

PEACE CORPS CHRONOLOGY

1960's: The Beginning

(Note: all countries referred to with 2010 names. Former names are included within the list of countries served.)

1961

Mar. 1, 1961 President John F. Kennedy signed an Executive Order creating the Peace Corps. He hoped to have 500 volunteers in the field by year's end.

Mar. 4, 1961 Robert Sargent Shriver Jr., Kennedy's brother-in-law, was appointed the first Peace Corps Director. "I think the Peace Corps is beginning to remove doubts. I have been impressed." Sen. Barry Goldwater (R-AZ)

May 15, 1961 Colorado State University Research Foundation presented their final report. The first placement test was administered.

Jun., 1961 Peace Corps News first published.

Aug. 28, 1961 The first countries to request technical assistance were: Ghana, Nigeria, and Tanzania, India, Pakistan, Malaysia, Thailand, Colombia, Chile, St. Lucia, and the Philippines.

In an effort to weed out potential problems the Peace Corps instituted an entrance exam to fit psychological profiles. Training was done within the United States and included "team-building" physical activities similar to those used by airborne rangers. Trainees were monitored by psychologists. Training included approximately 50 hours of language class as well as "instruction in the philosophy, strategy, tactics, and the menace of communism." (Section 8(c), Peace Corps Act).

The first groups of Peace Corps Volunteers sent to Ghana and Tanzania, Africa. Sept. 22, 1961 Kennedy signed the Peace Corps Act.

Oct. 13, 1961 A postcard written by a Peace Corps Volunteer in Nigeria was intercepted in that country and publicized. Within it, the volunteer described that country as squalid and primitive. Nigerian college students protested, calling Peace Corps Volunteers "spies," the program a tool of neo-colonialism and demanded deportation. False accusations that volunteers were spies would be repeated for the next half-century. The volunteer was returned to the U.S.A. The program continued. However, volunteers were now taught to guard their own opinions. This incident would be described to all Peace Corps Trainees for many years.

Fall, 1961 Of the 12,644 applications, 913 participated in training. Nearly one in five (18%) did not finish training. An additional one in ten (10%) would not complete two years of service. This is the lowest worldwide attrition rate ever recorded (26%). Three-quarters of those who reported for training completed two years of service. The average volunteer age was 24.5 years.

Dec., 1961 These programs opened: Chile, Colombia, St. Lucia, Ghana, Tanzania, Nigeria, Pakistan and the Philippines.

1962

Jan., 1962 The Volunteer was first published. This had a newspaper format and usually included 24 pages of articles with bylines.

Jun. 30, 1962 Worldwide, volunteers totaled 2,940.

Dec., 1962 These programs opened: Tunisia, Turkey, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Jamaica, Peru, Venezuela, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Niger, Sierra Leone, Togo, Afghanistan, Cyprus, India, Iran, Malaysia, Nepal, Somali Republic, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.

These volunteers died during or immediately following service overseas: David Crozier & Lawrence Radley (Colombia), David Mulholland (Philippines), and Dale Swenson (Brazil).

1963

Spring, 1963 A special edition of Peace Corps News was used as a supplement used on college campuses for recruiting. Editors were all experienced journalists (including Roger Ebert) and the magazine was printed in a newspaper format.

Jun. 30, 1963 Volunteers totaled 6,646 serving in 45 countries. Early programs emphasized education, agriculture, health and community development. Worldwide, more than half were teachers (54.6%), a quarter worked in community development (25.6%), nearly one in ten worked in health (8.2%), with the same relative number working in agriculture (7.6%) and one in twenty worked in other (4.00%).

Peace Corps volunteer training still included 48 hours about communism. Charlie Peters, hired in 1962 as the Director of Evaluation remembered, "They were training volunteers to be junior diplomats ... and expected them to argue with the communists. Well, they didn't run into many communists out there, just lots of poor peasants ... The first thing he did was increase the language training from 50 to 250 hours and emphasize training in the host culture."

Dec., 1963 These programs opened: Costa Rica, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Uruguay, Gabon, Guinea, Malawi, Senegal, Indonesia, and Morocco. No programs closed.

Four Peace Corps Volunteers were taken hostage for ten days by striking Bolivian miners.

These volunteers died during or immediately following service overseas: Nancy Boyd, Phillip Maggard and Roger McManua (Philippines) and Frederick Detjen (Colombia).

1964

Spring, 1964 Volunteers included 65% men and 35% women.

Jun. 30, 1964 Worldwide, volunteers totaled 10,078.

Fall, 1964 Peace Corps served 46 countries. The largest contingent served in Latin America where community development was the emphasis while the next largest contingent served in the Africa, followed by the Far East where education was the emphasis. Nearly half of all volunteers worked in Latin America (42%) followed by Africa (31%), Middle East/North Africa/South Asia (16%) and the Far East (11%). Domestic peace corps, called Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA), was formed.

Dec. 1964 These programs opened: Uganda and Kenya. These programs closed: Sri Lanka and Cyprus.

These volunteers died during or immediately following service overseas: Bruce McKeen (Nepal) and Cynthia Myers (India).

1965

Mar.5–7, 1965 First National Returned Peace Corps Volunteers Conference was held in Washington, D.C.

Mar. 31, 1965 Of the volunteers worldwide, half were teachers (51.8%), one quarter were involved with community development (26.2%), one in ten were involved with health (9.9%) and nearly one in ten were involved with agriculture (7.9%). The remainder was involved with “other” work (4.2%).

Spring, 1965 In India, the development of a local poultry industry was emphasized. Eventually 1,200 volunteers served there at one time.

Jun. 30, 1965 Worldwide, volunteers totaled 13,248.

Aug., 1965 The leading causes of volunteer death were motorcycle and automobile accidents. The use of motorcycles was briefly banned.

Fall, 1965 The press noted culture shock among returning volunteers. Dr. Joseph English of the agency’s medical division remarked that the condition was “overemphasized.” However, changes were made. Prior to reporting to training, potential volunteers were sent to a live-in session (often on a college campus) lasting up to one week where they might be observed by professionals. Later called “staging,” the effort was meant to lower attrition rates by sending home candidates believed to be bound for failure.

Dec., 1965 This program opened: Barbados. This program closed: Indonesia Prior to a military coup in Indonesia, the Indonesia program closed. These volunteers died during or immediately following service overseas: Gareth Simmons & Robert Zech (Dominican Republic), Joy Darling (Bolivia), Don Humphrey (Chile), Stanley Kowalczyk & Johannes Vonfoerster (Nigeria), Francis Kirking (Iran), James Hughes (Ecuador), John Parrott (Kenya), James Driscoll (Togo) and Judith Corley (Cameroon).

1966

Apr 1, 1966 Jack Vaughn succeeded Robert Sargent Shriver Jr. as Director. He promoted conservation, natural resource management and community development. He improved Peace Corp marketing, programming and volunteer support.

Jun. 30, 1966 The number of Volunteers worldwide reached 15,556, the highest number ever, serving in 47 countries. To achieve this, 27% of applicants were invited to training. Attrition rates had risen each year as the number of volunteers increased. By 1966, nearly half (47%) of all invited to train did not complete at least two years of service. Psychological testing during training was reduced and military style physical training dropped.

Male volunteers in the Philippines complained that volunteers there were being recalled during service and upon arrival in the U.S.A., pressed into military service.

Dec., 1966 These programs opened: Botswana, Chad, Libya, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, and South Korea. This program closed: Guinea.

These volunteers died during or immediately following service overseas: Curtis Larson, Paul Bond & Gerald Flynn (Ecuador), Peverly Kinsey (Tanzania), William Olson (Ethiopia), Florice Barnum (Togo), Troy Ross (Peru), Thomas Hassett & Robert Weiland (Nepal), James Redmann (E. Caribbean), Thomas Ashton (Iran), Lowell Dunn (Thailand), Henry George Shine and Diane Nitahara (Nigeria).

1967

Feb., 1967 The total number of volunteers older than 50. years equaled 340 or 1.6% of all volunteers who had served to date.

Average volunteer age was 23.5 years.

Jun. 30, 1967 Worldwide, volunteers totaled 14,216.

Summer, 1967 Volunteers in Chile circulated a petition to protest the Vietnam War .. Jack Vaughn, Director, sent a letter to all countries assuring volunteers that they had the right to free speech but as public employees should avoid identification of those beliefs with their employer..."The Peace Corps ... has neither the expertise nor the mission to address itself to political matters. It has no position ... " he wrote. One of the volunteers wrote to the New York Times. When it did not print his letter, he had a Spanish version of the same letter printed in a Chilean newspaper. He was fired. He later filed suit in federal district court which ruled in his favor, limiting the Peace Corps' ability to punish volunteers for voicing opinions.

Jun., 1967 During the Middle East War Mauritania broke diplomatic relations with the U.S.A. The Mauritania program closed. Peace Corps announced it would close the Pakistan program as well.

Jun. 30, 1967 As the War in Vietnam escalated, Peace Corps appropriations shrank and with it, the number of volunteers began to decrease. Worldwide, volunteers totaled 14,968.

