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(REFER TO OGA)

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Department of State

Consular Affairs Bureau

*Protecting Our Borders and
Assisting Americans Abroad*

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Frank Tumminia, Senior Reviewer

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Consular Affairs

- Overseas Citizen Services
- Passport Services
- Visa Services

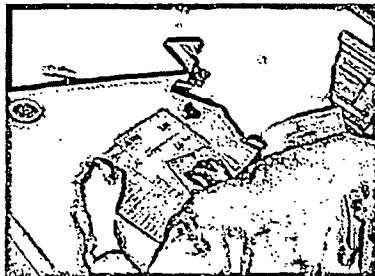
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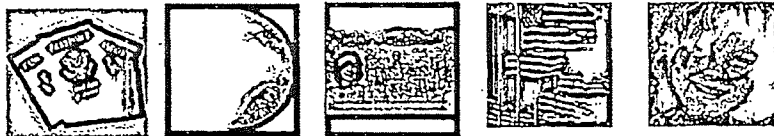
Visa Services

Secure Borders.....

Open Doors



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Visa Office Overview

- What is a Visa?
- Types of Visas
- Changes Since 9/11
- Visa Processing
- Visa Revocations

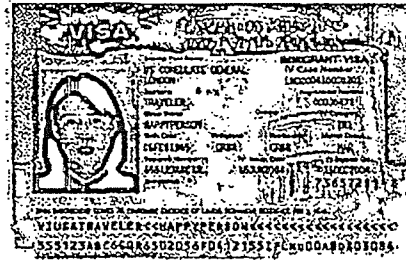
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What is a Visa?



Nonimmigrant



Immigrant

A visa is a document that allows the bearer to travel to a U.S. port of entry and apply to DHS for admission.

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Types of Visas

Nonimmigrant

- 20+ categories (A-V)
- Visa Waiver Program



Immigrant

- Immediate Relatives
- Family Preference- Quotas
- Employment-based
- Diversity Visa Lottery

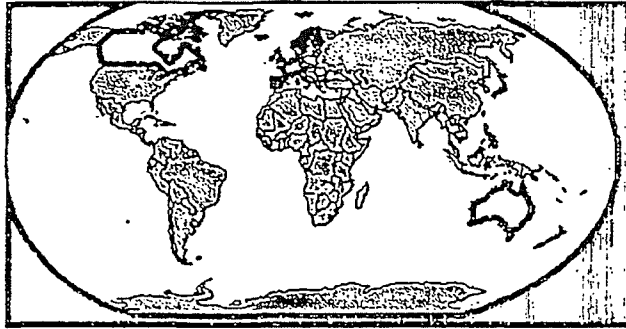


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The Visa Waiver Program 15.6 million travelers in 2005

Persons From Countries in Gray Must Obtain Visas



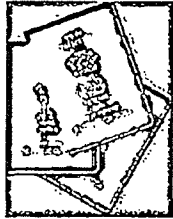
Citizens From the 27 Countries in Red - Visitor Visa Not Needed

***For participating countries & procedures, see
http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/without/without_1990.html**

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Non-Immigrant Visas (NIVs)



FY-2006 total:

- NIV Workload: 7.7 million
- NIV Visas issued: 5.8 million
- Percentage issued: 80%

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Non-Immigrant Visas (NIVs)

*Many require USCIS petition approval 1st
(Petition based nonimmigrant visas)*



Examples

- Alien of Extraordinary ability (O)
 - Fianceses (K)
 - Intracompany transferee (L)
 - Performing athletes artists or entertainers (P)
 - Temporary workers (H)
- Also require Dept of Labor certification

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Non-Immigrant Visas (NIVs)

Others require proof of acceptance and authorization by an approved sponsor

- Student (F)
- Vocational/nonacademic student (M)
- Exchange Visitor (J)



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Immigrant Visas (IVs)

• IMMEDIATE RELATIVES –

(Short wait)

- US citizen spouse, child, parent
- Orphan adopted/to be adopted

• FAMILY SPONSORED –

(Quotas- longer waits)

- (Example: US citizen unmarried son)
- Visa Bulletin - place in the queue

• DIVERSITY VISA LOTTERY

• EMPLOYMENT-BASED

(Quotas)



FY 2006 Immigrant Visa (IV) Volume:

- Workload- 743,295
- Issued- 449,065
- Percentage Issued: 79%

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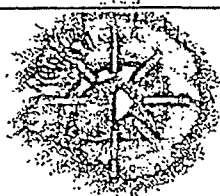


Initiatives Since 9/11

- Increased Information Sharing
- International Cooperation
- Improved Document Security
- Increased Security Checks



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Using Technology: Biometrics

- U.S. law requires biometric identifiers



- Photos enhance ability to share data, identify imposters and apply facial recognition technology

What Does This Mean for Travelers?



