

**Ambassador Tatiana C. Gfoeller**



**Remarks  
at the Special Forces Compound Opening Ceremony**

**23 October, 2009.  
Tokmok city, Kyrgyz Republic**



Deputy Minister Japarov, Deputy Minister Kenjisariev, distinguished guests, soldiers from Kyrgyzstan and the USA. Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this ceremony, this latest step in our ongoing and extensive bilateral cooperation. We are here today to reaffirm our commitment to cooperation with the armed forces of the Kyrgyz Republic. This Special Forces Compound, which we are opening today, represents our ongoing commitment to the security of an independent Kyrgyzstan.

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 have modern living and working conditions. With that in mind, we are happy to have supported the construction of this \$9 million compound. The officers, sergeants, and soldiers of the Scorpion Battalion will have modern living and working facilities that include barracks, offices, saunas, a dining facility, training areas, a water tower...even a root cellar! This compound will complement the training area nearby, also constructed with assistance from the United States. And, of course, the Scorpions have received the extensive training from U.S. forces as well.

This is not the first step in our cooperation with the armed forces of Kyrgyzstan; we have been security partners for some time now. Last week we opened a state-of-the-art military hospital, inaugurating a new era of U.S.-Kyrgyz medical cooperation. Brand new, modern military equipment – trucks, tactical gear, ambulances, night sights, body armor, and much more - are arriving in Kyrgyzstan daily and being distributed to Kyrgyzstan's armed forces. 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 build a women's shelter with the Kyrgyz Congress of Women.

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.