Jul., 1967 Civil War began in Nigeria and volunteers were evacuated from the war zone. A pilot training program was tested in Turkey rather than in the U.S.A. with the idea that trainees would learn more language in their host country. In order to improve recruiting, Stanford graduates (former volunteers) became campus recruiters and the University of California Berkeley held its first informational meeting with possible recruits. Previously, Washington D.C. staff visited colleges and universities.

Nov., 1967 Volunteers in Honduras complained that of the 90 males serving as volunteers, two had received a Final Induction Notice and two others a preliminary Induction Notice within one month. All four expected to be recalled to the U.S.A. and immediately pressed into military service.

Fall, 1967 In an address to all volunteers in Turkey, the Country Director stated that "disenchantment (among volunteers) sets in early ... the Peace Corps intrudes too much." He went on to defend new rules. "Too many volunteers abdicated their individual responsibilities and rules became necessary." In particular, he cited volunteers who abused vacation policies. Training periods were extended from between 12 and 14 weeks to 16 and 17 weeks

Dec., 1967 Placement (entrance) test dropped. The Peace Corps Library was created to serve staff, volunteers and the public. These programs opened: Tonga, Western Samoa, Kiribati, Anguilla, Antigua/Barbuda, Dominica, Guyana, Montserrat, Paraguay, St. Christopher/Nevis, St Vincent/the Grenadines, Burkina Faso, The Gambia, Lesotho, Mauritania and Sri Lanka. These programs closed: Gabon, Pakistan and Mauritania. These volunteers died during or immediately following service overseas: David Larson (Dominican Republic), Dennis Pearson & Marcia Pearson (Turkey), Roseanne Crimmins & John Blum (India), William Reiser (Ghana), Bruce Gould (Philippines), James Stout, Jr (Morocco), Peter Nelson (Iran) and Susan Traub (Ethiopia).

1968

Mar. 1, 1968 "If you would confirm your faith in the American future-take a look at the Peace Corps," President Lyndon Baines Johnson in a letter to Congress.

Mar, 1968 Liechtenstein and Tonga issued stamps to commemorate U.S. Peace Corps programs in their countries. The Peace Corps served in 57 countries.

Jun. 30, 1968 Worldwide, volunteers totaled 13,823.

Oct., 1968 Mrs. Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of India, accompanied 97 Peace Corps trainees on a flight to New Delhi from the

U.S.A. During the flight she told them, "Having people come from outside is a help ... It's going to create understanding."

Dec. 1968 An independent analysis of Peace Corps data prognosticated that nearly two-thirds (65%) of all volunteers who reported for training did not complete two years (attrition).

Almost half of all new volunteers had at least part of their training in-country.

These programs opened: Nicaragua, Benin and Fiji. No programs closed.

These volunteers died during or immediately following service overseas: William Hellyer (India), Mark Raymaker (Tanzania), Alexei Zbitnoff (El Salvador), Salvador Vazquez & William Ackerman (Colombia), John O'Brien (Fiji), John Beckner (Malaysia), Thomas Laffey (Malawi) and Virginia Zink (Nigeria).

1969

Winter, 1969 The United Nations General Assembly unanimously decided to study the creation of its own Peace Corps.

May 1, 1969 Joseph Blatchford succeeded Jack Vaughn as Peace Corps Director. He emphasized recruiting skilled volunteers (rather than "generalists" with little or no work experience) and instituted the Office of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers. He called his approach "New Directions." The plan included five objectives: recruiting older, skilled volunteers, dropping the ban on families, integration of service by placing volunteers more directly under the auspices of their host countries and hiring more foreign nationals in the overseas office.

The number of volunteers began to decrease. Recruitment emphasized skills.

May 5, 1969 At his first press conference, Director Blatchford mentioned that "(American college students) suspect the Peace Corps is almost lily-white—and they are right." He set up a special office for minority.

Jun., 1969 The first official act of Blatchford was to revise the Peace Corps Handbook and policies toward "individual responsibility." Changes included elimination of the book locker (books sent to volunteers), clothing allowance (for use after training, lowering free air freight for volunteer's baggage, restricting travel to Western Europe and the U.S.A., consolidating volunteer allowances into prorated monthly checks and permitting Country Directors to dismiss volunteers "for the convenience of the Peace Corps."

Jun. 30, 1969 Worldwide, volunteers totaled 12,131. According to the Peace Corps statistics, more than half of all volunteers (56%) who reported for training did not complete two years of service (attrition). Nearly one third of trainees did not complete training (31 %). More than one third (37%) of those who were sworn in as volunteers either left voluntarily or were terminated prior to completion of service. Average volunteer age was 23.9 years. Volunteers included 67% men and 33% women.

Summer, 1969 Peace Corps returned to Guinea. A prestigious firm contracted to study Peace Corps Washington D.C. headquarters. The contract was later extended.

"Don't Think/Some Days" was produced in Honduras. The film is a documentary about the daily lives of five volunteers.

Aug. 31, 1969 Peace Corps Washington included the Office of the Director, Office of the Deputy Director, Office of General Counsel, Office of Public Affairs, Office of International and Special Programs, Office of Voluntary Action, Office of Medical Programs, Office of Volunteer Placement, Office of Administration, Office of Project Development, Evaluation & Research, Office of Training Support, Regional Offices and the new Office of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers

Administrative expenses began to increase.

Sept. 1, 1969 A coup d'état took place in Libya. With a new military government, the Peace Corps program closed within 60 days. That same month, the Malawi congress passed a resolution requesting that Peace Corps volunteers be replaced within 18 months. Criticism of the Tanzania program included comments that the agency had never assimilated and that training was poor.

Oct. 15, 1969 On the first Vietnam Moratorium Day, more than 150 Peace Corps staff members marched 20 blocks in Washington D.C. to protest the Vietnam War.

Many had taken annual leave and had flown in from overseas. Between 250 and 300 attended a speech given by Senator Frank Church (D-Idaho). He considered the protest patriotic: "the patriotism of Camus, who would have us love our country for what it ought to be." In other countries, groups of Peace Corps Volunteers held silent vigils. Some presented petitions to American ambassadors. Blatchford later responded to questions about volunteer's freedom of speech, "A fair hearing and due process will be guaranteed to all involved."

Fall, 1969 Twelve volunteers were fired for political activities. The building which had housed Peace Corps and other government offices was renovated and cleared for exclusive Peace Corps use.

Dec., 1969 These programs opened: Guinea and Swaziland. This program closed: Libya.

These volunteers died during or immediately following service overseas: Patrick O'Reilly (El Salvador), Michael Kotzian (Colombia), Henry Shuler (India), Jeannette Stafford (Philippines), Sandra Smith (Bolivia), Susan Losikoff (Malaysia), and Henry Farrar (Afghanistan).

1970's: Reductions & Loss of Autonomy

1970

Jan. 6, 1970 Seven volunteers and two staff members in Afghanistan wore black armbands and read a statement of dissent about the Vietnam War at the U.S. Embassy hours before Vice President Spiro Agnew arrived.

Mar., 1970 The Modern Language Aptitude Test (to evaluate foreign language proficiency) was dropped from use. May 9, 1970 Following a U.S. invasion of Cambodia, increased bombing of North

Vietnam and the murder of four students by National Guardsmen in Ohio, volunteer dissent increased. Sixteen members of the Committee of Returned Volunteers (CRV) occupied the fourth floor Peace Corps offices in Washington D.C. Outside, other tonner volunteers picketed.

May 31, 1970 A powerful earthquake in northern Peru killed about 50,000 people including two Peace Corps volunteers. The town of Yungay was totally obliterated and buried as a giant avalanche sped down mountain slopes at the speed of sound.

Less than 3,000 inhabitants of 41,000 survived. Only the top of the church steeple was visible.

Jun. 2, 1970 Volunteers in South Korea, Venezuela and Panama donated money so that two volunteers could travel to Washington D.C. to meet with Director Blatchford and discuss volunteer opposition to the War.

Jun. 9, 1970 Director Joseph Blatchford arrived in Lima, Peru to coordinate U.S. assistance. Applications to join the Peace Corps decreased to 19,022 (less than half the number in 1966).

Jun. 30, 1970 Worldwide, volunteers totaled 9,513. The Committee of Returned Volunteers (CRV) called for abandonment of the Peace Corps: "We are the Marines in velvet gloves."

Jul., 1970 The Peace Corps re-authorization bill was signed into law which, among other things, permitted the agency to recruit and maintain volunteer families overseas beginning in 1971.

Nov., 1970 Top staff recalled and shredded an issue of Volunteer magazine which dealt with dissent. The editors were fired and the magazine reformatted. Dec., 1970 According to the Peace Corps' adopted Cohort Method, the attrition rate (percent of volunteers who left service prior to completion) was at an all-time high of 55%. Psychiatric evaluation for placement was minimized. Trainees spent a few days at "conferences" prior to shipping overseas in order to decide whether they were meant to be volunteers. This was called "staging" The length of staging would vary over the coming years from 3 to 8 days.

This program opened: Democratic Republic of the Congo. These programs closed: Tanzania, the Somali Republic and Sri Lanka closed for a second time.

