

**Brief Histories of**  
**U.S. Government Agencies**  
**Volume Two**

**Compiled and Edited by**  
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## About the Editor

Michael Erbschloe has worked for over 30 years performing analysis of the economics of information technology, public policy relating to technology, and utilizing technology in reengineering organization processes. He has authored several books on social and management issues of information technology that were published by McGraw Hill and other major publishers. He has also taught at several universities and developed technology-related curriculum. His career has focused on several interrelated areas:

- Technology strategy, analysis, and forecasting
- Teaching and curriculum development
- Writing books and articles
- Publishing and editing
- Public policy analysis and program evaluation

### Books by Michael Erbschloe

Social Media Warfare: Equal Weapons for All (Auerbach Publications)

Walling Out the Insiders: Controlling Access to Improve Organizational Security (Auerbach Publications)

Physical Security for IT (Elsevier Science)

Trojans, Worms, and Spyware (Butterworth-Heinemann)

Implementing Homeland Security in Enterprise IT (Digital Press)

Guide to Disaster Recovery (Course Technology)

Socially Responsible IT Management (Digital Press)

Information Warfare: How to Survive Cyber Attacks (McGraw Hill)

The Executive's Guide to Privacy Management (McGraw Hill)

Net Privacy: A Guide to Developing & Implementing an e-business Privacy Plan (McGraw Hill)

# Introduction

Concern for the preservation of the records of the nation was expressed early. "Time and accident," Thomas Jefferson warned in 1791, "are committing daily havoc on the originals deposited in our public offices." But it was not until the early 1930s that historians and others concerned with the preservation of the nation's records saw their hopes realized.

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) is the nation's record keeper. Of all documents and materials created in the course of business conducted by the United States Federal government, only 1%-3% are so important for legal or historical reasons that they are kept by NARA forever.

Many people know the National Archives as the keeper of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. But we also hold in trust for the public the records of ordinary citizens—for example, military records of the brave men and women who have fought for our country, naturalization records of the immigrants whose dreams have shaped our nation, and even the canceled check from the purchase of Alaska.

In a democracy, records belong to the people, and for more than seven decades, NARA has preserved and provided access to the records of the United States of America. Records help us claim our rights and entitlements, hold our elected officials accountable for their actions, and document our history as a nation. In short, NARA ensures continuing access to the essential documentation of the rights of American citizens and the actions of their Government.

The National Archives was established in 1934 by President Franklin Roosevelt, but its major holdings date back to 1775. They capture the sweep of the past: slave ship manifests and the Emancipation Proclamation; captured German records and the Japanese surrender documents from World War II; journals of polar expeditions and photographs of Dust Bowl farmers; Indian treaties making transitory promises; and a richly bound document bearing the bold signature "Bonaparte"—the Louisiana Purchase Treaty that doubled the territory of the young republic.

NARA keeps only those Federal records that are judged to have continuing value—about 2 to 5 percent of those generated in any given year. By now, they add up to a formidable number, diverse in form as well as in content. There are approximately 10 billion pages of textual records; 12 million maps, charts, and architectural and engineering drawings; 25 million still photographs and graphics; 24 million aerial photographs; 300,000 reels of motion picture film; 400,000 video and sound recordings; and 133 terabytes of electronic data. All of these materials are preserved because they are important to the workings of Government, have long-term research worth, or provide information of value to citizens.

In addition, NARA must also manage the rapidly growing number of electronic Government records. Now being developed, the Electronic Records Archives (ERA) is our strategic response to the challenge of preserving, managing, and providing access to electronic records. ERA will keep essential electronic Federal records retrievable, readable, and authentic for as long as they remain valuable—whether that is a few years or a few hundred years.

