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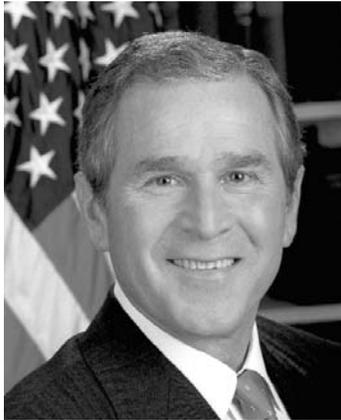
President George W. Bush, May 21, 2003



# Volunteers for Prosperity

A Presidential Initiative of USA Freedom Corps

## VOLUNTEERS FOR PROSPERITY



“Today, I would like to announce a new USA Freedom Corps initiative called Volunteers for Prosperity, which will give America’s highly skilled professionals new opportunities to serve abroad. The program will enlist American doctors and nurses and teachers and engineers and economists and computer specialists and others to work on specific development initiatives, including those that I have discussed today. These volunteers will serve in the countries of their choice, for however long their project takes. Like generations before us, this generation of citizens will show the world the energy and idealism of the United States of America.”

President George W. Bush  
May 21, 2003

# Executive Summary

The Volunteers for Prosperity initiative (VfP) has made significant progress since the signing of Executive Order 13317 on September 25, 2003.

## Organization, Process, and Programming Support

VfP is based upon longstanding principles of the United States to assist in the development of other nations and pursue a global health and prosperity agenda essential to national security. Currently, this agenda is represented by six Presidential initiatives:

- President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief
- Digital Freedom Initiative
- Middle East Partnership Initiative
- Water for the Poor
- Trade for African Development and Enterprise
- Millennium Challenge Corporation

Since its establishment by USAID's Administrator, the Office of Volunteers for Prosperity (VfP Office) has served as the interagency coordinator, providing leadership on developing the initiative's organization, process, and programming. To date, the accomplishments of the VfP Office include the following:

- contributed to the establishment, management, and direction of VfP offices or operating units within the departments of State, Health and Human Services, and Commerce
- advised on the modification of relevant U.S. Government grant procedures to support the effective use of highly skilled American volunteers
- gathered and reviewed baseline data about VfP and its contribution to the six Presidential initiatives

## Ensuring Growth and Impact of the Initiative

In addition to supporting development of VfP's infrastructure, the VfP Office has provided leadership for the initiative's core mission of matching highly skilled American volunteers with U.S.-based organizations concerned with global health and prosperity. This leadership is essential to the initiative's ongoing growth and impact.

Since May 21, 2003, when the President announced VfP, the VfP Office has

- directed the recruitment of more than 110 for-profit and nonprofit organizations
- assisted in the development of a pool of nearly 14,000 highly skilled American professionals available to serve as Volunteers for Prosperity
- supported the deployment of nearly 3,000 volunteers

VfP holds great promise. The VfP Office will endeavor to realize this potential by reaching out to greater numbers of highly skilled American professionals, helping deploy them as volunteers, and identifying and recruiting more participating organizations.



# Introduction

On May 21, 2003, President George W. Bush announced Volunteers for Prosperity, an initiative that deploys skilled volunteers in official U.S. foreign assistance programs that advance health and prosperity. On September 25, the President signed Executive Order 13317 providing direction and organization for the initiative, which forms part of USA Freedom Corps. This document fulfills the order's requirement for a progress report 180 days after its signing.

## Mission Statement

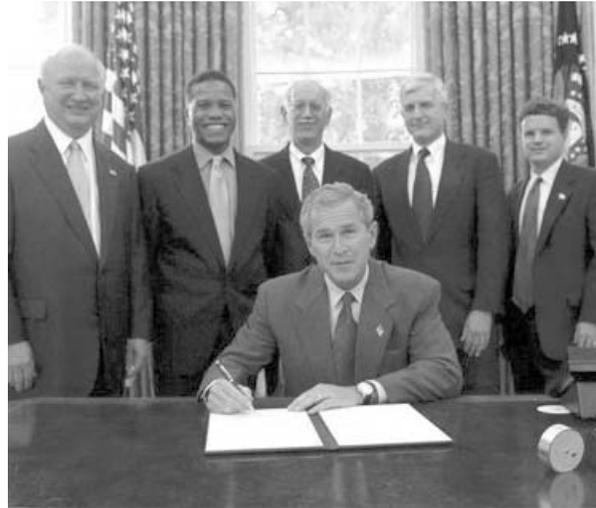
The mission of Volunteers for Prosperity is to promote the energy and idealism of the United States through support of international voluntary service by highly skilled American professionals that meets the global health and prosperity goals of the U.S. Government.