These volunteers died during or immediately following service overseas: Frederick Schwartz (Swaziland), Susan Davey, Marilyn McKay & Martha Merrill (Liberia), John Willis (Jamaica), David McCarthy and Joseph Nonnemackcr (Micronesia), Judith Bosch (Iran), Gail Gross & Marie Clutterbuck (Peru), Daniel Jandorf (Malaysia), Susan Rodgers & David Bogenschneider (Kenya) and Paul Overholtzer (Mauritius).

1971

Jan., 1971 The President's proposed budget included a 30% reduction in the Peace Corps budget, cutting the number of volunteers from 9,000 to 5,800.

Apr., 1971 The United Nations began to recruit volunteers for its own Peace Corps.

Jun. 30, 1971 Worldwide, volunteers totaled 7,066 serving in 55 countries. The number of volunteers had been reduced 42% within the first 30 months of the new administration.

Administrative expenses swelled to more one third of entire budget (36.9%). In 1966 (Shriver's last year) when a record 15,556 volunteers served, administrative expenses represented 20.9% of the budget. Blatchford's "New Directions" also had a significant impact upon who served. In 1971 community development volunteers (architects, engineers, surveyors, urban planners, community organizers & builders) decreased from nearly one quarter of all volunteers (in 1968) to 4.2%. While the relative numbers of teachers and health workers were stable, the relative number of volunteers in agriculture and "other" categories grew substantially. The training center in Escondido, California was closed.

Peace Corps training was reduced to the original level- 12 to 14 weeks. These programs closed: Bolivia, Panama, and Guayana. The program in Mauritania reopened.

Returning volunteers complained that hundreds were sent overseas under-trained and ill-equipped to do their jobs. They also complained about poor medical and technical support.

Summer, 1971 The 10th anniversary issue of Volunteer newspaper was the last to be published.

Jul. 1, 1971 Kevin O'Donnell succeeded Joseph Blatchford as Director. O'Donnell was a former Peace Corps Country Director in Korea. Peace Corps joined other federal volunteer agencies (such as VISTA) in a new organization called ACTION.

Sources since then have cited a desire to quietly euthanize the Peace Corps by allying it with a multitude of other agencies. Dwindling budgets would be less likely to engage the public if they were shrouded in a confusing bureaucratic mystery.

The Peace Corps was no longer an independent agency.

Dec. 17, 1971 Led by Congressman Otto Passman (D-Louisiana), Chair of a House Subcommittee on Foreign Aid Appropriations, Congress passed a resolution to drastically cut the proposed Peace Corps budget. The director ordered Peace Corps Washington to temporarily halt acceptance of new volunteers and to prepare plans for discharging volunteers in the event that the budget crisis was not resolved.

Dec., 1971 The U.S. Post Office issued a stamp to commemorate 10 years of Peace Corps service.

These programs opened: Mali, Mauritius, Mauritania and the Solomon Islands.

These programs closed: Bolivia, Guyana, Panama, Guinea, and Nigeria.

These volunteers died during or immediately following service overseas: Ronald Kuhn (Sierra Leone), Kahnan Hahn (Ghana), Philip Holland (India), Agatha Thornton, Valeria Roberts, Marsha Ragno, Michael Periard & James Henrietta (Liberia), Ann Kenney (Micronesia), Richard Leahy (Ecuador), Robert Whitfield (Ghana), Terry Lawyer (Togo) and Linda Manke (Kenya).

1972

Mar. 7, 1972 Hours before a cable was to be sent terminating 2,313 volunteers in 33 countries, Congress restored the budget so that the Peace Corps could continue to operate at current levels.

Apr. 30, 1972 The Peace Corps began estimating (rather than recording) attrition rates. In 1972, it was estimated to be 47%.

Jun. 30, 1972 Worldwide, volunteers totaled 6,894, a 56% reduction from 1966. Adjusted for inflation, the budget was one third less than it had been in 1966.

Aug. 11, 1972 Donald Hess succeeded Kevin O'Donnell as Director. He increased the amount of in-country training. He championed a halt to cutting the number of volunteers.

Dec., 1972 These programs opened: Malta and Central African Republic. This program closed: Malawi.

These volunteers died during or immediately following service overseas: Craig Pollock, Robert Ritger & John Davidson (Ecuador), Dennis Ota (Togo), Alan C. Banner (W. Samoa), James Weeks (Mauritius), James Ryan (Ethiopia), Louis Morton (Uganda), William Chalced (Iran), Paul Spratt (Zaire), Elizabeth Aldrich & William L. West (Kenya) and Robert Lillig (Nepal).

1973

Jun. 30, 1973 Worldwide, volunteers totaled 7,341 serving in 58 countries. Average volunteer age had risen to 27.2 years as had the relative portion of female volunteers to 36%. The number of applicants increased to 33,637. The Peace Corps began to recruit business volunteers. Worldwide, the relative number of teachers remained constant at nearly one half (48.4%). Likewise, health workers remained about constant at one in ten (8.8%). Community development and public works volunteers increased to more than one in ten (12.7%). The relative number of agriculture volunteers decreased to 22.3%. However, the creation of small fish ponds to increase protein intake was already underway and successful. The "other" category returned to earlier levels (4.5%) and business and public management represented 3.3% of all volunteers. This was in response to a House Foreign Affairs Committee Survey Team Report titled "Peace Corps in the 1970s." The report stressed two goals: to balance generalist and specialist somewhere between the extremes of the

1960's and the early 1970s; during the 1960's 70% of volunteers were generalists while in the early 1970's 70% were specialists. The second goal was to judge volunteer effectiveness in more qualitative terms for each volunteer.

Almost 85% of all trainees received training in their host country.

The Virgin Islands training center was closed.

Oct. 1, 1973 Nick Crow succeeded Donald Hess as Director. He wished to increase the number of volunteers and instituted several plans.

Dec., 1973 Peace Corps requested the aid of the National Academy of Sciences which set up a committee to review the agency's character, directions and activities. These programs opened: Yemen Arab Republic, Kiribati, Gabon and Oman. These programs closed: Malawi and Uganda.

These volunteers died during or immediately following service overseas: Steven Messer (Costa Rica), Linda Fink (Zaire), Rene Courtway (Benin), Wilburn Johnson (Senegal), Gregory V. Baker (Dominican Republic), Roderic Turner (Ethiopia) and Linda Robinson (Niger).

1974

Jun. 30, 1974 Worldwide, volunteers totaled 8,044 serving in 68 countries, the largest number of nations to date. About 5% of all volunteers were older than 50 years.

The Puerto Rico center was closed.

Eleven volunteers served in India compared to 1,200 only a few years before. Dec., 1974 These programs opened: Tuvalu, Bahrain, and Seychelles. These programs closed: Malta and Uruguay.

These volunteers died during or immediately following service overseas: Dennis Pfost (Peru), Bethanne Bahler (Jamaica), Denise Blake (Afghanistan), Denise Rosser (Cote d'Ivoire), Robert Parker & Curtis Jacoby (Dominican Republic) and Gerald Robillard (Zaire).

Dec. 31, 1974 The Privacy Act was passed. It required written consent from the individual prior to disclosure of his or her records except in a few exempted categories.

1975

Apr. 28, 1975 John Dellenback succeeded Nick Crow as Director. He placed great emphasis on recruiting generalists and worked to improve health care for volunteers.

Jun. 30, 1975 Worldwide, volunteers totaled 7,015. The ratio of male volunteers to female is fairly constant: two to one—63% male and 37% female.

During the fiscal year, the National Academy of Sciences submitted its report, including recommendations.

All training took place in-country or in a nearby country. Dec., 1975 In response to the Percy Amendment passed by Congress in 1974 which mandated that American foreign aid devote more attention to women's concerns, the

Peace Corps created the Women in Development Office.

This program opened: Rwanda. These programs closed: Peru and Mauritius.

These volunteers died during or immediately following service overseas: Robert Pastuszak (Cote d'Ivoire), Jacqueline Chezem

(Costa Rica), Grace Russomanno & Diane Fahey (Liberia), Harold Su1nmers & Barbara Christie (Benin), Cecil Perkins (E. Caribbean), Stephen Hamer (Malaysia), Roy Prior and Francis Gavit (Honduras), Thomas Cronin (Philippines) and H. Benjamin Gamber (Kenya).

1976

Jun. 30, 1976 Worldwide, volunteers totaled 5,958 serving in 56 countries. The number of volunteers had decreased 2,086 within a 24 month period to reach its lowest number since 1962.

Dec., 1976 No programs opened. These programs closed: Malawi, India and Iran.

These volunteers died during or immediately following service overseas: Thomas Carpenter (Sierra Leone), George Bradfield (Chile), James Hoffman & June Cross (Liberia), Charles Pinney (Malaysia), Stephen Malone (E. Caribbean), Rosanne Provini (Honduras), Paul Johnson (Guatemala), Robert Davis (Burkina Faso), Richard Mulvihill (Cameroon), Deborah Gardner (Tonga), Polly Zi1nmerman and Louise Wolf (Morocco).

1977

Feb. 14, 1977 A male volunteer was kidnapped in Colombia by a group known as FARC and held hostage for the next three years.

