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Photo by Wendie Dufflon, USAID

Wayne Nilsestuen receives the Order of the Quetzal award.

NILSESTUEN HONORED FOR LEADERSHIP

Guatemala Office Director Wayne Nilsestuen received two prestigious honors in July for his work in the Central American country.

First, he was named an “ambassador of peace,” an honor bestowed by the Guatemalan government on individuals whose work builds peace in the country.

Nilsestuen also received Guatemala’s high honor, the Order of the Quetzal. The award was first instituted in 1936 and has since been presented to individuals who work closely with the country and whose civic and humanitarian efforts merit special acknowledgement.

Nilsestuen has been office director in Guatemala since August 2006.

Guatemala officials applauded the director’s leadership and efforts to collaborate with government entities as well as civil society, private sector, and NGOs on several development initiatives designed to enhance peace and security in Guatemala.

Although Nilsestuen will officially retire from USAID in August, he will be “recalled” to serve as office director in Bolivia in September. He has 37 years of work in the U.S. government.

Originally from Arcadia, Wis., Nilsestuen began his

He joined USAID in 1973 as an international development intern.

public service career as a Peace Corps volunteer in 1968 in Sierra Leone, West Africa, where he started a vocational agricultural program at a boys’ secondary school. He joined USAID in 1973 as an international development intern and was first assigned to Pakistan as an agricultural economist.

Since then, he has served with USAID in various African and Latin American countries, including Senegal, El Salvador, Honduras, Bolivia, Paraguay and Guatemala. ★

Foreign Service Union Honors Putman’s ‘Constructive Dissent’

By Michael Del Moro

The recent termination of four-star Army Gen. Stanley McCrystal might make some people cautious about speaking out against policies in military circles, but not USAID’s Diana Putman, who received the William R. Rivkin Constructive Dissent Award from the American Foreign Service Association (AFSA) on June 24.

The award, presented by Ambassador Thomas Boyatt, was given for Putman’s challenge to the U.S. Africa Command’s policy regarding gender- and sexual-based violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where an estimated 8,300 women were raped last

year alone. Putman, a health specialist, is detailed to Africa Command, which is based in Stuttgart, Germany.

Last year, before a visit by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton where she was to talk about sexual violence in Congo, military officials at the command came up with a plan to conduct a short-term aid program for women who have been sexually assaulted.

Counseling and rehabilitation for victims should be handled by NGOs and U.N. organizations, not the military, according to Putman. This opinion, though widely accepted by her colleagues and originally suggested

by the State Department, might have cost her her job had she gone public carelessly.

Putman instead worked her way up the chain of command, garnering support for her constructive criticism. Her challenge could have been dismissed as disruptive behavior. In the end, however, Africa Command agreed to leave medical engagements to the providers that best understand Congolese culture and assume the role of constructing rehabilitation clinics where providers can help Congolese women in an appropriate way.

“I feel very honored because when you look at these awards,

Putman, a health specialist, is detailed to Africa Command, which is based in Stuttgart, Germany.

the State Department is the only U.S. government agency I know of that actually awards constructive dissent,” Putman said in an interview with *FrontLines*. “I am also very proud to have been able to make a change in a programming approach that is ultimately going to lead to improving the lives of Congolese women.”

AFSA said Putman’s actions “exemplify the qualities of constructive dissent by demonstrating the intellectual courage and integrity to challenge the status quo while working within the system.” ★



Photo by Patrick Bradley/AFSA

Diana B. Putman

JUNE 6, 2010 – JULY 3, 2010

PROMOTED

Michael Ashkouri
Supervisory Contract Specialist

Dean M. Cabrera
Supervisory Contract Specialist

Daphne A. Collier
Contract Specialist

Alison L. Eskesen
Financial Management Specialist

Robert L. Fry
Supervisory Auditor

German Gomez
Contract Specialist

Sandra R. Harrell
Supervisory Contract Specialist

Yetunde Kehinde
Contract Specialist

Melissa Kennison
Grants Management Specialist

Tameka J. Laws
Contract Specialist

Joseph Lentini
Supervisory Contract Specialist

Paulette E. Lester
IT Project Manager

Cherie Mennel
Human Resources Specialist

Karen R. Nelson
Program Analyst

Kevin Sampson
Contract Specialist

Alina Schulte
Contract Specialist

Cynthia Spragley
Financial Management Specialist

Brian Stout
Program Analyst (ICS)

