
Front Lines

U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

JULY 1996

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JULY 1996

U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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Administrator Brian Atwood presents a letter of congratulations from President Clinton to James Durnil, assistant inspector general for audit, for his 32 years of government service. Durnil, a career minister in the Foreign Service, received the letter upon his recent retirement from USAID.



Photo Credits: Cover, World Bank; inside front cover and pages 6 (bottom), 7 and 8, Betty Snead; page 2, WHO/EPI; page 6 (top), Pat Adams.

Cover: These children in Ethiopia and others around the world will have a chance for a healthier life free from polio as the result of the development of the new vaccine vial monitor (VVM). See story on page 2.



Front Lines

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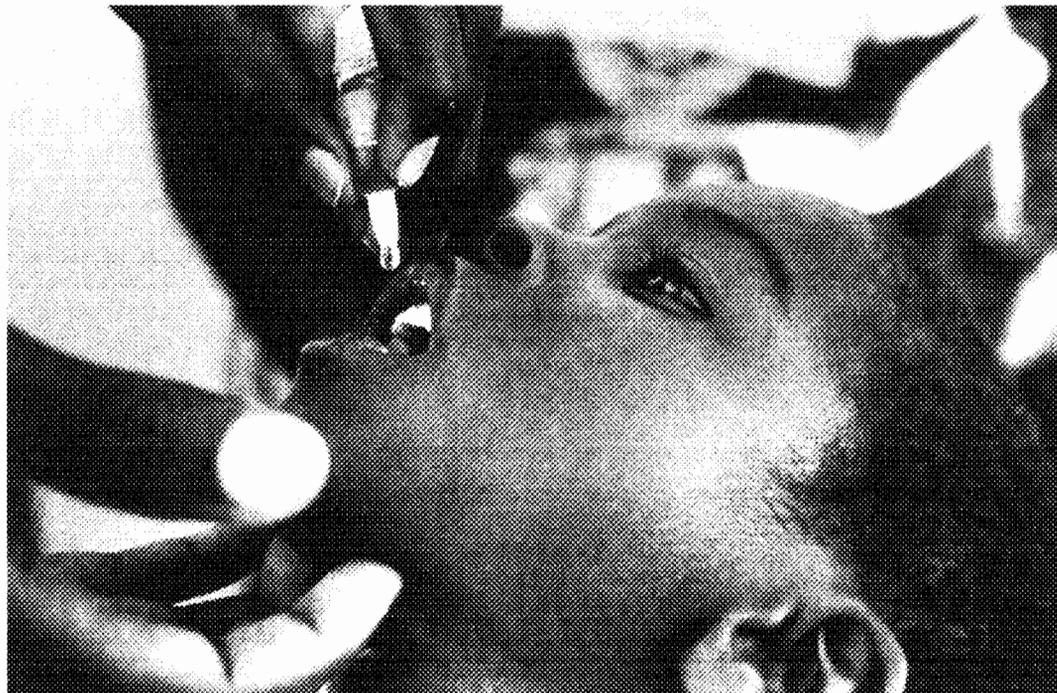
Breakthrough in polio eradication

USAID Administrator Brian Atwood announced at a Capitol Hill press conference on June 4 a technological breakthrough in the battle to eradicate polio around the world. The breakthrough will enable health workers worldwide to verify the potency of oral polio vaccines.

Atwood said the development of the vaccine vial monitor (VVM) label will help the international health community in its efforts to eradicate polio by the year 2000. The VVM is a label that will be applied to all oral polio vaccines purchased by UNICEF for use in the developing world. The label changes color when the vaccine is no longer viable. Before this development, there was no way for health workers to know whether a vaccine had been properly refrigerated and was still good, since the vaccine itself exhibits no visible change with heat exposure. Oral polio vaccine is the most heat-sensitive of all vaccines.

Because polio vaccines must be kept cold to be effective, problems will occur when they are sent to rural areas where refrigeration and electricity are often nonexistent. With the new labels, it now can be determined if the vaccines are still safe and effective.

UNICEF Executive Director Carol Bellamy said UNICEF will require VVMs on all of its oral polio vaccines for use in the developing world. Before the VVM, unused oral polio vaccine vials were discarded at the end of the day because health workers had no idea if the vaccine was still



The vaccine vial monitor will enable health workers worldwide to verify the potency of oral polio vaccines, which protect for life.

useful. The loss of discarded vaccines was estimated to be \$10 million a year.

