

REPRESENTATION ALLOWANCES

Proposed Appropriation Language

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For representation allowances as authorized \$8,175,000.

REPRESENTATION ALLOWANCES

Resource Summary

(\$ in thousands)

Appropriations	FY 2010 Actual	FY 2011 CR	FY 2012 Request
Funds	8,536	8,175	8,175

Program Description

Pursuant to Section 905 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 Representation Allowances permit Ambassadors, Principal Officers at constituent posts, and other Foreign Service Officers with vital contacts in the host country, to obtain partial reimbursement of costs incurred for official representation overseas. These official contacts help establish and maintain close personal ties with local government officials and influential private citizens who have expertise in the fields of politics, economics, business, journalism, labor, and science. Representational functions are key vehicles to convey U.S. foreign policy goals and objectives and to gather information central to the formulation of U.S. bilateral and multilateral policies.

Representation is vital to the Department's foreign policy objectives of advancing its economic interests, and maintaining national security interests. In addition to the normal bilateral events, the Department concentrates on representational activities that support U.S. positions on trade issues associated with the European Union (EU), Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA), Free Trade of the Americas (FTAA), African Growth and Opportunity Acts (AGOA) and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

The central feature of representational activities continues to be the promotion of American interests through the establishment and maintenance of solid working relationships with, and the gathering of information from, foreign officials and representatives. Funding is also used to promote economic activities through strengthening relationships among individuals, e.g., business and labor leaders who perform duties such as trade promotion; protection of American business interests; economic, commercial, and labor reporting; and negotiations. Representation funding is also required for adherence to certain protocols or traditions that must be observed, such as the installation or inauguration of national leaders, recognition of deaths or marriages of prominent citizens, and presentation of credentials to heads of state.

Representation events can help foster relationships to promote U.S. interests. As an example, events hosted in Burundi brought together government officials charged with promoting sound business policies with Burundian and U.S. entrepreneurs. Events like this create an atmosphere where trade and business relationships can be established and nurtured, to the benefit of both countries.

Justification of Request

The \$8.2 million request in FY 2012 is lower than the FY 2010 Actual level, which included a \$361,000 transfer to meet emergent representational needs for that fiscal year. Funds requested will continue support of U.S. national interests, economic activities, and other diplomatic functions at embassies, missions, and consulates worldwide. The Department will stage appropriate representational events and

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apply this vital diplomatic tool to enhance the effectiveness of U.S. national and foreign policy interests to:

- Increase emphasis on reaching out to Muslim and youth leaders as part of the campaign to promote government reform;
- Expand outreach to non-traditional audiences to promote key U.S. objectives;
- Host formal and informal discussion groups to promote democracy and fair elections to emphasize the peaceful transition of power via democratic elections and to increase access to top journalists, constitutional court justices, business leaders and social activists;
- Publicize the accomplishments of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) programs to advance the promotion of U.S. interests;
- Provide full requirements in Afghanistan for the Administration's foreign policy initiatives to support the program offices, interagency provincial affairs offices and public affairs offices allowing better efforts to engage Afghans at all levels;
- Increase engagement in Latin America to ensure that the new leaders understand the U.S. point of view to better formulate foreign policy and to support U.S. goals in economic stability, immigration, women's issues and climate change; and
- Engage local law enforcement agencies in enhancing network of regional security organizations as well as the safety and security of the U.S. Missions.

Funds by Program Activity (\$ in thousands)

	FY 2010 Actual	FY 2011 CR	FY 2012 Request
Commemorative and Ceremonial Requirements	251	255	255
Promotion of Economic Activities	575	612	612
Promotion of U.S. Citizens' Interests	247	244	244
Promotion of U.S. National Interests	5,477	5,196	5,196
Public Diplomacy	1,986	1,868	1,868
Total	8,536	8,175	8,175

Commemorative and Ceremonial Requirements

Ambassadors, Charges d'Affaires, and their representatives frequently participate in ceremonial or commemorative occasions such as national days, installations or inaugurations of national leaders, deaths or marriages of prominent citizens, and presentation of credentials to heads of state. On these occasions certain protocols or traditions (such as the presentation of a wreath, flowers, or other articles) must be observed. Foreign Service officers overseas are also responsible for formally introducing high-ranking visiting U.S. officers to local leaders, as well as newly assigned and/or departing personnel to their local government counterparts in order to facilitate conduct of official business.

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Promotion of Economic Activities

Foreign Service officers meet with foreign and American officials, business representatives, labor leaders, academics, and other individuals involved in production and trade investment in the country or district of their assignment. These contacts help them to perform duties of an economic nature (such as trade promotion, protection of American business interests, and economic, commercial and labor reporting) and conduct negotiations related to these activities.

Promotion of U.S. Citizens' Interests

Establishing relationships with foreign officials in the country of their assignment allows Foreign Service officers to serve citizens' interests more responsively. Knowing the right people on an immediate basis can help them extend visa and immigration assistance, provide police and prison liaison, solve citizenship and related problems, arrange transportation of effects in the case of death, and arrange transportation and subsistence for destitute Americans overseas. Personal relationships are also important in developing and testing emergency plans, as well as dealing with the actual event of a natural disaster or act of terrorism.

Promotion of U.S. National Interests

Strengthening contacts with foreign officials, prominent citizens, and long-term residents who are knowledgeable in various fields enables Foreign Service officers to promote U.S. national interests more effectively. The majority of official representational expenditures are for receptions, small working luncheons, and informal dinners that help to establish and maintain personal relationships, and to reciprocate courtesies previously extended. These relationships permit officers to gather information used to report trends, policies and opinions abroad, to conduct negotiations, and to present or further the acceptance of American policies or viewpoints.

Public Diplomacy

Public Diplomacy events aim to garner understanding and support for U.S. policies and values through interactions with influential individuals and organizations. Functions that include the local media, key political elites, academics, and members of non-governmental organizations are designed to assess the overseas public affairs climate and convey and reinforce acceptance of U.S. policies and values. These activities promote peaceful relations between the U.S. and other countries by fostering mutual understanding through academic, professional, and cultural activities.

Funds by Object Class

(\$ in thousands)

	FY 2010 Actual	FY 2011 CR	FY 2012 Request
2500 Other Services	8,536	8,175	8,175
Total	8,536	8,175	8,175