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TOP LEVEL OF COMMAND



President George W. Bush arrives at the Department of State.



President Bush addresses Department of State employees; Secretary of State Colin Powell looks on.



October 2002 marks the twentieth anniversary of the enactment of the Foreign Missions Act, and the establishment of the Office of Foreign Missions (OFM). This year's annual report will be more than a report on OFM activities in 2001; it will be an opportunity to look back at OFM's accomplishments and milestones over the last twenty years, from a world firmly in the grip of the Cold War through and beyond the terrible events of September 11, 2001.

To achieve its goals, OFM increasingly makes use of strategies that involve:

- Negotiations and reciprocity agreements
- Partnerships with other offices and organizations
- Continuing outreach efforts
- Strengthening the organization

New initiatives for 2002

- ❑ Planning a pilot program at Chicago Regional Office for decentralized production of OFM documents (Tax cards, driver licenses, and diplomatic ID cards) to eliminate needless delays and to improve customer service
- ❑ Establishing a continuity of operations capability to ensure that OFM can continue to fulfill its mission should critical facilities sustain catastrophic damage
- ❑ Issuing permanent driver licenses and tax exemption cards upon notification of appointment rather than awaiting formal accreditation
- ❑ Issuing ID cards to dependents of consular officers
- ❑ Outsourcing liability insurance compliance
- ❑ Seeking lower cost group rates on auto liability insurance for foreign diplomats
- ❑ Allowing consulates to process paperwork directly with OFM regional offices (when approved by their embassy)
- ❑ Placing OFM district representatives in cities such as Atlanta, Philadelphia, and Seattle

OFM continues to look forward to what we still have to do to meet our mission described in the table below.

OFM MISSION	
ADVOCATE U.S. AND FOREIGN DIPLOMATS	Press for better treatment of U.S. personnel abroad
	Assist foreign missions in dealing with local officials in the United States
	Apply reciprocity to foreign diplomatic missions
DEFEND AMERICAN PUBLIC	Guard public from abuse of diplomatic privileges and immunities
	Protect the security interests of the United States
SERVE FOREIGN DIPLOMATS	Issue vehicle titles, registrations, licenses and plates
	Administer tax, customs, and travel policies
	Facilitate property acquisitions with local zoning law restrictions

OFM's LEADERSHIP

The success of the Office of Foreign Missions can be attributed to its leadership, past and present. Each OFM director has left a distinctive legacy of style in contributing to OFM's mission.



OFM's first Director,
James E. Nolan

OFM's first director, **Ambassador James E. Nolan**, laid the foundation for OFM within the Department of State and established the framework for strict policies on reciprocity. This policy was based on treating foreign delegations exactly as their governments treat U.S. diplomats.

John Condayan in 1989 implemented presidentially approved procedures and guidelines which granted the Secretary of State authorities reaffirming the Office of Foreign Missions' authorities and responsibilities. During his tenure he presided over expansion of the tax program, the integration of OFM's information system, and a period of rapid growth in the number of OFM employees and regional office services.



OFM Director
John Condayan

Ambassador David C. Fields was highly praised, on an informal level, for running "an awesome machine." Of the office he remarked, "No larger than OFM is, it covers a remarkably broad range of subjects...I think the Office of Foreign Missions is making a difference and I am proud to have been a part of it...."

Harry W. Porter III served twice as OFM's Acting Director. His leadership earned the respect of OFM staff. In making decisions, he carefully weighed each side of an issue to arrive at a fair solution, and he applied the same attentiveness in resolving the day-to-day operational issues.

Ambassador Eric J. Boswell served as OFM Director under two different organizational arrangements; first as OFM Director reporting to the Under Secretary for Management. In 1996, OFM was aligned with the Bureau of Diplomatic Security. At that time, OFM's Ambassador Boswell was then dual hatted as Assistant Secretary for Diplomatic Security. Now wearing two hats, Ambassador Boswell initiated negotiations and successfully concluded treaties with a number of countries to eliminate VAT tax for U.S. missions and personnel abroad.



Ambassador Eric Boswell presents plaque to Harry W. Porter III upon his retirement.

Thomas E. Burns, Jr., the first Deputy Assistant Secretary at OFM, implemented the initial parking enforcement, ticketing and vehicle reregistration program in cooperation with the District of Columbia, which continues to date. The program encourages missions to pay tickets expeditiously, and to obey parking and traffic regulations. He also negotiated and



Deputy Assistant Secretary
Thomas E. Burns, Jr.

signed an agreement with the City of New York and the United Nations Secretariat which, while never implemented, sought to institute a similar enforcement regime in New York. In October 1996 he coordinated the alignment of OFM with the Bureau of Diplomatic Security. During his tenure agreements were also reached and signed with Ireland, Spain, Ukraine, Russia, China, and others covering a variety of reciprocal tax, property, motor vehicles and customs issues.

Theodore E. Strickler has built on the work and accomplishments of his predecessors and energized OFM through his strategies of partnership with other offices and organizations. He strengthened continuing outreach efforts,



Deputy Assistant Secretary
Theodore E. Strickler

negotiations and reciprocity agreements, all of which helped to raise the visibility of OFM. A student mentoring advocate, he strives to recruit, train and mentor the very best student candidates to insure a strong and committed public servant workforce. He received acclaim for his efforts to promote reform within the Department of State by launching the *SOS for DOS* campaign.



Three Managing Directors for Operations have served OFM since the creation of the position: from left, John R. Arndt (current Managing Director), Ronald Rabens (retired), and Richard Jaworski (serving as Counselor in Poland)

Term of Office	OFM Director	Term of Office	Deputy Director
1983 – 1987	Ambassador James E. Nolan	1983 - 1983	Harvey Buffalo
		1983 – 1985	Douglas Langan
		1985 – 1987	Joseph S. Hulings III
		1986 - 1987	John Condayan
1988 – 1989	John Condayan, Acting	1988 – 1989	Harry W. Porter III
1989 – 1990	Harry W. Porter III, Acting		
1990 – 1992	Ambassador David C. Fields	1990 – 1992	Harry W. Porter III
1992 – 1993	Harry W. Porter III, Acting		
	OFM Director (also Assistant Secretary)		OFM Deputy Director (also Deputy Assistant Secretary*)
1993 – 1996	Ambassador Eric J. Boswell	1994 – 1995	Harry W. Porter III
		1995 – 1998	Thomas E. Burns*
1998 – 1998	Patrick F. Kennedy, Acting		
1998 – 2002	Ambassador David C. Carpenter	1998 – 2002	Theodore E. Strickler*

OFM's PROGRAMS

Diplomatic Motor Vehicles

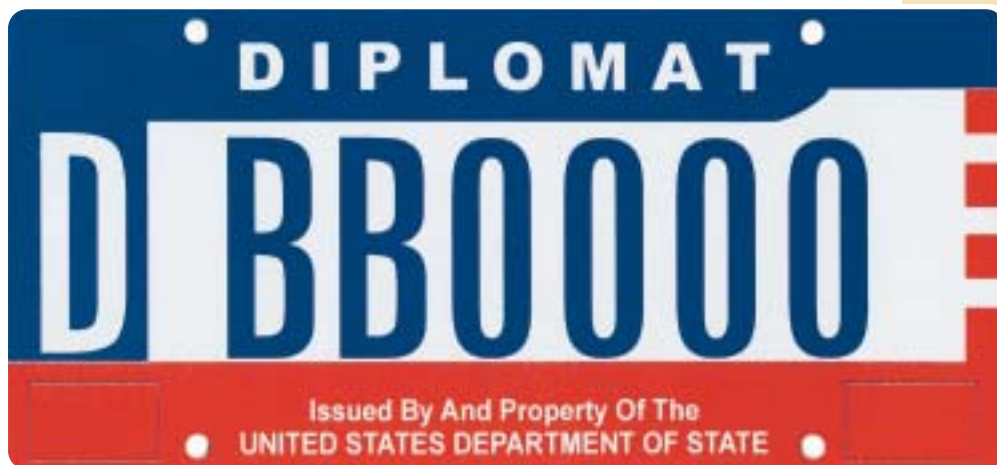
DMV Mandate

The Diplomatic Motor Vehicles (DMV) office was established in 1984 as the Department of State's federal license plate program. Under this comprehensive program, all official and personal vehicles of all foreign missions, foreign diplomats, career consuls, and administrative and technical staff nationwide were for the first time brought under a uniform system of federal government registration and management.