As part of visa processing:

- Two fingerprints will be collected, using a scanner



- Digital photo is taken

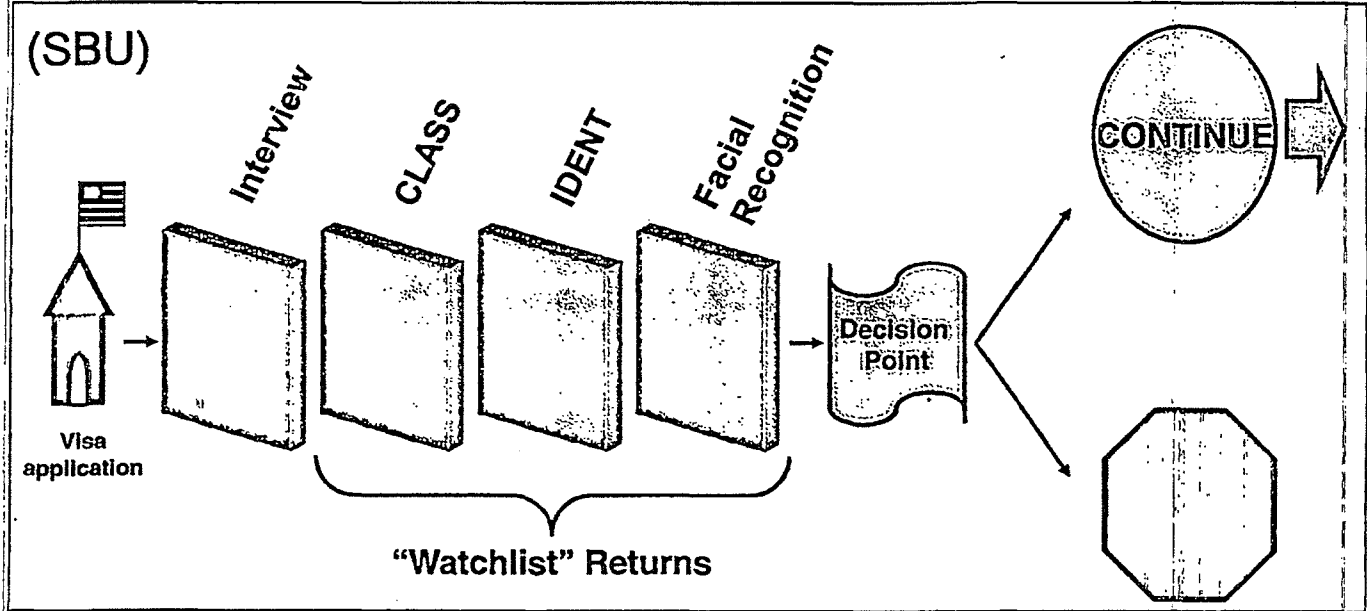
DHS introduced US-VISIT at ports of entry

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Visa Processing

Step 1 (overseas):