"Once polio is eradicated," Atwood said, "families around the world will benefit. In the United States alone, families will save \$230 million a year, because children will no longer have to be immunized against this dreaded disease."

People in the United States still need to immunize their children against polio because the disease still exists in Africa, South Asia and parts of the former Soviet Union.

Less than 50 years ago, poliomyelitis was a disease that threatened people around the world. President Franklin Roosevelt was stricken with polio early in his career. With the development of vaccines by Dr. Jonas Salk and Dr. Albert Sabin, the threat of lifelong

disability from polio began to disappear throughout the industrialized world.

In 1994, thanks to international donor coordination between UNICEF, the Pan-American Health Organization, Rotary International and USAID, polio was eradicated throughout the Western Hemisphere. USAID was the largest bilateral donor in that effort, providing \$84 million over a 10-year period to eradicate polio in the hemisphere. This year, USAID launched a new \$20 million polio initiative in targeted areas of the world where the disease still exists.

This new major technological breakthrough in the fight against polio was developed in a partnership between USAID and the Program for Appropriate Technology in Health

(PATH), a nonprofit organization based in Seattle, Wash.; LifeLines Technology Inc., a private company based in Morris Plains, N.J.; the World Health Organization (WHO); and Rotary International. Lifeline Technology Inc. produces the VVM label that UNICEF is applying to its vaccine vials. USAID and WHO will ensure that health workers are trained in the use of the VVM.

USAID also played a major role in the global effort to eradicate smallpox, which was completed in 1977. Today, U.S. families save over \$200 million a year because children no longer need to be immunized against smallpox.

Once polio has been eradicated worldwide, the next targeted disease involving new VVM labels will be measles. ■

The agency at a crossroads

USAID personnel and programs are at a crossroads. The change is painful for all.

The extent of the impact of the reduction-in-force (RIF) became clear to USAID's senior managers in a workshop before the RIF when they were asked to assume the roles of the parents and their four children in the following exercise:

"At dinner one night the parents tell two of their four children that their two siblings have been sent away. The parents have determined that the family budget just couldn't handle more than four people. However, the parents still love all their children just as much as ever. Now, the parents will have to divide the chores of the other two children among the remaining two.

"Imagine the feelings of the two children who are left. . . of the children who had to leave . . . of the parents . . ."

The feelings identified for all three groups mirrored the feelings that swept through the agency on June 18, the day USAID gave separation notices to 97 Foreign Service employees. Civil Service employees will receive notices in mid-July.

Sadness, anger, fear, betrayal, mistrust, denial—all were evident among the RIFed employees. What was unexpected, but was predicted in the exercise done by the senior managers, were the startling similar reactions of the other two groups—the managers and those not given separation no-

tices. "Why them?" was a universal reaction.

Many managers who gave out the RIF notices said it was the hardest day of their careers. Many people who did not receive notices cried when they talked to the RIFed employees. The agency was numb as a whole. In an odd reversal of positions, and a testimony to the strength and professionalism of USAID employees, many of those receiving RIF notices ended up consoling the managers and their colleagues.

As the week went by, the RIFed employees' stress increased. Some were fine until overwhelmed by the tears and hugs of their colleagues. Others became physically ill. Some were able to plunge in and start the Career Transition Workshop.

The past decade has brought with it enormous experience in layoffs as the old employment contract—do a good job and you are secure for life in IBM, AT&T or the federal government—has been replaced by the concept that security relies on each employee maintaining mobile, current skills as he/she moves from employer to employer.

To cope with the RIF, USAID created the Career Transition Assistance Program (CTAP). Far more than an outplacement program, it addresses the needs of all affected by the RIF, including the agency itself.

Before the RIF occurred, the agency organized the best resources it could find—a well-known layoff consultant, Kathy

Church, who gave workshops for senior managers; the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), which had undergone four RIFs; State's Career Transition Center; and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Graduate School—to plan pre-RIF, RIF and post-RIF activities.

After much research and thought, CTAP goals were set:

- To ensure that no RIFed employee misses a paycheck.
- To provide job counseling and emotional support to RIFed employees and their families.
- To help managers, supervisors and employees who aren't RIFed go through the transition period with a minimum of stress and work disruption.
- To help the agency return to a healthy, productive stage as quickly as possible after the RIF period.

Pre-RIF—getting ready

A team was quickly identified to deal with the RIF. To ensure that someone at the senior level represented the needs of the employees, Dick McCall, chief of staff, was named executive director.