The DMV office functions are similar to those of any state motor vehicle administration, with one distinction: Our clientele is exclusively foreign missions, foreign mission personnel and their dependents nationwide. The DMV office issues driver licenses, titles and registers the vehicles of foreign diplomats. It enforces mandatory liability insurance coverage, ensures the payment of parking fines, and ensures all traffic laws are followed. It also works with police, prosecutors and courts to ensure irresponsible diplomatic drivers are held accountable for violations, thus promoting and improving public safety. In addition, OFM assures that treatment accorded the foreign diplomatic community in the United States is reciprocal to treatment established within the represented country for U.S. mission personnel. Reciprocal treatment on the acquisition, registration and disposition of vehicles helps contribute to significant cost savings and cuts down on motor vehicle procedures.



Before the creation of OFM, license plates issued to diplomats by the District of Columbia bore the letters DPL. License plates issued to diplomats in Virginia also identified diplomatic vehicles.



The red, white, and blue license tag issued by OFM today.

2001 Achievements

OFM/DMV's Ongoing Legislative Initiative

As part of its ongoing legislative initiative, OFM persevered in lobbying state-elected officials to introduce bills making it a legal requirement for law enforcement authorities to notify OFM when issuing citations to foreign mission members with State Department driver licenses. Legislatures in Arizona, Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Texas and Wisconsin enacted such bills in sessions last year.

DMV's successes in serious policy and criminal cases

OFM initiated proceedings that resulted in the required departures from the U.S. of four mission and family members for alcohol-related driving offenses. In one case, the sending State declined to waive a family member's immunity for a DWI involving personal injury to others. The other three cases involved repeat DWI offenders.

OFM resolved two high-profile enforcement cases involving the suspension of driving privileges of an ambassador, and another senior diplomat, in the face of sensitive circumstances. By adhering to public safety imperatives, OFM adjudicated both cases with resolve and tenacity, thus ensuring continued adherence to, and enforcement of, established vehicular safety standards.

In prosecutions concerning fraudulent claims of sovereign citizenship and diplomatic status, OFM provided legal advice to Philadelphia's District Attorneys Office, and, with the Office of Protocol, helped to prepare documentation for these cases.

DMV played a crucial role in the Department's negotiations with New York City officials which achieved an interim agreement with the City on parking issues and averted the next-day towing of hundreds of consular vehicles. OFM will continue to work with New York City's Parking Violations Division to encourage payment of parking tickets by diplomats.

DMV continued to pursue a resolution in a civil judgment against a former diplomat concerning an uninsured motor accident that resulted in personal injury. OFM continues to act as principal liaison in engaging the diplomat's host government to resolve this case.

DMV and American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA)

OFM continues to represent the Department in various American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) conferences and committees.

AAMVA called for DMV to be one of fifteen members from the United States and Canada to serve on the Foreign Reciprocity Driver License Committee. This committee studied road traffic rules and regulations around the world and designed an online user reference guide for use by state administrations. The committee, with OFM guidance, also designed and presented an online user matrix for non-binding agreements between state jurisdictions and foreign countries. A comprehensive user guide was presented to all U.S. state and Canadian province motor vehicle administrations at the AAMVA Driver License Workshop in Ottawa, Canada, in October.

Insurance

DMV worked to educate embassy administrative officers about OFM insurance coverage requirements. It also sought to educate the insurance industry about the diplomatic community and the privileges to which they are entitled. DMV successfully sought acceptance of U.S. Department of State (USDOS) driver's licenses from the New York state government (the Insurance Commissioner's office and Department of Motor Vehicles), and a major insurance company for acceptance of a USDOS driver license.

DMV's Reciprocity Portfolio

DMV developed, with our U.S. embassies' input, diplomatic motor vehicle reciprocity provisions for more than 25 countries in an effort to gain more favorable treatment for the U.S. diplomatic community abroad. DMV's support to U.S. missions in correcting imbalances and leveraging negotiations led to significant improvements in five countries — Egypt, Ecuador, India, Indonesia and Korea. Of particular note was the procurement of more favorable policies relating to official mission vehicles and the personal vehicles of the often-burdened Administrative and Technical staff members.

DMV History

The table on the following page presents a detailed chronology of OFM/DMV activities for the past 20 years.

DMV CHRONOLOGY

Year	Area of achievement	What was accomplished
1983	Insurance	OFM vested with responsibility for enforcing liability insurance for all vehicles. The insurance gives U.S. residents financial recourse against diplomatic personnel not subject to the judicial process.
1984	The Diplomatic Motor Vehicles office established	This centralized office is responsible for registering and titling vehicles, and overseeing adequate liability insurance coverage for all foreign missions and its members' vehicles.
	License Plates	Newly designed red, white and blue license plates are issued to the diplomatic community nationwide. A temporary license plate is also established.
	Traffic Violations	Ambassadors are notified of the driving violations of their staff.
1985	Insurance Tracking Program (ITP)	ITP is established and begins recording third party liability insurance information for every mission and privately owned vehicle.
	Insurance – New liability limits established	A panel of industry experts established liability limits of \$300,000 CSL or \$100,000 per person, \$300,000 per accident, and \$100,000 for property damage.
	Vehicle Registration	All vehicles from the diplomatic community must be registered with the Office of Foreign Missions and bear only the new distinctive license plates.
	Traffic Violations	OFM demands strict adherence to rules of the road.
	Vehicle Reciprocity	Country-specific motor vehicle reciprocity packages were established for foreign embassies in the United States, resulting in elimination or reduction of many restrictions placed on U.S. missions abroad.
1986	Driver Licenses	Implemented the first phase of a diplomatic driver license program establishing a centralized database of diplomatic licensed drivers.
1987	Driver Licenses	DMV consulted with AAMVA to obtain the acceptance and approval of a redesigned operator's permit to be issued to foreign mission personnel.
	Driver Records program	OFM created automated driver records for all diplomatic personnel and established a 12-point system (over a two-year period) to track driving violations.
	Insurance – Insurance Task Force established	A major review of the insurance program resulted in greater internal controls, more accurate data, and improved compliance.
	Diplomatic Notes	DMV issued several diplomatic notes to the foreign mission community concerning the laws of the U.S. and payment of fines.
	New guidance books	<i>Guidance For Law Enforcement Officers</i> , a booklet concerning personal rights and immunities of foreign diplomatic and consular personnel was distributed to the law enforcement community.
1988	Driver Licenses	All states were requested to cease driver license issuance to diplomatic personnel as of July 1, 1988, and to refer applicants to the Department of State.
	Insurance Study	A study of liability limits for members of the foreign missions and their families was conducted and submitted to Congress. It confirmed that the current liability limits were adequate.
	DMV authorization	The American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators members accepted the Diplomatic Motor Vehicles office as a legitimate motor vehicle service jurisdiction. DMV also began participating in AAMVA conferences.
1989	Enforcement – New waiver	Missions were notified that in a case of alleged criminal misconduct, the Department would formally request a waiver of immunity, which included a DWI/DUI. Such waivers would be requested in each case of alleged criminal misconduct.