## International Voluntary Service: A Powerful American Value

International voluntary service runs deep in the American spirit. In his Farewell Address, President George Washington noted the importance to national security of "magnanimous" and "benevolent" policies toward other nations.

International voluntary service has also been a source of national strength since the earliest days of the United States. The confluence of efforts of individual American volunteers, voluntary organizations, and government has been a distinctly American contribution to world stability and development.

American volunteers and the U.S. Government joined forces to provide major relief for Europe during and after the First World War. Following the Second World



Behind President George W. Bush, from left to right, are Samuel Bodman, Deputy Secretary of Commerce; Claude Allen, Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services; Andrew Natsios, Administrator, USAID; Alan Larson, Under Secretary of State; and John M. Bridgeland, Director of USA Freedom Corps and Assistant to the President.

War, the Marshall Plan was a triumph of American assistance, providing financial support for the rebuilding of Europe and promoting policies of political and economic freedom and openness.

Tens of thousands of American volunteers have responded and continue to respond to President John Kennedy's great initiative, the Peace Corps—one of America's and the world's best-loved international programs. The Peace Corps, requiring a minimum two-year commitment by volunteers, has transformed the lives of aid recipients as well as those of thousands of American volunteers.

President Bush is now calling on Americans citizens to mobilize in "armies of compassion." The Volunteers for

Prosperity initiative links organizations that have international volunteer opportunities with highly skilled professionals. These organizations place the volunteers in shorter, more flexible assignments than the Peace Corps model.

To advance America’s strategic agenda for global health and prosperity, VfP is pursuing these objectives:

- *Matching highly skilled American volunteers with needs:* Through a range of activities, VfP will promote international voluntary service and link U.S.-based organizations with experienced American professionals who wish to volunteer.
- *Innovative support:* The President’s order makes grant applicants who rely on skilled American volunteers more competitive for federal funds.
- *Outreach:* VfP is already working toward supporting a new model of private-public cooperation in foreign assistance. A wide range of organizations previously not involved in official foreign assistance—including smaller faith-based and community groups, trade associations, and corporations—are joining to help highly skilled American volunteers answer the President’s call to service.
- *Recognition:* Volunteers can qualify for public recognition of their contributions through the President’s Volunteer Service Award.

### **Answering the President’s Call to Service**

In the weeks before the May 21 announcement, a team of officials from USA Freedom Corps, the National Security Council, USAID, and the State Department developed the idea that VfP would focus on six

Presidential foreign assistance initiatives that support health and prosperity objectives:

- the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)
- Digital Freedom Initiative (DFI)
- Water for the Poor Initiative
- Trade for African Development and Enterprise (TRADE)
- the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI)
- the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC)

After May 21, USA Freedom Corps and USAID staff began educating the foreign assistance community about the initiative and held organizational meetings with officers coordinating the six initiatives.

The President’s September 25 Executive Order directed three principal actions by government agencies. First, USAID was designated interagency coordinator for VfP. Second, USAID and the departments of State, Commerce, and Health and Human Services were required to create VfP offices or operating units. Third, the departments and agencies were required to support voluntary service by making organizations using skilled volunteers more competitive in applications for federal grants.

On September 29, after President Bush had signed the Executive Order, USAID Administrator Andrew Natsios and USA Freedom Corps Director John Bridgeland led a briefing at the National Press Club outlining the next steps for VfP. Four volunteers spoke: Pete Kappelman of the Land O’Lakes Cooperative; Kathleen Hartmann, a volunteer with Catholic Medical Mission Board; Richard

## VOLUNTEERS FOR PROSPERITY

Furman of Samaritan's Purse; and John Orrell of International Executive Service Corps.

In December 2003, Administrator Natsios established the VfP Office in USAID's Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance (DCHA). He also named a director to manage the office, recruit and lead a small staff, and coordinate the U.S. Government's efforts on behalf of the initiative. In consultation with this USAID office, other agencies subject to the order established a VfP office or an operating unit.

- *The Department of State* identified a coordinator within its Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs and established an operating unit consisting of officers from the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs and the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator.
- *The Department of Commerce* identified a coordinator within its Office of Policy and Strategic Planning and established an operating unit within Technology Administration.
- *The Department of Health and Human Services* (HHS) established an operating unit in the Office of Global Health Affairs.

The USAID VfP Office held meetings with officials at the departments of State, Commerce, and HHS to consider the roles and potential contributions of each agency and strategies that advance the initiative.

The Volunteers for Prosperity initiative is an interagency effort of USA Freedom Corps, the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Department of Commerce, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

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PD-ABZ-600