"I feel a deep sense of sorrow over this RIF," McCall said. "Many of my friends are affected. This is something I just have to do."

This author was selected as program director. Numerous M/HR staff are involved in supporting CTAP. Others in USAID have stepped forward

Career transition assistance program staff

NAME	ROLE	TELEPHONE
Dick McCall	Executive Director	202-736-6447
Lucy Sotar	Program Director	703-875-1596
John Giusti	Job Leads	703-302-4010
Thelma Furlong	Job Leads	703-875-1121
Joe Pastic	Career Transition Center	703-302-4007
Toni Mitchell	Trng. of Mgrs. & Supervisors	703-875-1565
Rita Owen	Communications	703-302-4116
Cecelia Pitas	Family Support	703-302-4092
Martha Rees	Employee Counseling	703-302-4011
Dovie Ross	Peer Counseling Program	703-302-4008
Cathy Smith	Operations Director & Change Mgt.	703-875-1667
Bishop Buckley	EOP	703-875-7293
Fern Finley	AFGE	703-875-1206
Ken Martin	State Career Transition Ctr.	703-235-4240
Frank Miller	AFSA	202-736-7460

to offer their assistance to their fellow employees—to serve as peer counselors, to provide job leads or simply to offer any services needed. Frank Miller, vice president of the American Foreign Service Association, and Fern Finley, president of the Association of Federal Government Employees, have given their full support to the program.

Pre-RIF activities included:

- Setting up a USAID

Career Transition Center at 1400 Wilson Blvd., 9th floor (there are several rooms) in Rosslyn, fully equipped with career counselors and job search resources (including Internet), computers and phones.

- Training managers in giving out RIF notices in the most helpful and least stressful way.

- Training 41 peer counselors (see box) in three-day workshops to support the RIFed employees, help them identify resources and encourage them throughout. OPM found counselors key to their out-placement success.

Dovie Ross, coordinator of the peer counselors, reports that “this group is uniformly outstanding in dedication and commitment. They are already a cohesive group, enabling them to multiply their ability to help others.”

Career Transition Center

On June 24, the first group of RIFed personnel started at USAID’s Career Transition Center (CTC). Like the others who will attend, they took part in:

- A two-week (slightly altered for the first class) basic job search workshop of half

days. According to Ann Wolfe, one of the career counselors and workshop leaders, “Finding a job is serious business. At the same time, this is one point in their lives when they can take stock and decide what they really want to do for the rest of their lives. We will help them with both.”

- Three additional weeks of flexible programming, aimed at specific job markets, feedback on videotaped interviews, help with tailoring resumes for particular jobs, job support groups and a variety of workshops.

The center will remain open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, until Oct. 31.

Courses start July 8 and 22 and August 5. Four courses for 25 participants can be held at a time. According to John Giusti (M/HR), USAID liaison to the CTC, “CTC will help match people to job leads. At the same time, the job search skills learned are critical skills for the future so we will not do the work for them but will be there to advise and assist them. The career counselors know both the private and public sector well and can teach people how to research jobs and how to market themselves well.”

CTAP also has a web site on the corporate web that includes job search networks.

Counseling service available

Martha Rees, the agency’s clinical social worker, and additional recently hired counselors have received the support of State’s Employee Assistance Program social workers and Dr. William

Rigamer, head of State’s medical office, to assist RIFed employees.

Cecilia Pitas, chief of the Career Development Unit, M/HR, has organized family support overseas, and two family support counselors, Michael Ann Dean and Kay Aiken, are available in Washington.

Throughout the RIF period, a series of activities to help with stress and change management are being organized by Cathy Smith of M/HR/TD, operations director for CTAP. The seminar for senior managers on “Change Management for Leaders” and Dr. Rigamer’s presentation on “How to Control the Uncontrollable” were the first of these. Dr. Rigamer’s videotaped presentation, along with the peer counselors and managers workshop materials, was shipped to all missions. CTAP will get additional stress and change management materials out for everyone.

The administrator’s assistance

The administrator has personally called the heads of all foreign affairs agencies and other federal agencies that may have suitable jobs to ask for priority consideration for those RIFed from USAID. Recognizing the toll the RIF is taking on everyone, he also has asked DAAs to scale down workplans for this summer.

