

NewsRelease

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GPO ACHIEVES TWO MILESTONES IN PRODUCING E-PASSPORTS

WASHINGTON---The U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO) reached major milestones this week in the production of the Nation's passports by both fully adopting technological advances and reaching new production volumes.

First, with the successful integration of those technological advancements and increased production capabilities, GPO has converted all Passport production to the new electronic Passport (e-Passport). The Department of State began issuing e-Passports to the public last year. The e-Passport includes an electronic chip embedded in the cover that contains the same information that is printed in the passport: name, date of birth, gender, place of birth, dates of passport issuance and expiration, passport number and photo image of the traveler. The e-passport contains security features to prevent the chips from being read, cloned or changed. GPO not only produces the e-Passport, GPO's Creative Services team created the page designs.

The second milestone GPO reached is the production of the **five millionth** e-Passport. New regulations requiring U.S. citizens traveling by air to and from Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean to have a passport have increased the demand for the document. GPO has increased personnel and production resources to meet the needs of the American public. GPO produces the blank e-Passport, while the Department of State subsequently adjudicates applications and personalizes individual documents.

"The passport has seen many changes since GPO began producing the document for Americans in 1928. GPO employees are proud to be leading the changes again today by using the latest technology and knowledge to meet the security requirements of a post 9/11 security requirements," said Ben Brink, Assistant Public Printer for Security and Intelligent Documents. "GPO has produced five million e-Passports to date, with production capacity now exceeding the Department of State's production requirements."

"The Department of State and GPO are meeting the challenge of supplying Americans with a passport that integrates the latest concepts in electronic document protection and readability," said Maura Harty, Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs. "Employees at 17 Passport Agencies nationwide are working overtime daily and throughout the weekend to process applications to meet Americans' travel plans."

Here is a link to a hi and low-res image of the Acting Public Printer's review of printed passport:

http://www.gpo.gov/news/images/index_test.html

Broadcast stations: GPO Public Relations has B-Roll tape of passport production available.

Call 202-512-1957

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For information on how to apply for a passport, including applications forms, visit <http://travel.state.gov>.

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