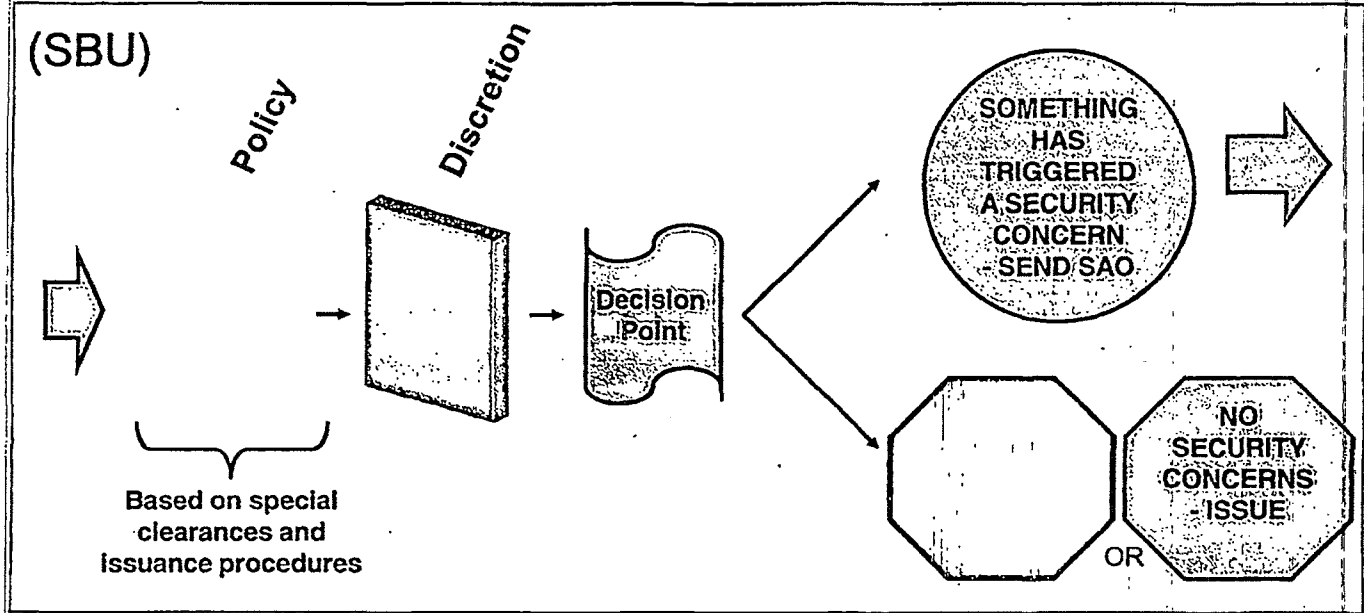


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Visa Processing

Step 2 (overseas):

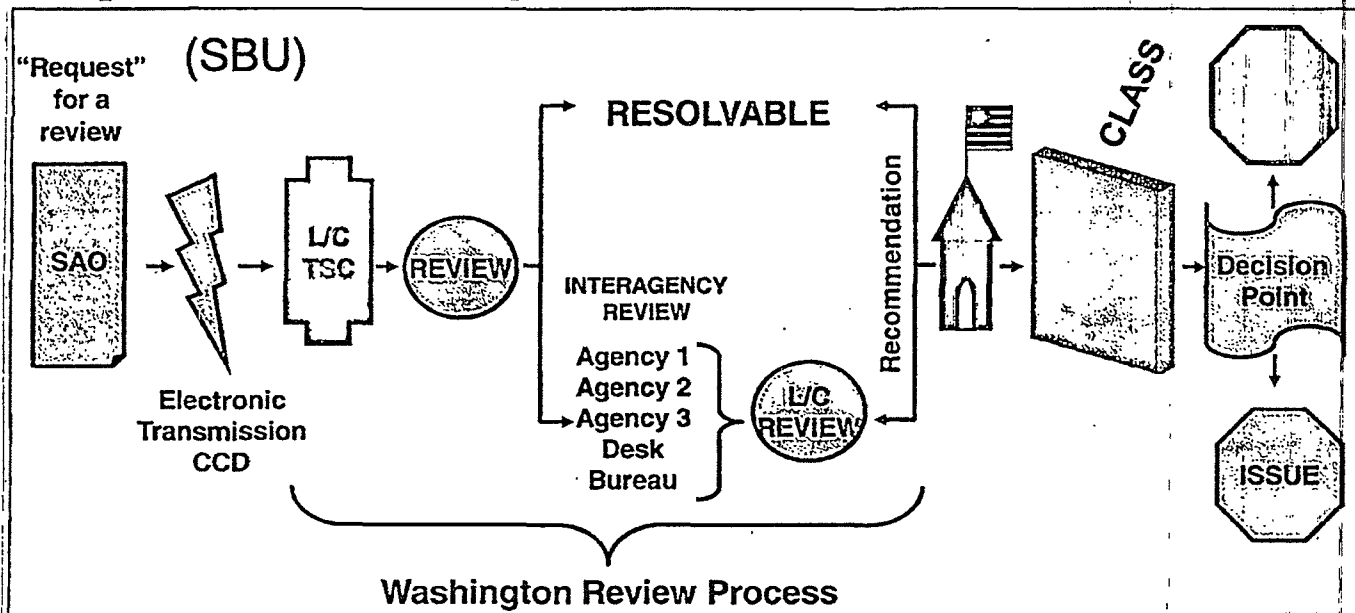


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Visa Processing

Step 3 (overseas-Washington-overseas):