Post-RIF recovery

After a RIF, organizations that try to continue business as usual never reach full productivity and health again. Those in-

involved with CTAP believe it is an important part of its mission to work with management experts to ensure that the case is different with USAID.

CTAP has benefited greatly from the intense involvement of Michael Grant, special assistant to the OPM director, and his assistant, Alice Hewitt. They assure the agency that it has met the administrator’s goal of establishing the best out-placement program in federal government.

Those of us on the CTAP team and the peer counselors are committed to following through with every RIFed employee until he or she gets a job and to helping the agency itself recover as quickly as possible from this trauma. Our job is just beginning. ■

—Sotar is chief of the training division (M/HR/TD).

New metro area reemployment centers

The metro area has new reemployment centers offering services to all dislocated/RIFed federal and contract (federal) employees. These centers will be featured in the August issue of *Front Lines*. In the meantime, you may wish to contact them:

- Washington office—phone: (202) 565-6672.
- Maryland offices—Wheaton Plaza, phone: (301) 929-6883; Landover, phone: (301) 386-5522, ext. 428.

New centers will be opening soon in Fairfax and Baltimore.

Peer counselors directory

NAME	OFFICE	TELEPHONE
ATWOOD, Tracy	G/EG/AFS/FP	202-663-2536
BAKER, Arnold	G/PDSP	703-875-4730
BALTIMORE, Liz	M/AA/ROR	202-663-2459
CARETHERS, Vikki	M/HR/TD	703-875-1635
CARNEY, Sharon	G/AMS	703-875-4370
CAUVIN, Glenn	AFR/DP/PAB	202-647-2983
CONROY, Ryan	A/AID	202-875-5299
DEFLER, Julie	Rm. 653, 5A-36	703-302-4096
FREDRICK, David	LPA/PL	202-647-5381
GALL, Pirie	ANE/ORA/O	202-647-8227
HAECKER, John	M/MPI	202-647-0972
HAMILTON, Ardrea	G/EG/PS	202-663-2043
HEMMER, Carl	G/PHN/POP/CLM	202-875-4412
HERBERT, Mary	BHR/PVC/MGD	703-351-0192
HESTER, James	PPC/ENV	202-647-9012
HOIRUP-BACOLOD, Marianne	ANE/EA	202-647-4518
HOWELL, Renee	ANE/ORA/RAD	202-647-8228
HUMPHREYS, Edith	M/HR/PS	703-875-5286
JORDAN, Patricia	PPC/CDIE	703-875-4988
KORIN, Michael	ANE/ENA	202-736-7457
LANZA, Kenneth	G/EG/EIR	202-663-2315
LAREW, Hiram	PPC/AA	202-647-7065
LEE, John	AFR/WA/PSEA	202-647-8835
MAY, Marcia	M/IRM	703-516-1991
MEYER, Anthony	G/HCD/FSTA	703-875-4782
MORELAND, Janet	M/IRM	703-875-1836
OLSON, Thomas	AFR/SD/PSGE	202-647-5841
REDMAN, Carolyn	ANE/AMS	202-647-7302
RYNER, Stephen	M/B/PA	202-736-4297
SAVOY, Gwendolyn	M/HR/TD/XT	703-875-1561
SCOTT, Anna-Marie	ENI/PD/PSB	202-647-8437
SILVER, Arthur	ANE/SEA/SPA	202-663-2651
SIMARD, Lorraine	LAC/CAR	202-647-4105
SYKES, Rita	M/FM/APNP	202-663-2426
TAYLOR, George	G/ENV	703-875-4630
WARFIELD, Elizabeth	ANE/SEA/RPM	202-663-2627
WILLIAMS, Yvonne	M/HR/TD/PMT	703-875-1518
WIMBISH, Bertha	ENI/ED	703-875-5209
YAEGER, William	BHR/OTI	202-647-0032
YEARWOOD, Melita	M/B	202-647-6619
YOUNG, Veronica	AA/LPA	202-647-8190

Professional employee and family counselors

NAME	TELEPHONE
Martha Rees	703-302-4011
Ann Gonzalez	703-302-4011
Dr. Mary Tyler	703-302-4011
Ann Weiss	202-647-4929 State EAP
Anne Reese	202-647-4929 State EAP
Flora Bryant	202-647-4929 State EAP
Michael Ann Dean	703-302-4116 Family Liaison
Kay Aiken	703-302-4116 Family Liaison

Workshop Schedule

The transition and job search program is conducted in two stages. The first stage is a 40-hour comprehensive workshop program divided into half-day sessions. The second stage is an intensive three-week program that follows the workshop.