1990	License Plates	Two new license plate series were added - a handicap plate and a trailer plate. The temporary (cardboard) plate was redesigned so that a single style plate is issued.
1991	New pamphlets	<i>Driving Practices in the United States</i> and <i>Diplomatic Motor Vehicle Program Quick Reference Guide</i> were distributed.
	Vehicle Registration	For the security of members of the diplomatic community during the Gulf War crisis, security plates for select mission vehicles were issued.
	License Plates	A new license plate series was added for the OAS Secretariat.
1992	Vehicle Registration – DMV documents recalled	Documents, license plates and other indicia of diplomatic and consular benefits were recalled from approximately 4,500 “permanently resident in” staff serving in foreign missions in the U.S.
	Decal Program	Introduced to better enforce the liability insurance requirement.
	New License Plates	New license plates are issued for the newly formed countries of the former Soviet Union.
1993	Decal Program	The first registration renewals were withheld from mission and personal vehicles lacking documentation that insurance was active and met required liability levels.
	New Parking Ticket Regime District of Columbia	DMV notified the diplomatic community that it would begin monitoring outstanding parking violations issued in the District of Columbia. Persons were warned to start paying their parking tickets in D.C. or they would be denied re-registration at the time of their next license renewal.
1994	Outreach Expanded	Fifty-six training sessions reached some 2,700 law enforcement personnel in the greater Washington area.
1995	Parking Compliance – New Parking Program fully implemented	Persons who had not adjudicated outstanding parking tickets (more than one year old) in cooperation with the District of Columbia were denied re-registration at the time of renewal.
	Airport Parking Passes	New parking passes were issued to all embassies and international organizations which OFM services (two passes for short-term parking per mission for Reagan National Airport).
1998	Enactment of Maryland Bill 1194	Following the death of Maryland resident Jovian Waltrick in a 1997 drunk driving accident involving a diplomat, DMV successfully lobbied the passage of a bill to require all state enforcement authorities to notify OFM when issuing citations to State Department licensees.
1998	Law Enforcement Video produced	The video instructs officers in identifying persons with immunity, their degree of immunity, the officer’s role in maintaining public safety, and contacting the State Department for further guidance.
1998-99	Driver License Standards	DMV reviewed driver-licensing standards for several countries to determine whether license-testing standards were equal to or more stringent than U.S. testing standards. For those countries with standards equal to or greater than the U.S., the minimum testing requirement is a vision examination.
1999	Insurance Study Update	A new study of levels of automobile third party liability insurance coverage, which the OFM requires for foreign mission personnel and their family members, was completed. It was confirmed that the current minimum liability limits are adequate.
2000	Vehicle Reciprocity	DMV updated its reciprocity program to include commercial vehicle leasing. Including leased vehicles as part of the policy provided a better balance in reciprocity.
	DMV Compliance Team	To improve communications and to instruct the consular community of their requirements and benefits, three liaison teams made visits to Miami, Atlanta and Puerto Rico.

Tax and Customs

Tax Program: An Overview

The Diplomatic Tax Exemption Program began operation with the creation of the Office of Foreign Missions. The District of Columbia and the State of New York were the first two entities to accept the tax exemption cards. At first the Office of Protocol issued the cards; but in 1982, the Office of Foreign Missions began to administer the program and issued a redesigned tax card.



A tax card issued before the advent of OFM.



James E. Nolan during a briefing on OFM's tax exemption program in 1984.

The Tax Exemption program is now recognized by all fifty states, as well as the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. The Office of Foreign Missions continues to seek full tax exemption for U.S. diplomats in countries abroad and to provide guidance to foreign missions in the United States.

The following table highlights the activities of the Tax program.

Tax Chronology

Year	Area of achievement	What was accomplished
1984	Tax Exemption Program	The Office of Foreign Missions Sales Tax Exemption Program was initiated.
1985	Gasoline Program	The gasoline tax exemption program was initiated.
1985	First Tax Flyer	OFM printed its first tax exemption flyer.
1986	Gas Tax Program	The gasoline program was extended to consular personnel in the U.S.
1989	Tax Exemption Program –Circular Note	OFM sent the first circular note to embassies concerning the sales tax exemption program and the proper use of the tax cards.
1989	Utility Tax Program	The utility (electric, natural gas, and telephone) tax exemption program was initiated in the District of Columbia.
1994	Regional Offices – Tax Documents	The Regional Offices (Chicago, Los Angeles and San Francisco) began assisting the Tax Office in the preparation of tax exemption documents.
1998	Tax Exemption in New Mexico	New Mexico passes legislation in support of OFM's tax exemption program.
2000	Hawaii Tax Exemption Bill Signed into Law	Hawaii enacts legislation resolving a 25-year impasse on the validity of OFM's tax cards in the state.

The Customs Function

In 1982, the Customs function in OFM began with the immediate task of confronting the problems that were plaguing the movement of U.S. diplomatic pouches and official and personal shipments to and from U.S. missions worldwide. Reciprocity was a promising option in the limited range of alternatives available to the Department at that time. OFM used reciprocity to correct a number of long-standing problems and did much to improve the overall reliability of delivery for these shipments.

OFM Customs then turned to other problems such as reducing documentation required for U.S. diplomatic shipments, tightening the procedures for duty-free privileges, and the simplifying procedures for bonded-warehouse purchases by foreign diplomats.

OFM Customs remains a small office, but it performs many roles that support the orderly movement of diplomatic cargo, and the improvement of importation privileges granted to the staffs of U.S. missions abroad. In addition, the Customs unit processes a growing number of requests from foreign missions for duty-free importation of goods and access to duty-free warehouses in the United States. The Customs unit has widened its original focus on reciprocal import privileges, to fulfill a broad representative role in assisting the foreign mission community in the U.S. in situations of crises. For example, in the aftermath of September 11, OFM actions prompted other federal agencies to guarantee orderly movement of diplomatic pouches and cargo.

The unit has also has considerable success in its ongoing efforts to expand import privileges for those staff members of U.S. missions who are not on the Diplomatic List. A majority of nations today grant equal, duty-free importation privileges to all U.S. mission staff members.

As the Customs unit looks to the future, it envisions an increased application of technology which will continue to streamline customs processes and enhance its ability to deal with the foreign missions community.

Property and Travel

Property Program: An Overview

Prior to the passage of the Foreign Missions Act in 1982, the Department of State had no authority over the purchase or sale of property in the United States by a foreign government. With the establishment of OFM, foreign missions had to obtain authorization to buy, sell, lease, expand, or change the use of an existing property in the United States.

Today the Property office has a staff of five to manage all facets of real estate affecting foreign missions. In addition to reciprocity and security issues, the office is



involved in issues such as zoning and land use, building permits, tax exemption, and parking signs. The OFM Property office provides a wide range of services to the diplomatic community while protecting the interests of the U.S. Government.

Groundbreaking for the Turkish chancery: Ambassador Kandemir (third from left) with architect Shalom Baranes (second from left) and members of the construction team.



The Turkish chancery project was one of OFM's longest litigation cases. The Litigation Team from left, Ronald Mlotek, OFM Legal Counsel; Mike Raab, Department of Justice; Richard Massey, OFM Property and Travel; Gilda Brancato, Legal Advisor's Office; John Schnitker, Senior Appellate Attorney, Department of Justice.

