

Merrill  
Julia

## Honors and Awards

### Zaire man is feted as 'Foreign Service National of the Year'

The other regional winners are from Thailand, Turkey, Panama, Pakistan

**A**NTOINE TENTE WA TENTE, administrative assistant at Consulate General Lubumbashi, in Zaire, is this year's winner of the \$5,000 Foreign Service "National of the Year" award. He was presented a certificate signed by Secretary Baker at a ceremony in the Benjamin Franklin Room on May 15.

In addition to Mr. Wa Tente, who also was the winner for Africa, there were four other regional winners who received \$1,000 each. They, too, came to Washington to receive the Secretary's certificates. The four are:

*East Asia and the Pacific*—Zeny Amatavivadhana, supervisory customs specialist, Embassy Bangkok, in Thailand.

*Europe and Canada*—Hamza Ulucay, political/administrative assistant, Consulate Adana, in Turkey.

*Inter-America*—John H. Lloyd, administrative specialist, Embassy Panama City, in Panama.

*Near East and South Asia*—Nisar Ahmed Siddiqui, project management specialist, Embassy Islamabad, in Pakistan.



Winners from the Department's five regions, from left: John Lloyd, Panama City; Zeny Amatavivadhana, Bangkok; Antoine Tente Wa

Tente, Lubumbashi; Hamza Ulucay, Adana; Nidar Ahmed Siddiqui, Islamabad. (State Department photo by Ann Thomas)

#### Director general's tribute

The acting director general of the Foreign Service, Larry C. Williamson, congratulated the winners at the award ceremony. He said: "Although you come from all over the world and are ethnically and linguistically diverse, you have something very much in common: you represent the best. You are brought together not just to receive a well-deserved reward but because you share an ideal of service which is also present in thousands of your colleagues in our missions abroad. We could not function without you—ask anyone who has lived through a difficult crisis where foreign national staff could not be present and the mission struggled to carry on without them.

"You represent continuity in the ever-shifting world of diplomatic service. It is difficult to overstate how much time and effort has been saved over the years because a savvy Foreign Service national was able to prevent yet another American 'bird of passage' from straying too far off course. Your insight and experience in working with two cultures at the same time is vital, and all of us abroad benefit every day, by being able to tap into this knowledge."

#### Wa Tente: 'effective administrator'

Mr. Wa Tente was nominated by

William J. Brencick, consul general in Lubumbashi, for his role in maintaining operations at the post after Americans were evacuated last year. Mr. Brencick said: "Since November of 1991 Antoine has been the effective administrator of the consulate general, with property and assets in his care amounting to several million dollars. His performance in the wake of riots and looting has called upon him to display extraordinary efficiency and devotion in a chaotic environment.

"He organized and inspired a frightened local staff by his example. On several occasions he went through the city to personally gather up the post workforce. His tireless supervision of guards and a squad of gendarmes was perhaps the key factor in the preservation of post property, despite prolonged looting."

Mr. Wa Tente was credited with protecting 14 properties owned or leased by the post, including two office buildings and a new communications center valued at \$3.5 million. He was also cited for supervising the packing and shipment of U.S. employees' personal effects, as well as the sale of automobiles they left behind, later transferring the proceeds to Kinshasa for reimbursement to the owners.

Mr. Wa Tente was praised as a "skillful diplomat" in negotiations with local

officials. "His contacts were invaluable to the post during this crisis," Mr. Brencick said. "As cashier and accountant, he somehow managed to keep finances afloat and salaries paid, despite the closure of local banks and a cutoff of funds from the embassy."

Mr. Wa Tente also assumed other duties in the absence of American staff. "With the establishment of a communications link to Kinshasa, he has begun to provide political and economic reporting on this now isolated but key region," Mr. Brencick said. "His reports are informative and credible and have been relayed to Washington with a minimum of editing."

#### Amatavivadhana: 'mastery of regulations'

Ms. Amatavivadhana, the winner for East Asia and Pacific, was cited by Ambassador David F. Lambertson for managing the customs and shipping office for 14 years in Bangkok. He said: "Ms. Amatavivadhana coordinates shipments for 36 agencies in Thailand and also provides logistical support to Vientiane, Rangoon, Dhaka, Kathmandu, Colombo and Phnom Penh. As supervisor, she must ensure that the import and export of Government supplies and personal property are processed swiftly."

The ambassador lauded Ms. Amatavivadhana for her "mastery of complex