



U.S. EMBASSY NEWSLETTER

July-September Issue

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Ambassador Yovanovitch and Chief of Police Alik Sargsyan at the donation ceremony

On July 17, the USG donated computer and radio equipment and a vehicle to the National Police Unit to Combat Trafficking–in–Persons. Purchased by the International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Office, the new equipment and vehicle will assist the Unit to carry out operations and searches; to compile, process and preserve sensitive information and databases on trafficking cases and traffickers; and to protect victims from potential threats during the investigation of cases.



Prepared by Public Affairs Section

Embassy Volunteers Help Family Build Their Home

Ambassador Yovanovitch and Embassy volunteers joined the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia Global Builders international volunteers' team from New Jersey to build a house with the Arshakyan family in Haytagh Community, Armavir region. The idea of serving those in need of



housing brought together volunteers from all parts of the world. The assistance of embassy personnel and overseas volunteers gave the family hope for a better future and to become fully integrated into their community.

"Volunteerism is key to creating community spirit," said the Ambassador.

U.S. Recognizes Service in Iraq

On July 21, Ambassador Yovanovitch recognized the contributions of Armenia's Peacekeeping Brigade to "Operation Iraqi Freedom" and to KFOR in Kosovo. About 30 Armenian peacekeepers were awarded medals for their service. Defense Minister Seiran Ohanian and Major General Tod M. Bunting also took part in the ceremony.

Ambassador Yovanovitch and Major General Bunting hand an award to an Armenian peacekeeper



Prepared by Public Affairs Section

Adjutant General of the Kansas National Guard visits Armenia

Major General Tod M. Bunting, the Adjutant General of the Kansas National Guard, visited Armenia from July 20 to July 24 in connection with the longstanding partnership between the Kansas Army and Air National Guard and Armenia. During his visit, General Bunting met with Minister of Defense General Seiran Ohanian. The Major General, and educators from Kansas who accompanied him, met with the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Ministry of Health to discuss areas of cooperation between institutions of higher education in Armenia and the United States.



Major General Tod Bunting, Adjutant General of the Kansas National Guard lays a wreath at the Tsitsernakaberd Memorial.

The Kansas National Guard has had a State Partnership Program with the Republic of Armenia since 2003. During the course of that time, the Kansas National Guard has spent millions of dollars in assisting Armenia in areas ranging from dental care for rural communities, to training in land mine clearance and disaster response.

Embassy Yerevan Hosts Armenian and Turkish Youth Exchange, "Tolerance through Cultural and Educational Dialogue"



On July 29, Ambassador Yovanovitch and Public Affairs staff met with 30 youth participants from Armenia and Turkey to celebrate "Tolerance through Cultural and Educational Dialogue." The celebration took place on U.S. Embassy grounds and featured speeches, group projects and the sharing of traditional dances from each country. The project, coordinated by the Future is Yours NGO and funded by a U.S. Embassy Democracy Commission grant, aimed at building ties between

Armenian and Turkish youth through information sharing, education and dialogue. Over a five month period, students discussed cross-border initiatives, regional stability, democracy building, and conflict resolution, while sharing information about their cultures.

Matthew Bryza Visits Armenia



DAS Bryza speaks at Euroforum Armenia

On August 7-9, U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State and OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair Matthew Bryza visited Armenia. During his visit, he spoke to Armenian and European youths at Euroforum Armenia in Tsakhkadzor, where he addressed regional and bilateral issues and responded to questions from participants and members of the press.



DAS Bryza responds to the reporters' questions

Stanley Jordan “Wows” Armenian Audiences

The U.S. Embassy showcased Grammy-nominated guitar virtuoso and jazz fusion musician Stanley Jordan from August 11-13, 2009 in Yerevan. Jordan and his trio participated in a jam session with distinguished Armenian musicians, gave several media interviews and a press conference, and led a master class with young music students. The trio



attended a reception held by Ambassador Yovanovitch, where they played an impromptu set with four well-known jazz musicians. The Stanley Jordan trio performed on their final evening to a standing-room-only crowd of over 1200 at Armenia’s Opera Theatre. The concert featured

a surprise appearance by Armenian pianist Vahagn Hayrapetian, earning the musicians repeated standing ovations. With the Stanley Jordan Trio, the U.S. Embassy marks its 8th year featuring accomplished American jazz musicians in Armenia, highlighting the mutual appreciation of jazz in both countries.



