

# LIVING AND TRAVELING ABROAD FOR AMERICAN CITIZENS



U.S. Embassy – Quito, Ecuador  
Consular Section  
American Citizen Services



# TODAY'S AGENDA



- ❑ Services of the Embassy Consular Section
  - ❑ Visa Services
  - ❑ American Citizen Services
- ❑ Disaster Preparedness and Communication Plans
- ❑ The U.S. Embassy and Disaster Assistance
- ❑ Contact Information and Resources
- ❑ Questions?

# CONSULAR SERVICES



- ❑ Non-Immigrant & Immigrant Visas
- ❑ American Citizen Services (ACS)
  - ❑ Routine and Emergency Services

# VISA SERVICES



- ❑ Non-Immigrant

- ❑ Students

- ❑ Exchange visitors

- ❑ Tourism

- ❑ Business

- ❑ Immigrant Visas

# U.S. CITIZENS IN ECUADOR



- ❑ Keeping American citizens informed and prepared through outreach – newsletters, direct emails, town hall meetings
  - ❑ 17,000 Americans resident in Quito district
  - ❑ 33,000 Americans resident in Ecuador
  - ❑ 2,000 Americans currently enrolled in STEP through the Embassy
  - ❑ 200,000 to 240,000 American visitors annually

# ACS SERVICES BY APPOINTMENT



- ❑ U.S. Passports
- ❑ Birth and Death Certificates
- ❑ Notary Services
- ❑ Federal Benefits
- ❑ Marriage in Ecuador
- ❑ Information on Traveling in Ecuador
- ❑ Voting Abroad

# ACS: EMERGENCY SERVICES

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- ❑ Financial
- ❑ Prisoner Assistance
- ❑ Medical
- ❑ Welfare and Whereabouts
- ❑ Death
- ❑ Assistance to Victims of Crime
- ❑ Evacuations

# ACS: EMERGENCY SERVICES

## ❑ Crime in Ecuador

- ❑ Number of U.S. citizens in Ecuador is on the rise and
  - ❑ More AmCits in country = more crimes against AmCits
- ❑ High crime rates + inefficient judicial system with very low conviction rates =
  - ❑ Conviction is obtained in less than 10% of murders that occur in Ecuador
- ❑ Work closely with counterparts in the Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Justice, Attorney General's office with mixed success



# DISASTERS

- ❑ Prepare for Natural Disasters and/or Political Crises
  - ❑ 30 potentially active volcanoes
  - ❑ Three volcanoes actively erupting at this moment
    - ❑ Tungurahua since 1999, El Reventador since 2002 and Sangay since 1600's
  - ❑ Major earthquake in Ecuador every 13 years
  - ❑ Coastal Floods and Tsunamis

# DISASTER PREPAREDNESS



## Three “P’s”

- Plan

- Prepare

- Practice

# PLAN

## Emergency Plan

- Will you evacuate or take shelter?
- In tsunamis, move inland to higher ground

## Evacuation Plan

## Communication Plan

- You may not be able to rely on cell phones
- Write important numbers down and keep them handy
- Make a family communications plan - how will you get in touch with loved ones here and back home?

# PREPARE

- ❑ Disaster Supplies Kit
  - ❑ Equipment and tools
  - ❑ Food and water
  - ❑ Clothes and bedding supplies
  - ❑ Documents and keys
  - ❑ First Aid supplies
  - ❑ Medicine kit supplies
  - ❑ Sanitation and hygiene
  - ❑ Battery operated radio or TV
- ❑ You must be prepared to “hunker down” for at least 72 hours

# PRACTICE

- ❑ Conduct earthquake drills with your family
- ❑ Inspect your home for potential dangers
  - ❑ Bolt down large items
  - ❑ Relocate heavy items down low
  - ❑ Fasten shut cabinets

# EVACUATIONS

Ecuador is a sovereign nation. Ecuador will serve as first line of Support.

U.S. would need Ecuadorian Approval to land U.S.

Military planes in country.



# Limitations of the USG in Ecuador



- We are in Ecuador(sovereign nation) and subject to EC laws.
- Embassy can not change or influence local laws and/or policies.
- Embassy can not give:
  - ▣ Legal Advice
  - ▣ Financial Advice(to include taxes)
  - ▣ Medical Advice

# STEP: GET ENROLLED!

- ❑ Website for enrollment in Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP): <https://travel.state.gov/STEP>
- ❑ Enrollment will allow you to:
  - ❑ Receive email updates and information on living and traveling in Ecuador
  - ❑ Maintain contact with family and friends in the US in case of emergency
- ❑ Already have an account? Great!
  - ❑ Keep it updated



# CONTACT US

- ❑ **U.S. Embassy- Quito Address:**

- ❑ Embajada de los Estados Unidos  
American Citizen Services  
Ave. Avigiras E12-170 y Ave. Eloy Alfaro  
Quito, Ecuador

- ❑ **Telephone:**

- ❑ (593) 2-398-5000/5300 Fax: (593) 2-398-5268

- ❑ **ACS Email:**

- ❑ [ACSQuito@state.gov](mailto:ACSQuito@state.gov)

- ❑ **For Appointments:**

- ❑ <http://ecuador.usembassy.gov/service/assistance.html>

**Facebook: U.S. Embassy Quito**

# THANK YOU!



Questions?