Workshops are conducted from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and/or from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily at the USDA Graduate School, 1400 Wilson Blvd. Suite 1000, Arlington, Va.

Workshop: July 8 to July 19

Workshop: July 22 to Aug. 2

Workshop: Aug. 5 to Aug. 16

The schedule for the three-week follow-on program (half days) is as follows:

July 22 - Aug. 9: For personnel who completed one of the first two 40-hour workshops.

Aug. 5 - Aug. 23: For personnel who completed the 40-hour workshop commencing July 22.

Aug. 19 - Sept. 6: For personnel who completed the workshop commencing Aug. 5.

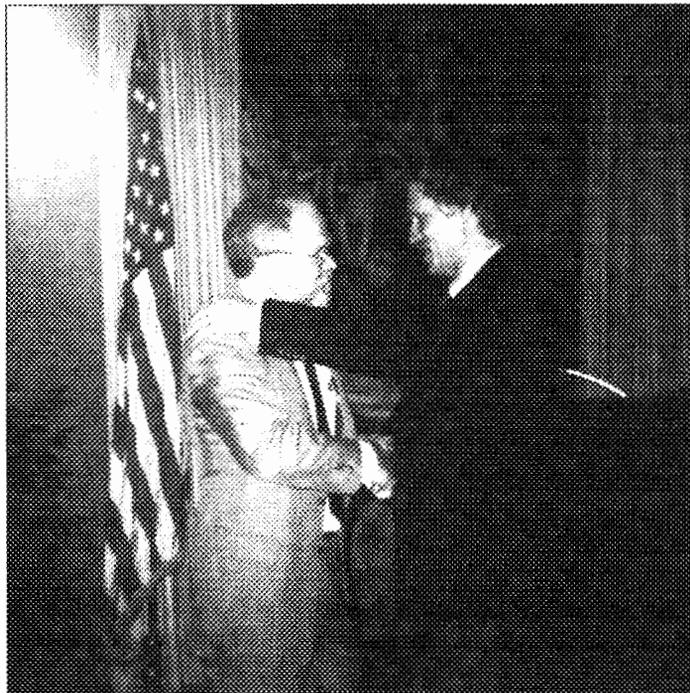
USAID names new mission director to Rwanda

George Lewis was sworn in May 17 at the State Department to head USAID's mission in Rwanda.

He directs a \$6 million a year program in Rwanda with a focus on democracy and governance and assistance to displaced people.

Lewis most recently held the position of deputy director, Office of East African Affairs. He has served with USAID in Indonesia, Nepal, Bolivia, Botswana and Swaziland.

Lewis has a bachelor's degree from Oberlin College in political science and a master's degree in development studies from the University of Wisconsin at Madison.



George Lewis (left) receives congratulations from George Taylor, G/ENV, after being sworn in as the new mission director to Rwanda.

A native of Aberdeen, Wash., Lewis enjoys outdoors activities including camping, hiking, bicycling and canoeing with his family. He is married to Ann von Briesen, a development professional and educator. Their two sons attend college in Oregon and Wisconsin. ■

USAID representative to Somalia sworn in

John Bierke, a career Foreign Service officer, was sworn in June 3 as the agency's representative to Somalia.

Bierke, who has over 25 years of experience in international development, directs a \$19 million economic assistance program in Somalia. The program focuses on providing humanitarian assistance including effective delivery of relief and rehabilitation services in the sectors of food security and health.

Bierke joined USAID in 1970 and has served the agency in Washington, Cote d'Ivoire, Zaire and Sudan.

He received his bachelor's degree in business administration/production management from California State University at Los Angeles in 1965 and has done graduate work in business administration at UCLA as well as graduate work in education at Michigan State University.

