



EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES

BUDAPEST NEWSLETTER

December 20, 2007

Recently at the Embassy



Public Affairs Hosts Missile Defense Press Conference

On December 13, the United States and the Russian Federation held the fourth meeting of senior-level missile defense policy experts in Budapest. At the conclusion of the bilateral talks the U.S. Embassy hosted a press conference for the American delegation headed by the Acting Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security, Mr. John Rood. In his opening statement the Head of the Delegation highlighted the proposals for U.S.-Russia missile defense cooperation as well as radar cooperation to monitor jointly ballistic missile threats launched out of the Middle East. [More▶](#)

Fourth American Corner Opens in Eger [More▶](#)

Ambassador Foley opened Hungary's fourth American Corner hosted by Eszterházy College in Eger on December 19. The American Corner is a joint venture of the American Embassy, Eszterházy College and the municipality of the city. While in Eger, the Ambassador also visited Pásztorvölgyi Bilingual High School, where she encouraged students to consider studying at a U.S. university and answered questions ranging from what it takes to become an ambassador to women's empowerment issues.

Ambassador and Defense Minister Visit Hungarian Troops in Kosovo

At the invitation of Hungarian Defense Minister Imre Szekeres, Ambassador Foley accompanied him on a holiday visit to the Hungarian Guard and Security Battalion deployed to Pristina, Kosovo. During the 15-16 December visit, the Ambassador joined Min. Szekeres in meetings with the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) Special Envoy, H.C. Joachim Ruecker (Germany), and KFOR Commander, Lieutenant General Xavier de Marnhac (France). In a meeting with the troops, Ambassador Foley underlined the "...important contribution to KFOR and to the NATO Alliance" they make. [More▶](#)

Ambassador Foley Visits Békéscsaba

As part of her outreach travel plan, Ambassador Foley visited Békéscsaba on December 12. While visiting a local high school the Ambassador spoke about the importance of learning English and studying in the U.S. In her meeting with Mayor Gyula Vantara she discussed American corporate investment in the local community and the importance of transparency in maintaining a healthy business environment. The highlight of her tour of GE's Operations Center of the Budapest Bank was the announcement that the U.S. owned Center was about to double its workforce, becoming the largest employer in the city. [More▶](#)

Ambassador Foley at the Hungarian American Coalition Dinner

On December 7, the Hungarian Ambassador to the U.S. Ferenc Somogyi and the President of the Hungarian American Coalition Max Teleki co-hosted the 16th annual *Mikulás* dinner of the Coalition and the Hungarian Embassy in Washington, DC. Ambassador Foley, as the keynote speaker addressed about a hundred invited guests. She provided a comprehensive review of the bilateral relationship, stressing the many shared values of freedom and democracy, unity in the global war on terror and the common commitment to NATO. [More▶](#)

Embassy Campaigns Against Gender-Based Violence

Director of the Office of International Women's Issues at the State Department Andrea Bottner visited Hungary November 26-29 in order to assist the Ambassador's efforts to mark the campaign of "16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence." Ms. Bottner was accompanied by Training Director from the San Diego Family Justice Center Jim Barker. During their three-day visit, they exchanged information and shared best practices with various Hungarian officials dealing with domestic violence. On November 29, the Embassy organized a conference at the International Law Enforcement Academy dedicated to domestic violence. [More with video▶](#)



Photo courtesy of L. Hofer





"Toys for Tots"

On December 19, the Marine Detachment of the Embassy delivered over a hundred gifts, donated by the Embassy community, to children at a foster home of the Budapest municipality. For sixty years, the "Toys for Tots" program of the U.S. Marine Corps has brought Christmas joys to disadvantaged children all over the world.

Embassy Launches School Outreach Visits via Internet

There was one difference in Consular Officer Dan Koski's December 6 visit to students of Rózsa High School in Békéscsaba (southeast Hungary): he wasn't there. Dan engaged the students via a Skype connection and a webcam in the Public Affairs Office. The twenty-five students gathered in the school's computer lab where Dan's image was projected on a screen and asked questions on a wide variety of topics. [More▶](#)



Looking Ahead

Woody Allen & His New Orleans Jazz Band to Perform in Hungary

For the first time in Hungary, Woody Allen and his Band will be playing on December 27 at 8 p.m. Their repertoire consists of over 1,200 songs including early 20th century popular tunes, blues, hymns, marches, and spirituals. Venue: Papp László Budapest Sportaréna, XIV. Stefánia út 2. [Sportaréna▶](#)



Web Highlight



I Am America

I Am America, created for the State Department by Business for Diplomatic Action, presents iconic scenes of America and its people. The four-and-a-half minute film, featuring a diverse group of Americans, offers stunning images of U.S. landscapes, monuments, cities, towns and national parks. (Photo © AP Images) [Video▶](#)

New Publications

eJournal: *Media Making Change* [eJournal▶](#)

New media technologies give common citizens access to vast amounts of information and broad networks of people. Those who learn to use these tools are newly empowered, capable of pursuing social or political agendas of their own making. This issue of eJournal USA shows how this new empowerment is influencing events in various parts of the world.

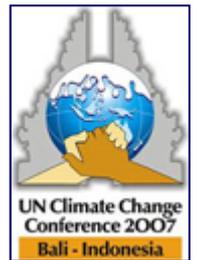


IRC Newsletter: *Defense Issues, NATO and Response to Terrorism*▶

In the News... from Washington

UN Climate Change Conference 2007 in Bali

Delegates to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) conference saw more than an international wrangle over a document intended to set the pace for mitigating and adapting to climate change. They also got a glimpse of American political dissent as U.S. politicians and environmental activists trooped to the meeting in Bali, Indonesia, to have a say. [More▶](#)



(White House photo by Chirs Greenberg)

Holidays at the White House - This Year's Theme: *Holiday in National Parks*

"This Christmas season we give thanks for our nation's abundant blessings. In the spirit of gratitude for our natural and historic treasures found from sea to shining sea, this year's theme highlights America's national parks. From breathtaking landscapes to important historical sites, generations have marveled at God's magnificent creation and cherished memories of visits to these special places." [More▶](#)

President and First Lady Bush