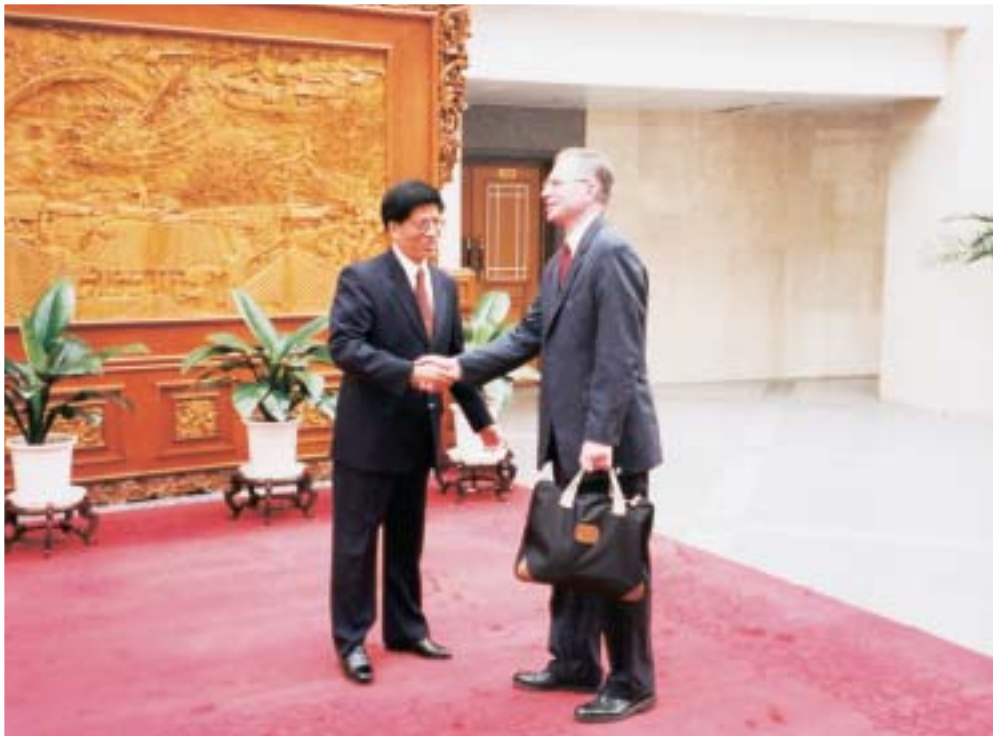


The Turkish chancery today.

2001 Achievements

OFM worked in tandem with District of Columbia officials and other Department of State offices to permit location of chanceries and chancery annexes of foreign missions outside the District of Columbia.

With Deputy Assistant Secretary Strickler heading the delegation, the property section of OFM spent much of the year preparing for negotiations with the People's Republic of China on constructing new chanceries in both countries. The negotiations are expected to continue through 2002.



Deputy Assistant Secretary Theodore Strickler is greeted by General Li Shuli, Protocol Department Deputy for negotiations with the People's Republic of China on construction of chanceries.

The following table highlights the activities of the Property Program.

Property Chronology

Year	Area of achievement	What was accomplished
1983	Custodial Property	OFM assumes custody of the properties of Cambodia, Iran and Vietnam.
1983	Real Property	All missions accredited to the U.S. and U.N. are required to secure the approval of OFM for any property transactions.
1985	Real Property	The USSR and Eastern Block countries are required to obtain telecommunication services through OFM.
1986	Housing Program	OFM assumes the role of landlord to the USSR and Eastern Block countries who are required to obtain housing through OFM.
1986	Real Property Tax	Based on reciprocity, residential properties in the Washington metro area owned by foreign missions are exempt from real property taxes.
1988	Real Property	All Soviet commercial and news media personnel are brought under OFM's Housing Program.
1990	Real Property	A property agreement is concluded with China which granted the Chinese an unusual form of property ownership in the U.S. based on reciprocity. The Chinese Government buys the property but is required to transfer title to the land to the U.S. Government which leases it back to the Chinese for a set number of years. The Chinese keep title to the house or building on the land.
1991	Custodial Property	OFM assumes custody of the Iraqi Ambassador's residence.
1991	Real Property	OFM supports Turkey in its efforts to build a new chancery on Embassy Row in Washington. Local historic preservation groups vigorously oppose the project. When Turkey wins its zoning case several historic preservation groups take the Department of State to court. After eight years of proceedings, the judicial decision upholds the authority of OFM in property matters and grants Turkey the right to build its chancery.
1992	Real Property	OFM assists newly formed countries after break-up of the Soviet Union. The Department of State purchases a chancery for Belarus in Washington under a property exchange agreement.
1994	Custodial Property	OFM returns Washington properties to Cambodia.
1995	Real Property	OFM develops Bundle of Rights agreements with Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan. Such agreements were intended by OFM to establish the equivalent of property ownership rights for the U.S. in countries that do not allow land ownership by foreigners.
1995	Custodial Property	OFM returns Washington property to Vietnam.
1996	Custodial Property	OFM sells Somali residence. This marks the first time that OFM uses its authority under the Foreign Missions Act to sell a property owned by a foreign government.
1999	Custodial Property	OFM assumes custody of five properties of the Former Republic of Yugoslavia.
1999	Real Property	The District of Columbia agrees to exempt foreign missions from building permit fees based on reciprocity.
2000	Real Property	OFM makes a concerted effort to promote a dialogue on neighborhood issues between citizen groups and foreign missions in the "Embassy Row" area of Washington. The year concludes with a reception at Blair House with city officials, local citizens, and embassy officials.

The Travel Program: Mandate

With the establishment of the Travel Program in OFM, the Department was able to more effectively monitor travel controls established for reciprocity or national security reasons.

The travel section oversees the travel of ten foreign missions in the United States on the basis of reciprocity and national security. Several of the missions currently under travel controls must also obtain travel services through OFM.

2001 Achievements

In keeping with reciprocity issues and national security concerns, OFM continued to monitor travel controls on ten countries with diplomatic missions in Washington and/or New York and at consulates throughout the United States.

The following table highlights the activities of the Travel Program.

Travel Chronology

Year	Area of achievement	What was accomplished
1983	Travel Restrictions	Travel controls are placed on Afghanistan, Cambodia, Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Libya, Mongolia, the PLO, Ukraine, and Vietnam. Controls on China and the USSR are continued.
1986	Travel Restrictions	Travel controls are placed on Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, East Germany and Poland. Travel reservations are required to be made through OFM. All Soviet commercial and news media personnel are brought under the travel controls.
1990	Travel Restrictions	Travel controls are lifted for Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Poland.
1991	Travel Restrictions	Travel controls are tightened on Iraqi nationals and dependents at the United Nations.
1994	Travel Restrictions	Travel controls are lifted on PLO Observer Mission to the United Nations.
1996	Travel Restrictions	Sudan is placed under travel controls.
1999	Travel Restrictions	Travel controls are imposed on FRY UN Mission (Yugoslavia).
2000	Travel Restrictions	Travel controls are lifted on the FRY UN Mission.
2000	Travel Requests	OFM coordinates requests with other offices and federal agencies to let friends from Cuba visit Elian Gonzales during his stay in the U.S.

THE REGIONAL OFFICE NETWORK

Regional directors around the country implement U.S. policies on foreign diplomatic and consular personnel. Foreign diplomatic and consular officers throughout the United States receive the same privileges and immunities that American Foreign Service officers abroad use to accomplish U.S. goals

OFM REGIONAL OFFICES



OFM Regional Office Jurisdictions.

Telephone Number, Please ...

A distraught mother trying to call the State of Hawaii Department of the Attorney General found that the OFM Los Angeles Regional Office was the only Department of State listing in the Los Angeles telephone book. The OFM director in Los Angeles gave her the correct telephone number, which he found on the Internet.

and objectives. But these privileges and immunities are little known to most Americans, including those in business and federal, state and local government agencies. The regional directors must often serve as intermediaries between foreign diplomatic and consular officers and the American public in upholding U.S. commitments under treaties, conventions and international custom. They also implement programs to ensure that foreign diplomatic and consular personnel do not abuse their special status.

Regional directors maintain day-to-day contact with the consulates general, consulates and honorary consuls in their areas as service providers. They and their staffs administer local tax exemption programs, customs clearances, motor vehicle programs, real estate programs and travel programs. They are increasingly turning their attention to outreach, providing information to diplomatic and consular personnel and those parts of the American public with whom they most often interact.

The following table lists the directors (past and present) in OFM's regional offices.