Bierke and his wife, T. Thuy, have a daughter, Christine, and a son, Eric. ■



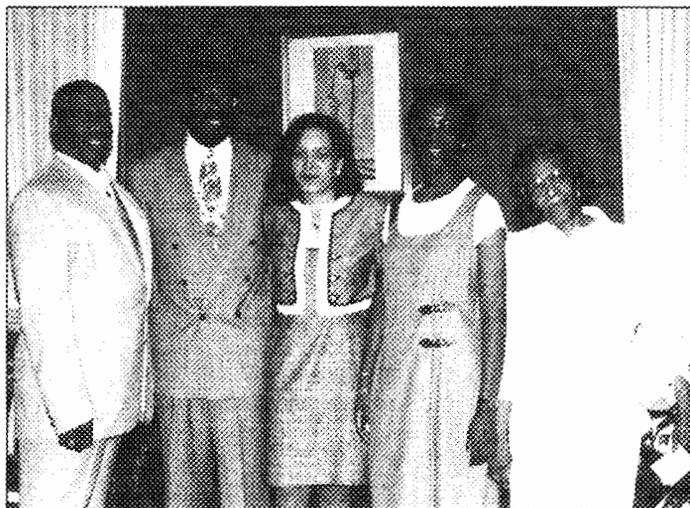
Robert McDonald (right), chief, executive management staff, swears in John Bierke as USAID representative to Somalia while Yvonne John, M/ROR, holds the Bible.

USAID/Ghana has new director

Myron Golden, a career Foreign Service officer, was sworn in May 21 as mission director to Ghana.

A 26-year USAID veteran, Golden directs a \$45 million economic assistance program designed to help Ghana achieve broad-based economic growth improving production capacity, reducing population growth rate and improving primary education.

Golden joined USAID in 1970 as an international development intern and has served in Washington, Thailand, Tanzania, Mali, Niger,



Myron Golden (second from left) hosts his family at a private swearing-in ceremony as the new mission director to Ghana. From left to right: Joseph (brother); Myron; Chevaunne (wife); Malaika (daughter); and Erma (mother).

Togo and Jamaica. Prior to his new assignment, Golden was mission director in Burundi.

A graduate of Howard University, Golden also received a master's degree from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Golden is a native of Cleveland, Ohio. He and his wife, Chevaunne, have a daughter, Malaika Solange. ■

New mission director for USAID/Jordan

Lewis Lucke was sworn in as USAID mission director to Jordan on June 7.

As mission director, Lucke directs USAID's \$7.2 million program that focuses on enhancing the democratization process, macroeconomic policy reform, stabilizing the population growth rate and improving the health of Jordanian citizens in an effort to facilitate the Middle East peace process.

Lucke has 17 years of experience in the field of international development. He most recently served as mission director in Bolivia, where he also served as deputy mission director from May 1994 until

he assumed the top position in early 1995. He began his career with USAID in 1978 and since then has served in Mali, Senegal, Costa Rica and Tunisia.

Lucke is from Burlington, N.C. He received his bachelor's degree in international studies from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He also has a master's degree in international management from the American Graduate School of International Management in Phoenix, Ariz.

Lucke and his wife, Joy, have three children. ■



Lewis Lucke (right) receives the oath of office from Frank Almaguer, DAA/M/HR, as his wife, Joy, holds the Bible and his son, Austin, looks on.

Food for Peace trainees

Twenty-two USAID staff members from Washington and the field recently completed a two-week training course for food aid managers. The course was offered for the first time in July 1994 by the Office of Food for Peace, Bureau for Humanitarian Response, and its institutional support contractor, Mendez England and Associates, in response to the growing importance of Title II and Title III Food for Peace programs. The graduates of the May 1996 class included 12 field staff representing USAID missions in Bangladesh, Bolivia, Ethiopia, Guinea, Haiti, India, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique and Peru. In addition, the U.N. World Food Program, the U.S. Mission to

the United Nations in Rome and the Regional Economic Development Services Office/Nairobi sent participants to the course.

The main objectives of the training were to familiarize the participants with the role of food aid within USAID's strategies for sustainable development, the importance of food aid as a resource in achieving food security and the new programming guidelines for FY 1997 Title II emergency assistance and development projects. The course featured case studies and small group exercises as well as a field trip to the port of Baltimore to observe grain loading operations. The trip included a briefing at the Baltimore headquarters of Catholic Relief