Jun. 30, 1977 Worldwide, volunteers totaled 5,752 serving in 56 countries. The number of applications decreased to 13,908 (nearly one quarter of those received in 1966). The relative number of women was increasing as the Peace Corps recruited more: 60.3% male and 39.7% female. The number of volunteers in community development decreased as emphasis was put on health/nutrition and food/water. The Peace Corps also changed its reporting methods for the type of work. Teachers were now called "knowledge and skills (program)" which constituted 44.4% of all volunteers. "The "health and nutrition (program)" included 16.6% of all volunteers, "food and water (program)" 17.1%. The "housing (program)", "energy and conservation (program)" and "community services (program) which might have once been called community development together included 12.9% of all volunteers.

New emphasis was placed upon business and 9% of all volunteers were part of the "economic development and income (program)."

Likewise, an important change to management was made. Spouses were named as co-country directors, sharing a single salary for a two and one half year assignment.

Oct 11, 1977 Carolyn R. Payton succeeded John Dellenback as Director. A staff member between 1964 and 1970, Payton was the first female and African-American to be appointed Director. She worked to recruit Americans of all ethnic and racial backgrounds.

Dec. 19, 1977 ACTION Update was first published.

Dec., 1977 By this time, Section 8(c) of the Peace Corps Act which required volunteer training about communism was totally ignored. "It was absolutely total bullshit," said Richard Sykes, Deputy Director.

No programs opened. These programs closed: Ethiopia and Venezuela.

These volunteers died during or immediately following service overseas: Gary Wilcox (Fiji) and Florence Krok (Kenya).

1978

Mar., 1978 One edition of Peace Corps Times was published as a “pilot program.”

May 3, 1978 Peace Corps began anew to recruit “generalists.” However, they were to be trained in specific skills like disease eradication, maternal & child health care, and agriculture. Up to 600 such assignments were being recruited for (10% of the worldwide effort). Even skilled volunteers were trained in specific techniques. For instance, someone who knew about farming might be trained in planting and storing grains in the Third World.

Jun. 30, 1978 Worldwide, volunteers totaled 7,072. The average volunteer age was 27.6 years. The proportion of male to female volunteers was constant: 61% male, 39% female. More seniors joined- 8% of all volunteers were 60 years or older. The attrition rate in 1978 (43%) is the last time that it ever surpassed 40%.

Dec. 8, 1978 Minorities constituted 5.2% of all Peace Corps volunteers.

Dec., 1978 This program opened: Malawi. No programs closed.

These volunteers died during or immediately following service overseas: Lester Glicssman (Kenya), Jerry Bryan (Brazil), Christopher Luecke (Liberia), Richard Kelly (Belize), Robert Warren (Honduras), Christine Thompson (Ecuador), Robert Jonas (Colombia), Robert Mcfate (Chile), Dennis Stilson (E. Caribbean), Robert Benson and Debora White (Togo), Robert Owens (Morocco) and Eugene Galgas

(Ghana).

1979

Jan. 23, 1979 ACTION identified eight programs for emphasis including: health and nutrition, food and water, knowledge and skills, economic development and income, community services, energy and conservation, housing and legal rights. Of these, the first three will be emphasized beginning in 1979. The goal was to have 80% of volunteers working in these areas within one year and 100% by 1980–1981. To achieve this goal, training was extended to 16 weeks of which six weeks were for “skills training” and ten weeks for “language training.” The number of volunteers involved in community services will be halved. Likewise the number of teachers will be reduced 21%. The number of volunteers involved with economic development & income will double.

Apr. 27, 1979 An amendment to ACTION legislation granting the Peace Corps special semi-independence was signed. Richard F. Celeste succeeded Carolyn R. Payton as Director. He invested energy in training, including a worldwide core curriculum. He was successful in involving increasing numbers of women and minorities, especially in staff.

Jun. 30, 1979 Worldwide, volunteers totaled 6,328.

Oct., 1979 Seventy volunteers recalled from El Salvador.

Dec. 22, 1979 A female volunteer was released by the February 28th Popular League in El Salvador after ten days in captivity. She returned home immediately.

Dec. 30, 1979 The National Council of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers was created (later renamed National Peace Corps Association). During the year, pilot support systems were set up in the Pacific and Latin America to deal with stress and violence (including rape). Another pilot program (CAST) involved lengthening “staging” (pre-service selection) to eight days.

Dec., 1979 This program reopened: Tanzania. These programs closed: Nicaragua, Chad, Afghanistan and Bahrain.

These volunteers died during or immediately following service overseas: Timothy Matthews (Sierra Leone) and Lois Ann Lane (Gambia).

1980's: Cooperation with Other Agencies

1980

Mar. 31, 1980 The program in El Salvador was closed.

Apr. 29, 1980 Seven couples served as co-country directors in Botswana, the Philippines, the Solomon Islands, Brazil, Morocco, the Eastern Caribbean and Guatemala.

Jun. 30, 1980 Worldwide, volunteers totaled 5,994 serving in 65 countries. Based upon the 1979 pilot program, training modules were sent over the planet as support mechanisms for volunteers suffering from stress or trauma. Likewise, the CAST model of lengthening "staging" to eight days was also used globally.

Since 1978, 110 volunteers were trained in warm water fisheries and placed in 17 nations. The attrition rate dropped to 37%, the lowest since 1964. Summer, 1980 Many generalists attended technical skill training in one of these areas; fisheries, agro-forestry, vegetable cultivation, animal husbandry, alternative energy, rural water systems and primary health care. Afterwards, the volunteers were sent to their host country for ten weeks of language and cross-cultural training.

In Washington D.C., third year students from minority colleges worked as Peace Corps interns with the hope that they would soon join as volunteers.

Aug., 1980 The relative proportion of volunteers over 55 years of age decreased to 5%. In order to improve recruitment, articles appeared in such magazines as McCalls and 50 Plus.

Sept., 1980 Recruiters ceased nominating for a specific job and place. They matched candidates with a general list of 40 job categories and places.

Oct. 14, 1980 Three thousand heard Senator Edmund Muskie (D-Maine), Robert Sargent Shriver Jr and Richard Celeste spoke at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor to commemorate the 20th anniversary of JFK's important, late-night speech to college students where he mentioned service abroad.

Dec., 1980 This program opened: Turks/Caicos Islands. This program closed: El Salvador.

These volunteers died during or immediately following service overseas: Thomas Lockhart (Sierra Leone), Lynne Masover (Fiji), Marian Bacicwicz (Ghana), Mitchell Woodward (Ecuador), Thomas Lesuer (Lesotho), David Rubin (Micronesia) and Diana Fillmore (Gabon).

1981

Mar., 1981 The Peace Corps began a 15 city tour with conferences and seminars in commemoration of 20 years of service.

In response to budget cuts, a study began about streamlining headquarters in Washington, D.C. The CAST model for staging was briefly abandoned and the number of projected trainees decreased. Skill training, often taught in other countries, decreased.

May 7, 1981 Loree Miller Ruppe succeeded Richard F. Celeste as Director. She was the longest serving director who supported

women's issues and promoted business-oriented projects. During her tenure the budget increased almost 50%, the number of volunteers by 200%, the average attrition rate decreased significantly and according to Senator Chris Dodd (D-Connecticut) "took the Peace Corps out of the pit of politics and made it non-partisan." Programs began or were renewed in 14 nations.

Jun. J, 1981 In an interview, Director Ruppe pledged to coordinate the Peace Corps efforts with USAID.

Jun. 1981 As the final event of the 20th anniversary celebration, the Peace Corps sponsored a series of conferences and seminars in Washington D.C.

June. 30, 1981 Worldwide, volunteers totaled 5,445, a 10% decrease from the year before. As a pilot program, volunteers were assigned directly to private voluntary organizations in countries where the Peace Corps had no operational program.

Jul., 1981 During an attempted coup in Gambia, volunteers and staff members took refuge in the American Ambassador's compound for eight days as gun battles raged in the capital city. They were liberated by Senegalese commandos who explained that they liked Americans- their leader had been taught English years before by a volunteer.

Dec., 1981 Dean Coston Associates was contracted at the behest of Congress to produce a slide show about Marxism and the communist threat as part of volunteer training in accordance with Section 8(c) of the Peace Corps Act.

This program opened: Papua New Guinea. These programs closed: Colombia, Brazil, South Korea and Cote d'Ivoire.

These volunteers died during or immediately following service overseas: Theodore Cooper, Margaret Carmona and Daniel Greenwald (Philippines), Harry Hushaw (Thailand), Philip Cyr & Marshal Haggard (Nepal), Brian Edens (Senegal), Janis Hyatt (Swaziland), John Marshall (Mali), Paul Chaljub (Chile), Jeanne Corbin & Darryl Adkins (Jamaica) and Bridgette McClellan (The Gambia).

1982

Feb. 22, 1982 Congress re-established the Peace Corps as an independent agency.

Jun. 30, 1982 Worldwide, volunteers totaled 5,380.

Dec., 1982 This program opened: the Cook Islands. These programs closed: Grenada and Chile.

