

Apr - Jun 2015

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



Let's Stay in Touch!



In an effort to improve our ability to communicate with you, the American Citizen Services section is now on Twitter! Follow us online [@KSA_ACS](#).

Stay tuned for tweets regarding security messages, appointment information, services to Americans, and events. Tell your fellow U.S citizens!

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Upcoming Holiday Closures

May 24, 2015 - Memorial Day

A complete list of all of our holiday closings for 2015 is available on-line at:

<http://riyadh.usembassy.gov/holidays.html>

How to Reach Us

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

Public hours: Sunday through Thursday, 1:00pm-3:00pm

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

Phone: (966)(11)488-3800

US Consulate Jeddah
Public hours: Sunday through Thursday, 1:00-3:00pm

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

Phone: (966)(12)667-0080

US Consulate Dhahran
Public hours: Sunday through Thursday, 1:00-3:30 pm

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

Phone: (966)(13) 330-3200



Warden Program

In addition to the STEP program, our emails, newsletters, and tweets, the American Citizen Services section uses a "Warden System" to pass messages to American citizens. Wardens are American citizens living in Saudi Arabia who volunteer to pass messages from the Embassy to all Americans within their sphere of influence. Wardens are also occasionally called upon to help Americans in need if the Embassy or Consulate cannot reach them.

This is a great way to serve your country from abroad. If you are interested in serving as a warden, please email RiyadhACS@state.gov if you are in the center of Saudi Arabia, JeddahACS@state.gov for the western part of Saudi, and DhahranACS@state.gov for the Eastern Province.

If you do not know who the warden is for your company, your compound, or your city, send us an email and we will let you know.

Yemen Crisis

Due to the security situation, the State Department had to evacuate our Embassy in Yemen on February 11. We don't have any American consular officers in Yemen and so we are not able to assist U.S. citizens to leave the country at this time. **There are no plans for a U.S. government-sponsored evacuation of U.S. citizens right now.** We encourage American citizens in Yemen to keep monitoring the news, watch for the airport to re-open and flights to resume, and seek any available departure options possible, via air, land, or sea.

You can find more information on our [Yemen Crisis webpage](#), in our [Travel Warning for Yemen](#), and in our [Country Specific Information for Yemen](#). If we have any updates, we will post the information on these websites. If you have any further questions, please email YemenEmergencyUSC@state.gov

Taxpayers Receiving Identity Verification Letter Should Use IDVerify.irs.gov



March 18, 2015 : WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service today reminded taxpayers who receive requests from the IRS to verify their identities that the Identity Verification Service website, idverify.irs.gov, offers the fastest, easiest way to complete the task.

Taxpayers may receive a letter when the IRS stops suspicious tax returns that have indications of being identity theft but contains a real taxpayer's name and/or Social Security number. Only those taxpayers receiving Letter 5071C should access idverify.irs.gov.

The website will ask a series of questions that only the real taxpayer can answer.

Once the identity is verified, the taxpayers can confirm whether or not they filed the return in question. If they did not file the return, the IRS can take steps at that time to assist them. If they did file the return, it will take approximately six weeks to process it and issue a refund.

Letter 5071C is mailed through the U.S. Postal Service to the address on the return. It asks taxpayers to verify their identities in order for the IRS to complete processing of the returns if the taxpayers did file it or reject the returns if the taxpayers did not file it. The IRS does not request such information via email, nor will the IRS call a taxpayer directly to ask this information without you receiving a letter first. The letter number can be found in the upper corner of the page.

The letter gives taxpayers two options to contact the IRS and confirm whether or not they filed the return. Taxpayers may use the idverify.irs.gov site or call a toll-free number on the letter. Because of the high-volume on the toll-free numbers, the IRS-sponsored website, idverify.irs.gov, is the safest, fastest option for taxpayers with web access.

Taxpayers should have available their prior year tax return and their current year tax return, if they filed one, including supporting documents, such as Forms W-2 and 1099 and Schedules A and C.

Taxpayers also may access idverify.irs.gov through www.irs.gov by going to [Understanding Your 5071C Letter](#) or the [Understanding Your IRS Notice or Letter](#) page. The tool is also available in [Spanish](#). Taxpayers should always be aware of tax scams, efforts to solicit personally identifiable information and IRS impersonations. However, idverify.irs.gov is a secure, IRS-supported site that allows taxpayers to verify their identities quickly and safely.

