



Ambassador Tatiana C. Gfoeller

**Remarks
at the Military Hospital Opening Ceremony.**

**14 October, 2009.
Besh-Kungei village, Kyrgyz Republic**



Dear First Deputy Minister of Defense Colonel Kenjisariiev, distinguished guests, medical and dental professionals from Kyrgyzstan and the United States of America. Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this ceremony, this latest step in our ongoing and extensive military cooperation. We are here today to reaffirm our commitment to military cooperation with the armed forces of the Kyrgyz Republic, particularly in the medical and dental fields. This hospital, which we are opening today, represents our ongoing commitment to the health and welfare of Kyrgyzstan's citizens.

It warms my heart as the mother of a future American military officer to know that the parents of Kyrgyz military members can be sure that their children will receive the best quality medical care. With that in mind, we are happy to have supported the construction of this \$2 million hospital. This, the most modern medical facility in Kyrgyzstan and quite possibly in all of Central Asia, will provide first-rate medical care to Kyrgyzstan's brave military servicepeople and their families.

Many of our own American medical and dental professionals are here today – some military, some civilian. They are here because they are proud to be part of our bilateral cooperation on medical and dental issues. They are here because they want to expand this cooperation even further, in quantity and in quality. We want to continue our already fruitful relationship, and they are anxious to discuss future directions in medical and dental cooperation with you. This is truly a humanitarian endeavor.

This is not the first step in our bilateral military cooperation with the armed forces of Kyrgyzstan; we have been security partners for some time now. Our cooperation extends to upgrading the country's air traffic control system, for both security and safety purposes, to providing training to security forces and helping to build border-posts on isolated and porous borders. Our military cooperation is part of the broader U.S. government assistance. In cooperation with the Government of Kyrgyzstan, we have renovated schools, put books in the hands of school children, strengthened the judicial sector, and provided generators to hospitals in the cold of winter, to name just a few of our many projects. We have just initiated a new project to renovate the Congress of Womens' Womens' Shelter.

We remain committed to this partnership and we look forward to future, close cooperation with Kyrgyzstan's armed forces for many years to come. Thank you.