Keyonna D. Washington
Human Resources Assistant

John M. Watson
Logistics Management Specialist

REASSIGNED

Rafael A. Alequin
SEC/ISP/DS to SEC/ISP

Kevin L. Armstrong
Mozambique/D to Benin/D

Laura B. Berger
COMP/NE/OJT to Honduras/JOS

Nils Radford Bergeson
COMP/NE/OJT to Colombia/JOS

Sarah Jean Berry
DROC to DROC/JOS

Andrew Edward Boegel
COMP/NE/OJT to SM/JOS

Elizabeth Brown
Afghanistan/PFPN to Iraq/PRTO

Stephanie N. Budzina
LAC/RSD to Pakistan/OD

Sarah Bueter
COMP/NE/OJT to Pakistan/OD

Michael Carey Burkly
GH/PRH/SDI to Iraq/DG

Mark J. Carrato
Colombia to Afghanistan/OD

Michael Casella
A/AID to BRM/OD

Christopher M. Casey
FA/COO/AFR to AFR/DP/POSE

Jeffrey Alan Cochrane
West Africa/TIO to Iraq/EGA

Mohamed S. Dansoko
DROC to DROC/JOS

Elizabeth C. Davnie Easton
Kenya/PROG to Kenya/JOS

Katharine Joy Dow
Kenya/PROG to Kenya/JOS

John A. Edgar
Ethiopia/D to Ethiopia/JOS

Azza I. El Abd
COMP/FS/REASSIGN to Kosovo/DIR

Brian Fink
Rwanda to Rwanda/JOS

Chitahka Floore
COMP/NE/OJT to West Bank/Gaza

Joseph T. Foltz
Rwanda to Rwanda/JOS

Ebony Fultz
M/OAA/GH to M/OAA/GRO

Earl W. Gast
AA/AFR to Afghanistan/OD

Carey N. Gordon
Bangladesh/DIR to COMP/FS/REASSIGN

David E. Gosney
Caucasus to Sudan/OSSP

Richard J. Goughnour
Dominican Republic/DIR to Peru/D

Nancy Lee Hendricks
COMP/NE/OJT to Afghanistan/OD

Nancy L. Hoffman
COMP/LT TRNG to Guatemala/D

David E. Hull
Armenia/EGO to Bolivia/ENV SOT

Raymund John Johansen
Afghanistan to Indonesia

Eric M. Johnson
COMP/NE/OJT to USAID Representative/Vietnam

Mark C. Kelly
COMP/NE/OJT to Guatemala/JOS

Blair A. King
COMP/NE/OJT to Indonesia/DDG

Mitchell Kirby
Pakistan/PDO to ME/PFPN

Christopher Krafchak
COMP/NE/OJT to Iraq/OMD

Alexander C. Lane
COMP/FS/LT to Paraguay/JOS

Timothy K. MacFarlane
M/OAA/GH to M/OAA/EGAT

John P. Macy
COMP/NE/OJT to Paraguay/JOS

Kathleen S. McDonald
Pakistan/OD to Asia/SCAA

Melody R. McNeil
COMP/NE/OJT to Mozambique/PDM

Elizabeth D. Mendenhall
COMP/NE/OJT to Dominican Republic/JOS

Rosalinda Morales
SEC/ISP to SEC/ISP/DS

Verla C. L. Nathaniel
Kenya/PROG to Kenya/JOS

Daniele H. Nyirandutiye
Ethiopia/SSS to Ethiopia/JOS

Christine Obester
Kenya/PROG to Kenya/JOS

Lawrence Rubey
El Salvador/SOI to EGAT/AG/ARPG

Aaron Ruble
COMP/NE/OJT to El Salvador/JOS

Leslie A. Schafer
Ethiopia/FHA to Ethiopia/JOS

Adam E. Schumacher
Bangladesh/DG to Afghanistan/OD

Carl A. Seagrave
Rwanda to Afghanistan/OAA

Cynthia L. Shartzner
O/S LANG TRNG to Peru/D

Daniel M. Sinclair
COMP/NE/OJT to Guatemala/JOS

Raina M. Spence
COMP/NE/OJT to Jamaica-CAR/JOS

John M. Stamm
Liberia to Afghanistan/OD

Donna R. Stauffer
COMP/FS/REASSIGN to E&E/EA

Kathryn D. Stratos
EGAT/PAICO/CKM to EGAT/PAICO/PAMS

Aliou Tall
DROC to DROC/JOS

Brendan Wheeler
Ethiopia/PROG to Ethiopia/JOS

Mark Robert Kenneth Wilson
Kenya/PROG to Kenya/JOS

RETIRED

John P. McMahon

Bobbie E. Myers

Terry Payne

Mike E. Sarhan

MOVED ON