OFM Regional Directors and Offices		
Date Established	OFM Regional Office	Director
1983	New York Regional Office	Stanley Lagg (1984-1993) Eloise Shouse (1993-1995) Sandra Cecchini (1995-1999) Jim Bond (1999-2002)
1985	Chicago Regional Office	John Chadwick (1985-1992) Denise Duclon (1992 -)
1987	San Francisco Regional Office	Pierre Fournier (1987- 1998) Leroy Dal Porto (1998 -)
1992	Los Angeles Regional Office	Bee Lavery (1992-1994) Brendan Hanniffy (1994-1996) Evan Press (1996-2001) David Van Valkenburg (2001 -)
1999	Honolulu Regional Office	Nancy "Sam" Finn (1999 -)
2001	Miami Regional Office	Terry Daru (2001 -)

2001 Activities

Florida Office Opens

OFM opened a new office in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, in September 2001. It is the temporary headquarters of a newly created region that includes the consular community in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, West Virginia, and Puerto Rico. The Regional director has made more than forty visits in the Miami, Ft. Lauderdale, Orlando, and Tallahassee areas, given two press interviews, and addressed a county economic development council. The regional office is expected to be fully operational in 2002 with the addition of a second staff member and the office move to permanent quarters.



Miami Regional Director Terry Daru calls on Secretary of State Katherine Harris to update plans for the Miami Office. Also pictured is Mexican Consul in Orlando, Martin Torres.

The events described below illustrate regional office responses to a variety of situations during the year.

OFM/NY Mercifully, the diplomatic and consular corps in New York was not greatly affected by the attacks of September 11. One foreign mission was destroyed in the World Trade Center; two persons were seriously injured; and two consulates in the Wall Street area were closed briefly. During the period immediately after the attacks, OFM/NY worked with the consular corps and the City to assist consuls in determining what foreign nationals had been victims of the attack and obtaining information for death certificates. OFM/NY has continued to be a conduit for information between the foreign community and the City on a variety of issues pertaining to September 11.

OFM/CHI An American Embassy was attempting to get confirmation of a birth certificate from an Illinois County Clerk's Office, but was not able to convince the office they were eligible to receive it. By working with both parties, the Chicago Regional Director was able to advise the embassy on the pertinent information needed in their letter that would allow the county office to release the information. The Embassy was assisting in an important law enforcement case and received the information in time for a court hearing.



The Chicago Regional Office: (from left to right) Rebecca Pasini, Deputy Director; Denise Duclon, Director; Emmett Koehler, and Sharon Powers, during Undersecretary Grant Green's visit.

OFM/SF The Venezuelan Consulate solicited the help of OFM/SF in a case regarding the disappearance and death of one of their nationals. The San Francisco Police Department was contacted and provided OFM/SF with a missing person report. A few days later, OFM/SF and the consulate were notified by the police department that the individual's body was found floating in the waters under a pier off San Francisco Bay.

OFM/LA The Los Angeles regional director met with the Chief of Diplomatic Relations and Protocol for the State of Nevada to arrange presentations and to discuss provisions for diplomatic and consular visitors with tax privileges to the Salt Lake Olympics. The Regional Director also briefed the Consuls General of the European Union on importing liquor from bonded warehouses into Utah for official receptions during the Salt Lake City Winter Olympics.

20TH ANNIVERSARY

Serving the Foreign Diplomatic Community and U.S. Public

1982

- President Reagan signs the Foreign Missions Act into law



1983

- New York Regional Office opens



- Travel controls are placed on several countries and travel reservations are required to be made through OFM



- OFM assumes custody of diplomatic and consular properties for those countries with whom the U.S. has severed diplomatic relations (Cambodia, Iran, and Vietnam)

1994

- OFM returns Washington property to Cambodia



1992

- License plate decal program starts



- Los Angeles Regional Office opens

- OFM's outreach efforts expand in the greater Washington area to 2,700 law enforcement personnel



1984

- New red, white, and blue license plates are issued in the summer, with a fee charged on a reciprocal basis to offset similar charges for U.S. diplomats abroad



- The diplomatic sales tax exemption is initiated for those diplomatic and consular personnel serving in the Washington DC area and New York State only

- Chicago Regional Office opens

1986

- OFM implements the first phase of its diplomatic driver license program
- The sales tax exemption program is extended to all 50 states; the gasoline tax program also expands



1987

- San Francisco Regional Office opens



- OFM assumes the role of landlord to the USSR and Eastern Bloc countries who are required to obtain housing through OFM
- Travel controls are expanded to include additional countries and commercial and news media personnel
- Based on reciprocity, residential properties in the Washington Metropolitan area owned by foreign missions are exempt from real property taxes

1988

- All Soviet commercial and news media personnel are brought under OFM's Housing Program



1989

- Ambassador James E. Nolan, the first Director of OFM, retires from U.S. Government service
- The utility (electric, natural gas, and telephone) tax exemption program is initiated



1990

- Travel controls begin to be removed from countries following their democratization and the breakup of the U.S.S.R.



- OFM moves from the Iranian chancery on Embassy Row to its present location at State Annex 33, 3507 International Place NW



- By amendment to the Foreign Missions Act, OFM gains authority to acquire property in the United States to swap for properties in other countries for the use of U.S. diplomatic or consular missions in that country, thus avoiding the complication of U.S. outright acquisition of real property in certain nations

1991

- OFM oversees successive draw-downs of the Iraqi Embassy staff after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait



1999

- Honolulu Regional Office opens
- OFM logo is created



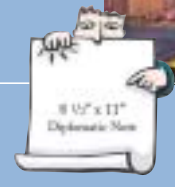
1998

- OFM publishes its first *Consultations* newsletter



- Assistant Secretary for Diplomatic Security David Carpenter is OFM Director; Theodore E. Strickler is named Deputy Assistant Secretary and OFM Deputy Director
- Maryland passes legislation that requires law enforcement officers in Maryland to verify a motor vehicle offender's immunity and forward any citations issued to the Department of State, a precursor for other states' similar legislation

- OFM launches initiative to have United States diplomatic notes prepared on standard rather than legal-size paper
- OFM assumes custody of five properties of the Former Republic of Yugoslavia
- The District of Columbia agrees to exempt foreign missions from building fees based on reciprocity



2000

- Regional office positions are upgraded
- OFM plays a leading role in support of diplomatic tax exemption legislation that culminates in signing of the Hawaii Tax Exemption Bill by Governor Benjamin Cayetano on July 1



- OFM systemizes the improvement of treatment of A&T staff in areas of tax exemption, duty-free entry of goods, and motor vehicle privileges, and also notifies Congress of those countries that grant lower privileges to A&T staff

2001

- OFM launches initiative to determine the total amount of foreign taxes the Department of State and other U.S. Government agencies pay worldwide, as well as the amounts recovered



- Miami Regional Office opens
- OFM publishes a new flyer, *The Diplomatic Beat*
- Deputy directors are added to the staffs of regional offices
- OFM expands outreach to include issues of consular notification, recruitment, and law enforcement training

2002

- Embassies are notified by diplomatic note that they may locate chancery offices outside the District of Columbia



- The chancery of Nigeria is the most recent addition to the International Chancery Center; The Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco reserves the last remaining lot in the Center. (The Embassy of Israel was the first to construct and open a chancery in 1980)

OFM OUTREACH

As the number and size of diplomatic missions grow in the United States, OFM needs to expand its service and outreach to consulates, local jurisdictions, state governments and law enforcement organizations throughout the nation.

In 1990 there were a total of 1,278 official foreign entities in the U.S. comprising embassies, consulates, trade organizations, honorary consuls, and a variety of other organizations and annexes subject to OFM jurisdiction. Today, the number of foreign entities has more than doubled to 2,806 and management is shared by the OFM main office and each of its six regional offices.

OFM and its regional offices participate in a variety of outreach activities and forums in two primary areas:

- Training and Liaison with Federal, State, and Local Officials
- Community Relations

These focal points are described in the sections which follow.

