

14 January 1993  
Harare, Zimbabwe

Dear Lee,

I've just returned from a trip to South Africa and found your letter waiting. Great to hear from you. Welcome to Zimbabwe!

I am really loving it here. I hope you and your family will be as happy. I think Harare is the ideal African FAO post: The climate is great. The roads make travel in this part of Africa relatively easy. It's an excellent "jumping off" point for everywhere in southern and east Africa. You will live well--so far, it's still relatively inexpensive by American standards although the range of consumer items is very modest compared to the US. The people are friendly. The Army is pretty professional and you'll have the chance to attend the Zimbabwe Army Staff College, so you will have an opportunity to really get to know some of your Zimbabwean colleagues.

I am sending a "Welcome" packet under separate cover with a lot of info, but let me quickly address the questions you asked in your letter to me and the one to the Defense Attache (LTC Grauel has now been succeeded by COL Dan Henk--an alumnus, by the way, of the African Studies program, M.A. and Ph.D., at Florida).

1. Travel. At present, Air Zimbabwe and Lufthansa have direct flights to Harare from London-Gatwick and Frankfurt respectively. I came here on Air Zimbabwe via London. I took a couple of days leave in route in London and then pressed on to Harare (it's an early evening departure with a crack-of-dawn arrival as I recall). Probably because of the extra time spent in London, I had no jet lag to speak of when I arrived in Harare. (North-south flights are not as hard on one's system as east-west flights. Harare is GMT+2. So, although the London-Harare leg is long, it is not particularly disruptive to the body.) You could do the same thing via Frankfurt and arrive relaxed. These flights don't go every day, so you'll need to have a friendly travel agent or your servicing transportation office check the current schedule. (Make sure your orders authorize travel via non-US flag carriers.) I recommend you get two "official" (maroon-colored) passports (one for your South Africa visa and travel and the other for use in those countries that still refuse entry to persons who have South African stamps in their passports). I'd also recommend bringing your regular tourist (blue) passport as well. You will be issued a Zimbabwe visa upon arrival.

2. Transportation. You will have a FAO vehicle. At present it is a 1990 Jeep Cherokee. By the time you arrive, I hope it will be something a little easier to maintain--and therefore more useful for travel outside Zimbabwe. (I'll save the details of this vehicle saga for a second letter.) I would guess you will want ~~your~~ POV as a second car to make things more convenient for your family. (I did not ship a car and the FAO vehicle did not arrive until 15 December, so I was walking a lot!) You might consider selling your Subaru and ordering a right-hand drive Toyota or Nissan for delivery to Durban, South Africa--a vehicle you could fairly easily to sell at the end of your tour. I'll try to make sure there is info about shipping/importing vehicles in the "Welcome" packet.

3. Housing.

a. You can expect a very nice house with a yard--but at present, your exact quarters have not been designated. I am living in a two-bedroom flat in central Harare which, though acceptable for me, would not be adequate for somebody with a family. (The embassy guys all live in mansions. I'll do my best to get you one, too.)

b. The electricity is 220. Your quarters will have major appliances: refrigerator, freezer, washer, dryer, stove. You will have a couple transformers for other electrical appliances you choose to bring with you.

c. At present, there is no FAO furniture. I did not have a budget until the end of November and I have not bought any furniture for my flat since what we really want to do is spend the money on furnishings for the house. As soon as your quarters are designated, I'll start buying the furniture. By the time you arrive, everything should be in place. So, although you are authorized full JTR shipment allowance, you will not need to ship any furniture unless you really want to. (I arrived here 5 July but didn't receive my household goods until early October. That was a particularly long time, but my point is, you need to be prepared for the worst and you might want to consider shipping only a minimum amount.) I violated the minimum rule when it came to my personal professional books. I brought about 40 boxes with me and I have put them to good use. (I have started a FAO library but it is still pretty small.) I would suggest you bring, at minimum, all your graduate school, CAS3, and CGSC material.