(Link: <https://www.archives.gov/publications/general-info-leaflets/1-about-archives.html>)

## **Exploring History**

The National Archives sponsors the History Hub which is a pilot crowd sourcing platform. It is a place to share information, work together, and find people based on their experience and interests. Experts from the National Archives as well as other experts, history enthusiasts, and citizen archivists are available to help with your research. History Hub offers tools like discussion boards, blogs, and community pages to bring together experts and researchers interested in American history. Think of it as a one-stop shop for crowd sourcing information related to your research subject. We hope to connect with and better serve customers interested in the historic records we hold. We are launching the History Hub as a pilot project so that we can test its usefulness as a crowd sourcing platform. We hope to apply what we learn to a longer-term solution that can be used by federal government agencies and other interested organizations looking to expand public participation. (Link: <https://historyhub.archives.gov/docs/DOC-1012>)

This book provides a brief history of U.S. Government agencies that were retrieved from the agency websites and other sources. The purpose is to preserve that documentation. The editor is not attempting to copyright public documents.

# Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)

**Atomic Energy Commission (AEC):** Before the NRC was created, nuclear regulation was the responsibility of the AEC, which Congress first established in the Atomic Energy Act of 1946. Eight years later, Congress replaced that law with the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, which for the first time made the development of commercial nuclear power possible. The act assigned the AEC the functions of both encouraging the use of nuclear power and regulating its safety. The AEC's regulatory programs sought to ensure public health and safety from the hazards of nuclear power without imposing excessive requirements that would inhibit the growth of the industry. This was a difficult goal to achieve, especially in a new industry, and within a short time the AEC's programs stirred considerable controversy. An increasing number of critics during the 1960s charged that the AEC's regulations were insufficiently rigorous in several important areas, including radiation protection standards, reactor safety, plant sites, and environmental protection.

**AEC to NRC:** By 1974, the AEC's regulatory programs had come under such strong attack that Congress decided to abolish the agency. Supporters and critics of nuclear power agreed that the promotional and regulatory duties of the AEC should be assigned to different agencies. The Energy Reorganization Act of 1974 created the Nuclear Regulatory Commission; it began operations on January 19, 1975. (Watch video: Moments in NRC History: Founding of the NRC) The NRC (like the AEC before it) focused its attention on several broad issues that were essential to protecting public health and safety:

**Radiation Protection.** The primary danger of the use of nuclear materials for the production of electrical power and a variety of industrial, medical, and research applications is that workers or members of the general public could be exposed to hazardous levels of radiation. The AEC and the NRC published standards that were intended to provide an ample margin of safety from radiation that was generated by the activities of its licensees. The radiation standards embodied available scientific information and the judgment of leading authorities in the field. But since the hazards of exposure to low levels of radiation remained an open and often controversial scientific question, the standards proved to be perpetual sources of debate.

**Reactor Safety.** The focus of the regulatory programs of the AEC and the NRC was prevention of a major reactor accident that would threaten public health and safety. Both agencies issued a series of requirements designed to make certain that a massive release of radiation from a power reactor would not occur. As the number of plants being built and the size of those plants rapidly increased during the late 1960s and early 1970s, reactor safety became a hotly disputed and enormously complex public policy issue. Often bitter debates over the reliability of emergency core cooling systems, pressure vessel integrity, quality assurance, the probability of a major accident, and other questions received a great deal of attention from the AEC and NRC, Congress, the nuclear industry, environmentalists, and the news media.

**Three Mile Island.** On March 28, 1979, the debate over nuclear power safety moved from the hypothetical to reality. An accident at Unit 2 of the Three Mile Island plant in Pennsylvania melted about half of the reactor's core and for a time generated fear that widespread radioactive contamination would result. The crisis ended without a major release of dangerous forms of radiation or a need to order a general evacuation, but it pointed out that new approaches to nuclear regulation were essential. In the aftermath of the accident, the NRC placed much greater emphasis on operator training and "human factors" in plant performance, severe accidents that could occur as a result of small equipment failures (as occurred at Three Mile Island), emergency planning, plant operating histories, and other matters. (For more information, see the Backgrounder on the Three Mile Island Accident and Watch video: Moments in NRC History: Three Mile Island - March 28,1979)

**Regulation of Nuclear Materials.** Although reactor safety issues received the lion's share of public notice, the NRC also devoted substantial resources to a variety of complex questions in the area of nuclear materials safety and safeguards. One such issue was the protection of nuclear materials from theft or diversion. This became a prominent question after the 1970s in response to growing concern that nuclear materials could be obtained by terrorists or nations seeking to build atomic weapons. The NRC also devoted a great deal of attention to the safety of managing high-level and low-level radioactive waste, which was a matter of public fear and bitter political controversy. And it sought to exercise its limited responsibilities in the field of radiation medicine by ensuring that patients received the proper doses of radiation from procedures under its authority.

