

extended overwater operations with a single, functional HF communication system or other approved long-range communications system. *Grant, October 25, 1995, Exemption No. 2081P.*

Docket No.: 26152.

Petitioner: Sierra Academy of Aeronautics.

Sections of the FAR Affected: 14 CFR paragraphs (c)(III)(a)(2) (i) and (ii), appendix F, part 141.

Description of Relief Sought/

Disposition: To extend Exemption No. 5245, as amended, which permits the Sierra Academy of Aeronautics and the Sierra Academy of Aeronautics-Technical Institute to graduate students from the approved commercial helicopter course with 100 hours of flight instruction in helicopters and 50 hours of directed solo training in helicopters. *Grant, October 24, 1995, Exemption No. 5245D.*

Docket No.: 27372.

Petitioner: Fly BVI.

Sections of the FAR Affected: 14 CFR 61.89(a)(5).

Description of Relief Sought/

Disposition: To extend Exemption No. 5796, which permits Fly BVI's student pilots to fly between Tortola, in the British Virgin Islands, and the airports of the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico while fulfilling the cross-country requirements for a private pilot certificate. *Grant, October 24, 1995, Exemption No. 5796A.*

Docket No.: 27754.

Petitioner: Eagle Air Transport, Inc.

Sections of the FAR Affected: 14 CFR 105.43(a).

Description of Relief Sought/

Disposition: To allow foreign parachutists to participate in parachute jumping events in which Eagle Air Transport, Inc., aircraft provide lift and drop services without complying with the parachute equipment and packing requirements of the FAR. *Denial, October 25, 1995, Exemption No. 6192.*

Docket No.: 27953.

Petitioner: Aero Sports Connection, Inc.

Sections of the FAR Affected: 14 CFR 103.1(a) and (e)(1) through (e)(4).

Description of Relief Sought/

Disposition: To extend and amend Exemption No. 6080, which permits individuals authorized by Aero Sports Connection, Inc., (ASC) to give instruction in powered ultralights that have a maximum empty weight of not more than 496 pounds, have a maximum fuel capacity of not more than 10 U.S. gallons, are not capable of 75 knots calibrated airspeed at full power in level flight, and have a power-off stall speed which does not exceed 32

knots calibrated airspeed. The amendment corrects a typographical error and permits individuals authorized by ASC to give instruction in powered ultralights that have a power-off stall speed which does not exceed 35 knots calibrated airspeed. *Grant, October 24, 1995, Exemption No. 6080A.*

Docket No.: 28218.

Petitioner: American Trans Air, Inc.

Sections of the FAR Affected: 14 CFR 121.133(c).

Description of Relief Sought/

Disposition: To allow American Trans Air, Inc., to use various electronic data storage and transfer media, such as compact disc read-only (CD-ROM); the American Trans Air Airline Maintenance Engineering Resource Inventory & Component Accounting computer; and other universally recognized and available forms of data creation, storage, extraction, and communication, to prepare certain maintenance information and instructions for aircraft operated by American Trans Air, Inc., in lieu of printed page form or microfilm, subject to certain conditions and limitations. *Partial Grant, October 25, 1995, Exemption No. 6193.*

Docket No.: 28238.

Petitioner: Louisiana Tech University.

Sections of the FAR Affected: 14 CFR 141.65.

Description of Relief Sought/

Disposition: To permit Louisiana Tech University to hold examining authority for flight instructor written tests. *Grant, October 17, 1995, Exemption No. 6189.*

Docket No.: 28292.

Petitioner: Asplund Air, Inc.

Sections of the FAR Affected: 14 CFR 43.3(g).

Description of Relief Sought/

Disposition: To allow appropriately trained employed by Asplund Air, Inc., to remove and reinstall aircraft cabin seats in its aircraft that are type certificated for nine or fewer passenger seats and used in operations conducted under part 135. *Grant, October 30, 1995, Exemption No. 6197.*

Docket No.: 28317.

Petitioner: Eagle Canyon Airlines.

Sections of the FAR Affected: 14 CFR 135.143(c)(2).

