Office of Communications

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

USCIS Update

March 26, 2007

CONSULAR OFFICES ABROAD RESUME ACCEPTING I-130 PETITIONS

New Procedures Implemented by USCIS and Department of State

U.S. citizens, including members of the armed forces, who live abroad, may resume filing Form I-130, *Petition for Alien Relative*, with an American embassy or consulate in countries where there is no U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) international office.

USCIS international offices will continue accepting I-130 petitions from U.S. citizens who live in the country where the USCIS office is located, without interruption. The complete list of international offices and the countries they service is on the USCIS web site: http://www.uscis.gov.

In addition consular officers and USCIS officers overseas will also accept petitions from individuals who do not live abroad in cases:

- Involving true emergency situations, such as life and death or health and safety, or
- Where allowing overseas filing would be in the national interest, such as facilitating the processing of petitions filed by U.S. military stationed overseas who are pending imminent transfer on orders.

USCIS and the Department of State worked together to implement procedures to ensure that the requirements of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act are met.

The Department of State will generally consider a U.S. citizen who has been living outside the United States for at least six months as "residing overseas" for purposes of accepting Form I-130.

U.S. citizens traveling outside the United States temporarily, who actually live in the United States, must file their I-130 petitions with the appropriate service center in the United States, according to the instructions on the I-130 form, http://www.uscis.gov/files/form/I-130.pdf.

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