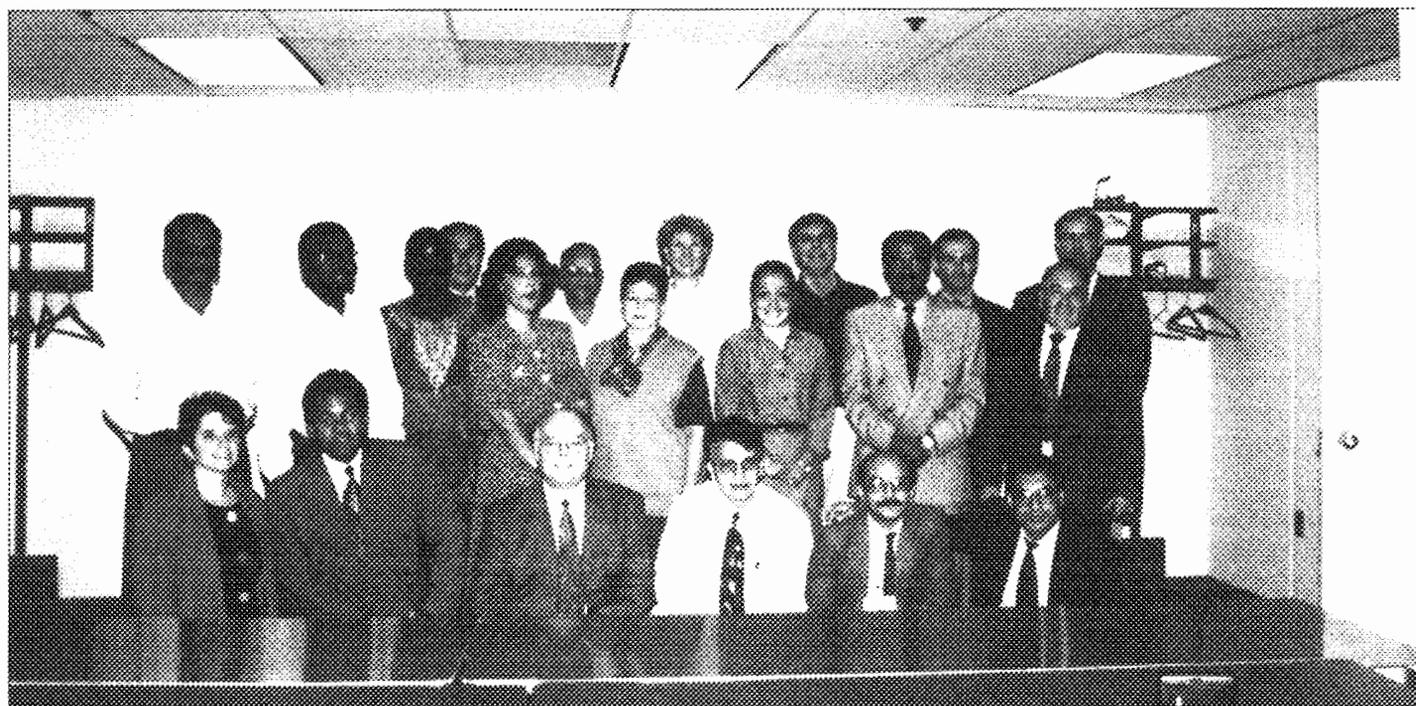
Services on its worldwide logistics support system for emergency and development programs involving food aid. The training also covered methodologies for conducting rapid food security assessments and the use of indicators to measure the impact of food aid activities.

Overall reaction to the course was very favorable. Participants commented that "the course did a good job of bringing all the issues together;" "the objectives were well thought out and relevant to the field staff;" "previously, I was working without a base, but now I know how food aid operates;" and "this is one of the best courses I have taken in over two decades with USAID." Other comments noted that

participants gained a much clearer understanding of the new USAID policy direction on food aid, the critical importance of performance indicators and the concepts behind the use of monetization.

The course graduation ceremony on May 24 was conducted by Len Rogers, deputy assistant administrator, Bureau for Humanitarian Response, and David Hagen, acting director of the Office of Food for Peace. Rogers underscored the importance of professional training for USAID food aid managers and promised his support for future training programs focused on food aid and food security. ■

—By Paul Royston, Mendez England & Associates.



Food for Peace trainees and staff gather for the graduation ceremony after completing a two-week training course for food aid managers in Washington. The graduates included representatives from USAID missions and the U.N. World Food Program. The course was offered in response to the growing importance of Title II and Title III Food for Peace programs.

WHERE

In The
World
Are
USAID
Employees?