### **The NRC Today**

Today, the NRC's regulatory activities are focused on reactor safety oversight and reactor license renewal of existing plants, materials safety oversight and materials licensing for a variety of purposes, and waste management of both high-level waste and low-level waste. In addition, the NRC is preparing to evaluate new applications for nuclear plants. Several utilities have submitted applications for licenses to build new power reactors. See our nuclear materials, nuclear reactors, nuclear security, and radioactive waste pages for more information on NRC's current regulatory activities.

### **NRC History References**

Through the Commission History Program, the origins and evolution of NRC regulatory policies are documented. They are discussed in five volumes of nuclear regulatory history published by the University of California Press. These volumes are:



1. Controlling the Atom: The Beginnings of Nuclear Regulation 1946-1962 (1984) (NUREG-1610).
2. Containing the Atom: Nuclear Regulation in a Changing Environment, 1963-1971 (1992) (NUREG-1933).
3. Permissible Dose: A History of Radiation Protection in the Twentieth Century (2000)
4. Three Mile Island: A Nuclear Crisis in Historical Perspective (2004)
5. The Road to Yucca Mountain: The Development of Radioactive Waste Policy in the United States (2009)

Controlling the Atom has been reprinted by the NRC and is available from the Government Printing Office as NUREG-1610. Containing the Atom has also been reprinted by the NRC and is available as NUREG-1933. Permissible Dose, Three Mile Island and The Road to Yucca Mountain are available from the University of California Press.

The NRC has published two booklets. A Short History of Nuclear Regulation, 1946-2009 (NUREG/BR-0175, Rev. 2) summarizes major issues in the NRC's history. No Undue Risk: Regulating the Safety of Operating Nuclear Power Plants (NUREG/BR-0518) is a history of important reactor safety improvements brought about by the NRC at operating nuclear power plants.

### **NRC History Blogs**

REFRESH — Putting the Axe to the 'Scram' Myth

Moments in NRC History: Regulating for Safety and Non-Proliferation, Part II

Moments in NRC History: Research and Test Reactors Series

Penn State University's Breazeale Reactor Celebrates 60 Years

CRUD: Another Acronym Bites the Dust

NRC Celebrates A Milestone — 40 Years of Safety and Service

Part II: Ensuring Safety in the First Temple of the Atom

Part I — The First Temple of the Atom: The AEC and the North Carolina State Research Reactor

Moments in NRC History: The Founding of the NRC

Nuclear Swords into Electric Power Plowshares: The Megatons to Megawatts Program

Waves of Uncertainty: The Demise of the Floating Reactor Concept (Part II)

Floating Nuclear Power Plants: A Technical Solution to a Land-based Problem (Part I)

Before the Browns Ferry Fire: Antiquated Notions That Electricity and Water Didn't Mix

Melting Ice with the Peaceful Atom: The NRC and the End of the Cold War

The Mystery of the Trowel – Solved

The Mystery of the Atomic Energy Commission Trowel — Part I

Channeling da Vinci: The Competition to Create the NRC Seal  
The Reactor Safety Study: The Birth, Death and Rebirth of PRA  
SATAN's Code: The Early Years of Accident Models  
Putting the Axe to the 'Scram' Myth  
Why Does The NRC Have an Official Historian?

(Link: <https://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/history.html>)

# U.S. Naval Academy

## Mission of USNA

"To develop Midshipmen morally, mentally and physically and to imbue them with the highest ideals of duty, honor and loyalty in order to graduate leaders who are dedicated to a career of naval service and have potential for future development in mind and character to assume the highest responsibilities of command, citizenship and government."

When the founders of the United States Naval Academy were looking for a suitable location, it was reported that then Secretary of the Navy George Bancroft decided to move the naval school to "the healthy and secluded" location of Annapolis in order to rescue midshipmen from "the temptations and distractions that necessarily connect with a large and populous city." The Philadelphia Naval Asylum School was its predecessor. Four of the original seven faculty members came from Philadelphia. Other small naval schools in New York City, Norfolk, Va., and Boston, Mass. also existed in the early days of the United States.

