

JANUARY 2011

The U.S. Embassy in Hanoi and U.S. Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City are transmitting the following monthly newsletter via the travel registration system as a public service to U.S. citizens in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. Please disseminate this message broadly to other U.S. citizens.

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1. Changes To Consular Reports of Birth Abroad

The Department of State is pleased to announce the introduction of a redesigned Consular Report of Birth Abroad (CRBA, or Form FS-240). The redesigned CRBA, which is an official record confirming that a child born abroad to a U.S. citizen parent or parents acquired U.S. citizenship at birth and serves as proof of citizenship, has been updated with a variety of state-of-the-art security features to help prevent fraud and identity theft.

Beginning January 18, 2011, overseas posts will still document the citizenship of children born overseas to U.S.-citizen parents, but the CRBAs will be printed at our passport agencies in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and New Orleans, Louisiana, using the information provided by overseas posts. By centralizing production and eliminating the distribution of controlled blank stock throughout the world, we will help ensure uniform quality and lessen the possibility of fraud. Additionally, the Department will no longer issue the DS-1350 Certification of Report of Birth Abroad. Instead, the Department will simply provide new FS-240s in response to requests for additional, replacement, or amended CRBAs.

In order to upgrade our systems for this change, the Embassy and Consulate are suspending CRBA printing from January 1 through January 18, 2011. CRBA applications submitted during this time will be issued after January 18.

Post will continue to interview applicants on a reduced schedule during this time. From now through February, the processing time from approval to receipt of a CRBA and related passport may be up to two months. Post will make every effort to issue CRBAs and passports in a timely manner and accommodate any travel emergency.

2. ACS Visit to Da Nang

Officials from the American Citizen Services section in Ho Chi Minh City will offer consular services in Da Nang on January 20. A consular officer will be available on Thursday, January 20, from 9:00 am - noon at the Green Plaza Hotel, 238 Bach Dang, Da Nang.

Consulate officials will offer notarial services, deliver federal benefits checks, and American citizens will

be able to apply for U.S. passports.

At this time, officials will not be interviewing for consular reports of birth abroad. Also, visa and immigration services will not be provided. Only the services listed above will be available during the visit to Da Nang. For additional information concerning applying for U.S. passports and notary services please see our website at: http://hochiminh.usconsulate.gov/gen_citizenservices.html.

3. Holiday Closures

The Embassy and Consulate will be closed on the following days:

December 24, 2010 (Friday) Christmas Day (U.S. observed)
December 31, 2010 (Friday) New Year's day (U.S. observed)
January 3, 2011 (Monday) New Year's Day (Vietnam observed)
January 17, 2011 (Monday) Martin Luther King Day

Please be advised that the days just before and after a holiday are usually exceptionally busy in the American Citizen Services Unit. Do not be surprised at a longer wait for consular services on those days.

A complete list of all of our holiday closings for 2010/2011 is available on-line at <http://vietnam.usembassy.gov/holidays.html>.

4. Travel Warnings

The U.S. Department of State has recently issued travel alerts or travel warnings for the following countries and regions:

Travel Alerts:

[Indonesia](#) 11/10/2010
[Europe - Terrorism](#) 10/03/2010

Travel Warnings:

[Cote d'Ivoire](#) 12/19/2010
[Haiti](#) 12/09/2010
[Mauritania](#) 12/08/2010
[Chad](#) 12/08/2010
[Central African Republic](#) 12/06/2010
[Guinea](#) 12/03/2010
[Congo, Democratic Republic of the](#) 11/25/2010
[Colombia](#) 11/10/2010
[Iraq](#) 11/05/2010
[Burundi](#) 11/04/2010
[Philippines](#) 11/02/2010
[Nigeria](#) 10/19/2010
[Yemen](#) 10/15/2010
[Lebanon](#) 10/08/2010
[Iran](#) 10/08/2010
[Sudan](#) 10/01/2010

For additional information about these and other travel alerts and warnings, please go to this site:
http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html.

5. Smart Traveler Enrollment Program

We encourage all U.S. citizens traveling or residing in Vietnam to sign up with the U.S. Citizen Services unit. The information you supply will allow us to communicate with you and assist you in case of an emergency. Enrollment is not required but is strongly recommended. You may enroll register online using the State Department's secure online travel registration website at <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/>. (In accordance with the Privacy Act, the Department of State may not release information on your welfare or whereabouts to inquirers without your express written authorization.)

6. Embassy and Consulate Location and Office Hours

American Citizen Services
[U.S. Embassy in Hanoi](#)
170 Ngoc Khanh, Ba Dinh District
Hanoi, Vietnam

Email: acshanoi@state.gov
Telephone: (84-4) 3850-5000 ext. 6133 or 6103
Fax: (84-4) 3850-5010

Notarial services, passport services, and other services: Monday - Friday, 8:00 - 11:30 a.m.
Consular Report of Birth Abroad by appointment only (please visit our webpage for appointment information).

American Citizen Services
[U.S. Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City](#)
4 Le Duan, District 1
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Email: acshcmc@state.gov
Telephone: (84-8) 3520-4200
Fax: (84-8) 3520-4244

Notarial services, passport services, and other services: Monday - Thursday, 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Consular Report of Birth Abroad by appointment only (please visit our webpage for appointment information).