Description of Relief Sought/

Disposition: To permit Eagle Canyon Airlines to operate the following cessna aircraft under part 135 without TSO-C112 (mode S) transponders installed: one 207A airplane (Registration No. N73426); one T207 airplane (Registration No. N1562U); two T207A airplanes (Registration Nos. N101EN and N6372H); one 402 airplane

(Registration No. N3500T); four 402B airplanes (Registration Nos. N1547T, N4616G, N8049Q, and N97158); and nine 402C airplanes (Registration Nos. N26150, N2714B, N2719T, N3189M, N3283M, N5809C, N5872C, N760EA, and N763EA). *Grant, October 25, 1995, Exemption No. 6195.*

[FR Doc. 95-29337 Filed 11-30-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-M

UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

Summer Institute for the Study of the United States: Focus on American Literature

ACTION: Notice—Request for Proposals.

SUMMARY: The Branch for the Study of the U.S. of the Office of Academic Programs of the United States Information Agency's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition for an assistance award program for the Summer Institute for the Study of the United States: Focus on American Literature. Public and private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in IRS regulation 26 CFR 1.501(c)(3)-1 may apply to develop a six-week graduate-level program designed for a group of 18 foreign university educators from around the world, in order to deepen their understanding of U.S. society, culture, values and institutions, using American literature as the central vehicle, and to give them further grounding in American literature and American studies, so that textbooks, curricular materials, and courses in foreign universities will benefit.

USIA is seeking detailed proposals from colleges, universities, consortia of colleges and universities, and other not-for-profit academic organizations that have an established reputation in American literature and/or American studies and related sub-disciplines, and that can demonstrate expertise in conducting graduate-level programs for foreign educators. Applicant institutions must have a minimum of four years' experience in conducting international exchange programs. The project director or one of the key program staff responsible for the academic program must have an advanced degree in American literature, American studies, or a related discipline. Staff escorts traveling under the USIA cooperative agreement support must be U.S. citizens with demonstrated qualifications for this service.

Overall grant making authority for this program is contained in the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, Public Law 87-256, as amended, also known as the Fulbright-Hays Act. The purpose of the Act is "to enable the Government of the United States to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries * * *; to strengthen the ties which unite as with other nations by demonstrating the educational and cultural interests, developments, and achievements of the people of the United States and other nations * * * and thus to assist in the development of friendly, sympathetic and peaceful relations between the United States and the other countries of the world."

Programs and projects must conform with Agency requirements and guidelines outlined in the Solicitation Package. USIA projects and programs are subject to the availability of funds.

Announcements Name and Number: All communications with USIA concerning this announcement should refer to the above title and reference number E/AAS-96-02.

Deadline for Proposals: All copies must be received at the U.S. Information Agency by 5 p.m. Washington, DC time on Monday, January 29, 1996. Faxed documents will not be accepted, nor will documents postmarked January 29, 1996 but received at a later date. It is the responsibility of each applicant to ensure that proposal submissions arrive by the deadline. Tentative program dates are June 29 to August 9, 1996. Participants will likely be booked to arrive in the U.S. on or about June 28, and depart on August 10, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request a Solicitation Package, which includes more detailed award criteria; all application forms; and guidelines for preparing proposals, including specific criteria for preparation of the proposal budget, applicants should contact: U.S. Information Agency, Office of Academic Programs, Branch of the Study of the United States, E/AAS, room 256, 301 4th Street SW., Washington, DC 20547, Attn: Program Officer Richard Taylor; telephone number (202) 619-4557; fax number (202) 619-6790; internet address rtaylor@usia.gov. Please specify USIA Program Officer Richard Taylor on all inquiries and correspondence. Interested applicants should read the complete Federal Register announcement before addressing inquiries to the office listed above or submitting their proposals. Once the RFP deadline has passed, USIA staff may not discuss this competition in any

way with applicants until after the Bureau proposal review process has been completed.

To Download a Solicitation Package via Internet: The Solicitation Package may be downloaded from USIA's website at <http://www.usia.gov>, or from the Internet Gopher at gopher.usia.gov, under "New RFPs on Educational and Cultural Exchanges."

Submissions: Applicants must follow all instructions given in the RFP and the complete Solicitation Package. The original and 14 copies of the complete application should be sent to: U.S. Information Agency, Ref.: E/AAS-96-02, Office of Grants Management, E/XE, room 326, 301 4th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20547.