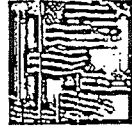
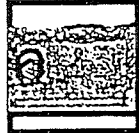
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Visa Denials

	<u>NIV</u>	<u>IV</u>
Category One Refusals - Serious		
• National Security, Criminal, Contagious Disease	x	x
Category Two Refusals - Less serious		
• Most common: Section 214(b) of the INA	x	N/A
- Immigrant Intent		
- Residence Abroad		
• Frequent: 221(g) denial	x	x
- Information not sufficient to establish visa eligibility		
- Additional documentation may be required		
• Frequent: Public Charge 212 (a)(4)	x	x
• Review/Re-application		

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Visa Office: CA/VO/L/C

L/C (Legal/Coordination Division) is the Visa Office's liaison with other agencies and other State Department offices.

L/C provides a two-way conduit for information between intelligence agencies and posts by:

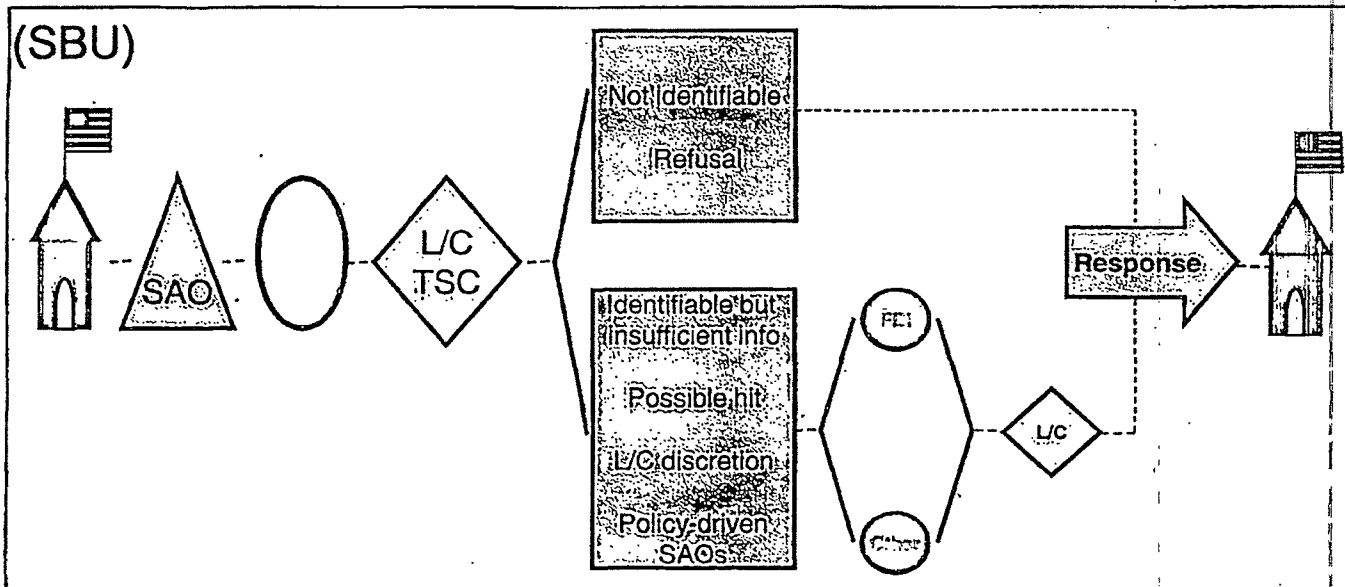
- **Processing Security Advisory Opinions (SAOs) on visa applicants (3A and 3B only).**
- **Revoking the visas of visa holders about whom new derogatory information has surfaced.**
- **Applying other visa sanctions, such as 212(f)**

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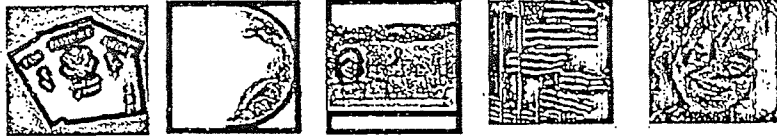


Security Advisory Opinions (SAOs)

