

Telegram UNCLASSIFIED STATE 00107545

UTE2546

ORIGIN OCS-00

INFO LOG-00 EEB-00 AF-00 AIT-00 AOP-00 AEX-00 AS-00
A-00 ACQ-00 CA-00 COME-00 CCOE-00 ANHR-00 WHA-00
PDI-00 DS-00 MEDE-00 EAP-00 EUR-00 FAAE-00 UTED-00
FSI-00 OBO-00 H-00 TEDE-00 IO-00 L-00 MMP-00
MOFM-00 M-00 CDC-00 NEA-00 NSAE-00 ISN-00 OIC-00
OIG-00 PM-00 PPT-00 SCT-00 ISNE-00 VO-00 FMP-00
R-00 SCRS-00 SDBU-00 PMB-00 DSCC-00 PRM-00 ALM-00
SCA-00 SAS-00 PMA-00 /000R

107545

SOURCE: CBLXSSO.007889

DRAFTED BY: CA/OCS/ACS/EUR:PBPLATUKIS:PBP -- 10/07/2008 6-4979

APPROVED BY: CA:JLJACOBS

CA:MDKIRBY CA/FO:JRUTERBORIES CA:JBBRENNAN

CA/OCS:MEHICKEY CA/OCS/ACS:MBERNIER-TOTH

CA/OCS/PRI:MAGAW CA/OCS/ACS:KBZARESKI EAP/EX:KCSTANTON

WHA/EX:AMEVANS CA/PPT/FO:LJLOGAN CA/PPT/IA:RMHOLLY

EUR-IO/EX:SRUSSELL-NORDBERG AF/EX:MARAYNOR

NEA/SCA/EX:WJHAUGH CA/PPT:FGFULTZ L/CA:MCMALIN

CA/PPT/L/LA:SMBOZINKO CA/OCS:MTBOND SES-O:BTHOMAS

-----E54E89 080243Z /38

P 072318Z OCT 08

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 107545

FOR CONSULAR CHIEFS FROM A/S JACOBS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: CASC, CPAS, CMGT, KFRD, KOCI

SUBJECT: NEW STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES:

ACCOMMODATION FOR USE OF PASSPORT CARDS IN LIEU OF

PASSPORT BOOKS FOR EMERGENCY AIR TRAVEL

REF: STATE 13141

1. SUMMARY. The passport card is designed to facilitate entry and expedite document processing at U.S. land and sea ports-of-entry when arriving from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Bermuda (reftel). The passport card does not conform to all International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) standards for international travel documents. Like an expired passport, it is proof of citizenship and identity, but the passport card is not ICAO-compliant and therefore may not be used for international air travel. 7 FAM

ATLA Doc. No. 19062863. (Posted 6/28/19)

1300 Appendix N provides guidance for facilitating travel for American citizens who, in rare and extreme circumstances, cannot obtain a U.S. passport. In such cases, post may be able to facilitate the repatriation by air of a U.S. citizen who has a passport card, but who is unable to obtain a locally issued Emergency Photo Digitized Passport (EPDP) book.

2. This cable incorporates use of the passport card into our current Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) in 7 FAM 1300 Appendix N on handling these rare cases. Authorization to travel internationally by air on a passport card would require close coordination with DHS/CBP, as well as host government authorities, airlines, and potentially transit countries and posts. This guidance is being incorporated into 7 FAM 1300 Appendices P (under development) and N as one of the options for posts in facilitating travel of a U.S. citizen when obtaining an EPDP book is not possible. END SUMMARY.

CRITERIA

3. Under no circumstances can a passport card holder be accommodated for air travel as a matter of convenience for routine travel, for weekend travel, or to avoid extra unforeseen expenses (i.e., lodging, meals, airfare, etc.). In such cases, the applicant should always be instructed to visit the embassy or consulate the next business day during working hours to apply for a locally issued EPDP book. Accommodating a passport card holder for air travel should never be considered an equal substitute for obtaining an EPDP book, as the passport card is not valid for this purpose. Posts with vast consular districts are not exempt from these guidelines.