Peace Corps Volunteers Swearing-in Ceremony in Charentsavan

Peace Corps Armenia was established in 1992 at the invitation of the Government of Armenia. Since that time, more than 600 Peace Corps volunteers have served in Armenia.



A Peace Corps volunteer shares his impressions of Armenia

On August 13, Ambassador Marie L. Yovanovitch participated in the swearing-in ceremony for the seventeenth group of volunteers serving in Armenia. During the event, 44 Peace Corps Trainees demonstrated their knowledge of the Armenian language and culture. They performed Armenian songs and shared their experiences with their host families during their first weeks of training. Government officials and other representatives from international and local organizations attended the Ceremony and were impressed with the enthusiasm of the volunteers.

APAO Interviewed by Public Radio on "20 Years of Partnership"

On August 19, Assistant Public Affairs Officer Susan Bridenstine was interviewed by Armenian Public Radio within the framework of the Embassy's "20 Years of Partnership" campaign. During the interview, she discussed the various educational and cultural programs implemented in the last 20 years. In addition, the broad radio audience was introduced to the numerous educational exchange programs, as well as recent and upcoming cultural events carried out by the Public Affairs Section.

Susan cited the Embassy website, as well as several partner NGOs, including IREX and American Councils, as primary sources of information for all interested applicants of education exchange programs. The interview was part of a broader radio program focusing on the "20 Years of Partnership" between the U.S. and Armenia.



Ambassador Yovanovitch Visits Tavush Marz

Ambassador Yovanovitch traveled to Armenia's Tavush Region on August 21 and visited several agricultural projects funded by USAID, USDA and the Millennium Challenge Corporation. At one project, farmers in Tavush are able to see



firsthand how drip irrigation works at a fruit tree nursery. The farmers are also learning more about other agricultural technologies that will allow them to grow high yield/high value crops.

U.S. Government Provides Water to 100,000 People in Ararat

On August 26, Ambassador Yovanovitch, Speaker of the National Assembly Hovik Abrahamian, and the Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II marked the successful completion of the \$3.16 million USAID Artashat Water Supply Project and formally handed over the reservoirs to the Armenian Water Company. As a result, about 100,000 residents of Artashat town and 27 surrounding villages will benefit from a significantly safer water supply that will now be available year round.



"I am confident that the project will significantly improve the health and well-being of people in this area and will support the Government of Armenia in its efforts to foster economic development of the regions outside of Yerevan."

-U.S. Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch

*Participants of “Let’s Learn Tolerance Through English”
at the U.S. Embassy*



On July 31, teenagers and teachers who participated in the international camp “Let’s Learn Tolerance through English” in Canakkale, Turkey, met with Ambassador Yovanovitch and members of the Armenian press to talk about their experience. The aim of the camp, in which 15 Armenian, 19 Turkish and 10 American students aged 14-17 took part, was to help the students and teachers to communicate across cultural boundaries and understand each other better through interactive programs using multi-cultural literature from the United States to teach English. Students were given opportunities to learn English and learn about each other’s respective cultures. Ambassador Yovanovitch emphasized during her meeting that the normalization of Armenian and Turkish relations is very important for the region, and that the U.S. hopes to see tangible progress.

Embassy Shows Thanks To Community on 9/11



Local TV station interviews Ambassador Yovanovitch



remembrance of the 9/11 victims. Her remarks were followed by the laying of wreaths and a moment of silence.

