenistan. I am grateful for such an opportunity.

In these brief few months, I have come to value highly the good cooperation between our two countries, and I am confident that the United States and Turkmenistan will be able to accomplish much more in the future.

Among the broad range of issues that feature in our bilateral relationship, three stand out: the significant strengthening of our commercial ties, the intensification of our bilateral dialogue, and the wide-reaching benefits achieved by the volunteerism that I have witnessed here. The past year has seen a significant expansion in commercial ties between Turkmenistan and the United States. In May, more than sixty U.S. companies, with the enthusiastic participation of the Government of Turkmenistan under the patronage of President Berdimuhamedov, took part in the first-ever U.S.-Turkmenistan Business Exhibition here in Ashgabat.

The event was a great success, one that we hope will foster an even stronger commercial relationship. In areas such as high technology, financial services, state-of-the-art manufacturing, agricultural machinery, and the development of natural resources, we believe that American companies can play an important role in providing goods, services, training, and investment to Turkmenistan with the end result of a more diverse and prosperous economy.

This year has also seen a tangible strengthening of our dialogue. The U.S. and Turkmenistan inaugurated annual bilateral consultations on a wide range of issues in June 2010, and earlier this year we held our first mid-

term session, during which we thoroughly discussed issues on our respective agendas. These periodic meetings allow us to have frank discussions on topics as diverse as educational exchanges, regional security, human rights, and the fight against terrorism. Within the framework of these consultations, both sides have a chance to voice their respective points of view in a comprehensive and detailed manner. The ultimate goal of these exchanges is the creation of an even stronger strategic partnership.

We eagerly look forward to hosting the second U.S.-Turkmenistan Annual Bilateral Consultations in Washington, D.C. later this year. Adding to the significance and excitement of that second round will be the concurrent opening of the first-ever Turkmenistan Culture Days in the United States. As you read this, colleagues at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. are working closely with their Government of Turkmenistan counterparts to prepare a festival that will introduce Americans over several days to the extraordinary history and culture of Turkmenistan. We expect this event to be a great success, and I am grateful to the U.S. company Chevron for its willingness to sponsor it.

Finally, I would like to highlight the spirit of volunteerism demonstrated by the Peace Corps in Turkmenistan. Each year scores of young men and women interrupt their careers in the United States to serve as volunteers in Turkmenistan's villages and towns. They come because they care about Turkmenistan and its people. While they are here, they learn as much as they teach.

Through simple, daily interactions in their host villages, the volunteers and their Turkmen counterparts become more familiar with each other. And when they return home, they serve as unofficial ambassadors of the people of Turkmenistan in the United States. We are grateful for the Government of Turkmenistan's continued support of the Peace Corps, which is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary this year, and we believe that the program has contributed greatly to the development of mutual understanding.

Let me close by wishing the people of Turkmenistan prosperity, health, and peace, and by assuring them that we intend to build our bilateral relationship, as President Obama has said, on the foundations of "*mutual interest and mutual respect... as well as the principles of justice and progress, tolerance, and the dignity of all human beings.*"



1961-2011

In 2011, the Peace Corps commemorated 50 years of promoting peace and friendship around the world. The anniversary was marked with a wonderful reception for the American community, Turkmen officials and Peace

Corps volunteers past and present. Since the program was established in Turkmenistan in 1993, over 730 Peace Corps volunteers have served in Turkmenistan. Volunteers work in the areas of education and health, and they teach English and organize and conduct teacher training workshops in current teaching practices and materials development. Volunteers are trained and work in Russian and, primarily, Turkmen.

The American Embassy – Our Year So Far...

In JANUARY - The Embassy Marked the New Year with a Children's Film Festival in Ashgabat



Chargé d'Affaires of the U.S. Embassy Eileen Malloy opens the festival with her remarks

In celebration of the New Year's and Christmas holidays, the Public Affairs Section of the Embassy held a children's film festival at the Turkmenistan Cinema and Concert Hall from January 7-8. Films such as "Madagascar 2," "Night at the Museum 2" and "Hotel for Dogs" were shown in Russian to a packed house. Entrance was free and open to the public.