IRS.gov is the official IRS website. Always look for a URL ending with ".gov" — not ".com," ".org," ".net," or other nongovernmental URLs.

Prepare for the 2015 Tax Filing Season

The 2015 tax filing season is here, and All U.S. citizens and resident aliens must file a U.S. individual income tax return for 2014, even if they permanently live outside the United States and may not owe any tax because of income exclusion or tax credit. 2014 Federal Tax Returns are due on April 15, 2015.

If you are a U.S. citizen or resident alien, the rules for filing income, estate, and gift tax returns and paying estimated tax are generally the same whether you are in the United States or abroad. Your worldwide income is subject to U.S. income tax, regardless of where you reside.

If you are a U.S. citizen or resident alien residing overseas, or are in the military on duty outside the U.S., on the regular due date of your return, you are allowed an automatic 2-month extension to file your return and pay any amount due without requesting an extension. For a calendar year return, the automatic 2-month extension is to June 15. If you qualify for this 2-month extension, penalties for paying any tax late are assessed from the 2-month extended due date of the payment (June 15 for calendar year taxpayers).

However, even if you are allowed an extension, you will have to pay interest on any tax not paid by the regular due date of your return (April 15 for calendar year taxpayers).

The Department of State also has more information for taxpayers living abroad at: http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/abroad/legal-matters/benefits.html#headerandtext_5

Information on state tax forms www.irs.gov/Forms-&-Pubs

The IRS' International Taxpayer Service Call Center is open M-F 6:00-23:00 (Eastern Time) Telephone (267)-941-1000 (not a toll-free call) Fax (267) 941-1055

The U.S. Embassy or Consulate is unable to provide tax advice or assistance.

The State Department's Role in a Crisis

The actions we take depend on the nature of the crisis. In some instances, we may only need to provide information on conditions in the country, such as warning about areas of unrest, how and where to seek help, and other useful advice.

In more serious situations, we may recommend that U.S. citizens leave the foreign country, and, if commercial transportation is not available, provide departure assistance, as our resources permit.

Learn more: <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/emergencies/crisis-support.html>



Overseas Citizen Voter

Overseas citizen voters face a specific set of challenges while voting absentee. Here we will provide you the information and contacts you need to successfully cast an absentee ballot.

Absentee Voting Overview

FVAP encourages the use of the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) to start the absentee voting process. The FPCA acts as both a registration and absentee ballot request form. FVAP encourages all overseas citizens to submit a new FPCA every year and when they move. You can complete an FPCA using our easy-to-use online assistant, by selecting your State or territory of legal residence on the map to get started. The online assistant will allow you to register to vote and request your ballot for upcoming elections. The assistant will guide you through the questions on the form and produce a printable form for you. Note, you must print the form, sign it, and send it to your State according to your State's rules. It is not an online registration tool.

Voter Registration and Ballots

FVAP encourages the use of the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) to start the absentee voting process. The FPCA acts as both a registration and absentee ballot request form. As rules vary by State, FVAP encourages overseas citizen voters to submit a new FPCA every year and, most importantly, when they move.

Never Resided in the U.S.?

Click [here](#) to see if you're eligible to vote absentee. FVAP also offers [Additional Information](#) and [Resources](#) for overseas citizens.

Social Security Anti-Fraud Campaign

REPORT FRAUD

One of our biggest and most important responsibilities to you, the American public, is protecting your investment while continuing to provide world-class service. Preventing and combatting Social Security fraud is something we take very seriously, and we have several tools in place to help us succeed. I am proud to share this web site with you to help get the word out about everything Social Security does to fight fraud.

Because the agency's benefit programs are so far-reaching and complex, we face the ongoing challenge of protecting the programs from fraud. To meet this challenge, we work closely with our Office of the Inspector General (OIG), which Congress has designated as the agency lead for fraud detection and prevention.

Social Security aggressively investigates allegations of fraud and aggressively pursues prosecution of people who commit fraud. Our message to those who attempt to defraud Social Security is clear: We will find you; we will prosecute you; we will seek the maximum punishment under the law; and we will fight to restore the money you've stolen from the American people.