Training and Liaison: Law Enforcement and Federal, State and Local Officials

Outreach at the IACP Conference OFM's Managing Director of Operations John R. Arndt led a delegation of senior OFM officials to the 108th International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) conference in Toronto, Canada, in October 2001. OFM representatives also attended IACP conferences in 1999 (Charlotte, North Carolina) and 2000 (San Diego, California).

The Toronto conference offered a forum to present OFM's responsibilities and jurisdiction to the law enforcement community, and to provide these officials with information concerning the privileges and immunities of diplomats and consular officials. OFM's presence also provided the opportunity to reach out to law enforcement with offers of training relating to immunity, consular notification and access, and OFM's Diplomatic Motor Vehicle program.

Department of State publications providing guidance for law enforcement and judicial authorities in dealing with the foreign diplomatic presence in the U.S. were distributed, along with a new OFM flyer, *The Diplomatic Beat*, which offers information to local authorities on handling motor vehicle incidents involving diplomatic and consular officials.



OFM's booth at the International Association of Chiefs of Police. From left to right: Chicago Regional Director Denise Duclon; Honolulu Regional Director Nancy "Sam" Finn; Managing Director for Operations John R. Arndt; Los Angeles Regional Director David Van Valkenburg; Samuel J. Duenckel; and Miami Regional Director Terry Daru.

Other National Outreach Programs

During the year, often in partnership with the Department of State's Office of Protocol, Office of the Legal Advisor, and the Bureau of Diplomatic Security, OFM participated in seminars with law enforcement and consular representatives in cities across the United States. Meetings which reached a total of more than 1,000 police officers and hundreds of consular officials, were held in the following locales:

Los Angeles, California	February
Tallahassee, Florida	March
Salt Lake City, Utah	April
Sun Valley, Idaho	November

Regional Office Outreach Activity: A Sample Profile



Secretary of State Colin Powell (front row, third from left), SFPD Captain Alex Fagan (fourth from left) with San Francisco Regional Director Leroy Dal Porto (sixth from left) SFPD Inspector Allan Duncan (seventh from left) and officers from the San Francisco Police Department. *Photo courtesy Matt Perez.*

The following table highlights outreach activities for OFM's San Francisco Regional Office in 2001.

Outreach Activity in the San Francisco Regional Office for 2001	
February	Regional Director Leroy Dal Porto addressed the Bay Area Law Enforcement and Security Liaison Group, providing information on OFM responsibilities and consular notification to approximately 80 federal, state, and local law enforcement/security officials.
May	Regional Director Leroy Dal Porto attended the Monterey County Peace Officers' Association meeting held at Monterey with attendees from federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies.
August	Regional Director Leroy Dal Porto attended the Bay Area Law Enforcement and Security Liaison Group meeting with attendees from federal, state, and local enforcement and security officials.
September	Regional Director Leroy Dal Porto attended the first U.S. Attorney Anti-Terrorism Task Force meeting. The task force acts as a conduit for information on suspected terrorists for federal, state, and local agencies.
December	Deputy Regional Director Evan Reade attended a Commonwealth Club of California panel discussion, "Travel after 9/11."
December	Regional Director Leroy Dal Porto hosted a joint holiday event with the Bureau of Diplomatic Security San Francisco Field Office. Guests included career and honorary consuls, local government officials, representatives from the mayor's office and ranking members of key law enforcement agencies in San Francisco.

Regional Office Administrative Seminars

Since 1999, OFM has addressed conferences held by each of the Department of State regional bureaus to emphasize OFM's unique role in advocating the best treatment for U.S. missions and personnel abroad and assisting foreign missions in dealing with local problems in the United States.



Deputy Assistant Secretary Theodore Strickler and NEA/SA/EX Deputy Executive Director Kathleen Austin-Ferguson renew acquaintances at the NEA/SA Administrative Officers' Conference in New Delhi. Kathleen Austin-Ferguson is the former OFM Director of DMV, Tax and Customs.

Representational Events

Diplomatic Receptions

OFM reached out to the diplomatic and consular community in two premier events in Washington, hosting diplomatic receptions for ambassadors and their deputies. In 1999, OFM Director and Assistant Secretary for Diplomatic Security David Carpenter was introduced to the diplomatic community; in 2000, the reception was held in honor of OFM Managing Director for Operations, Ronald Rabens.



The receiving line: Deputy Assistant Secretary Theodore Strickler introduces his Managing Director for Operations, Ronald Rabens (standing next to him) to the diplomatic community.



Deputy Assistant Secretary Theodore Strickler hosted two picnics for embassy administrative staffs.
Photo courtesy Said Rida.



Deputy Assistant Secretary Theodore Strickler chats with guest from the Embassy of the People's Republic of China. At right, Assistant Secretary for Diplomatic Security David Carpenter engages in conversation with Jo Morningstar of the OFM Property Office.



Open house at OFM's new premises in Los Angeles. From left to right: Regional Director David Van Valkenburg, Joshua Thai (Los Angeles County Deputy Sheriff), Salvador Jimenez (Deputy Consul General of Mexico), Jaime Molina (Consul General of Ecuador), and David van Iterson (Consul General of the Netherlands).

Picnics OFM invited embassy administrative staffs to traditional American picnics in September 1999 and May 2001.

OFM's "Pacesetter" for Representational Events OFM's regional offices also held many representational events in 2001. The director of the Los Angeles Regional Office held the most representational events during the year. Plans were made to introduce the new deputy regional director and to commemorate OFM's twentieth anniversary, which is also OFM/LA's tenth anniversary.

Community Relations

In 2001, OFM and the Office of Protocol hosted a reception at Blair House for missions and their neighbors in the Sheridan-Kalorama neighborhood of the District of Columbia to promote dialogue on neighborhood issues. OFM made use of other forums to meet with council representatives and community associations to discuss issues related to foreign missions in Washington.

OFM works to address concerns of local residents as well as foreign missions with regard to property. In 1999, OFM's property section concluded many years of work with citizen groups and District of Columbia officials for the reconstruction of the Liberian chancery, which was heavily damaged by fire in 1990. OFM is currently working with the community and the District of Columbia to renovate another foreign mission property that has aroused public interest.



The chancery of Liberia before restoration.



The chancery of Liberia today.

Publications

OFM publications are an important extension of outreach. Each publication is targeted for a specific audience, as illustrated in the table which follows.

Publication	Audience
<i>Consultations</i> quarterly newsletter	The foreign diplomatic and consular community in the U.S.
<i>The Diplomatic Beat</i> flyer	The law enforcement community in the U.S.
<i>Diplomatic Tax Exemption Program</i> flyer	Merchants at point of sale for exemption from state and local sales tax, and restaurant and lodging establishments
<i>Foreign Missions Act</i> presentation copy	Interested parties both foreign and domestic
<i>Value-added Tax Primer</i>	U.S. government representatives involved in negotiating improved tax treatment abroad
<i>Driving Practices in the United States</i>	The foreign diplomatic and consular community in the U.S.
<i>Diplomatic Motor Vehicle Program</i>	Foreign diplomatic and consular community newly assigned to the U.S.
<i>Diplomatic and Consular Immunity</i>	Law enforcement and judicial authorities
<i>Guidance for Administrative Officers</i>	Administrative officers assigned to embassies and career consulates in the U.S.
<i>Law Enforcement Video</i>	Law enforcement community
<i>OFM Annual Report</i>	U.S. foreign affairs community and U.S. public



A NEW CENTURY: INITIATIVES AND CHALLENGES

OFM Protocol Merger

The Office of Protocol's Production Unit merged with OFM's Program Support unit on October 1, 2000. The merger is the first phase in a comprehensive effort to streamline the process by which OFM offers benefits and services to members of the foreign diplomatic community. With this action, the functions of notification and termination of status of foreign diplomatic community members transferred to OFM.



Bernadette Moss services diplomatic customers diplomatically.



Clay Hays, Program Support Supervisor, inspects a sight-testing machine. Josephine Garcilazo, data processor, looks on.