Moved On

Caldwell, Jennifer
Chu, Susan
Czechowski, Halle Marie
Harris, Ronda
Heinen, Amy
Johnson, Pamela
Marinopoulos, Daphne
Usnick, Michael

Promoted

Atsalinos, Emmanuel
Bowman, Lari Nicole
Buckley, Sarah
Burnett, Sonya
Butler, Lance III
Dalton, Tanya
Dean, Pamela
Edmond-Fennell, Sherri
Fulmer, James Wesley
Hairston, Cynthia
Joyner, Sylvia
Kambour, Arlene
McCoy, Melissa
Moore, Shirley
Morton, Lorraine
Muncy, Donald
Pryor, Jeanne Marie
Shaffer, Shirley Mae
Thomas-Reid, Melissa
Turner, Marella Lou
Weems, Debra

Reassigned

Carpenter, Louis, COMP/
SEPARATION, financial
management officer budget
analyst, to financial management
officer financial analyst, M/FM/
LM
Chambers, Sidney, AFR/SA/PA,
project development officer, to
SDB/OD
Dugan, Maureen, West Bank/Gaza,
program officer, to COMP/FS/
REASSGN

Jarrell, James, IG/A/IT&SA,
auditor, to RIG/PRETORIA
Jenks, Nicholas, Lithuania, general
development officer, to program
officer, Angola
Leece, Gail, GC/CCM, legal officer,
to supervisory general develop-
ment officer, Honduras
Lu, Chung-Chi, AFR/SD/PSGE,
agricultural development officer,
to COMP/SEPARATION
Morton, Raymond Herold,
Armenia, general development
officer, to private enterprise
officer, Romania
Osborn, Amy Nolan, Burundi,
program officer, to COMP/FS/
REASSGN
Osborn, James, Burundi, supervi-
sory project development officer,
to COMP/FS/REASSGN
Otterbein, Julie, RHUDDO/ASIA,
housing/urban development
officer, to supervisory natural
resources officer, ENI/EEU/NR
Owens, Richard, RDO/C/DRD,
natural resources officer, to special
projects officer, BHR/OFDA/DRD
Rushing, Kevin Allyn, Russia,
health development officer, to
general development officer,
Bosnia-Herzegovina
Signer, Charles, SDB/OD, private
enterprise officer, to ENI/ED/SB
Smith, Hugh, AFR/SA, supervisory
regional development officer, to
deputy mission director, Jamaica
Thomas-George, Lula, ANE/ORO/
RA, program operations specialist,
to administrative operations
specialist, M/AS/AP

Retired

Carlson, Roger
Haycock, Gilbert
Lippe, Michael
McLeod, Evelyn
Morris, Herbert
Perez, Virgilio
Robinson, Sylvia
Sandoval, Barbara
Silva, Alan
Smith, Scott Eric

Obituaries

Elmer (Mike) L. Conrad, 57, died April 22 of a heart attack at his home in Fairfax, Va. He joined USAID in 1966 and served in Indonesia, Tanzania, Kenya, Vietnam, Thailand, Pakistan, Niger, Burma and Washington. Conrad retired from USAID in 1992. Condolences may be sent to his widow, Gerta Conrad, at 12980 Ridgemist Lane, Fairfax, Va. 22033.

Russell Desrosiers, 80, died June 8 at Fairfax Hospital, Falls Church, Va. He had Parkinson's disease. He began his government career in 1949 with USAID's predecessor agencies. As a plant pathologist, he served in Ecuador, Costa Rica and Brazil. In 1949, while assigned to Ecuador, he helped develop a control for the Sigatoka disease in bananas, which enabled Ecuador to become a major exporter of bananas in the 1950s. For this, he was decorated by the Ecuadorian government. Desrosiers received USAID's Distinguished Service Award before retiring in 1975.

David B. Watson, 46, died March 27 of AIDS at his home in Alexandria, Va. Watson worked for USAID from 1988 until retiring last year as director of the office of development education. The PVO Partners of the Americas honored Watson by establishing an award, "David Watson Prize for Innovation in Development Education." The annual award goes to one of its U.S. Partner chapters that excels in creative ways to educate the American public. This year's award went to the Rockland County, N.Y.-St. Lucia Partners.

Vernon R. Scott, 72, died March 28 in Coos Bay, Ore., of an aneurysm. He began his government career in 1954 with USAID's predecessor agencies and served in Paraguay, El Salvador, Iran, Costa Rica, Thailand and Washington. Among Scott's honors during his career, the most memorable was being named commander in the Royal Order of the White Elephant, presented to him by the King of Thailand. He retired from USAID in 1979.

Attention: Retirees

Front Lines would like to run in each issue information about our retirees. We would like to hear where you are and what you are doing. We would be glad to include your address if you would like to have former colleagues contact you.

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