Please take time to learn all the facts on how we protect you and work tirelessly to pursue and eliminate fraud! You play a key role in protecting your investment in Social Security. If you suspect fraud, report it to the OIG online at <http://oig.ssa.gov/report>, or you can call the Social Security Fraud Hotline at 1-800-269-0271



U.S. Citizen Services

Monthly Off-Site Services Now Available in Jubail

After two successful trips in February and March 2015, Consulate General Dhahran is pleased to announce monthly services for American Citizens in the Jubail area. The Consular section will be on-site in Jubail each month to provide a variety of by-appointment services including accepting minor passport applications, requests for additional passport pages, Consular Reports of Birth Abroad, and notarial services.

American Citizens in Jubail should contact the American Citizen Services Unit by email at DhahranACS@state.gov to schedule an appointment. Once received, American Citizens requesting services will be contacted directly by email from the American Citizen Services Unit confirming the details of their appointment. Dates and the location of the off-site services will not be announced publicly in advance.

The Consulate looks forward to engaging all our constituents in Jubail and the surrounding areas, and to extending our off-site services to other areas of the Eastern Province with growing American Citizen populations, including Ras Tanura, in the coming months.

"Get in STEP" to receive the ACS Newsletter - Spread the Word!

Please remind your American friends to enroll in the U.S. State Department's free Smart Traveler Enrollment Program <https://step.state.gov/step/> 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.



In addition, the Newsletter is a helpful resource for the latest voting news, IRS changes, and other activities concerning

Americans living in Saudi Arabia. Another benefit is that if you move to another country, updating your enrollment in STEP ensures you continue to get timely information for your new country of residence!

STEP is also an important tool that consular officers around the world use during crises to distribute up to date information on emergency situations so that travelers like you can make informed decisions regarding their safety.

Leaving Saudi Arabia?

If you no longer live in or travel to Saudi Arabia, or you need to update your registration status so that you no longer receive travel updates and our ACS Newsletter, please go to the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#).

Updating your status in [STEP](#) will remove you from the mailing list for this newsletter and other Embassy Messages for U.S. citizens traveling to or living in Saudi Arabia .

If you encounter any difficulties or have any questions about our travel registration website, please send an e-mail to CASTEP@state.gov.

Please see the updated Travel Warning for Saudi Arabia dated Feb 24, 2015 :

<http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/alertswarnings/saudi-arabia-travel-warning.html>

Please see Saudi Arabia's updated Country Specific Information

Nov 2014 : <http://www.travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/country/saudi-arabia.html>

Reminder – Appointment Required for All ACS Services

In order to reduce your wait time and serve you more efficiently, the American Citizen Services Unit uses an online appointment system for all routine services.

This includes passport renewals for adults and minors, reports of birth abroad, adding visa pages, and notarials. If you have an urgent, unforeseen need to travel, such as a death or illness, please contact us at RiyadhACS@state.gov

Friendly Reminder: Every day we have a number of no-shows for routine services. If you make an appointment and find you cannot keep it, please log back into the appointment system and cancel the appointment so that the appointment slot will be available to another applicant.

Please note that we cannot book appointments over the phone. To make or cancel an appointment, please visit the U.S Citizen Services Appointment System: <https://evisaforms.state.gov/acs/default.asp?postcode=RID&appcode=1>

**Internet Dating and Romance Scams**

U.S. citizens should be aware of individuals they meet on internet dating websites who feign friendship, profess romantic interest, and/or express marriage intentions over the internet.

For more information on internet dating and romance scams, including some keys signs of such scams and tips to protect yourself from scammers, please visit: <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/emergencies/scams/dating.html>

Travel safety Tips : <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/go/safety.html>



Please see the all Messages for U.S citizens here:
<http://riyadh.usembassy.gov/amcitmessages.html>

Memorial Day

Celebrate on: Last Monday in May

This holiday, on the fourth Monday of every May, is a day on which Americans honor those who have served in the armed forces and have passed away. Originally a day on which flags and flowers were placed on graves of soldiers who died in the American Civil War, it has become a day on which the dead of all wars and all other dead are remembered the same way.