The United States Navy was born during the American Revolution when the need for a naval force to match the Royal Navy became clear. But during the period immediately following the Revolution, the Continental Navy was demobilized in 1785 by an economy-minded Congress.

The dormancy of American seapower lasted barely a decade when, in 1794, President George Washington persuaded the Congress to authorize a new naval force to combat the growing menace of piracy on the high seas.

The first vessels of the new U.S. Navy were launched in 1797; among them were the United States, the Constellation, and the Constitution. In 1825, President John Quincy Adams urged Congress to establish a Naval Academy "for the formation of scientific and accomplished officers." His proposal, however, was not acted upon until 20 years later.

On September 13, 1842, the American Brig Somers set sail from the Brooklyn Navy Yard on one of the most significant cruises in American naval history. It was a school ship for the training of teenage naval apprentice volunteers who would hopefully be inspired to make the Navy a career.

However, discipline deteriorated on the Somers and it was determined by a court of inquiry aboard ship that Midshipman Philip Spencer and his two chief confederates, Boatswains Mate Samuel Cromwell and Seaman Elisha Small, were guilty of a "determined attempt to commit a mutiny." The three were hanged at the yardarm and the incident cast doubt over the wisdom of

sending midshipmen directly aboard ship to learn by doing. News of the Somers mutiny shocked the country.

Through the efforts of the Secretary of the Navy George Bancroft, the Naval School was established without Congressional funding, at a 10-acre Army post named Fort Severn in Annapolis, Maryland, on October 10, 1845, with a class of 50 midshipmen and seven professors. The curriculum included mathematics and navigation, gunnery and steam, chemistry, English, natural philosophy, and French.

In 1850 the Naval School became the United States Naval Academy. A new curriculum went into effect requiring midshipmen to study at the Academy for four years and to train aboard ships each summer. That format is the basis of a far more advanced and sophisticated curriculum at the Naval Academy today. As the U.S. Navy grew over the years, the Academy expanded. The campus of 10 acres increased to 338. The original student body of 50 midshipmen grew to a brigade size of 4,000. Modern granite buildings replaced the old wooden structures of Fort Severn.

Congress authorized the Naval Academy to begin awarding bachelor of science degrees in 1933. The Academy later replaced a fixed curriculum taken by all midshipmen with the present core curriculum plus 18 major fields of study, a wide variety of elective courses and advanced study and research opportunities.

Since then, the development of the United States Naval Academy has reflected the history of the country. As America has changed culturally and technologically so has the Naval Academy. In just a few decades, the Navy moved from a fleet of sail and steam-powered ships to a high-tech fleet with nuclear-powered submarines and surface ships and supersonic aircraft. The academy has changed, too, giving midshipmen state-of-the-art academic and professional training they need to be effective naval officers in their future careers.

The Naval Academy first accepted women as midshipmen in 1976, when Congress authorized the admission of women to all of the service academies. Women comprise over 20 percent of entering plebes --or freshmen-- and they pursue the same academic and professional training as do their male classmates

(Link: <https://www.usna.edu/USNAHistory/index.php>)

## **Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)**

The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is the public health agency in the U.S. Department of Agriculture responsible for ensuring that the nation's commercial supply of meat, poultry, and egg products is safe, wholesome, and correctly labeled and packaged.

In 1862, President Abraham Lincoln founded the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and appointed a chemist, Charles M. Wetherill, to lead USDA's Division of Chemistry, which in 1901 became the Bureau of Chemistry.

In 1883, Harvey W. Wiley, M.D., was appointed chief chemist at USDA. Wiley devoted his career to raising public awareness of problems with adulterated food; developing standards for food processing; and campaigning for the Pure Food and Drugs Act, also known as the "Wiley Act."

Following World War II, the processing industry changed significantly. The rapid growth of the federal highway system and the development of refrigerated trucks allowed meat packers to move out of expensive urban areas. Competition in the meat-packing business led to sophisticated, mechanized plants in less expensive rural areas.