Diversity Guidelines: Pursuant to the Bureau's authorizing legislation, programs must maintain a non-political character, and should be balanced and representative of the diversity and broad range of responsible views present in American political, social, and cultural life. "Diversity" should be interpreted in the broadest sense and encompass differences including, but not limited to ethnicity, race, gender, religion, geographic location, socio-economic status, and physical challenges. Applicants are strongly encouraged to adhere to the advancement of this principle both in program administration and in program content. Please refer to the review criteria under the "Support for Diversity" section for specific suggestions on incorporating diversity into the total proposal.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Overview

The Summer Institute for the Study of the U.S.: Focus on American Literature is intended to provide foreign university teachers of American literature and/or American studies with opportunities to deepen their understanding of the U.S., especially its society, culture, values and institutions, past and present, through an in-depth examination of American literature. It is intended to encourage and support their efforts to improve the quality of teaching and curricular materials about the United States at universities abroad.

The program should be six weeks in length, including a residency segment at a U.S. college or university campus (a minimum of four weeks in length), and a study tour segment (a maximum of two weeks in length, including visits to one or two other regions of the U.S.). If desired, and if and only if it is supportive of the academic program content, the program can conclude with

a visit to Washington, D.C. (including a program debriefing at USIA).

The program should offer participants a specially-designed series of lectures, presentations, discussions, and site visits, each related to a central program theme in American studies and/or American literature.

Institute Objectives

- To present an intensive, academically stimulating program that presents a multi-dimensional view of the United States, using American literature as the main vehicle, through an integrated series of lectures, readings, interactive discussions, research and independent study opportunities, and site visits.
- To deepen participants' understanding U.S. society, culture, values and institutions, in both a historical and contemporary sense;
- And, to enhance teaching about the U.S., and of American literature in particular, in foreign universities by making appropriate scholarly resources, pedagogical materials, and ideas available to participants. Participants should return home with an ability to communicate a deeper and more informed view of the U.S. to students and colleagues.

Participants

The program should be designed for a total of 18 highly-motivated foreign university educators, including teachers, administrators, department chairs, curriculum developers and textbook writers, who are interested in using American literature as a means to further the understanding of the U.S. in their home institutions and countries. They will have demonstrated a willingness and ability to include American literature and aspects of American civilization in their teaching and professional work.

Participants will be drawn from all regions of the world, and will be fluent in the English language.

Participants will be nominated by U.S. Information Service posts abroad, and selected by the staff of USIA's Branch of the Study of the United States in Washington, D.C. USIA will cover all international travel costs directly.

Guidelines

The conception and structure of the institute program is entirely the responsibility of the organizers. However, as the possibilities are quite numerous for the design of a program focusing on aspects of U.S. society, culture, values and institutions, as seen through literature, an overarching institute theme should be chosen to

focus the content and scope of the program. The best proposals will clearly articulate the overall institute theme, essential topics and sub-topics being covered, and will discuss the means by which the program content will be communicated to participants. Proposals should also provide bibliographies of texts and materials to be used in the program.

While literature must be the main program vehicle for helping the participants develop a deeper understanding of U.S. civilization, past and present, the program may also be enriched by the occasional engagement of other disciplines and sub-disciplines that make up American studies (e.g. history, political science, economics, geography, sociology, demography, etc.). The program should provide participants with a clearer understanding of the diversity, complexity, and unity of U.S. life and society.

At the outset, the program should review the recent history and current status of American literature as an academic discipline, surveying major schools of interpretation and examining the current debates within American literature and literary studies generally. The program should also explore how American literature has informed and been informed by the interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary approaches to the study of the U.S. represented by the field of American Studies. The program itself should include a balanced mix of traditional and contemporary approaches for examining the institute theme.

It is extremely important that the institute organizers devise a way to integrate all aspects of the program. Assigned readings, lectures, discussions, and field trips should relate to and further illuminate the central institute theme, and contribute to a better understanding of the U.S.

The institute should not simply replicate an existing lecture course or a graduate seminar. Rather, through a combination of lectures, presentations, discussions, and site visits, it should be designed to facilitate the development of a collegial atmosphere in which faculty and participants discuss relevant texts, issues, and concepts.

The equivalent of one day a week should be available to participants to pursue individual research interests, curriculum development projects, or to do assigned readings. Participants should be paired with faculty mentors to guide them in their research, and assist them in adjustment to the U.S. academic environment.