Ambassador Yovanovitch addresses the citizens of Ararat in front of 9/11 memorial



Ambassador Yovanovitch visits MCA-Armenia Program Sites

On September 16, 2009, Ambassador Yovanovitch, Deputy Prime Minister Armen Gevorgyan, Minister of Agriculture Gerasim Alaverdyan, Aragatsotn Marzpet Sargis Sahakyan, Kotayk Marzpet Kovalenko Shahgeldyan, and others held a joint working visit to the Arzni-Shamiram main canal section rehabilitated under the MCA-Armenia Program. The project site represents a test area used to determine engineering and construction best practices to be implemented during subsequent main canal rehabilitation work. More than 30 communities and 60,000 people in both marzes will benefit from the improvements in this canal.



U.S. Ambassador and Prosecutor General Signed Two New Protocols



On September 16, Ambassador Yovanovitch and Armenia's Prosecutor General signed two Protocols to amend the Letter of Agreement on Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement between the U.S. and Armenia. Under the amendments, the U.S. Government will provide over two million dollars of assistance to the main forensic laboratory, to the American Bar Association's Rule of Law Initiative to assist victims of human trafficking, and to help develop law enforcement academies in Armenia. Since the signing of

the original Letter of Agreement on June 11, 2001, the United States has provided over twelve million dollars of justice sector assistance to the Government of Armenia through the Embassy's International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Section.

Counterpart International Continues to Assist Special Boarding School

“Though these children lack many things in their life, your assistance brought a ray of light to them. Thank you very much for this urgent support.”

-Melanya Poghosyan, Director of the School

On September 16, 2009 Maria Longi, of the U.S. Department of State, and Melanya Poghosyan, Director of the Special School # 1 of Abovyan, cut the ribbon marking the opening of newly reconstructed bathrooms at Special Boarding School #1 in Abovyan for Mentally Disabled Children. Counterpart International’s Community and Humanitarian Assistance Program (CHAP) in Armenia implemented the Department of State-funded small reconstruction project to significantly improve the hygiene and sanitary conditions of the bathrooms at



the Abovyan School for Mentally Disabled Children.



Since 2004, the Abovyan School has cooperated with Counterpart’s CHAP, which has delivered assistance in the form of bunk beds, bedding, clothing, school and hygiene supplies, and other needed items, totaling \$67,000.00 in assistance. In 2007, CHAP/Armenia implemented a U.S. DoS-funded Small Reconstruction Project, as a result of which the school’s cafeteria and kitchen were renovated completely.

Performers from U.S. at Open Music Festival

Open Music Fest was held in Yerevan from July 30-September 21, and 23 concerts were held featuring world-renown musicians and performers. PAS Yerevan supported the festival by helping to stage performers from the U.S. such as the Kennedy Center's Theonious Monk Award



Winner Tigran Hamasian and the Boxhead Ensemble. Making a big splash, both among Armenians and the many visiting tourists, the support was within the context of the Embassy’s “20 Year's of Partnership” program.



YCAP Community Civic Action Conference in Tsakhkadzor

The Third Annual Community Civic Action Conference kicked off in Tsakhkadzor on September 23 within the framework of the USAID Youth and Community Action Program (YCAP). The opening session was attended by Ambassador Yovanovitch, representatives of USAID/Armenia, the Academy for Educational Development, Freedom of Information Center of Armenia, Internews, local NGOs and members of the 80 YCAP communities from all 10 marzes of Armenia.

During the three-day conference, 160 representatives from YCAP civic groups took part in interactive workshops on leadership, public relations, civic participation, advocacy and alternative media, and participated in an Open Space session on Promoting Civic Activism in Armenia.



«Community action, even in small communities, is the fundamental first step toward social change, political engagement, and economic equity. It is a vital step in bringing about greater accountability from those that govern, both on a local and a national level.»

- U.S. Ambassador
Marie L. Yovanovitch

AMBASSADOR SPEAKS ABOUT ARMENIAN-TURKISH RELATIONS

Ambassador Yovanovitch appeared live on Kentron TV's popular evening political-analytical talk show to discuss normalization of ties between Turkey and Armenia within

the framework of regional integration and security. She emphasized the significance of establishing normal relations between the neighboring countries and said the U.S. hopes to see tangible results from this process. She also discussed issues related to the U.S. strategy for an anti-missile defense system.