In 1946, the scope of inspection was expanded with the passage of The Agricultural Marketing Act (AMA), which allowed for inspection of exotic and game animals on a fee-for-service basis. The 1946 Act also provided USDA the authority to inspect, certify and identify the class, quality and condition of agricultural products. Grading and quality identification activities were separated from inspection activities and assigned to USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service in 1981. Under the AMA, FSIS also provides a range of voluntary inspection, certification, and identification services

In 1953, the Eisenhower Administration inaugurated sweeping organizational changes at USDA. Scientific bureaus, including the Bureau of Animal Industry and the Bureau of Dairy Industry, were abolished and their functions were transferred to the newly established Agricultural Research Service (ARS).

Health concerns posed by poultry were first addressed in 1926, when USDA began to offer a voluntary inspection and grading service to poultry processors through its Federal Poultry Inspection Service. Following World War II, there was explosive growth in consumer demand for dressed, ready-to-cook, and processed poultry products. In 1957, Congress passed the Poultry Products Inspection Act, which ensured, just like the FMIA did for meat products, that poultry products shipped in interstate commerce are continuously inspected: prior to slaughter, after slaughter, before processing and, if the poultry was imported, at the point of entry into the United States. The law also required that plant facilities be sanitary and that product labels be accurate and truthful.

During the 1950s and 1960s, inspection increasingly focused on wholesomeness and visible contamination. Concerns about animal disease were diminishing. However, industry operations were becoming increasingly complex. Industry was producing more and more different kinds of products, and in greater and greater volume, resulting in increased concerns about mislabeling and economic adulteration.

In 1958, in response to the public's concern about invisible hazards from chemicals added directly or indirectly to foods, the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act of 1938 was amended with the Food Additive Amendment to ensure the safety of ingredients used in processed foods, including animal drug residues in meat and poultry products.

Also in 1958, after a three-year campaign by animal-advocacy groups, the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act (HMSA) was signed into law. It required that the government only purchase livestock that had been slaughtered humanely, but did not directly require it of industry. Twenty years later, the HMSA of 1978 amended the FMIA by requiring that all meat inspected by FSIS for use as human food be produced from livestock slaughtered by humane methods.

In 1967 and 1968, respectively, the Wholesome Meat Act and the Wholesome Poultry Act amended the FMIA and the PPIA, addressing the new inspection challenges that had arisen from an increasingly complicated market. Under the new laws, states were required to conduct maintain meat and poultry inspection programs "at least equal to" the federal program.

In 1965, ARS' Consumer and Marketing Service was reorganized to include the Meat Inspection Division and Poultry Division, merging federal meat and poultry inspection into one program.

In 1970, Congress passed the Egg Products Inspection Act (EPIA), which provides for the mandatory continuous inspection of the processing of liquid, frozen, and dried egg products. For the next 25 years, ARS' Poultry Division inspected egg products to ensure they were wholesome, otherwise not adulterated, and properly labeled and packaged to protect the health and welfare of consumers.

In 1995, FSIS became responsible for the inspection of pasteurized liquid, frozen, or dried egg products. FDA assumed responsibility for shell egg safety.

In 1971, ARS was reorganized, and in 1972, all of the meat and poultry inspection functions of ARS' Consumer and Marketing Service were transferred to the newly created Animal and Plant Health Service (APHIS).

In 1977, the Food Safety and Quality Service (FSQS) was created to perform meat and poultry grading, as well as inspection activities, instead of APHIS. In 1981, FSQS was reorganized and renamed the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS).

In 1993, an outbreak of E. coli O157:H7 occurred in the Pacific Northwest, causing 400 illnesses and four deaths. The public demanded change for safer ground beef products.

At the time, FSIS inspection was largely organoleptic (relying on sight, touch, and smell), and agency officials and stakeholders called for a more "science-based" meat and poultry inspection system. In response, FSIS stepped up its research on the benefits of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP), setting the stage for the most significant change in regulatory philosophy in the history of U.S. food inspection.

On July 25, 1996, FSIS issued its landmark rule, Pathogen Reduction/HACCP Systems. The rule focuses on the prevention and reduction of microbial pathogens on raw products that can cause illness.

HACCP clarifies the respective roles of government and industry. Industry is accountable for producing safe food. Government is responsible for setting appropriate food safety standards, maintaining vigorous inspection oversight to ensure those standards are met, and maintaining a strong regulatory enforcement program to deal with noncompliance.

