

GLOBAL LINK

Association of American Foreign Service Women



We're Your Connection!

By Melissa Hess, Web Site Managing Editor

As part of an ongoing effort to support the Foreign Service community, we have a new web site! *Foreign Service Lifelines*, a web site started by six Foreign Service spouses, has become the new

AAFSW's Foreign Service Lifelines

found at <http://www.kreative.net/fslifelines>.

Our site is a worldwide communication link for Foreign Service families and a place where members of our community can meet, ask questions, and exchange information, wherever they live. Our goal is to form a connection and lessen the isolation sometimes experienced by our members living overseas in remote posts.

To achieve this, we offer "Livelines," a free, interactive e-mail group available to any member of our community who has access to e-mail. In addition, we post resource information, as well as articles written by members of the Foreign Service community. Check back with us often, as new and updated information is posted every month!

Upcoming features will include:

- ◆ Notes for New Spouses—information on a variety of topics for newcomers
- ◆ Voices of Experience—words of wisdom from veteran spouses who have "been there, done that"
- ◆ Books by Foreign Service authors—more books, more authors, more quotes and reviews

Join us on the web, become a part of our community, and take advantage of the accumulated knowledge of AAFSW members all over the world!

A new look . . . a new web site . . . and more services for you!



Members of the AAFSW playgroup welcome moms and dads in the Washington area. For more information, contact the Playgroup Coordinator, Kelly Midura, at kbmidura@yahoo.com or 703-921-1217.

**Congratulations to the winners
of the 1999 AAFSW/Secretary of
State's Award for Outstanding Volunteerism**

**Michele Johnson, Maputo
Kristina Dodd, Caracas
Cheryl Rose, Bangkok
Johanna Braden, Riga
Susan Summers, Rabat
Eglal Rousseau, Dhaka**

*For information on the accomplishments of
these winners, check the new AAFSW web site
(see related article, left) or watch for
articles to appear in Global Link
beginning this summer.*

Interested in a Pay Cut?

Many of the services we wish could be implemented cost money: childcare, language training, improved support for elder care, and so on. The most recent Congressional budget proposals include drastic cuts in foreign affairs funding. The Administration requested \$21.3 billion for the "150 account," while the Senate responded by proposing \$17.7 billion and the House of Representatives \$16.4 billion, going down to \$15 billion by the year 2002. The 150 account includes just about everything that means anything to family members—and to U.S. diplomatic efforts in general.

Please contact your Congressional representatives immediately and remind them of the importance of diplomatic efforts. Military intervention is much more expensive!

The COLEAD web site has additional information on the issue, lists of Senate and House committee contact information, and sample letters (<http://www.colead.org>).

To e-mail your senators or representatives (or to find out who they are, ahem), go to: <http://www.senate.gov/contacting> or <http://www.house.gov/writerep>. The House system is very straightforward and almost fun to use.

Send letters to:

The Office of Senator _____ OR (Committee Name)
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable _____ OR (Committee Name)
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Write today—and spread the word to your family and friends. In today's world, it just doesn't make sense to cut diplomatic spending. To use an AAFSW motto: Let your voice be heard!