

**CONSULAR NEWS
SENEGAL & GUINEA BISSAU**

**U.S. Embassy Dakar, Senegal
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October's Frequently Asked Question

Q. I am writing because I am concerned about the new Electronic Passport. I read in the news recently about a computer expert announcing that he had found a way to hack into the chips. Is this possible?

A. The State Department has addressed several security concerns regarding the new Electronic Passport (E-Passport). The first is to prevent skimming and eavesdropping. Skimming is the ability to obtain data from an unknowing passport holder who is not willingly submitting the sample at that time. Eavesdropping is the interception of information as it moves electronically between the chip and the chip reader.

An example of skimming would be secretly reading data while in close proximity to a user on a bus. In this application, the chip is designed to operate within 10 centimeters (less than 4 inches) of a chip reader using appropriate public keys. Experts indicate that the information on the chip cannot be easily accessed surreptitiously. Even so, the Department of State has incorporated a reliable anti-skimming feature and Basic Access Control to mitigate the threat of skimming in all electronic passports. The Department has also incorporated an anti-skimming device to the passport's front cover and included basic access control to prevent the chip from being read until the passport is opened and its machine-readable zone on the data page is read electronically.

Eavesdropping can only occur while a reader using the proper public key is reading the chip. Eavesdropping is difficult to achieve in a secured port-of-entry environment that is government-operated in most cases. In such an environment, the equipment needed to eavesdrop would be obvious and detectable to authorities managing the port of entry environment. Governments can reduce the threat of eavesdropping by requiring all chip readers to be electronically shielded to prevent signals from being transmitted beyond the reader.

The second issue is to prevent imposters from modifying the biochip and bio page of the passport in order to use someone else's passport as a travel document. The new passports use Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) technology that prevents the chip from being altered; thus, providing a higher level of security for the passport. Access to the data on the chip requires the use of an official public key to ensure that the data has not been altered and that it was written to the chip by the Department of State.

For more answers to frequently asked questions about the new E-Passport, please visit the following website: http://travel.state.gov/passport/eppt/eppt_2788.html.

2008 Diversity Visa Lottery Registration to Begin October 4

The U.S. Department of State announced that registration for the 2008 Diversity Visa Lottery will be held October 4 to December 3, 2006. The program, designed to bring greater racial and

ethnic diversity to the United States, offers permanent residency visas to citizens of nations that have a traditionally low level of immigration to the United States. The department said it plans to issue 50,000 permanent residency visas.

Persons seeking to enter the lottery program must register online through the designated website (www.dvlottery.state.gov) during the registration period. Registration is free of charge. Applicants should submit only one entry and must include the names of their spouse (first wife) and all unmarried children under the age of 21. A computer will select individuals at random and between May and July 2007 the Kentucky Consular Center will send letters only to those applicants who are selected. Applicants will not be notified by email. Selected individuals will be asked to pay an immigrant visa application fee only at the U.S. Embassy. Applicants should never send money for DV fees through the mail or any delivery service. Selected individuals will be given the opportunity to apply for Diversity Visas, but they must prove their eligibility before being issued a visa.

Before registering for the Diversity Visa Lottery, applicants are strongly encouraged to read the instructions posted at www.dvlottery.state.gov carefully to ensure that they are eligible for a Diversity Visa. Applicants must have either a high school education or its equivalent or two years of work experience within the past five years in an occupation requiring at least two years of training or experience. A high school education is defined as successful completion of a 12-year course of elementary and secondary education, which in Senegal is having successfully passed the baccalaureate or obtained an equivalent type of diploma. Potential applicants who did not complete the second baccalaureate and who apply on the basis of their professional experience should consult the U.S. Department of Labor's online database at <http://online.onetcenter.org> to see if their profession qualifies. In the past, many applicants who apply on the basis of their work experience do not meet the minimum requirements of the Diversity Visa program and their visa applications are refused.

Additional information on the Diversity Visa Immigrant Program is available on the State Department Web site: www.dvlottery.state.gov.

Crime Watch

The U.S. Embassy has noted a marked increase in petty crime in Senegal. In addition to a general increase in petty crime, Ramadan and the "back-to-school" season have been associated with increased criminal activity in Dakar. Incidents of burglaries, muggings and pick pocketing tend to rise this time of year due to the increased expenses surrounding these events. American citizens are encouraged to report criminal incidents to the Consular Section by emailing consulardakar@state.gov or calling 823-4296 ext. 2260.

On Sunday, September 10 at approximately 1:00 a.m., an American male was approached by two Senegalese women between the Novotel Hotel and Place de l'Independence. After some conversation, the women began forcefully pulling at the man's clothing demanding money until the police arrived several minutes later. The women stole \$250.

On Sunday, September 10 in Louga, an American's home was broken into and the thief stole a DVD player, digital camera, computer headset and 300,000 CFA.

On Wednesday, September 13 during the day, an American male had his cell phone stolen out of his hotel room at the Hotel de la Poste in St. Louis. The American was only gone about an hour. When he returned to the room he noticed that the cell phone was not there and his carrying bag showed signs of tampering. Nothing else was missing.

On Thursday September 14 at some point during the night, an American had a car radio and speakers stolen from her car which was parked on the street in Ouest Foire neighborhood. The thief left the car windows down which caused significant water damage from the rain.

On Monday, September 18 at approximately midnight, an American woman was walking on a beach in Mermoz with a male Senegalese companion. Three young Senegalese men approached her and stole her necklace and cell phone.

Hours for American Citizen Services

Routine American citizen services are available Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. When you arrive at the embassy, please show your U.S. passport or proof of American citizenship to the guard and go directly to the Consular Receptionist window. You do not have to wait in line with visa applicants.

Emergency American citizen services are available during U.S. Embassy normal working hours which are Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. For an after-hours emergency involving an American citizen, please call 637-9566.

We are also available by e-mail at consulardakar@state.gov.

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 let us know in your e-mail.