HACCP was implemented in all FSIS- and state-inspected meat and poultry slaughter and processing establishments across the nation, between January 1997 and January 2000. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have recognized HACCP as an important factor in the overall decline in bacterial food borne illnesses since 1996.

Since the implementation of HACCP, FSIS has intensified efforts to combat food borne pathogens; for example, testing meat and poultry products for *Listeria monocytogenes*, implementing stricter *Salmonella* and new *Campylobacter* performance standards for poultry products, and declaring that six additional serogroups of pathogenic *E. coli* (in addition to *E. coli* O157:H7) are adulterants in non-intact raw beef.

FSIS works with federal, state and local food safety partners to address emerging pathogens, to detect food borne hazards, and to prevent food borne illness.

(Link: <https://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/informational/aboutfsis/history>)

# The Peace Corps

For more than five decades, Peace Corps Volunteers in 140 countries have demonstrated ingenuity, creativity, and grit to solve critical challenges alongside community leaders. Through the years, Peace Corps Volunteers have been connected by their passion for service and love for their host countries. The transformative impact of the Peace Corps on the communities we serve and the Volunteers themselves can be measured in many ways.

One of the signature achievements of President John F. Kennedy was creating the Peace Corps, a new agency and a new opportunity for Americans to serve their country and their world. The creation of the Peace Corps dates back to an unexpected moment and impromptu speech more than 55 years ago.

After a day of campaigning for the presidency, Senator John F. Kennedy arrived at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor on October 14, 1960, at 2:00 a.m., to get some sleep, not to propose the establishment of an international volunteer organization. Members of the press had retired for the night, believing that nothing interesting would happen.

But 10,000 students at the university were waiting to hear the presidential candidate speak, and it was there on the steps of the Michigan Union that a bold new experiment in public service was launched. The assembled students heard the future president issue a challenge: How many of them, he asked, would be willing to serve their country and the cause of peace by living and working in the developing world?

The reaction was both swift and enthusiastic, and since 1961, over 220,000 Americans have responded to this enduring challenge. And since then, the Peace Corps has demonstrated how the power of an idea can capture the imagination of an entire nation.

Following up on the idea he launched at the University of Michigan, President Kennedy signed an executive order establishing the Peace Corps on March 1, 1961. Three days later, R. Sargent Shriver became its first Director. Deployment was rapid: Volunteers began serving in five countries in 1961. In just under six years, Director Shriver developed programs in 55 countries with more than 14,500 Volunteers.

## Full text of Kennedy's remarks

"I want to express my thanks to you, as a graduate of the Michigan of the East, Harvard University.

"I come here tonight delighted to have the opportunity to say one or two words about this campaign that is coming into the last three weeks.

"I think in many ways it is the most important campaign since 1933, mostly because of the problems which press upon the United States, and the opportunities which will be presented to us in the 1960s. The opportunity must be seized, through the judgment of the President, and the vigor of the executive, and the cooperation of the Congress. Through these I think we can make the greatest possible difference.

"How many of you who are going to be doctors, are willing to spend your days in Ghana? Technicians or engineers, how many of you are willing to work in the Foreign Service and spend your lives traveling around the world? On your willingness to do that, not merely to serve one



year or two years in the service, but on your willingness to contribute part of your life to this country, I think will depend the answer whether a free society can compete. I think it can! And I think Americans are willing to contribute. But the effort must be far greater than we have ever made in the past.

"Therefore, I am delighted to come to Michigan, to this university, because unless we have those resources in this school, unless you comprehend the nature of what is being asked of you, this country can't possibly move through the next 10 years in a period of relative strength.

"So I come here tonight to go to bed! But I also come here tonight to ask you to join in the effort...

"This university...this is the longest short speech I've ever made...therefore, I'll finish it! Let me say in conclusion, this University is not maintained by its alumni, or by the state, merely to help its graduates have an economic advantage in the life struggle. There is certainly a greater purpose, and I'm sure you recognize it. Therefore, I do not apologize for asking for your support in this campaign. I come here tonight asking your support for this country over the next decade.

"Thank you."

(Link: <https://www.peacecorps.gov/about/history/>)

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