David Besch

Barbara Britton

Nichole R. Graber

Susan Gurley

James R. Helton

Edward Lawrence

Annabel D. Lee

Kenneth Lizzio

Narantuya Lopez

Frederick E. Machmer

Thomas R. Moore

Elizabeth Moushey

Gregory A. Olson

Howard E. Pfeffer

Glenn Slocum

Susan E. Stamper

Frank J. Young

IN MEMORIAM

Cecelia Y. Burks, 60, died July 24, in Roanoke, Va. In 1974, Burks began her government career at USAID, joining what eventually would become the Bureau for Global Health. She went on to work in the bureaus for Africa; Management; and Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade (EGAT). While working at EGAT, Burks helped to develop a plan for procurement actions. She also developed a portfolio database for EGAT's Office of Environment and Science Policy and provided support to technical offices. She served as a program analyst in EGAT until her retirement in 2006.

James W. Habron Sr., 76, died Dec. 16, 2009, in Pleasantville, N.J. Habron joined USAID in 1965 when he served as a highway engineer adviser in Saigon during the height of the Vietnam War. He next worked in Thailand for five years on rural and urban development projects. In 1972, Habron began work on a four-year recovery effort in earthquake-ravaged Nicaragua, which ended when political revolutionaries gave his family three hours to leave the country. After his family evacuated, he volunteered to stay behind in Managua to ensure that other U.S. citizens also evacuated safely. He departed Managua on one of the last flights out of the capital as the city fell to the rebels. Habron also worked in Grenada, Sierra Leone, and El Salvador. In 1980, Habron was detailed to the National War College where he was promoted to the Senior Foreign Service three years later. He retired from USAID in 1989. ★

African Education Workshop Brings Together 24 Countries

DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania—More than 180 participants from USAID, African ministries of education, the private sector and implementing partners attended the 2010 Africa Regional Education Workshop as part of an ongoing commitment to supporting education for Africa's children. Twenty-four countries were represented at the workshop held here June 6-9.

With the theme "Quality Education for All: Forging a New Agenda," the three-day workshop focused on building sustainable partnerships across development sectors and engaging civil society and institutions of higher learning to solve the continent's education challenges. Discussion topics included the importance of higher education, technology, reaching the most vulnerable, and the burgeoning youth population.

"Investing in children yields results and every shilling, dollar, naira, or rand spent to improve the education of a child is an investment in the future of the family, the community and the nation," said U.S. Ambassador Alfonso E. Lenhardt in the workshop's opening ceremony.