*Alternatively, you could probably find a suitable new or used car in S. Africa after you get on the ground & have a chance to assess the situation. (This is the option many people take. If it may not arrive until you are getting ready to go home!*

d. Another place to violate the minimum rule ~~with~~ <sup>is</sup> with consumables. Ask for and consider using your full consumables allowance. I was authorized 2000 lbs--of which I used only a small amount. Now I wish I had brought more (I am craving pretzels and Japanese ramen noodles), just for the convenience and variety. With kids, I'd think it would be a must. Since I've been here there have been no food shortages in Harare, despite a severe drought, but the selection is very limited by American standards. (There is a list of suggested items to bring in the "Welcome" packet, but everybody is different. Some people need JIF peanut butter or rice krispies; I can't function without Kekoman's soy sauce, Trident gum and Campbell's vegetarian vegetable soup. So you just have to assess your family's eating habits. Don't forget toiletries and light bulbs for your American lamps--if you ship any--in your consumables.)

e. The FAO computer is a Wang with a Wang daisy wheel printer. Your office will be in your house. As far as I know, the only communications with the US are via message (sent from the Embassy comm center), fax (sent from the Embassy mail room), telephone (not always reliable although there is a USA Direct service through AT&T that makes an AT&T calling card worthwhile) and diplomatic pouch/mail. I'll check on E-mail for you, though.

4. Education. I'll have to get the schools information for you. There is a newly formed ~~American~~ <sup>INTERNATIONAL</sup> American School (I'm not sure if it goes up to 4th grade) and many Zimbabwe schools to choose from. The latter are rather on the British model with uniforms and headmasters. The school year here starts in January, so your girls will be coming in the middle of the academic year. (I'll have to find out if the ~~American~~ <sup>INTERNATIONAL</sup> American School is on the American academic calendar.) Also, I'll have to get you the info on school fees. I think you have to pay them and then get reimbursed through DoDDS, but I will find out for sure.

5. FAO Program Travel. You will be free to travel throughout your tour with the exception of the time you are attending the Zimbabwe Command and Staff College (approximately mid-August through early December)--although even while at the Staff College, you could still do week-end trips and you will probably find your FAO vehicle will be a big hit with your classmates who will, no doubt, be eager to get a free ride home with you since most of them will not have cars. You will have a travel budget to manage for your own official travel. You can take your family with you but you have to pay their way yourself. (Many locations in southern Africa would make great

Looks like no B-mail available here, per DAO Admin/Ops Officer.

Some is Enclosed.

No uniforms at the International School.

yes, they are on American Calendar, so good timing for your girls.

Per DAO Admin/Ops Officer you would have some out-of-pocket reimbursable expenses in the beginning. Uniform fees are not reimbursable.

Community Liaison Officer says there are waiting lists so you may want to call us to get more info on this. and single sex student populations.

family trips.) You will inherit the 4th quarter funds of the FY93 budget that I put together. You will get to develop your own FY94 budget. Your travel program is completely your own in consultation with the DATT, COL Henk. You will have fun. Aside from the comments above about getting a second official passport for your South Africa visas and travel, you don't need to worry about travel documents/visas in the US. You might want to bring extra photos for visas, although you can easily have those taken here in Harare.

6. Clothing/uniforms.

a. While attending the staff college you will wear a uniform: Class A's, B's (with and without black sweater) and BDUs. You will have occasion to wear Dress Blues at the Marine Corps Birthday Ball in November and perhaps on the 4th of July (although in 1992 the Ambassador had a very casual picnic). I brought everything, including whites and dress mess, but have not needed the latter two uniforms.

b. There are a couple of TEWTs and a two-week field problem at the end of the staff college. (I was not allowed to go on the FTX--probably because I am a woman although they made a lot of other excuses. I hope you get to do it. I really regretted missing it.) Bring whatever field equipment you have: LBE, canteen, rucksack, entrenching tool, compass, poncho, sleeping bag, tent/shelter halves, holster (if you have person weapons that you'd like to bring, let us know as soon as possible to get the approval/paperwork started with the Zimbabwe government), kelvar, flak jacket. If you don't personally have all items, you might try contacting an Army installation to see if you could sign these items out. When I was reading files at FAO Branch (COL Lorenz's shop, DAMO-SSF) in Washington, I saw a reference to a FAO who had gotten field gear handreceipted to him from Ft. Myer. I don't have kelvar or flak jacket (neither do the Zimbabweans. They never wore any kind of helmet in the field when I was with them.) Having kelvar and a flak jacket isn't necessary, but it would give you additional flexibility to take advantage of sudden "good deals" that might arise.

b. When not attending the college, you will wear civilian clothes. Your travel will normally be in civilian clothes. People dress pretty casually here (policemen, British soldiers and old "Rhodies" wear shorts and knee-socks during at least half the year), although jackets and ties are in order at the Embassy (if you have meetings with people wearing jackets and ties). But, if you don't want to be mistaken for a diplomat, you can follow my lead: early modern Peace Corps pretty aptly describes my attire most days.

