

REPRESENTATION ALLOWANCES

Proposed Appropriation Language

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For representation allowances as authorized, [~~\$7,300,000~~]*\$7,484,000*.

REPRESENTATION ALLOWANCES

Resource Summary

(\$ in thousands)

Appropriations	FY 2011 Actual	FY 2012 Estimate	FY 2013 Request	Increase / Decrease
Funds	7,840	7,300	7,484	184

Program Description

Pursuant to Section 905 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980, as amended, representation allowances enable the Department to provide for appropriate representation of the United States by employees whose official positions entail responsibility for establishing and maintaining vital relationships in foreign countries.

Representational functions convey U.S. foreign policy goals and objectives in both bilateral and multilateral fora. The Department is concentrating on representational activities that support U.S. positions on multilateral trade and economic development issues pending before the European Union (EU), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the 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).

Representational functions include protocol events such as national holidays, installation or inauguration of national leaders, or visits of noted personages. Representation funds may also be used to establish or consolidate professional relationships with local government counterparts necessary to the performance of official duties. For the Foreign Service, the ability to engage partners in an informal setting is an invaluable opportunity to strengthen the U.S. position where interlocutors are not yet ready to be forthcoming in a more formal setting.

As an example of these funds value to promote U.S. interests, Representation funds supported Embassy Kabul's 4th of July Independence Day Celebration, which included 2,000 Afghan leaders. Guests received presentations on programs supported by the U.S. in Afghanistan, thus broadening outreach at this traditional event. Also in Kabul, several *Iftaars* were hosted during Ramadan, including functions for the Afghan religious community, government contacts, and civil society and media. Embassy staff engaged Afghan and coalition leaders in discussions on the topics of transition to an Afghani-led security environment, the Strategic Partnership Dialogue, replacement of private security companies and the change of Ambassadors in July 2011.

In addition to supporting all seven regional bureaus, the Representation Allowances appropriation supports four other bureaus with overseas representatives: the Arms Control Verification Bureau (AVC); the Political and Military Affairs Bureau (PM); the Resources Management Bureau Financial Services Center (RM/FSC) in Bangkok; and the Bureau of Public Affairs (PA).

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Justification of Request

The FY 2013 Request is \$7.5 million, \$184,000 over the FY 2012 Estimate. The appropriation has steadily lost purchasing power since 2004 and, at the same time, enacted levels have decreased sharply, though Diplomatic presence overseas has grown over this period.

Major priorities in FY 2013 include:

- Support formal and informal discussion with relevant counterparts to highlight and endorse democratic alternatives that ensure peaceful transition of power in processes such as in Libya, Tunisia, Egypt and the new Republic of Southern Sudan;
- Foster engagement of Muslim Youth leaders, with the aim of encouraging government reform, by enabling a bilateral community approach through *Iftaar* celebrations that demonstrate awareness, sensitivity and tolerance of Muslim beliefs;
- Advance the expansion of outreach programs in frontline countries such as Afghanistan and Iraq, where the U.S.' ability to build relationships based on trust is key to the effectiveness of our national security goals and foreign policy interests;
- Support six new PA Media Hubs located in five geographical regions that will sustain engagement of media organizations as a critical tool to convey U.S. policy to foreign audiences via regional media outlets.
- Promote strategic economic dialogue with emerging world powers such as China by facilitating preparation events for venues such as the Annual Strategic and Economic Dialogue Support;
- Support efforts to elevate U.S. participation in regional organizations such as the African Growth & Opportunity Act (AGOA) Conference, and by supporting allowances to newly appointed Ambassadors to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and to the Organization of American States (OAS).

Funds by Program Activity

(\$ in thousands)

representation allowances	FY 2011 Actual	FY 2012 Estimate	FY 2013 Request	Increase / Decrease
Commemorative and Ceremonial Requirements	274	284	265	(19)
Overseas Program Support	0	0	41	41
Mission Direction	0	0	41	41
Promotion of Economic Activities	583	596	576	(20)
Promotion of U.S. Citizens' Interests	263	275	237	(38)
Promotion of U.S. National Interests	5,035	4,502	4,680	178
Public Diplomacy	1,685	1,643	1,685	42
Total	7,840	7,300	7,484	184

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Commemorative and Ceremonial Requirements

Ambassadors, Charges d'Affaires, and their representatives are frequently called upon to 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 the presentation of visiting noted personages and personnel of visiting U.S. naval vessels and special U.S. Government aircraft to local leaders.

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

Activities under Public Diplomacy 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.

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Funds by Object Class

(\$ in thousands)

representation allowances	FY 2011 Actual	FY 2012 Estimate	FY 2013 Request	Increase / Decrease
2500 Other Services	7,840	7,300	7,484	184
Total	7,840	7,300	7,484	184