

Secretary Clinton Honors Overseas Volunteers

Several embassy staffers and family members recently received the Secretary of State Award for Outstanding Volunteerism Abroad from the Associates of the American Foreign Service Worldwide.

In a December ceremony in the Ben Franklin Room, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton presented the annual awards to those she called the face of America overseas.

"Oftentimes, what they do in their volunteer hours speaks volumes about who we are as a people," she said. "It is one thing to give a talk or try to negotiate some treaty that demonstrates our values. It is another thing to embody and live them."

Cathy Salvaterra, chair of the awards program, said two themes were common to all the winners: They advanced the U.S. national interest and acted as community catalysts. "Their actions make everyone else pop up and move," she said.

The winners, one from each regional bureau, were:

- Erin P. Sweeney, consular officer, Lagos, Nigeria. She helped establish the Consulate Community Service Program and obtained two J. Kirby Simon grants totaling \$6,000 to fund completion of the surgical wing of a maternity clinic and renovate a correctional center for girls.

- JanMarie Flattum-Riemers, regional medical officer, Jakarta, Indonesia. She provided medical services at an orphanage and started an embassy recycling program that employed the mentally disadvantaged adults of the orphanage. She also developed a program to help treat neglected children in scavenger communities.

- Lara L. Center, family member, Luxembourg. Using her master's degree in museum studies, she helped the National Military History

Museum expand its outreach by creating a mobile museum service that can travel to classrooms and upgrading the museum's Web page. The museum highlights the U.S. military's role in liberating Luxembourg 65 years ago.

- Joseph A. Taylor, Fulbright exchange program manager, Baghdad, Iraq. He offered adult swim classes that mixed empowerment with sports to a diverse embassy community, including military troops, translators, Foreign Service officers and women from Ethiopia, the Palestinian territories and Iraq—countries where physical activity for females is discouraged.

- Bernadetta J. Ruch, Marine sergeant, Dushanbe, Tajikistan. In this isolated post, she boosted mission morale by organizing a Thanksgiving dinner for more than 100 people, a sumptuous Mexican food night and a holiday event for 140 orphans, all while serving in a chronically understaffed detachment.

- Jan Irene Miller, family member, Panama City, Panama. She demonstrated exceptional leadership and innovation in support of a Panama Chamber of Commerce project to resolve serious metropolitan transportation issues. She organized and analyzed data and produced substantive changes that served Panamanian and American interests.

Also, the Eleanor Dodson Tragen Award was presented to Mette Beecroft for her exceptional work on many issues since the 1970s to improve the quality of life for Foreign Service families, and the Lesley Dorman Award was presented to AAFSW Program Chair Sheila Switzer for her innovative program work and leadership of the Foreign-born Spouse Committee.

DS/IRM TEAM WINS INFORMATION ASSURANCE AWARD

The National Security Agency has conferred its highest award for information assurance within the federal government on the State Department's bureaus of Information Resource Management and Diplomatic Security.

Deputy NSA Director John C. Inglis presented the DS/IRM team with the Frank Byron Rowlett Award for outstanding

excellence in information systems security in November at NSA headquarters. Danny J. Toler, director of IRM's Office of Enterprise Network Management, accepted the award for the Department.

The award recognizes the joint implementation by IRM's Office of Enterprise Network Management and Office of Information Assurance and DS's Office of Computer

Security of the Site Risk Scoring Program, which assesses information systems security at 370 Department locations, including 265 embassies and consulates. The program produces a report card on computer systems security, from the network to the desktop levels, and identifies vulnerabilities in network management, such as application patches needing installation and deficient configurations.

The program also provides system administrators and senior managers with a prioritized road map for addressing security needs. DS said the program in 2008 reduced risks to the Department's information systems on its global network by 90 percent.

The DS/IRM team was selected from among 15 contending organizations. The award is named for the U.S. Army cryptanalyst who helped crack a Japanese system for encoding diplomatic communications. Rowlett's son, Thomas M. Rowlett, attended the ceremony and was a co-presenter of the award.



Attendees at the award's presentation included, back row far left, NSA Deputy Director John Inglis. Holding the trophy is Enterprise Network Management Director Danny Toler. Kneeling from left are IRM Chief Computer Scientist Dr. George Moore, Office of Information Assurance Director John Streufert and Principal Deputy Chief Information Officer for Operations Charles Wisecarver.