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David Barth, director of USAID's Office of Education, part of the Bureau for Economic Growth, Agriculture, and Trade, said there is a fresh focus on new multilateral relationships and data-driven strategies. "The United States has an interest in working with our allies to help the world's poorest countries grow into productive and prosperous economies governed by capable,

democratic, and accountable state institutions. This means investing in the foundations of long-term development," he said.

To achieve long-term development, it is important to strengthen the ability of governments and communities to manage development challenges, and invest in strong institutions that foster the democratic accountability that helps sustain development, he said.

"We need to look at the tools for providing educational opportunities to ensure that they are robust, focused, and capable of being self-sustaining over time," Barth added. ★



Left to right: Josephine Francisco, Mark Henderson, Margaret Maes, and Monica Pons, members of the 13th graduating class of USAID's Development Leadership Initiative, Sept. 3, at the Ronald Reagan Building, Washington, D.C.



James Soukamneuth, left, will head off to Egypt under the Agency's Development Leadership Initiative, while Ryan Raleigh departs for Kenya.

Training to Handle Conflict in Kenya

When tourists imagine Kenya, they think safaris and guided tours through sun-swept villages. But those post-card dreams are not entirely representative of the political, social, and economic challenges facing the Kenyan population.

Many areas remain unstable. Key events, such as severe drought or the upcoming 2012 elections, have the potential to spark unrest and violence. This unrest was recently highlighted by explosions at a political rally in Nairobi June 13.

To identify underlying causes of instability in order to address them, USAID's mission in Kenya invited Jim Derleth and Mick Crnkovich from the Office of Military Affairs to conduct conflict management training in Nairobi in March 2010. Such training—called

the District Stability Framework (DSF)—is typically provided to military units and civilians rotating into Afghanistan and other unstable areas. This was the first time the course was presented to a predominantly USAID audience and hosted at a USAID mission.

In the hypothetical training scenario, participants were told that unrest has been simmering in the "Market District" for years. The hypothetical area was suffering severe drought and conflict over water and grazing lands. Cattle raids between competing clans had increased and become more violent.

In addition, an extremist group based in a neighboring country had been gaining influence, especially among unemployed young men. There was concern that a host nation military operation bolstering the presence of national security forces at the border would

create more violent incidents. Those involved in the exercises were presented with DSF surveys, which they were told had been gathered from local residents. Locals outlined what they saw as the most important problem facing their village, and who they believed could fix it.

The participants learned that the population was fearful of the national security force—a predominantly non-Muslim group operating in a majority Muslim area. There was little faith that the forces cared about protecting the villagers. They also learned that local government and police corruption was pervasive.

Experts used the survey information, as well as their understanding of the culture of the region, to map the sources of instability and identify causes of unrest. They then established objectives and indicators to

measure progress, and designed projects targeting the sources of instability. Ideas ranged from creating a local police recruiting program to planning a clan-inclusive cultural festival.

All project ideas had one thing in common—addressing the root causes of instability.

While the Market District does not actually exist, Mandera District was a hypothetical case study created for DSF training, the exercise resonated with participants from areas such as Mandera.

One USAID participant said DSF programs were designed in "a collaborative manner, with all relevant stakeholders," and aimed to produce results "with a real impact on stability and not just outputs."

The training included experts in development, defense, and diplomacy. Speakers included

USAID/Kenya Office Director Erna Kerst; U.S. Navy Capt. Allyson Caddell, who was based at the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi; and the U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission in Kenya, Lee Brudvig.

After three days of training, and once the region was "stabilized," the stage was set for long-term development projects to take root and grow. The Market District example would be applied to solve real problems on the ground in eastern Kenya, as well as tailored to any region where stability operations are conducted.

Other USAID missions interested in obtaining the DSF training course from the Office of Military Affairs can contact Mick Crnkovich at (202) 712-5422 or mcrnkovich@usaid.gov. ★



USAID's new regional office for Asia in Bangkok was recognized for reaching high environmentally friendly design standards.