*If you are a shooter, bring your guns. There is excellent quail here - esp dove is a problem with getting approval here except for certain categories. So let us know ASAP if you want to bring any firearms.*

c. Just a reminder: it will be "winter" when you arrive and it will be surprisingly chilly (lows in the 40s F) so you need to have sweaters, jackets, sweatshirts handy, probably also caps and gloves for the kids.

d. Also, you will be authorized to receive a civilian clothing allowance. The people at the US Army Field Support Center, Army Attache Management Division will give you the forms when you in-process at their shop. (As a point of interest, your RFO may show their address as Ft. Meade, but, in fact, they are not physically located at Ft. Meade. Plus I never found anybody at Ft. Meade who knew who they were or where to find them. So, I'd suggest you call them to get directions, (410)677-6364/6482/6483 and to make sure they are going to be open when you want to go through. I seemed to hit them over a series of half-days for some reason.)

Here are some additional thoughts.

Try to take a Shona class. If you have even just basic greetings and "survival" sentences (what they called 0+ at DLI), you will be able to participate more fully at the staff college. All professional discussion was in English, but virtually all social discourse was in Shona. If you can't get Shona at Florida or if it doesn't suit your schedule, contact FAO branch and see if they can organize an intensive "Headstart"-type course for you in D.C. just before you come over.

If you are not a CGSC graduate, enroll immediately in the correspondence course. (I did the entire course in three weeks--although it was not a pleasant experience. I literally locked myself in a hotel room in Leavenworth, Kansas and didn't come out 'til I'd finished. But I know that the fact that I had completed the US Army course gave me more credibility with my Zimbabwe colleagues at the Staff College.)

If you have time, you might ask for the Individual Terrorism Awareness Course at Ft. Bragg. There is no terrorism threat here in Zimbabwe at present, but the course sounds interesting and a lot of FAOs go through it. Alternatively (or in addition), consider the Security Assistance Officer's course (I'm not sure of the exact title) at Wright-Patterson AFB.

Your report date is flexible from our point of view. We don't have the dates for the start of Term III at the Staff College but it is probably mid-August. I have a 1 September report

date to a non-FAO job in Germany, so I should be able to overlap with you a little.

I've tried to call you but I haven't been able to get an international line for several days. Now I'm going on another trip. I should be back 23 or 24 January for a couple days and then I head out again. I will continue to try to call you, but we might have more luck if you try to call here: 011-263-4-796-838 (my quarters/office) or call the Defense Attache's Office: 011-263-4-794-521 ext. 211 (COL Henk or Mr. Fribley). As soon as I get the info on the schools and shipping a vehicle, I will send it to you.

I look forward to seeing you again and to meeting your family. Good luck with the rest of your course at Florida.

Sincerely,




Sue Ann Sandusky  
MAJ, AG

P.S. Your mailing address is:

NAME  
USDAO-HARARE  
US DEPT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON DC 20521-2180

This is a diplomatic pouch address so there are some mailing limitations (e.g. no outbound parcels over 2 lbs - you can receive large packages up to 40 lbs, 24" in length and 62" in length/girth combined; no registered, insured or certified mail incoming or outgoing). Bring stamps.

PPS. Please send us a copy of your ORB. Thanks. 



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3 June 1993  
Harare, Zimbabwe

Dear Lee and Sherry,

I hope your move goes well--packing is always such a strain!

Enclosed is the DODDS schools accreditation packet for you to complete and mail direct to the DODDS regional center. I think it is self explanatory. If you have any questions, feel free to call the Embassy and speak to Mr. Fribley, the Operations Coordinator in the DAO. He will be up on all the administrative aspects of your move. (He will also be around while COL Henk and I are travelling.)

Also enclosed is the brochure on insurance from Clements and Co. They operate out of Washington, tel: 202/872-0060. As I said on the phone, COL Henk suggests that you talk to LTC Richard Grauel, the previous DATT here, if you have questions about the insurance--and for general information on life in southern Africa generally, Harare in particular. (If you speak to LTC Grauel, please convey my respects and greetings to him and his wife and children.)

I have also enclosed a section of the JEEP owner's manual with parts identified. I'm not very technical, so please use your best judgment on what kind of parts are needed. I just got a copy of an owner's manual from a guy in the Embassy whose got the only other JEEP Cherokee in country and it lists a service assistance telephone number, so I am going to try to call to see if they can confirm the year of this vehicle based on the VIN (1J4FJ78U6LL255045). I believe it is a 1990 Canadian-version, 4-liter, 6 cylinder. It uses leaded gasoline. (All gasoline in Zimbabwe is leaded.)

