

A TIME TO BE BOLD

Plan for a Revitalized Peace Corps

GOALS

- ***Establish a robust, dynamic, growing Peace Corps that reflects America's renewed commitment to a positive partnership with peoples and countries around the world.***
- ***Achieve a level of at least 15,000 Volunteers while improving the quality of volunteer assignments, preparation and support with requisite safety and security.***

PRINCIPLES

- The Host Country remains the preeminent partner in determining volunteer roles.
- The quality of volunteer roles, preparation and support is the highest priority.
- Peace Corps remains an independent agency.
- Necessary increases in appropriations must precede expansion.

OPERATIONALIZING THE REVITALIZATION:

Implementing a robust improvement and expansion of the Peace Corps requires seven (7) kinetic components in 2009.

- 1) **Aggressive planning by the new Administration's Transition Team** to ensure a credible plan for submission to the Congress by February 1, 2009, requesting an additional appropriation of (approximately) \$11 million for the remainder of FY 2009 and an increase of about \$45 million in appropriations for FY 2010.
- 2) **Announce and publicize the revitalization of the Peace Corps** to the American public, the Congress, host countries and the Peace Corps community through a series of presidential actions including:
 - Prominent mention in the President's **Inaugural Address**.
 - Appointment by the President of a very prominent American (possibly a member of the Kennedy/Shriver Family) as the **Chair of his newly appointed Peace Corps Advisory Council, and/or as the President's Personal Representative**, charged to guide the revitalization and expansion of the Peace Corps.
 - Nomination of a **dynamic and respected American as Peace Corps Director**.
 - Announcement of a **commitment to expand the Peace Corps** by 1,000 additional Volunteers (in existing programs and 3 new programs/countries) by the end of 2009, with continuing expansions in 2010, 2011 and 2012. Direct Peace Corps to develop specific plans for this purpose.
 - Engage the support of the Congress via **dynamic coordination with Members of Congress interested in Peace Corps**; close consultation with the key appropriations staff to gain support for the necessary appropriated funds for launching the revitalization in FY-09 and dramatic expansion of Peace Corps in FY-2010 and beyond.
 - **Host a group of embarking PCV's** at the White House early in 2009.
 - The President may **visit a Peace Corps program in a Host Country** and/or **visit a country to announce the start** of a new Peace Corps program.

- 3) Establish a Peace Corps Expansion Task Force composed of key PC staff, experienced volunteers and a member(s) of the Advisory Council (President's Personal Representative) to **rapidly develop a specific plan to ensure the entry of an additional 1,000 Volunteers in 2009 with quality assignments.**
- 4) Pending the confirmation of a new Peace Corps Director, **appoint an acting Director authorized and committed** to initiating - by February 1, 2009 - the **expansion Task Force** and to achieving the placement of the additional Volunteers in 2009.
- 5) No later than March 1, 2009, initiate negotiations with **5 potential new host countries** (for which current requests are in hand) with the target of selecting at least three for development and new Volunteer entry by the end of 2009.
- .) **Commit to the development of two new programmatic initiatives** in information technology/water services/food production/health services that reflect development priorities in the host countries and take advantage of the demographic and technological potential in an increasingly electronically-capable world.
- 7) Have the **White House direct OMB to include increases** in the Peace Corps budget requests for growth in at least the next three the out-years.

N.B. Detail plans for each action item available upon request

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