Photos by Hal Lipper, USAID

Asia Regional Mission Receives Award for Enviro-friendly Offices

By Hal Lipper

BANGKOK—Visitors stepping into USAID's new regional office for Asia may see a lobby of stainless steel and wood veneer. But the predominant color, though not readily apparent, is green.

The Regional Development Mission for Asia (RDMA) is the Agency's first overseas facility to be awarded Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification for its commercial interior.

Specialized lighting and air handling systems keep energy consumption to a minimum. Work station partitions and upholstery are made of recycled polyester. Nearly half the materials used to build and outfit the office were produced locally, further reducing the 49,051-square-foot project's carbon footprint.

The U.S. Green Building Council's LEED accreditation process ensures a project meets the highest environmentally friendly design standards with commitments to maintain "green" operations. Only two U.S. embassies—Panama and Bulgaria—have LEED certification.

RDMA's office and training center, on three floors of Bangkok's new Athenee Tower, has garnered LEED silver certification. It was unable to meet gold or

platinum standards in a pre-existing building with a shorter lease than LEED required.

"When we moved from our old offices, we made a commitment to conserve energy and water, reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions, and provide a healthier and safer environment for our staff through the design and construction of our new regional mission for Asia," said RDMA's Office Director Olivier Carduner.

"USAID is working throughout Asia to improve the lives of its people," Carduner said, noting that "one of the ways we are doing this is by making an effort to improve the environment."

RDMA's headquarters is serving as a model for the region's designers, suppliers, and contractors. Globally, USAID is exploring how it can become carbon neutral by offsetting greenhouse emissions from all its operations and programs, or, by preventing the same amount of emissions that it produces.

At the RDMA headquarters, exterior windows are glazed to

reduce heat penetration and air conditioning loss. Office shades are translucent, allowing diffused light to enter when shades are pulled shut.

Offices with exterior windows have glazed, double-pane glass walls allowing light to penetrate to the cubicles beyond. The glazing affords privacy; the double-pane walls deaden sound. Work station walls are low, allowing light to reach the office's core.

Carpeting and gypsum ceiling tile reduce noise. The carpeting was designed by Orbit Design Studio, RDMA's Bangkok architect, and manufactured locally. Its backing was made of 90 percent recycled polyester fiber from materials such as plastic bottles.

Reception areas have Orbit-designed rugs that were produced locally by the Doi Tung Development Project, which helps Thailand's ethnic minorities improve their livelihoods and reforest watershed areas.

Paints and furniture were manufactured using very low volatile organic compounds to

'Green' Features at USAID's Regional Development Mission for Asia

- ▶ Daylight sensors to automatically dim lights in offices when the outside light is bright
- ▶ LEDs and T5 fluorescent lighting to reduce energy consumption by 15 percent while producing bright, pleasing illumination
- ▶ Low-flow water fixtures and waterless urinals to reduce water consumption by 20 percent
- ▶ Motion sensors so meeting rooms are illuminated only when occupied
- ▶ A "lights out" system that shuts off lighting at 7 p.m. and then rekindles lights in areas that are occupied
- ▶ Individual lighting and air-conditioning controls to reduce energy consumption when offices and open space aren't occupied
- ▶ An air conveyance system that creates a healthier environment by bringing 30 percent more fresh air into RDMA than most U.S. offices
- ▶ A moveable partitioning system so offices can be reconfigured without tearing down walls

reduce harmful fumes. The furniture in private offices contains 65 percent recycled materials; workstations have 52 percent recycled content. All were assembled locally.

The offices' three floors are connected by an interior stairway constructed from lignia, a plantation hardwood sourced from Forest Stewardship Council-certified renewable forests.

RDMA located its new headquarters close to the U.S.

Embassy, bus stops, and Bangkok's overhead rail system, which connects with the city's subway lines. The office also includes carpool spaces, bicycle storage, and showers for cyclists.

During construction, RDMA reused much of its on-site waste rather than haul it to landfills. More than 75 percent of the discarded concrete and other materials was salvaged or recycled. RDMA is now recycling paper, glass, and plastic. ★