This volunteer died during service overseas: Steven Presnal (Ecuador). 1983

May 7, 1983 The Nation magazine reported on a 1982 screening of the slide show about Marxism and the communist threat. Guatemala bound trainees viewed the show. Many claimed it was "negative, too simplistic and insulted our intelligence." Richard Abell, Special Assistant to the Director (and recent appointee) said, "I think that says something about the naiveté of the volunteers." The slide show was shelved.

Jun. 30, 1983 Worldwide, volunteers totaled 5,483.

Dec., 1983 The Peace Corps contributed 26 volunteers to the United Nations efforts, most of them working in countries which lacked a Peace Corps program. The nations included: China, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome e Principe, Somalia and Sudan.

Over the year, 350 volunteers were evacuated for medical reasons, three died from illness.

These programs opened: Sri Lanka, Haiti and Burundi. These programs closed: Oman and Malaysia.

These volunteers died during or immediately following service overseas: Robert Long (Liberia), Kimberly Morken (Botswana), Joseph Sheriff (Micronesia), Michael Wood (Guatemala), Kathryn Crotty O-fali), Diana Hess (Kenya), Terry Strong (Lesotho), Mark Edstrand (Niger) and James Wood (Togo).

A study of Peace Corps volunteer deaths between 1962 and 1983 reported that 70% of the 185 deaths involved motor vehicle accidents. However, between 1981 and 1983, suicide was the leading cause of death (13% of all volunteer deaths during that time period).

1984

Feb. 1, 1984 A new Small Enterprise Development Unit was established to offer generic training models and to increase business awareness to all volunteers. Volunteers were encouraged to tailor new businesses to local needs, acting as a liaison with other agencies when appropriate.

Jun., 1984 Peace Corps Times was published. The new format focused upon a country per issue.

Jun. 30, 1984 Worldwide, volunteers totaled 5,699 in 58 countries.

Sept .. 1984 Five volunteers arrived in Sudan to assist in the new program.

Oct, 1984 Computers were installed in 21 country headquarters offices. More were planned for installation.

Nov. 23, 1984 The President of the Dominican Republic addressed all volunteers at a conference held there. Afterwards, he and the First Lady shook hands with and personally thanked each volunteer for his or her service.

Dec., 1984 The worldwide attrition rate decreased to 31 %. It would remain near 30% for the remainder of the decade, averaging 32.6%.

These programs opened: Grenada and Sudan. No programs were closed.

These volunteers died during or immediately following service overseas: Shaun O'Brien & Charles Turneer (Philippines), Mark Streb (Niger), Jennifer Rubin (Togo), Ronald Cecchini (Thailand), William Mathis, Jr (Zaire), Peter Wolfe (Guatemala), Lesa Sanftleben (Lesotho) and William Schaffer (Nepal).

1985

Jan. 30, 1985 Teachers College/Columbia University offered scholarships to former volunteers willing to commit to 2 years of work as a teacher in the New York City public schools. This was called the Peace Corps Fellow Program.

Mar., 1985 During Peace Corps Week President Ronald Reagan hosted an event in the Rose Garden. "If we celebrated Volunteer Week every week, all year long," he said, "it wouldn't be enough time to honor all the remarkable, selfless Americans who give their time, money, labor and love to help their neighbors."

Jun.30, 1985 Worldwide, volunteers totaled 6,264 in 60 countries.

Oct. 21, 1985 Ann Arbor, Michigan began the 25th anniversary of the Peace Corps inception with conferences. Between this date and September, 1986, 25 cities hosted activities including Washington D.C.

Dec., 1985 Following efforts to improve coordination, 1,000 volunteer in 40 countries worked with USAID projects.

This program opened: Guinea. No programs closed.

These volunteers died during or immediately following service overseas; John Wright & Audrey Copeland (Ecuador), Raymond Kruger (Morocco) and Audrey Smith (Philippines).

1986

Feb., 1986 Volunteers were involved in increasing African food production. A large contingent of volunteers in the Americas worked to create income generation.

Jun. 30, 1986 Worldwide , volunteers totaled 5,913.

Aug., 1986 These nations issued Peace Corps stamps to commemorate 25 years of service: Tonga, the Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Cameroon, Senegal, Sierra Leone and St. Lucia.

Sept., 1986 During the 25th anniversary celebration in Washington D.C. about 5,000 former volunteers gathered on the National Mall.

Dec., 1986 Agency work categories were food productivity, energy conservation, health, forestry, fisheries, small enterprise development, water resources, education, women in development and collaboration (with other agencies).

The Peace Corps released a 35 minute film titled "Let it Begin Here" for recruiting.

Congress approved the Higher Education Act of 1986 which included a provision for partial student loan forgiveness, available to VISTA and Peace Corps volunteers.

No programs opened. These programs closed: Sudan and the Cook Islands.

No volunteers died during service overseas.

1987

Jun. 30, 1987 Worldwide, volunteers totaled 5,219, the lowest number ever fielded.

Aug., 1987 The largest single contributor to the fisheries programs was USAID which provided transportation, materials, training, facilities and technical support in these nations: Central African Republic, Senegal, Cameroon, Zaire, Honduras, Jamaica, Guatemala, Philippines, Morocco and Thailand.

Dec., 1987 AIDS screening was introduced for all applicants. These programs opened: Haiti and Burkina Faso. This program closed: Chad.

This volunteer died during service overseas: Joseph Teates (Guatemala).

1988

Jun. 30, 1988 Worldwide, volunteers totaled 5,812.

Dec., 1988 A volunteer in the Dominican Republic began the World Map Project, painting a world map on a large wall at a school. Other volunteers were taught and maps first spread across 100 public places in that country. Over the next decade, this example

would be repeated across the globe.

These programs opened: the Cook Islands, Guinea Bissau, Cape Verde, Comoros, Equatorial Guinea and Pakistan. No programs closed.

These volunteers died during or immediately following service overseas: Scott Glotfelty (Togo), Danuta Kossowska (Thailand), Mathew Sherman (Honduras), Andrew Karrer (Micronesia), Brenda Crawford and Juanita Qiton (Swaziland) and Steven Butler (Tunisia).

1989

Jan. 31, 1989 The demographic make-up of volunteers changed radically over the years. By this date, more than half were women (52%). The average volunteer age was 30. 7.3% were over the age of 50 and 11 % were married.

Jan., 1989 The National Peace Corps Association incorporated and began to publish a quarterly magazine.

Jan. 20, 1989 For the first time, volunteers and staff marched in the presidential inaugural parade.

Apr. 9–15, National Volunteer week.

1989

Apr., 1989 RPCV Writers, a quarterly, was published.

Apr. 20, 1989 Paul D. Coverdell succeeded Loret Miller Ruppe as Director. He established two programs of note. World Wise Schools was a means for American students to communicate with volunteers in an effort to meet the Peace Corps' third goal (see Appendix titled "Peace Corps Goals). He announced that the agency would increase the number of volunteers in these areas: the environment, urban development and small enterprise development.

Volunteers and former volunteers wrote letters to students explaining what it was like in a foreign country. His other innovation was the Fellows USA which assisted returning volunteers with graduate studies.

Jun. 30, 1989 Worldwide, volunteers totaled 6,248.

Aug., 1989 The Peace Corps Library (in Washington D.C.) included a librarian and a collection of books and materials related to Peace Corps history, languages, technical materials related to volunteer's work and information about countries served.

Dec., 1989 The Peace Corps Times printed an all-call to volunteers with journals.

The Columbus and Company, Discover's Press announced that it sought journals for publication.

This program opened: Malta. No programs closed.

These volunteers died during or immediately following service overseas: Michelle Drabiski (Paraguay), Dorothy Osborne (Dominican Republic) and Margaret Schutzius (Chad).

1990's: Entrance into the Former Soviet Bloc

1990

Mar., 1990 The Peace Corps Times cut publication from six issues a year to four (quarterly).

Jun. 15, 1990 President George H. Bush hosted an event in the Rose garden just prior to the first Peace Corps volunteers' travel to the former Soviet Bloc nations.

He said, "The Peace Corps built its reputation the old-fashioned way, step by step, village by village, family by family, bringing the world a bit closer one friendship at a time."

Jun. 30, 1990 Worldwide, volunteers totaled 5,583. The attrition rate decreased to 29%, the lowest since 1961. Between 1990 and 1994, the average rate was 28.6%.

Dec., 1990 Emphasis on urban development was reinstituted.

These programs opened: Bolivia, Cote d'Ivoire, Namibia, Hungary, Poland, Vanuatu, and the Slovak Republic. The program in Chad was briefly closed, then reopened. These programs also closed: Liberia and the Philippines.

These volunteers died during or immediately following service overseas: Daniel Obi (Kenya) and David Schaeffer (Tanzania).

1991

Jan. 15, 1991 As a result of the United Nations imposed deadline for the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, volunteers were evacuated from Morocco, Tunisia, Pakistan, Mauritania, Tanzania and Ye-men.

Mar. 1, 1991 A large cake was cut and speeches made at the Russell Senate Building in Washington D.C. to commemorate the 30th anniversary.

Jun., 1991 At a summit between the United States and Russia, Russian Foreign Minister Alexander Bcsmcrtnykh said, "Don't insult us by mentioning the Peace Corps."