Stacey Wiley processes tax exemption cards.

The diplomatic ID card

OFM produced a new identification card for the diplomatic community in 2001. The card is now more secure and is the size of a credit card — a major advantage over the previous version which did not easily fit in a wallet.



The new wallet size ID card.

TOMIS Implementation

Launching a New System The launch of OFM's new database software, TOMIS (The OFM Management Information System) in November 2001 ushered in a new era for the organization, characterized by greatly enhanced processes for analyzing, sharing, and organizing information.

OFM now has an effective tool for conducting its business with the foreign diplomatic community. Computer programs can be tailored or restructured to meet changing day-to-day requirements.

Integration with Homeland Security The September 11 attack on America identified many weaknesses in our country's procedures to protect its OFM citizens. OFM supports the critical mission of homeland defense by using the capability of TOMIS to share data with bureaus throughout the department and the government. Modern technologies such as biometrics and facial recognition are built into the system.

Meeting the Technology Challenge The launch of TOMIS was a defining event of the year 2001, but other technological progress was equally important. We have aggressively pursued modernization in preparation for the future. New hardware and software were deployed that will allow full utilization of the features of TOMIS. New tools allow OFM to manage and monitor both hardware and software systems remotely, reducing the cost of technical support. We continue to investigate and test the tools that will support and improve OFM's response to the challenges of the future.

OFM'S UNIQUE ROLES: TWO DECADES OF DEVELOPMENT



Harold Berman, of the Legal Adviser's Office, was the principal drafter of the Foreign Missions Act.

1980s: The Foundation of Reciprocity

OFM was created by an act of Congress in 1982, with a mandate to act as an advocate for U.S. diplomatic treatment abroad. During the early years, OFM embraced a policy of reciprocity: Foreign missions in the U.S. had the privileges and restrictions which reflected their government's policies toward U.S. diplomats abroad. Within the framework of this policy, OFM established the rights of foreign diplomats in the U.S. with respect to property, travel and motor vehicle, and enforced certain restrictions.

OFM used its authority to implement the following programs.

- ❑ Purchase, sale or lease of property; construction or renovation of property

Housing Program OFM initiated a Housing Program in the mid 1980s to notify embassies of its housing policies. The office leased residential units in the Washington metropolitan area for designated missions, and sublet them to embassies. Over time a reservoir of housing units reflected the variety of housing offered U.S. personnel abroad.

Construction Unit OFM also established a construction unit in the mid 1980s to control capital construction activities of missions whose governments require U.S. embassies to employ state construction agencies abroad.

- ❑ Making travel arrangements and applying restrictions on number of travelers and when indicated, locations

In 1983, OFM established the **Travel Service Bureau** to issue travel tickets and make reservations for public accommodations in accordance with restrictions imposed on U.S. personnel abroad. Additionally, service charges imposed on countries early in the program mirrored the charges imposed on our travelers. This policy resulted in an eventual elimination of these fees on both sides.

- Monitoring vehicular reciprocity and imposing like restrictions

A policy of reciprocity continues to govern the acquisition, importation, disposition and use of diplomatic mission and personal vehicles in the United States.

With the end of the Cold War, the construction and housing programs were phased out, the travel program was scaled back, and the vehicular reciprocity policy was updated to reflect new realities worldwide.

Reciprocity Today

Even in the changed world following the Cold War, OFM continues to seek improvement in the treatment of U.S. missions and personnel abroad. The goal is to achieve equitable treatment and benefits in the areas of diplomatic motor vehicles, property and tax. Our advocacy for U.S. missions and personnel ultimately benefits foreign missions in the United States as well. Through negotiation with foreign ministries and governments for improved treatment of our missions, OFM provides continuing support to the diplomatic community at large.

Motor Vehicle Reciprocity

OFM's motor vehicle reciprocity policy monitors country restrictions and encourages favorable treatment for U.S. missions and their members around the world. Privileges afforded to foreign diplomats serving in the U.S. reflect those afforded to American diplomatic personnel at U.S. missions abroad. If there are imbalances, a motor vehicle policy redressing the disparities is created.



Deputy Assistant Secretary Theodore Strickler (second right) and DMV Director Jacqueline Robinson (third right) explore motor vehicle reciprocity issues with a South Korean delegation.



OFM Legal Counsel Ronald Mlotek at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow during property negotiations.

Real Property Reciprocity In certain countries local law prohibits foreign missions from owning land. In these cases, OFM will not allow that country to purchase real estate in the U.S. on the basis of reciprocity. The so-called “bundle of rights” agreement is a workable solution in this situation. Under such an agreement, a country may purchase land and buildings in the U.S. in exchange for U.S. permission to acquire equivalent property rights in that country.

A successful reciprocity policy is crucial for U.S. missions abroad, but it is important to note that the potential exists for both parties to benefit.

Tax Reciprocity Over the past three years, OFM representatives visited forty-nine countries for talks on bilateral diplomatic tax privileges. OFM has also sent diplomatic notes relating to diplomatic tax privileges to the embassies of twenty-seven other countries. These initiatives have resulted in improved diplomatic tax exemption/reimbursement privileges for U.S. missions and personnel abroad as well as for foreign governments and diplomats residing in the United States.



Deputy Chief of Mission Luis Herrera Marcano of the Embassy of Venezuela receives new tax exemption cards from John R. Arndt, Managing Director for Operations.

1990s: A New Era of Outreach

A new focus emerged during the 1990s as OFM expanded its programs to educate both the law enforcement community and foreign mission community in the United States.

Law Enforcement Training OFM conducted an active outreach program to educate the law enforcement community about diplomatic privileges and immunities in connection with the operation of motor vehicles. In 1996 OFM provided training support to more than thirty law enforcement agencies in the Washington metropolitan area. That year OFM's outreach program provided direct training for more than 3,000 law enforcement officers and indirect training for another 4,000 officers throughout the United States.

World Cup Soccer In 1994, in partnership with the Bureau of Diplomatic Security, OFM helped to instruct World Cup organizers and federal and state authorities on issues relating to diplomats.

Olympic Games In 1996, the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games adopted the training package developed by OFM as the training vehicle for all law enforcement personnel who provided support to the games. OFM also provided instructional support training for more than 800 first line supervisors in five venues.

National Outreach Programs OFM outreach programs also emerged at the national level, often in partnership with the Department of State's Office of Protocol, Office of the Legal Advisor, and Bureau of Diplomatic Security. The office participated in seminars with law enforcement and consular representatives in cities across the United States. In addition, OFM conducted a major nationwide campaign with law enforcement, diplomatic and consular officials to ensure their understanding of respective responsibilities and the rights, privileges, and immunities of foreign diplomatic and consular personnel. This program stressed continuing efforts to improve consular notification and access of arrested foreign nationals to consular representatives.

OFM Regional Outreach The regional offices regularly sponsor seminars for consular officials and state and local authorities.

2000s: Emerging Roles in the Present Decade

The Terrorist Events of 2001 OFM makes increasing use of partnership with other offices and organizations. After the events of September 11, 2001, and the spate of anthrax and anthrax hoax attacks, OFM answered hundreds of questions from the foreign diplomatic community about security procedures and precautions. The office helped to organize a security and health briefing with experts from the Department of State and other U.S. government agencies to respond to the questions and provided material to OFM regional offices for consulates in their region.



At a security and health issues briefing, a panel of presenters responds to diplomatic security and health questions in the wake of the terrorist events and anthrax incidents of 2001. Left to right: Assistant Secretary for Diplomatic Security David Carpenter; Deputy Assistant Secretary for Security Peter Bergin; Deputy Chief Charles O'Malley, U.S. Secret Service; Dr. Cedric Dumont, Medical Director for the Department of State; Deputy Assistant Secretary Theodore Strickler, Office of Foreign Missions; and Assistant Chief of Protocol Lawrence Dunham.

