

**CONSULAR NEWS
SENEGAL & GUINEA BISSAU**

**U.S. Embassy Dakar, Senegal
May 2006**

Arrival of Ambassador Janice L. Jacobs

Ambassador Janice L. Jacobs, the new United States Ambassador to Senegal and Guinea-Bissau, arrived in Dakar on April 6, 2006. Ambassador Jacobs presented her credentials to His Excellency President Abdoulaye Wade in Dakar on April 14, 2006.

Ambassador Jacobs, who was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on February 16, 2006, is a Senior Foreign Service Officer with 26 years of experience in Africa, Latin America and Europe. Prior to her current appointment, she served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Visa Services. From 2000-2002, she served as Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Santo Domingo. Her career also includes assignments to Mexico, France, Ethiopia, and Nigeria as well as Washington, D.C., in the State Department's Visa Office, Operations Center, and Office of Cuban Affairs.

A native of Virginia, Ambassador Jacobs received a B.A. in French and Education from Southern Illinois University in 1968 and a Master's in National Security Strategy from the National War College in 1995.

We plan to have an American Town Hall meeting in June so American citizens can meet the new Ambassador. Stay tuned for details.

News on Senegal

At the last town meeting in St. Louis, several American citizens requested more information about news events in Senegal, particularly news related to safety and security that is not covered by this monthly newsletter and Consular Warden Messages. While the consular section cannot provide regular news reports, the following websites provide updated news about Senegal in English:

AllAfrica.com at <http://allafrica.com>

MISNA at <http://www.misna.org/default.asp?IDLingua=1>

IRIN at <http://www.irinnews.org>

For those who read French, Africatime Senegal at <http://www.africatime.com/Senegal> has links to many Senegalese news organizations, as does www.seneweb.com.

Road Closures in Dakar

The Government of Senegal intends to begin work soon on parts of the Corniche West road. We are in the process of gathering as much information as we can on various road closures and traffic patterns. Once we have this information, we will post it on the embassy website at: <http://usembassy.state.gov/dakar/wwwhamcen.html>. We cannot guarantee the accuracy of the

information due to the unpredictability of road closures and the lack of information provided by the Government of Senegal.

New Consular Information Sheet for Senegal

On April 7, the State Department issued a new Consular Information Sheet for Senegal. It includes updates on Entry/Exit Requirements, Safety and Security, Crime, Medical Facilities and Health Information, Traffic Safety and Road Conditions, Aviation Safety Oversight, and Special Circumstances. To read the new Consular Information Sheet, please go to the following website: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1013.html.

May's Frequently Asked Question

To help you understand a variety of consular related issues, we will answer one frequently asked question in each month's Consular News. Please let us know what you think of this new addition and email your questions to consulardakar@state.gov.

Q. Can my fiancé get married in the U.S. on a tourist visa?

A. Yes. If you and your future spouse plan to return to Senegal after your wedding, your spouse should apply for a tourist visa (B1/B2). If your spouse is eligible for a B1/B2 visa, s/he could then use that visa to apply for entry to the U.S. for the purpose of getting married. For more information on visa eligibility requirements, please call the U.S. Visa Information Service at 869-63-00 or visit the U.S. Embassy Dakar website at <http://usembassy.state.gov/dakar/wwwhvisanen.html>.

If you and your future spouse plan to live the U.S. after the wedding, you would need to petition for a fiancé (K-1) visa. For more information on fiancé visas, please visit the following website: http://travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/types/types_1315.html#4a.

Voting Update

We are heading into the primary season of this election year. The 2006 elections officially began with the primaries in Texas on March 7 and in Illinois on March 21. Primary elections play an important role in the electoral process because the names that appear on the general election ballot on November 7th are the candidates that were chosen during the primary election process. Voters in state primaries select their party's candidates for state and federal offices such as Governor, U.S. Senator, and member of the U.S. House of Representatives. Voter participation is crucial in any election and primaries are no different. Because dates for state primaries are spread throughout the year, be sure to consult the 2006 Election Calendar for election dates in your state.

These election dates can be found on the Election Dates section on the FVAP website at www.fvap.gov.

Crime Watch

At approximately 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 18, someone stole an American woman's purse from her computer bag in an Internet Cafe located near Place de l'Independence in Dakar.

Consular Hours

Routine American citizen services are available Monday through Thursday from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Please come to window number two.

Emergency American citizen services are available during U.S. Embassy normal working hours. For an after-hours emergency involving an American citizen, please call 637-9566.

Have You Left Senegal or Guinea-Bissau?

If you have left Senegal or Guinea-Bissau, please e-mail us at consulardakar@state.gov so we can remove your name from the warden registration database. If you would like to remain on the newsletter mailing list, please indicate this in your e-mail.