

Bush Announces Volunteer Program

In his commencement address at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, President Bush announced the creation of Volunteers for Prosperity, which will mobilize highly skilled volunteers to take part in international development and humanitarian work, especially in programs supported by USAID.

Volunteers for Prosperity will be a new program under the USA Freedom Corps, the White House coordinating council for volunteerism created by the President in 2002.

The new program will be different from the Peace Corps, which trains and deploys volunteers for postings of two years. Instead, Volunteers for Prosperity will arrange for highly skilled volunteers to work for flexible periods—from as brief as two weeks to as long as several years.

President Bush has proposed doubling the size of the Peace Corps—from 7,500 to 15,000 volunteers—over the next five years.