OFM offered assistance in other ways in the aftermath of the attacks.

Information Support OFM/NY worked with the consular corps and the City to assist consuls in determining what foreign nationals had been victims of the attack and in obtaining information for death certificates. OFM/NY has continued to be a conduit for information between the foreign community and the City on a variety of issues pertaining to September 11.

Customs Facilitation The Customs unit acted as facilitator on behalf of the foreign diplomatic community in the United States in the aftermath of the events of September 11. When the Security Division of the Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) changed rules and procedures after the tragedy to make passenger airplanes safer, it inadvertently made it difficult or impossible to ship diplomatic pouches into, through, or out of the U.S. on passenger airplanes.

Foreign diplomats began reporting difficulties with pouch shipments as a result of the new FAA security rules by late September. OFM organized a series of meetings with the FAA and various Department offices to emphasize our concerns. Meetings between the FAA and OFM continued as the FAA crafted new security rules for cargo shipments. Ultimately the FAA reverted to their pre-September 11

guidance concerning the shipment of diplomatic pouches on passenger airplanes. Under FAA/TSA procedures pouches are not considered “cargo.” OFM also publicized this decision to the diplomatic community by means of a second note verbale and a telegram to all U.S. diplomatic and consular posts. OFM met with the new Transportation Security Agency to discuss treatment of our diplomats at airports.

Focus on Security OFM/LA quickly reworked the agenda for its September 26, 2001 consular corps conference, switching the main emphasis from administration to security. Representatives of the Diplomatic Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Los Angeles Police Department and the Los Angeles International Airport Security made presentations to 68 consular officers, a group representing 40 of the 54 countries with consulates in Los Angeles, following the events of September 11.



After the events of September 11, security experts were key speakers at the OFM Los Angeles Consular Corps Conference. From left to right: Garth Pettijohn (Diplomatic Security Service), Louis Gray (Los Angeles Police Department), Darren Gilbert (Los Angeles International Airport Police) and Darryl Elliott (Federal Bureau of Investigation).

OFM EDUCATION AND EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

Through the Department's Cooperative Education (CO-OP), Intern, Stay-in-School (SIS), and Presidential Management Intern (PMI) programs, the Office of Foreign Missions has offered more than a dozen students the opportunity to work in a foreign affairs environment and to learn the rewards of choosing a public service career. OFM's Deputy Assistant Secretary Theodore Strickler strongly supports this effort. While working in OFM, students are afforded an opportunity to take coursework at the National Foreign Affairs Training Center (NFATC), serve on committees, work on task forces and projects in OFM and other bureaus, and attend lectures, diplomatic functions and conferences. A number of OFM's Cooperative Education and intern students have accompanied Deputy Assistant Secretary Strickler on domestic and foreign negotiating trips.

Cooperative Education Program (CO-OP)



Laura Goss

Laura Goss was OFM's first Cooperative Education student. Following her graduation from American University's Graduate School of International Studies and her Cooperative Education work in OFM, Laura secured a job as an adjudicator with the Department of State's Passport Agency in Boston, Massachusetts. There she has been given temporary assignments at the Department's National Passport Center in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and the U.S. Embassy in Bridgetown, Barbados, in addition to her regular duties.

In pursuing his Master's degree in International Studies at American University, **Christian Brittle** spent a year as a CO-OP Student with OFM. Christian took training courses at the National Foreign Affairs Training Center and traveled to China with the Deputy Assistant Secretary to support the property negotiation team. Following his graduation last year, he took advantage of his experience as an OFM CO-OP employee to qualify for a position with the Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration. In that capacity, Christian frequently travels in the United States and abroad.

Sharon Grau studied international environmental policy at American University and served as OFM's CO-OP student in 2001. Sharon was the Executive Secretary of the OFM Conditions of Construction Agreement negotiating team that traveled to Beijing, China to discuss the construction of the new U.S. embassy building. She also worked on the New York parking project and assisted in drafting *SOS for DOS*, a report advocating reform within the Department of State.

OFM is now working to establish a Cooperative Education Program in each of its six regional offices.



Sharon Grau poses with guard at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing.

Presidential Management Intern (PMI) Program



Gustav Goger (second from left) and Christian Brittle (right) share a social moment with a guest at a Blair House function for foreign missions and their District of Columbia neighbors.

Gustav Goger came to the Office of Foreign Missions as a Presidential Management Intern after earning a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Chicago. While with OFM, Gustav served as Executive Secretary in a departmental security initiative review. Subsequently, he passed the Foreign Service examination and currently serves as a Foreign Service Officer in Southeast Asia.

OFM Interns

Emmett Koehler joined OFM following his graduation from Purdue University, and began his internship assisting the Deputy Assistant Secretary in writing a reform report entitled, *SOS for DOS*. He then worked on United Nations diplomatic parking issues, on publication production issues and organized an OFM conference in Fredericksburg, Virginia. Emmett is now an employee in OFM's Chicago Regional Office.



Sharon Grau and Emmett Koehler.



Gregory Rigatti

Gregory Rigatti began working as an OFM intern after earning a B.A. degree from the University of Virginia in Foreign Affairs and completing an internship for the Department's Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs. Since joining OFM he has been responsible for the preparation of the weekly activity report to the OFM Director, reviewing reciprocity issues, and assisting legal counsel with community relations outreach efforts. Gregory plans to pursue an advanced degree in 2002.

Laszlo Kupan is a student at the University of California, Los Angeles, studying business and history. He serves as an intern at OFM's Regional Office in Los Angeles and is responsible for the administration of the local utility and gasoline tax exemption program and performs other duties in the office.

Leena Krishnaswamy, a student of Columbia College in New York and **Jessica Ollendorff**, from the University of Michigan were summer interns in 2001 in OFM and the Chicago Regional Office, respectively. They worked with embassies in Washington and consulates in Chicago on parking and reciprocity issues.

Stay-in-School (SIS) Program

In 2001, four Stay-in-School positions were created to assist OFM with its administrative duties. These young people provide essential support for the Office while earning money to remain in school and learning about the federal government. Presently, OFM employs two Stay-in-School (SIS) student candidates, **Lawrence Anderson**, who is studying computers at the University of the District of Columbia, and **Amir Davis** who is completing his second year at Montgomery Junior College.

State/Defense Exchange (SDE) Program

Applying the training she received at the Air War College in 2001, OFM's Director of Administration **Jean L. Hartung** is now serving a two-year tour of duty at the Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon, participating in the State/Defense Exchange program (SDE). Each year both the Departments of State and Defense exchange officers with a view to foster a better understanding of their respective missions.

Special Assignment Detail

Amy Flohr, a Foreign Missions Program Specialist in OFM, has been assigned for a year to the State Department Operations Center, Office of Crisis Management Support. The office monitors crises worldwide, promotes contingency preparedness, and supports evacuations and task forces.

Recruitment for the Department of State

OFM fully supports the Secretary's recent call to help recruit the best to join the ranks of the State Department as Foreign Service Officers (FSOs), Foreign Service Specialists, and Civil Service employees. OFM's San Francisco and Los Angeles offices, working in close conjunction and under the guidance of the Bureau of Human Resources, have played active roles in the Department's recruitment effort by participating in a number of university career fairs. FSOs assigned to those offices visited Stanford University, the University of California at Berkeley, UCLA, San Francisco State University, San Jose State University, Cal State University Chico, Mills College, Golden Gate University, the University of Nevada at Las Vegas, and the University of Arizona. At these campuses, OFM officers shared their Foreign Service experiences with hundreds of students and graduates interested in pursuing careers with the Department. The response has been overwhelmingly positive both from the students and their career counselors. A number of students have registered to take the Foreign Service written examinations. The officers have found these visits to be rewarding, and look forward to continuing to assist the Bureau of Human Resources in the future.

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On September 11, OFM's senior staff was attending a conference on the campus of Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, Virginia. The conference was curtailed as a result of the day's events.