Jun. 30, 1991 Worldwide, volunteers totaled 5,866.

Jul., 1991 RPCV Writers & Readers was published bimonthly in an expanded format.

Aug. 1991 In Washington D.C., there were activities on the National Mall to celebrate the 30th anniversary.

Oct 8, 1991 Elaine Chao succeeded Paul D. Coverdell as Director. The first Asian-American to serve as Director, she expanded programs to Eastern Europe and Central Asia following the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

Fall, 1991 Following rioting, 175 volunteers were evacuated from Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Dec., 1991 These programs opened: Nicaragua, Uruguay, Chile, Mauritania, Republic of Congo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Bulgaria, Romania and Mongolia

These programs closed: Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mauritius, Tunisia, and Pakistan.

These volunteers died during or immediately following service overseas: David Edwards (Namibia) and Glocy Wiseman (Bolivia).

1992

Jun. 30, 1992 Worldwide, volunteers totaled 5,831.

Fall, 1992 Lotus Development Corporation donated Lotus 1–2–3 computer software for use in all Peace Corps headquarters around the globe.

Nov. 20, 1992 The first group of 100 volunteers was sent to Russia.

Dec., 1992 Acting Inspector General John S. Hale presented a 43 page report to Congress within which he warned of “a marked increase in violent acts against volunteers Worldwide.” He claimed that his warning was ignored.

These programs opened: Argentina, Nigeria, Albania, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia, Ukraine, Armenia, Philippines, and Uzbekistan. Sierra Leone briefly closed then reopened.

These volunteers died during or immediately following service overseas: Susan Harding (Cote d’Ivoire), Varina Rogers (Malawi) and William Nordmann (Nepal).

1993

May 26, 1993 Since 1987 when the Peace Corps began to screen applicants for AIDS, 29 volunteers were reported HIV positive.

Jun. 12, 1993 The first group of volunteers (18 English teachers) arrived in China.

Jun. 30, 1993 Worldwide, volunteers totaled 6,467.

Summer, 1993 Peace Corps Times began publication of “Field Book” which included volunteer written installments about service. These included stories, poems, recipes, photos and observations.

Oct 7, 1993 Carol Bellamy succeeded Elaine Chao as Director. She was the first former Peace Corps volunteer to be confirmed by the Senate as Peace Corps Director.

Fall, 1993 The Peace Corps began to install country headquarters with equipment to connect to the Internet.

Dec., 1993 These programs opened: El Salvador, Madagascar, Zambia, Moldova,

China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, and Turkmenistan. These programs closed: Burundi Equatorial Guinea and Rwanda.

These volunteers died during or immediately following service overseas: Mary Johnson (China), Karren Wald (Togo), Michele Sylvester (Senegal) and Layne Pfaffenberger (Guatemala).

1994

Jun. 30, 1994 Worldwide, volunteers totaled 6,745.

Dec., 1994 The number of applications (13,628) was almost the same as the number received in 1977, about one quarter of those received in 1966. The relative numbers of volunteers worked in these areas: 40% in education, 18% in agriculture, 13% in the environment and forestry, 17% in health, 9% in business and 3% in urban planning. Ethnic minorities represented 12% of all volunteers. More than half of the volunteers were women (53%). The average volunteer age had risen to 31 years with 8% over 50 years of age.

Most training lasted 12 to 14 weeks.

As part of the Women in Development program, gender and development training workshops began in Central and South

America.

This program opened: Niue. These programs closed: Argentina, Sierra Leone and Yemen.

This volunteer died during service overseas: Thomas Barakat! (W. Samoa). 1995

Spring, 1995 Worldwide, 90% of country headquarters were connected to the Internet.

Jun. 30, 1995 Worldwide, volunteers totaled 7,218.

Jul., 1995 The Peace Corps released a new 15 minute recruiting film titled "What is a Peace Corps Volunteer" which targeted grades 3 through 12.

Aug. 1, 1995 Mark D. Gearan succeeded Carol Bellamy as Director. He established the Crisis Corps which still places former volunteers in areas beset by natural and humanitarian disasters for a limited time period.

Dec., 1995 These programs opened: Guyana, Suriname, Burkina Faso, Eritrea, and Ethiopia. These programs closed: Comoros, Nigeria and the Cook Islands. These volunteers died during or immediately following service overseas; Lucille Raimondo (Guatemala), Donald Weber (Hungary), Andrew Shippee (Cameroon) and Jeffrey Orton (Niger).

1996

Apr. 5, 1996 Since its inception in 1989, World Wise Schools had communicated with 300,000 American students in 50 states, explaining what it was like in a foreign country. The Peace Corps Fellows Program now included 26 colleges and universities from which former Peace Corps Volunteers had acquired masters' degrees with scholarships and/or reduced tuition in exchange for a two-year commitment to teach or work in local social projects.

Jun. 30, 1996 Worldwide, volunteers totaled 6,910.

Dec., 1996 While visiting Asuncion, Paraguay, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton said, "For nearly 35 years the Peace Corps have represented the United States' commitment to social investment. It does not often receive the headlines that political action or economic progress does, but underneath both is the steady work done by Peace Corps Volunteers in partnership with the citizens of the countries in which they serve."

As an ongoing part of the Women in Development program, gender and development training pilot workshops began in Africa.

Peace Corps Crossroads was published online.

In countries around the globe, volunteers began to use the radio for education, entertainment and business models. In many cases they had their own programs.

The Crisis Corps began. Former volunteers were sent to nations on a short-term basis, primarily to aid in reconstruction after a natural disaster.

As assaults on volunteers increased, the number of medical evacuations for stress-related problems also increased by 78%. Dr. Joan P. Gerring believed that there was a correlation between volunteer safety and mental health.

Worldwide attrition increased to one third (the early 1960's level).

No programs opened. These programs closed: Central African Republic, Chad, Seychelles, Swaziland, Tunisia and the Marshall

Islands.

These volunteers died during or immediately following service overseas: Laura Stedman (Swaziland), Nancy Coutu (Madagascar), Robert Lindstrom (Poland), Annika Rodriguez (Honduras) and Kyrstin Schaminghauscn (Namibia).

1997

Feb. 14, 1997 The first group of 32 trainees arrived in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Jun. 30, 1997 Worldwide, volunteers totaled 6,660.

Dec., 1997 Volunteers posted messages on the Internet from foreign countries. For the first time, their daily lives were instantaneously in the public domain. These programs opened; South Africa and Jordan. These programs closed: Uruguay, Botswana, Republic of the Congo, Albania, Czech Republic, Hungary, and Tuvalu. These volunteers died during or immediately following service overseas: Jeremy Rolfs (Lesotho), Elizabeth Livingston (Costa Rica), Jeremiah Mack (Niger) and Chad Nettcschim (Dominican Republic).

Between 1961 and 1997, 74% of all fatalities were caused by accidents, and most of these by motor vehicle accidents.

1998

Feb. 6, 1998 The relative number of volunteers worked in these areas: education 37%, health 18%, environment 18%, business 13%, agriculture 9% and other 5%. Volunteers 50 years or older represented 6% and overall, women constituted more than half of all volunteers (58%). Ethnic minority volunteers represented 13% of the Peace Corps.

Jun. 30, 1998 Worldwide, volunteers totaled 6,719.

Dec., 1998 As implied by Dr. Joan P. Gcrring, attrition rates began to increase. The Peace Corps application became electronic.

The Crisis Corps had involved 90 former volunteers in 13 nations since its inception in 1996.

This program opened; Mozambique. These programs closed: Chile, Eritrea, Guinea Bissau, Malta, Sri Lanka, and Fiji.

These volunteers died during or immediately following service overseas: Kevin Leveille (Cote d'Ivoire), Joie Kallison (Namibia), Timothy Simpson (Nepal), Robert Bock (Philippines), Etienne Victor Vcrlloo (Ukraine), Kathryn MacGillivary (Malawi) and Karen Phillips (Gabon).

1999

Jun. 30, 1999 The U.S. Postal service announced a new Peace Corps stamp which was based upon a replica of a Norman Rockwell painting.

Worldwide, volunteers totaled 6,989.

Dec. 23, 1999 Mark L. Schneider succeeded Mark D. Gearan as Director. He was the second former volunteer confirmed by the Senate. He campaigned to increase a volunteer contribution to fighting HIV I AIDS in Africa and also recruited volunteers with computer backgrounds to enhance foreign potential.

Dec. 1999 Peace Corps Writers was published bimonthly online. Eventually this would include a Peace Corps bibliography.

No programs opened. These programs closed: Ethiopia and Uganda.

These volunteers died during or immediately following service overseas: Helene Hill (Namibia) and Brian Krow (Ukraine).

2000's: New Communications & HIV/AIDS

2000

Mar. 7, 2000 As part of the World Wise Schools, 43 volunteers telephoned American classrooms on Peace Corps Day from their foreign posts. They spoke with students for 30 minutes about their lives in a foreign country.

Jun. 28, 2000 2,400 volunteers in Africa began teaching HIV/AIDS prevention.