In 1971, along with other holidays, President Richard Nixon declared Memorial Day a federal holiday on the last Monday in May. Cities all around the United States hold their own ceremonies on the last Monday in May to pay respect to the men and women who have died in wars or in the service of their country. In many communities, special ceremonies are held in cemeteries or at monuments for the war dead by veterans of military services. Some hold parades and others hold memorial services or special programs in churches, schools or other public meeting places.

On Memorial Day, the President or Vice President of the United States gives a speech and lays a wreath on the tombs. Members of the armed forces shoot a rifle salute in the air. Veterans and families come to lay their own wreaths and say prayers. It is a day of reflection.

Kids Corner



I am a Social Security Card.

I am red, white and blue. You should have a card with your own special number, which will be the same number for life.

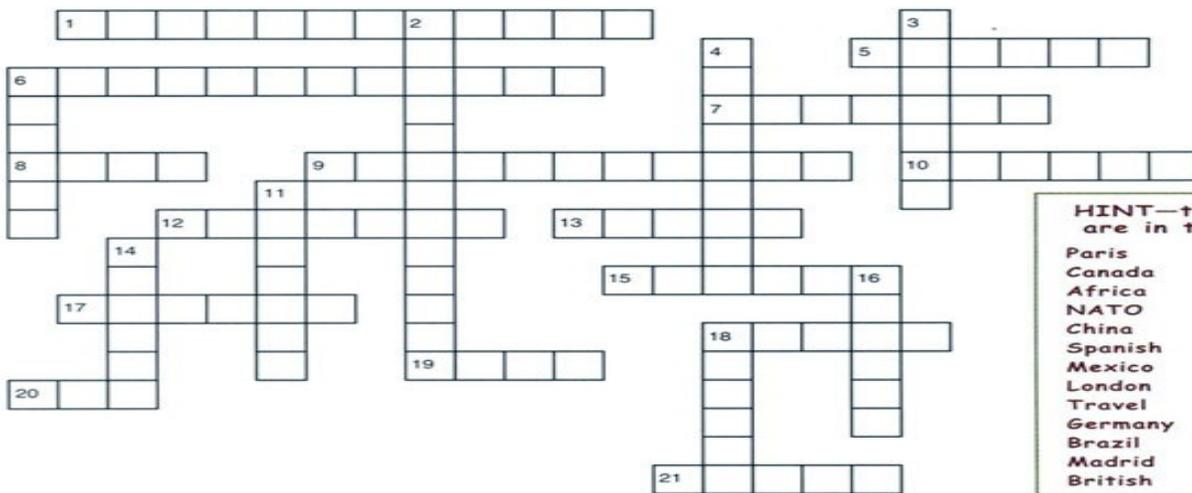
Your parents could have gotten you a card when you were born. Ask your parents if they got you a card. If you do not have a card have your parents apply for one for you.

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.



Use the clues to fill in the words in the crossword puzzle.



HINT—these words are in the puzzle:

- | | |
|---------|----------------|
| Paris | USA |
| Canada | South America |
| Africa | Australia |
| NATO | Buenos Aires |
| China | Maple |
| Spanish | Capital |
| Mexico | Mount Everest |
| London | Iraq |
| Travel | Ankara |
| Germany | European Union |
| Brazil | |
| Madrid | |
| British | |

ACROSS

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Continent where Ecuador, Chile, and Brazil can be found | 13. Type of tree leaf found on the Canadian flag |
| 5. Capital of Spain | 15. To go to other places |
| 6. Highest mountain in the world | 17. Largest country in South America |
| 7. Most commonly spoken language in Central and South America | 18. Country with the largest number of people in the world |
| 8. Country whose capital is Baghdad | 19. North Atlantic Treaty Organization |
| 9. Capital of Argentina | 20. Country whose flag contains thirteen stripes and fifty stars |
| 10. Capital of Turkey | 21. Capital of France |
| 12. Country in which Berlin is the capital | |

DOWN

- | | |
|--|--|
| 2. Organization of European countries that uses the same money, the Euro | 11. People in the United Kingdom are called this |
| 3. City where the central government of a country is located | 14. Continent south of Europe |
| 4. Only country in the world that is also an entire continent | 16. Capital of the United Kingdom |
| 6. USA's Spanish-speaking neighbor | 18. Neighbor to the north of the United States |