4. Overseas posts' ability to expeditiously issue EPDP books greatly diminishes the instances where this accommodation of last resort would be required. Overseas posts, however, may encounter rare situations when a passport card holder has an urgent need to depart the host country and return to the U.S. by air in an emergency life or death situation, when the issuance of an EPDP book is not possible.

These circumstances include, but are not limited to:

- A catastrophic event (earthquake, terrorist incident, etc.), which makes it impossible for the U.S. embassy or consulate to issue EPDP books, subsequently putting U.S. citizens in immediate danger. Close coordination with

ATLA Doc. No. 19062863. (Posted 6/28/19)

CA/OCS would be required in this situation.

- Crisis travel that requires the U.S. citizen's immediate presence in the U.S. and the traveler is unable to obtain an EPDP book. This is normally confined to the death, serious illness, or serious injury of a member of the citizen's immediate family. An immediate family member includes the citizen's parents, siblings, spouse, life partner, and children. Such facilitation may be provided by post without Department approval. Situations concerning the citizen's extended family members, such as grandparents or other relatives, will be managed on a case-by-case basis.

COORDINATING EXIT/ENTRY WITH HOST COUNTRY AND POE OFFICIALS

5. Before developing post procedures for accommodating the use of passport cards for air travel in emergency situations, consultations should be conducted with host country officials and local airline or other transportation companies to verify that this procedure can be used in unforeseen emergency situations.

6. The consular officer should inform the officer in charge of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) at the port of entry (POE) of the prospective arrival of the U.S. citizen traveling by air with a passport card. Provide the CBP officer with the citizen's arrival date and time, the name of the carrier, and any other relevant travel data. If there is a U.S. CBP officer assigned to the U.S. embassy or consulate or other CBP office outside the United States, the post should coordinate with that office.

7. Third Country Travel: When a passport card holder is traveling by air to a third country in an emergency situation or will transit a third country en route to the U.S., the consular or duty officer should contact his or her counterpart in the U.S. embassy in the third country, prior to the American citizen's travel, to ascertain whether the immigration authorities of that country will permit an American citizen to enter or transit with a passport card. If third country officials will not permit entry or transit with a passport card, there is no option but to issue an EPDP book before travel commences. If the third country will permit use of a passport card, post should provide the U.S. consular/duty officer with the name of the traveler, the arrival date and time, name of carrier and any other relevant travel data.

8. At this time, Department recommends that posts approach immigration authorities to ascertain whether they will permit entry or transit with a passport card and add this information to their duty books. This also provides an opportunity to introduce the new passport card to immigration authorities if posts have not done so already. For additional information, passport card Megatalkers and a Fact Sheet are available on CAWeb.

USE OF PASSPORT CARDS DURING AN EVACUATION

9. In an emergency evacuation or a disaster of significant magnitude affecting large groups of people or areas, post may need to ask the host government to accommodate the use of passport cards for air travel in lieu of a fully valid travel document or EPDP passport. Such an event could involve American citizens departing the consular district, American citizens transiting the consular district from a disaster or evacuation location, or American citizens arriving in the consular district for safe haven. Again, we recommend that posts discuss this possibility with immigration authorities as part of routine consular planning.

7 FAM REMINDERS: PASSPORT WAIVERS, TRAVEL LETTERS, AND EMERGENCY PHOTODIGITIZED PASSPORTS (EPDP)

10. Posts are reminded to adhere to previous Department guidance regarding the issuance of EPDP books outlined in 7 FAM 1365 and the limited issuance of passport waivers and travel letters outlined in 7 FAM 1300 Appendix N.

QUESTIONS

11. If posts have questions regarding the passport card and the facilitation of its use for air travel, please contact your CA/OCS/ACS desk officer.

12. Minimize considered.
RICE

NNNNUNCLASSIFIED STATE 00107545