Jun. 30, 2000 Worldwide, volunteers totaled 7,164. Dec., 2000 These programs opened: Uganda and Herzegovina. This program closed; Solomon Islands.

These volunteers died during or immediately following service overseas: Justin Bhansali & Jesse Thyne (Guinea), William DiDiego (Cote d'Ivoire), Judith Pasmore (Lesotho) and Jennifer Rose (Malawi).

2001

Jun. 30, 2001 Worldwide, volunteers totaled 6,643.

Jul., 2001 Peace Corps Online was published online. This included an electronic library of Peace Corps documents.

Sept. 7, 2001 The Peace Corps Manual was revised, limiting motorcycle use to those volunteers who needed it for their assignment (project-by-project basis). Any volunteer who did not wish to drive a motorcycle was given another assignment with alternative transportation. Those who chose to use the provided motorcycle were tutored in its operation during training, given a helmet and tools.

Sept. 14, 2001 Following attacks on New York and Washington D.C. by extremists from the Middle East using commercial jets, the National Peace Corps Association cancelled its Washington D.C. conference originally scheduled for Sept. 22 to commemorate the 40th anniversary.

Nov. 10, 2001 "I'm not defending the old Peace Corps," said Robert Sargent Shriver Jr during a speech at Yale University, "I'm attacking it! We didn't go far enough! ..."

We never really gave the goal of 'World Wide Peace' an overwhelming commitment." He went on to suggest a new fourth goal; to bind all human beings together in a common cause to assure peace and survival for all.

Dec., 2001 Increased volunteer use of computers sparked concerns for their safety.

An official memorandum was sent worldwide to warn volunteers against disclosing their precise living location or personal possessions.

The Peace Corps Times ceased publication.

This program opened: Georgia. These programs closed: Poland and Papua New Guinea.

These volunteers died during or immediately following service overseas: Natalie Waldinger and Wyatt Pillsbury (Tanzania), Carlos Amador (El Salvador), Jang Lee (Uzbekistan), Larisa Jaffe (Zimbabwe), Susan Fagan (Ghana) and Ronald G. Mc Dearman (Kenya). This volunteer was missing: Walter J. Poirier (Kenya). 2002

Jan.23, 2002 A group of former volunteers and former directors opposed the latest Director's nomination and spoke at the Senate Foreign Relations Committee nomination hearings. For the first time, there was dissent with a final Committee vote of 14 to 4 to recommend confirmation to the Senate.

Gaddi H. Vasquez succeeded Mark L. Schneider as Director. The first Hispanic Director, he recruited from more ethnic and racial groups, opened a program in Mexico, enhanced security and safety programs and initiated the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. During his tenure the number of volunteers increased by 15%.

Jun. 30, 2002 Worldwide, volunteers totaled 6,636.

Jul., 2002 A G.A.O. report recommended that the Peace Corps propose modifications to the Peace Corps Act permitting security personnel to be employed more than five years.

Oct. 12, 2002 Former volunteers joined an anti-war march in Hancock, Michigan. Nov. 4, 2002 Anti-war protesters, including former volunteers, were arrested for criminal trespass outside of Senator Zell Miller's office (R-Georgia) in Atlanta, Georgia.

Dec., 2002 Assault on Peace Corps volunteers increased 125% between 1991 and 2002 although the number of volunteers only increased 29%. More than half involved female volunteers, alone.

In 2002, the first Peace Corps memoirs were published using Print On Demand. Although Print On Demand had been experimented with since the mid-J 990's, in 2002 companies began to produce full-length books, one at a time, totally based upon electronic formats. Other types of printing required a professional to physically prepare a book for printing. Electronic formatting meant that once typed, the document was ready and a paper transfer was not necessary. One sent the books electronically. Instead of taking months, printing now took days. For self-publishing authors, the print set-up was a mere few hundred dollars instead of eight to ten times that amount for a limited run of 500 books.

These programs opened: Peru and East Timor. These programs closed: Zimbabwe, Herzegovina, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovak Republic, Jordan, and Niue.

This volunteer died during service oversea: Elizabeth Bowers (Zambia).

2003

Feb. 21, 2003 The NY Times ran a half page advertisement in opposition to the war in Iraq. This was funded by former volunteers.

Mar. 5, 2003 During a protest march involving about 100 anti-war demonstrators on the National Mall in Washington D.C., a former volunteer was arrested for his failure to remove a t-shirt that read "Peace on Earth." The charge against him was criminal trespass.

Mar. 14, 2003 The NY Times ran a second half page advertisement in opposition to the war in Iraq. This was also funded by former volunteers.

Mar. 31, 2003 A group of 60 to 70 volunteers in the Dominican Republic planned an anti-Iraq War protest to be held outside the American Embassy in Santo Domingo.

Three days before the protest, volunteers were warned that they could be fired.

Three volunteers participated. No action was taken against them.

May, 2003 As part of recently enacted legislation which directed \$15 billion over the next five years to fight HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, the Peace Corps committed an additional 1,000 volunteers to work in the Caribbean and in Africa.

Jun. 30, 2003 Worldwide, volunteers totaled 7,533.

Aug. 12, 2003 A former volunteer was fined \$10,000 for traveling to Iraq in protest to the war. Part of about 300 protestors from around the globe who camped out near suspected American bombing targets (the human shield), the volunteer spent three weeks in Iraq working with children.

Sept. 30, 2003 Congress passed a Consolidated Appropriations Bill which exempted certain Peace Corps security and safety related positions from the five year employment limit rule.

Fall, 2003 The Dayton Daily News ran a week-long series of articles about increasing violence against volunteers overseas. Nearly three-quarters of the victims were female volunteers. Rape was of particular concern. Since 1991, violence against volunteers had doubled.

Dec., 2003 These programs opened: Botswana, Chad, Swaziland, Albania and Azerbaijan. These programs closed: Cote d'Ivoire and Russia. This volunteer died during service overseas: Zack Merrill (Mali).

2004

Jan., 2004 The National Peace Corps Association began to publish an e-nagazine.

Jan. 23, 2004 The President signed into law a Consolidated Appropriations Bill which exempted certain security and safety related Peace Corps positions from the five year limit to employment.

Mar. 24, 2004 Congress held hearings on world-wide increased violence against Peace Corps volunteers. While Gaddi Vasquez, Director, defended the agency's response, other witnesses disagreed. Jeffrey Bruce, editor of the Dayton Daily News said, "The extent of this safety problem has been disguised for decades, partly because the assaults occurred thousands of miles away, partly because the Peace Corps has made little effort to publicize them, and partly because the agency deliberately kept people from finding out while emphasizing the positive aspects of Peace Corps service." The father of Walter J. Poirier, missing in Bolivia since 2001, was blunter, "We found Peace Corps to be more concerned with its image and protecting the aura and prestige of the Peace Corps than any other issue."

Jun. 1, 2004 American Taboo; A Murder in the Peace Corps was published. This book describes the murder of a female volunteer on the island of Tonga in 1976.

Later, it was the subject of a television show.

Jun. 30, 2004 Worldwide, volunteers totaled 7,733. The annual Peace Corps security and safety report stated that 23 security and safety related staff positions had been exempted from the five year limit to employment.

Nov. 4, 2004 "Jimi Sir," a movie about being a Peace Corps Volunteer, premiered in Belmont, Massachusetts at the Belmont Studio Cinema.

Dec., 2004 These programs opened: Mexico and Jordan. No programs closed. These volunteers died during or immediately following service overseas: Gregor V. Baker (Ecuador), Melissa Mosvick (Morocco) and Rick Weiss (Philippines).

2005

Feb., 2005 YouTube an internet based company, was created. Anyone could post films which were then viewed as part of the public domain. Peace Corps volunteers began to post documentaries about their lives almost immediately.

Jun. 30, 2005 Worldwide, volunteers totaled 7,810.

Nov., 2005 Peace Corps Writers (online) incorporated a daily blog about Peace Corps experiences.

Dec., 2005 No programs opened. These programs closed: Gabon, Nepal and Uzbekistan.

These volunteers died during or immediately following service overseas: Wyatt Ammon (Zambia) and Patricia Scataloni (Macedonia).

2006

Jun. 30, 2006 The Crisis Corps sent 130 former volunteers to the American Gulf Coast to aid in reconstruction following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005. This was the first time that the Crisis Corps was used domestically. It also sent 21 former volunteers to Southeast Asia for relief following a tsunami.

Worldwide, volunteers totaled 7,628.

Aug., 2006 Volunteer "blog sites" on the Internet numbered 1,300.

Sept. 26, 2006 Ronald A. Tschetter succeeded Gaddi H. Vasquez as Director. A former volunteer, he recruited more volunteers over the age of 50 and promoted volunteerism.

Fall, 2006 Foreign headquarters included one computer work station for every 25 volunteers.

Dec., 2006 The attrition rate increased to 35%, the highest since the first Gulf War. More than half of all volunteers reported working against the HIV I AIDS epidemic (55%).

This program opened: Cambodia. These programs closed: Chad, Bangladesh and East Timor.

These volunteers died during or immediately following service overseas: Tessa Horan (Tonga), Justin Brady and Matthew Costa (Mali). 2007

Jun. 30, 2007 Worldwide, volunteers totaled 7,896.