The program should also provide access to leading American scholars and scholarly resources (libraries, archives, databases, etc.). An essential element of the program is the exposure to an accumulation of teaching ideas and scholarly resources, including primary texts, supplementary works, and curricular materials (including Internet resources and training). The Summer Institute should facilitate participants' acquisition of the maximum amount of such materials to take back to their home countries, to be used in the development of new courses and programs, and the improvement of existing ones.

The program should ideally bring in outside presenters (representatives from academia, community organizations, media, government) in addition to the core faculty of the host institution. Presenters must be fully briefed about the institute, its goals, general themes and content, readings, and especially the background and needs of the participants themselves. Information about presenters and how they will be utilized should be included in the proposal submission.

A residential program of a minimum of four weeks on a college/university campus is mandatory. The program should include an integrated study tour segment to one or two other regions of the country of up to two weeks in length. If appropriate, and if it contributes to the academic program content, a visit to Washington, D.C. at the conclusion of the program can be included. If this visit is arranged, it should include a half-day session at the United States Information Agency for a grantee debriefing session. The selected grantee organization would be asked to consult closely with USIA in the planning of the Washington itinerary, if included in the proposal. The study tour segment must be directly supportive of the academic program content. Day trips to various locations (historical sites, classrooms, community centers) are also encouraged if such trips will further enhance understanding of the U.S. and enrich the participants' experience.

Details of the academic residency and tour programs may be modified in consultation with USIA's Branch for the Study of the U.S. following the grant award.

The selected grant organization will be responsible for most arrangements associated with this program. This includes the organization and implementation of all presentations and program activities, arrangement of all domestic travel, lodging, subsistence, airport reception and ground transportation for participants,

orientation and briefing of participants, preparation of any necessary support materials (including a pre-program mailing to participants), and working with program presenters to achieve maximum program coordination and effectiveness.

Please refer to the Solicitation Package for further details on program design and implementation.

Additional Information

Confirmation letters from U.S. co-sponsors noting their intention to participate in the program will enhance a proposal. Proposals incorporating participant/observer site visits will be more competitive if letters committing prospective host institutions to support these efforts are provided.

Visa/Insurance/Tax Requirements

Programs must comply with J-1 visa regulations. Visas will be issued by USIS posts abroad. USIA insurance will be provided to all participants, unless otherwise indicated in the proposal submission. Grantee organization will be responsible for enrolling participants in the chosen insurance plan. Please indicate in the proposal if host institutions have any special tax withholding requirements on participant or staff escort stipends or allowances.

Proposed Budget

Total USIA-funded budget award may not exceed \$157,000. USIA-funded administrative costs should be as low as possible and should not exceed \$47,000. The U.S. recipient should try to maximize cost-sharing in all facets of the program and to stimulate U.S. private sector (foundation and corporate) support. Applicants must submit a comprehensive budget for the entire program. There must be a summary budget as well as a breakdown reflecting both the administrative budget and the program budget. For better understanding or further clarification, applicants may provide separate sub-budgets for each program component, phase, location, or activity in order to facilitate USIA decisions on funding. Please refer to the "POGI" in the Solicitation Package for complete budget guidelines and formatting instructions for the institute program.

Review Process

The USIA will acknowledge receipt of all proposals and will review them for technical eligibility. Proposals will be deemed ineligible if they do not fully adhere to the guidelines stated herein and in the Solicitation Package. Eligible proposals will be forwarded to panels of

USIA officers for advisory review. All eligible proposals will also be reviewed by the Agency contracts office, as well as the USIA Area Offices and the USIA post overseas, where appropriate. Proposals may also be reviewed by the Office of the General Counsel or by other Agency elements. Funding decisions are at the discretion of the USIA Associate Director for Educational and Cultural Affairs. Final technical authority for assistance awards (grants or cooperative agreements) resides with the USIA grant officer.

Review Criteria

Technically eligible applications will be competitively reviewed according to the criteria stated below. These criteria are not rank ordered, and all carry equal weight in the proposal evaluation:

1. Overall Quality: Proposals should exhibit originality and substance, consonant with the highest standards of American teaching and scholarship. Program design should reflect the main currents as well as the contemporary debates within the discipline.