The Embassy is proud to support such film festivals and similar cultural programs in Turkmenistan to encourage the exchange of ideas and cultural traditions, and in this case especially, to share in the spirit of the New Year's and Christmas season with the people of Turkmenistan.

In FEBRUARY - Stage Pioneer Will Power Performed in Ashgabat During Black History Month



Will Power electrifies the public at the Turkmenistan Cinema and Concert Hall

To mark its annual celebration of Black History Month, the Embassy was fortunate to host a truly unique musical talent in Will Power, an award-winning playwright, composer,

actor and educator. Prominent national media critics in the United States have called him a "dynamic performer" and his work "electrifying." New York magazine has said that Power is "the best verse playwright in America," and The New York Times has said that Power presents "theater with the refreshing aroma of originality." While in Turkmenistan, Power gave a number of school presentations in Turkmenbashi and Ashgabat. In Ashgabat, the audience was literally dancing in the aisles and up on stage.

In FEBRUARY - A Smithsonian Institution Delegation Visited Turkmenistan



Paul Taylor of the Smithsonian Leads a Presentation at the Turkmen National Museum

A delegation from the Smithsonian Institution visited Turkmenistan from February 2-11, when it held a series of meetings and gave presentations at various Turkmen institutions. The group was received at the Ministry of Culture and TV/Radio Broadcasting, the National Administration for Cultural Preservation, the Fine Arts Museum, the Institute of Manuscripts, the Carpet Museum, the Turkmen National Museum, the National Cultural Center, the Institute of Culture, the Mary Regional Museum and other places. The delegation was here working on museum capacity building efforts and to do preliminary work on Turkmen Culture Days, set to be held in Washington, DC at the end of the year.

Founded in 1846, the Smithsonian is the world's largest museum and research complex, consisting of 19 museums and galleries, the National Zoological Park and nine research facilities.



Найди нас по электронной почте:
usembassy-ashgabat@mail.ru

In MARCH - The IRC Hosted "First Time Online for Women" Week



Charge d'Affaires Amb. Eileen Malloy leads a session during "First Time Online for Women" week

The U.S. Embassy began a new program, "First Time Online for Women" week, from March 14–18. This was an innovative week-long Internet training program for Turkmen girls and women who had never been on the Internet. The program was part of the Embassy's activities in recognition of Women's History Month in March. The workshops and training took place at the Embassy's Information Resource Center on the 4th floor of the Ak Altyn Hotel, where the center's staff held free-of-charge introductory classes and tutorials that focused on basic online skills, including using search engines, email and news sites. Time was also set aside for participants to practice their new skills.

In APRIL - The Embassy Helped Turkmen Law Enforcement Officers to Learn English



U.S. Embassy Chargé d'Affaires Ambassador Eileen Malloy tours the English-language training room and reviews new study materials

On April 8, a group of 46 Turkmen law enforcement officials started a seven-month "English Language Training for Turkmen Law

Enforcement Officials" program. The training was funded by the U.S. State Department's International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Bureau. The participants included officials from Turkmenistan's State Customs Service, State Border Service, Ministry of Internal Affairs, State Migration Service, State Counter Narcotics Service, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The program involved both beginners, who were enrolled in a basic course, and alumni of previous training courses who continued their studies in the upper intermediate level.

The students in the program are attending classes three times a week over a seven-month period. In all, the program has trained more than 70 Turkmen law enforcement officers since its launch in 2007. At the end of the course, several top performing students will be invited to participate in a study-tour program to the United States.