Fall, 2007 More than half of all volunteers were women (59%). This is a reverse of the trend during the 1960's when men represented 65%. The relative number of ethnic minority volunteers had risen to 17% of the total while those over the age of 50 represented 5%. During the 1960's some estimated that less than 1 % of volunteers were ethnic minorities. The average volunteer age decreased to 27 years (three and one half years older than those volunteers who served in 1965).

Nov., 2007 Assistant Regional Security Officer Vincent Cooper reportedly told a group of volunteers and at least one Fulbright Scholar to "keep tabs" on the Cubans and Venezuelans in Bolivia.

Dec., 2007 In its annual report on safety, the Peace Corps documented nearly 100 cases of sexual assault per year for 2006 and 2007. Victims were 92% women, mostly very young (20's) and alone.

The number of Peace Corps memoirs published increased dramatically due to Print On Demand's lower costs and easier set-up.

Fort Collins, Colorado (former home to the Colorado State University Research Foundation) formed an ad hoc committee to solicit donations for the construction of a three-story Peace Corps Museum.

This program reopened: Ethiopia. No programs closed.

These volunteers died during or immediately following service overseas: Julia Campbell (Philippines), Marilyn Foss (China), John Douglas Roberts (Vanuatu) and Blythe Ann O'Sullivan (Suriname).

2008

Jan., 2008 A volunteer in the Ukraine tested HIV positive after 13 months service. He was fired and sent home.

Feb., 2008 International news affiliates reported the November, 2007 incident which was corroborated by the U.S. Embassy as a mistake. The security officer was reportedly removed from the country. After the Bolivian President declared the U.S. Ambassador a persona non-grata, he returned to Washington D.C. The Peace Corps reiterated its policy against volunteer espionage.

Apr., 2008 The ACLU, representing the HIV positive volunteer, sent a letter to the Peace Corps within which it cited court decisions and reminded the agency that it could not discriminate against volunteers merely because they tested positive during service.

Apr. 15, 2008 A study of Peace Corps volunteer deaths between 1984 and 2003 concluded that the death rate had decreased compared to the rate between 1962 and 1983. However, while the number of accidents and suicides had decreased, the number of homicides had increased.

June, 2008 Peace Corps Writers posted an electronic bibliography of all known former volunteers' books.

Jun. 30, 2008 Worldwide, volunteers totaled 7,876.

Jul. 31, 2008 Peace Corps announced a new policy that it would not automatically end an HIV positive volunteer's employment.

Aug. 22, 2008 Fort Collins, Colorado and the Colorado Returned Peace Corps Volunteers held a three day reunion and conference at the Northside Aztlan Community Center. Hundreds participated.

Fall, 2008 All "Letters to the Editor" in Peace Corps Times (by volunteers overseas) were electronic.

Nov. 14, 2008 During the last ten years, volunteers have been evacuated from at least 27 countries. At least three evacuations were directly attributed by the Congressional Research Service to the War on Terror; Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Kyrgyz Republic.

Dec., 2008 Volunteer "blog sites" on the Internet numbered 5,000. The number had nearly quadrupled within 28 months, primarily due to the popularity of lap-top computers.

These programs reopened: Liberia and Rwanda. This program closed: Kiribati.

These volunteers died during or immediately following service overseas: Catherine Saltwick (Botswana) and Bertie Lee Murphy (Belize).

2009

Jan., 2009 Peace Corps Worldwide, an online blog site, replaced Peace Corps Writers.

Jun. 22, 2009 Former volunteers began a letter-writing campaign to establish a Peace Corps Experience Special Collection at the Library of Congress. Based upon donations, the collection could include all published materials by former volunteers and staff.

Jun. 30, 2009 Worldwide, volunteers totaled 7,671. Applications totaled 15,386, about one third of the number that applied in 1966 although the population had doubled since then. Former volunteers were publishing about five books per month about their experiences. The majority (90%) of these books were published at the author's expense using Print On Demand technology, which permitted the publication of one book at a time. In the U.S.A., Print On Demand titles published outnumbered those printed by traditional commercial publishing houses.

Aug. 7, 2009 Aaron S. Williams succeeded Ronald A. Tschetter as Director. He was the fourth former volunteer to serve as Director.

Nov. 16, 2009 Nearly seven years after the Dayton Daily News reported about dangers for volunteers, the 2009 Peace Corps Performance and Accountability Report stated that only 21 % of foreign posts had annual reviews of safety and security plans. Only one in four performance goals to enhance volunteer safety and security had been met.

Nov., 2009 Two films by former volunteers were screened in Columbus, Missouri at the 4th annual Third Goal International Film Festival. They included "Gone to Mali" and "Once in Afghanistan"

Dec. 16, 2009 The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2010 provided for the largest Peace Corps funding increase in more than a decade (\$60 million). It also mandated that the director prepare and present a comprehensive assessment of the agency.

Dec., 2009 No programs opened. This program closed: Guinea. This program was suspended: Mauritania.

These volunteers died during or immediately following service overseas: Catherine Puzey (Benin), Joseph Chow (Tanzania) and So-Youn Kirn (Morocco). Peace Corps officials transferred oversight of violent crime to the safety and security office.

Dec. 31, 2009 The Peace Corps announced the founding of a digital library to include materials from 1961 to 2010: donated photos and stories by tonner volunteers, newsletters, speeches, annual reports, brochures, posters audio and video clips. "Our resources do not permit us to serve as a comprehensive Peace Corps historic archive, nor is it our mandate to do so," stated the agency on their website.

2010

Mar. 1, 2010 The Peace Corps sponsored 140 recruiting events to celebrate the 49th year of existence.

Mar. 29, 2010 Critically acclaimed South of the Frontera: A Peace Corps Memoir published. Apr. 15, 2010 First Response Action, a group of former volunteers who survived sexual assault, posted a web site about their efforts to convince the Peace Corps to adopt a Seven-Point Plan for improving reaction to rape. In response to a letter that the leader of the group sent to Director Aaron Williams, two staff members made a conference call to her during which they reported the agency's support.

Apr., 2010 The annual safety and security report was released. Although sexual assault on volunteers (rape and attempted rape) had more than doubled since the 1990s, recommendations did not include serious prevention (training and equipment). Instead, the report recommended more studies, reports, classes for volunteers on "life-style" and even required that trainees sign statements that they understood "inherent risks." No mention was made that nearly 4 in 10 volunteers had served in Africa which had the highest HNI AIDS rate in the world.

Spring, 2010 Volunteers continued to use the World Map Project model, begun in 1988. World maps, painted in public places, existed on five continents.

Electronic books (paperless) represented 8% of all books published in the U.S.A.

Many of these were Peace Corps volunteer memoirs about their experiences. Nearly 1,000 volunteers had returned home to write at least one book (one author for every 200 volunteers).

Jun. 1, 2010 More than 5,000 films had been posted on YouTube by Peace Corps volunteers around the globe. More than one half million checked Volunteer blog sites and/or about the Peace Corps.

Jun. 16, 2010 The director presented a 200 page report to Congress concerning the requested agency assessment. The report recommended that the "5 year rule," revised in 2003 with exceptions, be further relaxed. The report also stated that headquarters (Washington D.C.) employed 536 to support an estimated 7,800 volunteers in 77 nations. The last time the Peace Corps fielded a comparable number of volunteers was in 1974 when about 8,000 served in 68 nations. That year they were supported by 156 employees in Washington D.C. Although the headquarters support staff had more than tripled and communications became instantaneous with computers, the time of application to invitation had increased to 15.5 months, training of volunteers was reduced from 12 to 14 weeks to 10 to 12 weeks and as mentioned earlier, no appropriate rape prevention had been undertaken. Note that training had included 16 to 17 weeks in 1967. The same report stated that 23 programs had been closed or suspended within the past decade. Seventeen were related to "serious concerns for volunteer safety."

Jun. 23, 2010 Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA) introduced legislation to issue a semiannual Peace Corps stamp which would cost slightly more than required. Extra funds would be directed to the Peace Corps.

Jun. 30, 2010 A House subcommittee approved an 11.5% increase in the Peace Corps budget for the fiscal year 2011 –2012. If approved by Congress (along with the annual budget request), this which be the second highest annual increase in agency history, the highest being approved in 2009. Amidst budget cuts, the Peace Corps was an exception.

Summer, 2010 The Peace Corps Fellows program included 50 colleges and universities from which former Peace Corps Volunteers had acquired masters' degrees with scholarships and/or reduced tuition in exchange for a two year commitment to teach or work in local social projects. Initially created in 1985 to prepare former volunteers as teachers in New York City public schools, the project has resulted in 556 teachers in that system to date.

Sept., 2010 The House of Representatives passed the proposed increase to funding.

Oct. 11–15, 2010 The University of Michigan sponsored a series of activities to celebrate the 50th anniversary of JFK's speech on the steps of the Michigan Union building.

Dec., 2010 These programs reopened: Colombia, Indonesia and Sierra Leone.

These volunteers died during or immediately following service overseas: Thomas Maresco (Lestho) and Stephanie Chance (Niger).