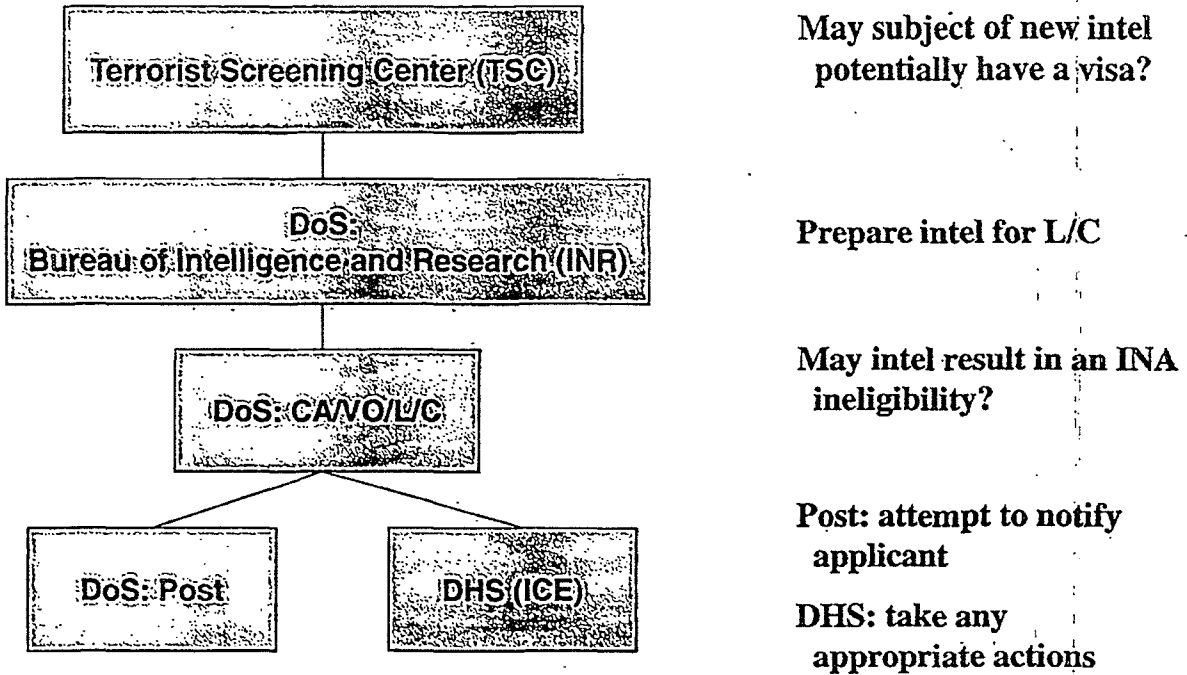
An SAO is a halt on a visa applicant, requiring the Consular Officer to contact Washington.

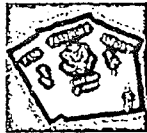


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Visa Revocation Process

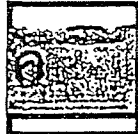


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Visa Revocations vs. Refusals

- Revocation standard is INA section 221(i), which states that the Secretary of State may at any time, *in his/her discretion*, revoke a visa.
- Inadmissibility finding must be based in law – INA section 212(a), or small variety of others (306, 212(f), Helms-Burton, etc).
- Revocations are “quasi”/“prudential” (P3B) and have a lower standard than refusals/permanent inadmissibilities (3B)
- *Important:* A previous revocation does not guarantee that a person won't be issued a visa in the future!

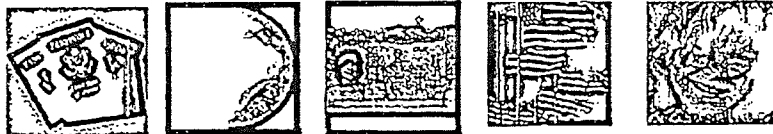
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Visa Office: What we can do for you

- **Provide background on a visa revocation**
- **Accept intelligence and revoke someone's visa**
- **Help facilitate the travel of a "person of interest"**
- **Enter namecheck hits on people so that the next time they apply for a visa, their applications will need SAOs**
- **Remove a State Department hit on someone no longer under investigation**

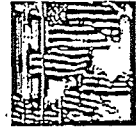
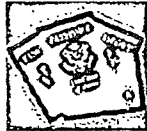
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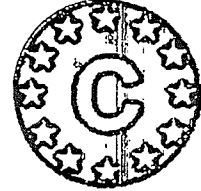
Visa Office: What we can't do for you

- **Deport someone**
- **Direct a post overseas to issue a visa**
- **Ignore intel/reporting to facilitate visa issuance**
- **Retroactively revoke a visa to facilitate expedited removal by DHS**
- **Reject someone's application to extend stay, change/adjust status**

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Contacting Us: Working with You



CA/VO/L/C

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