In APRIL - USAID and Chevron Trained Over 200 Public Sector Accountants

On April 20, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), in partnership with the Ministry of Finance of Turkmenistan, Chevron Nebitgaz B.V. Turkmenistan and the Union of Economists of Turkmenistan, completed a series of training courses in accounting and financial reporting for 215 accounting specialists from various ministries and agencies in Turkmenistan. These three-month-long courses were part of the Government of Turkmenistan's initiative to retrain chief accountants and other accounting specialists in ministries and state-owned enterprises, in preparation for the implementation of new internationally-compliant national accounting standards in Turkmenistan starting from 2014. This all was set out in the national accounting and auditing reforms program approved by a Turkmen presidential decree in July 2010.

This initiative, implemented by the Economic Reforms to Enhance Competitiveness Project, is one of the many activities made possible by the American people through the USAID. Since 1992, the American people through the USAID have provided over \$90 million in programs that support Turkmenistan's economic growth, social sector, and community initiatives.

Turkmen Alumni Community on
<http://www.facebook.com/turkmenalumni>



In MAY - The First U.S. Business Exhibition Was Held in Turkmenistan



Turkmenistan Foreign Minister Meredov and Juan Verde cut the opening ribbon

The first U.S. Business Exhibition ever held in Turkmenistan opened at the Sergi Koshgi (Exhibition Palace) in Ashgabat on May 19. The event ran for two days, with well over fifty American companies with business interests in Turkmenistan attending. The exhibition showcased top-tier U.S. goods, equipment, services, and manufacturers and provided representatives of U.S. companies with a unique opportunity to meet members of Turkmenistan's government and its business community, while developing contacts that would be mutually beneficial in Turkmenistan's fast-developing marketplace.

The U.S. Government delegation was headed by Department of State Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asian Affairs Geoffrey R. Pyatt and the U.S. Department of Commerce Deputy Assistant Secretary for Europe and Eurasia Juan Verde. Several representatives from a wide spectrum of U.S. Government agencies and offices also attended.

The U.S. Business Exhibition in Turkmenistan was organized jointly by the U.S. Embassy in Turkmenistan and the Turkmen Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

In JUNE - The Melvin Williams Group Toured the Country to Mark American Culture Days



The Melvin Williams group poses in front of the Turkmenistan Cinema and Concert Hall

The modern gospel-based quartet the Melvin Williams Group visited Turkmenistan from June 21-26 as part of the U.S. Embassy's annual American Culture Days celebration. The musical ensemble was making an extensive tour through Russia and Eurasia this summer as part of the Department of State's "Rhythm Road: American Music Abroad" program. Such programs are created to foster mutual understanding between the United States and other nations through American music and culture.

The Melvin Williams Group visited the National Conservatory of Turkmenistan plus several other musical colleges, as well as additional cultural and educational venues in Ashgabat, Turkmenabat and Dashoguz. In these cities the group conducted presentations and workshops on the historical influence of traditional American gospel music and on preserving its history. The full-house performances were free and open to the public.

Watch Us on YouTube

Search for **IRC Ashgabat** or type this link
<http://www.youtube.com/user/IRCAsgabat>

In JULY - Turkmen Kids Enjoyed a Month-long, Multi-city Film Festival



Information Officer Bradley McGuire and local children at the Mary Drama Theater

To celebrate the lighter side of summer, throughout July the Embassy hosted a series of children's film screenings in five different cities. Four films were shown in Ashgabat, Balkanabat, Dashoguz, Mary and Turkmenabat over two-day movie marathons. With movies dubbed into Russian, children, their friends and families enjoyed "Brother Bear," "Cars 2," "Old Dogs," "Planet 51," plus a one-time screening in Ashgabat of "the Social Network."

In AUGUST - Ambassador Patterson Wished the People of Turkmenistan a Happy Ramadan



"ORAZA BAYRAMYŇYZ KABUL BOLSUN!"

My name is Robert Patterson and I am the United States Ambassador to Turkmenistan. In my position, I have the honor of representing the American people – a people of many nationalities and many faiths.

The United States is the home of many thriving and vibrant Muslim communities – communities that can be found in all fifty states. People in these communities, much like yourselves, are now enjoying the season of Ramadan – a very special time of year. On their behalf, and on the behalf of every American, I want to extend my best wishes to you, the people of Turk-

menistan, for a happy and blessed Ramadan.