This JEEP is a veteran of the Gulf War. It was a "donated non-tactical vehicle" which means, I guess, people didn't have to worry about paperwork with it. It arrived here in Harare--after being shipped from Saudi Arabia to Germany to Charleston, SC, to New Orleans, to Durban, then spending a few weeks impounded on the Zimbabwe-South African border--around Christmas time with virtually no paperwork and absolutely no hand-receipts, tech manuals, logbooks, spare parts. It had about 25,000 kms on it when it arrived. I've put about another 5,000 on it. After whining to DA for several months, we finally got authority to procure something more practical, but it will take several months to get here. So in the meantime, we need to try to keep the JEEP running. After the new vehicle arrives, you can ask for disposition instructions for the JEEP.

I've also enclosed a copy of my POI. You, of course, will be able to write your own. You can expect COL Henk to give you a lot of flexibility on this. Since I didn't have the chance to go to graduate school, I designed mine sort of like a syllabus for an undergraduate survey course on African geography with some political science thrown in.

*PS. I am late in sending this off. Did you see you were packing out Monday? I hope it is still a/c as you wrote in earlier letter, otherwise this letter will be too late. SPS*

*If Lee: I couldn't get through to the service number. If you have time, could you try to call: 1-800-992-1997 to confirm the service manual. Also order the service manual. Thanks.*

*1990  
V6  
4L  
Multi point Fuel inj  
4 sp auto  
recalls:  
297T  
mission timer fuse  
305T  
Jeep ABS  
319T  
brake high press hose*

I'd recommend that you spend time looking at samples of POIs and trip reports when you visit COL Lorenz's office, to give you some idea of the different approaches and range of styles, etc. You might want to ask COL Lorenz if he could let you look at FAO OER duty descriptions. I didn't think to look at any when I was there and when I started writing mine, I wished I had seen a couple of examples. (You will, of course, be able to see a copy of my support form.) COL Henk will be your rater and COL Lorenz will be your senior rater. You might also want to confirm that COL Lorenz will be the "FAO daddy" through the end of your tour/rating period.

Also, while you are in COL Lorenz's office, make sure you meet Mrs. Pat Jones. (She was on leave when I went through, but I know her well by phone.) She is the budget analyst and an important person in the FAO's life. (I am probably in the dog-house with her because I am always late with my obligation reports.)

I have enclosed my budget message for FY93 for you to look at. Start thinking about the trips you'd like to do. I didn't do my trips exactly as reflected in my budget, but the total price-tags have worked out pretty close. Thus far, I've made it to the following countries: Trip 1: South Africa, Lesotho, Swaziland (28 days); Trip 2: Somalia (3 days); Trip 3: Mozambique (5 days); Trip 4: Zambia, Tanzania, Kenya, Somalia (again), Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Zaire (discretely) (65 days); Trip 5: Eastern Zimbabwe and Masvingo (6 days); Trip 6: Western Zimbabwe (3 days); Trip 7: Namibia (6 days). My next trip will be: Nigeria, Senegal, Cote D'Ivoire, Liberia, Guinea, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Cameroun, Chad and Ethiopia (40 days). I hope to make it to Botswana after you all arrive and to Malawi as I am flying out. If you are smart--and do not let yourself get distracted by "administrivia" and bogged down by other b.s.--I think you could make it to 30 countries if you wanted to. (I have had to scale down this West Africa trip because of visitors and constraints here in Harare. Originally, I had also hoped to cover Niger, Mali, Burkina-Faso, The Gambia and Congo, but I have run out of time.) In thinking about your travel, be ambitious and ask for a lot of money. It is easier to scale back than it is to get more. Also, be flexible. Be ready to travel at short notice so you can take advantage of a great opportunity that suddenly presents itself.

I just noticed that your PCS orders call for travel on US-flag carriers only. I don't think any US airlines fly in here, so you need to try to get your orders amended to authorize travel on non-US-flag carriers where necessary (e.g., London to Harare).

I forgot to mention one thing about house furnishing. We will have sheers on all windows but draperies only in living room, dining room and study, so Sherry can choose curtains she wants

to live with in the bedrooms. (There is not a big selection here, but I think you'll be able to find something. If you are very particular, however, I'll try to send along the bedroom window dimensions, in case you want to get curtains made or buy ready-made ones in the US and have them mailed to Harare.)

Have a good leave and a safe trip to Zimbabwe. We'll see you on 18 Jul. (Have some sweaters/jackets ready because it could be cool early in the morning.)

As we say here in southern Africa, "Go Well,"

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of the letters 'S' and 'A' in a cursive, stylized font. The 'S' is large and loops around, and the 'A' is also large and loops around. There is a small mark to the right of the 'A'.