2. Program Planning: Proposals should demonstrate careful planning. The organization and structure of the Institute should be clearly delineated and be fully responsive to all program objectives. The travel component should be an integral and substantive part of the program, reinforcing and complementing its academic segment.

3. Institutional Capacity: Proposed personnel, including faculty and administrative staff as well as outside presenters, should be fully qualified to achieve the project's goals. Library and media resources should be accessible to participants; housing, transportation and other logistical arrangements should be fully adequate to the needs of participants and should be conducive to a collegial atmosphere.

4. Diversity: Proposals should demonstrate the recipient's commitment to promoting the awareness and understanding of diversity throughout the program. This can be accomplished through documentation, such as a written statement, summarizing past and/or on-going activities and efforts that further the principle of diversity within the organization and its activities. Program activities that address this issue should be highlighted.

5. Experience: The proposal should demonstrate an institutional record of successful exchange program activity, indicating the experience that the organization and its professional staff have had in working with foreign educators.

6. Evaluation and Follow-up: The proposal should include a plan for evaluating activities during the Institute and at its conclusion. Proposals should comment on provisions made for follow-up with returned grantees as a means of establishing longer-term individual and institutional linkages.

7. Administration and Management: The proposals should indicate evidence of continuous on-site administrative and managerial capacity as well as the means by which program activities will be implemented.

8. Cost Effectiveness: The proposals should maximize cost-sharing through direct institutional contributions, in-kind support, and other private sector support. Overhead and administrative components of the proposal, including salaries and honoraria, should be kept as low as possible.

Notice: The terms and conditions published in this RFP are binding and may not be modified by any USIA representative. Explanatory information provided by the Agency that contradicts published language will not be binding. Issuance of the RFP does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the Government. The Agency reserves the right to reduce, revise, or increase proposal budgets in accordance with the needs of the program and the availability of funding. Final awards cannot be made until funds have been appropriated by Congress, allocated and committed through internal USIA procedures.

Notification

All applicants will be notified of the results of the review process on or about April 1, 1996. Awards made will be subject to periodic reporting and evaluation requirements.

Dated:
John P. Loiello,
Associate Director for Educational and Cultural Affairs.
[FR Doc. 95-29286 Filed 11-30-95; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 8230-01-M

Summer Institute for the Study of the United States for Foreign Secondary School Educators

ACTION: Notice—Request for proposals.

SUMMARY: The Branch for the Study of the U.S. of the Office of Academic Programs of the United States Information Agency's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition for an assistance award program for the Summer Institute for the Study of the United States for Foreign Secondary School Educators. Public and private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in IRS regulation

26 CFR 1.501(c)(3)-1 may apply to develop a six-week graduate-level program designed for a group of 28 secondary school educators from around the world, in order to deepen their understanding of the United States so that American studies textbooks, curricula and teaching in foreign secondary schools and teacher training institutions will be improved.

USIA is seeking detailed proposals from colleges, universities, consortia of colleges and universities, and other not-for-profit academic organizations that have an established reputation in the disciplines and sub-disciplines that comprise American Studies, and that can demonstrate expertise in conducting graduate-level programs for foreign educators. Applicant institutions must have a minimum of four years' experience in conducting international exchange programs. The project director or one of the key program staff responsible for the academic program must have an advanced degree in American studies or a related discipline. Staff escorts traveling under the USIA cooperative agreement support must be U.S. citizens with demonstrated qualifications for this service.

Overall grant making authority for this program is contained in the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, Public Law 87-256, as amended, also known as the Fulbright-Hays Act. The purpose of the Act is "to enable the Government of the United States to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries * * *; to strengthen the ties which unite us with other nations by demonstrating the educational and cultural interests, developments, and achievements of the people of the United States and other nations * * * and thus to assist in the development of friendly, sympathetic and peaceful relations between the United States and the other countries of the world."

Programs and projects must conform with Agency requirements and guidelines outlined in the Solicitation Package. USIA projects and programs are subject to the availability of funds.

Announcement Name and Number: All communications with USIA concerning this announcement should refer to the above title and reference number E/AAS-96-03.

Deadline for Proposals: All copies must be received at the U.S. Information Agency by 5:00 p.m. Washington D.C. time on Monday, January 29, 1996. Faxed documents will not be accepted, nor will documents postmarked January 29, 1996 but received at a later date. It is the responsibility of each applicant to