Ramadan is a time when Muslims reflect upon the wisdom and guidance that comes with faith, and the responsibility that human beings have to one another, and to God.

Like many people of different faiths who have known Ramadan through our communities and families, I know this to be a festive time – a time when families gather, friends host iftars, and meals are shared. But I also know that Ramadan is a time of intense devotion and reflection – a time when many Turkmen fast during the day and perform prayers at night, reciting and listening to the entire Koran over the course of the month.

These rituals remind us all of the principles that we hold in common, and of Islam's role in advancing justice, progress, tolerance, and the dignity of all human beings.

This year, in his Ramadan message to the world, President Barack Obama reflected on such shared values, and the role that religion plays in our societies. He said that "times like this remind us of the lesson of all great faiths, including Islam – that we do unto others as we would have them do unto us."

I come from a country where, although Muslims are not the majority, they are a key component of our nation's identity and our nation's success. The United States is a land of nearly 2,000 mosques and almost two million Muslims. Today I want to join with those millions, and with you, the people of Turkmenistan, and with the 1.5 billion Muslims around the world – and of course your families and friends – in wishing you a wonderful Ramadan, and a blessed month.

Study of the United States Institute (SUSI)

http://www.turkmenistan.usembassy.gov/american_studies.html

Deadline: December 16, 2011.

Applications can be picked up from the Public Affairs Section, 4th floor, Ak Altyn Hotel.

Applications can be submitted by e-mail or in person. For additional information, please, e-mail

AshgabatEducation@state.gov

A complete description of the SUSI program is available at:

<http://www.exchanges.state.gov/academicexchanges/scholars.html>

In SEPTEMBER - Turkmenistan Was Awarded Funding for Two New AFCP Projects



Sultan Tekesh Mausoleum: The dome's decorative outer shell was reconstructed in 2006

Established by Congress in 2001, the Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP) aims to assist countries in preserving their cultural heritage, and Turkmenistan is one of the most active participants in the program. Over the past nine years, the U.S. Government has supported thirteen projects here worth more than \$350,000 to preserve historically important cultural sites and objects in Turkmenistan. In September, Ambassador Patterson announced:

Completion of One AFCP Project

Conservation of the 9th-10th century Shir-Kebir (Mashad Ata) Mosque. This program ran from September 25, 2009 - September 25, 2010.

Ongoing Work on Two AFCP Projects.

Conservation and restoration of Turkmen manuscripts, Stage II. This program ran from September 20, 2007 - September 25, 2011.

Installation at the National Library of rare and valuable book conservation and restoration equipment. This program will run from September 25, 2009 - September 25, 2012.

Two New AFCP Projects

Continued funding for the preservation of the Ismamut-Ata Monument, Phase 2. The project will be done in conjunction with the Institute of History to continue research, restoration, and conservation of the monument. This program will run from August 30, 2011 - December 31, 2012.

Restoration of the Majolica Tombstone in the 14th -century Mausoleum of Najm-ad-Din al-Kubra in Kunya Urgench. This program will run from August 30, 2011 - December 31, 2012.

Additionally, this year, based on an additional grant program, \$59,000 will be spent on restoration of the Kyz Gala castle in ancient Merv.

In SEPTEMBER - Friends Could Meet & Greet U.S. Ambassador Robert Patterson



Ambassador Robert Patterson talking to his new Mail.ru friends

The U.S. Ambassador in Turkmenistan Robert Patterson held a "Meet & Greet" event with the Embassy's Mail.ru friends on the evening of September 19. Visitors had an opportunity to talk to the Ambassador and get a few photos with him. In addition, our friends got to know more about the Embassy's Information Resource Center, where the event was held. A number of other Embassy officers talked at the event too, including the U.S. Consul and the head of the Embassy's Human Resources Department. Representatives of the American Councils for International Education, one of the Embassy's key implementing partners, came as well to talk about their programs.

Community Solutions - Professional Fellowship for Community Leaders

For more information visit <http://www.irex.org/application/community-solutions-information-applicants> or email csp@irex.org

The deadline for applications f is 23:59 pm EST, Monday, November 7, 2011.

In OCTOBER - A U.S. Expert in Science and Research Capacity Development Visited Turkmenistan

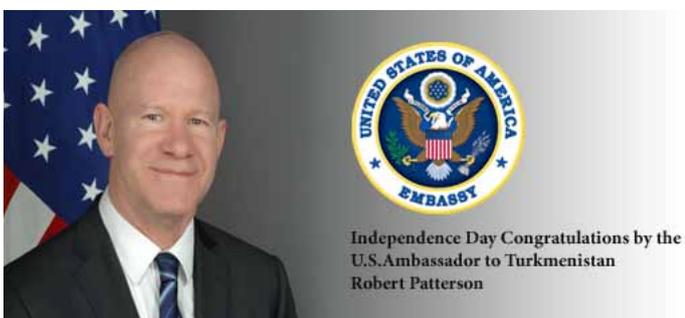


Dr. Pifer speaks with students from the Turkmen State Energy Institute in Mary

Marilyn Pifer, Ph.D., a noted expert in science and research capacity development, visited Turkmenistan from September 24-October 1, 2011. She was here to discuss potential future cooperation between U.S. and Turkmen scientists and researchers.

Dr. Pifer's program in Turkmenistan included a variety of meetings with Turkmen government officials, researchers, and students, including visits to the Ministry of Education, Academy of Sciences, Polytechnic Institute, Research Institute of Physics and Mathematics, Oil and Gas Research Institute, "Sun" Research Institute, and the Turkmen State Energy Institute in Mary.

In OCTOBER - We Celebrated Turkmen Independence



Hello, my name is Robert Patterson and I am the U.S. Ambassador to Turkmenistan. On behalf of the United States government, let me offer my heartfelt congratulations to the people of Turkmenistan on your 20th anniversary of independence.

Over the past twenty years, Turkmenistan has achieved a great deal economically. Visitors to Ashgabat from the United States regularly marvel at the transformations that have

occurred in your capital, Ashgabat. No less impressive have been Turkmenistan's efforts to develop its identity and preserve its autonomy in a challenging part of the world.

As Turkmenistan develops and prospers it is playing an ever more vital role in the development of the important Central Asian region. Your President, President Berdimuhamedov, has pursued a clear policy of "positive neutrality," that has allowed your country to cultivate good, constructive relations both with its neighbors and with countries very far from Turkmenistan, such as the United States.

The United States highly values Turkmenistan's contributions to regional stability and economic integration. We agree with your government that closer regional cooperation will foster stability and promote prosperity, and we are eager to work with Turkmenistan in further integrating the free flow of energy, goods, and information.

Among the projects that President Berdimuhamedov has launched and that we believe has great regional potential is the Turkmenistan - Afghanistan - Pakistan - India gas pipeline or TAPI. When built, Turkmenistan's enormous gas reserves should benefit the economies of its regional partners Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India, and we hope that revenues from the sales of gas will further improve the standard of living of the people of Turkmenistan.

Although the United States and Turkmenistan are of one mind about further peaceful regional integration, our relationship is not confined to that alone. Our countries have a growing commercial relationship, as was evidenced by the May 2011 U.S. Business Exhibition in Ashgabat. Our governments have also been working hard to acquaint our citizens with each others' cultures.

In fact, as Turkmenistan celebrates its independence, preparations are underway in Washington D.C. to host the first-ever Turkmen Culture Days in the United States. These Culture days will be a superb opportunity for the people of the United States to learn about Turkmenistan's amazing achievements since independence, as well as to acquaint themselves with Turkmenistan's rich culture. My country very much looks forward to showcasing the very best that your country has to offer from centuries past, and to partnering with you in the years to come.

Again, all my best to you on the eve of your 20th anniversary of independence. I wish you and your loved ones prosperity, health, and peace.