



Inside ICE

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Julie L. Myers

Julie Myers Joins ICE As New Assistant Secretary

Saying it was an honor to join the ICE team, Julie L. Myers began serving as ICE's Assistant Secretary on January 9.

Prior to her appointment as the leader of ICE, Ms. Myers served as special assistant to the President for presidential personnel. Before holding that position, she served as assistant secretary for export enforcement at the Department of Commerce. Previous to her service with the Commerce Department, Ms. Myers was the chief of staff for the Criminal Division at the Department of Justice.

She also served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Eastern District of New York, prosecuting a variety of criminal cases, ranging from drug smuggling and immigration fraud cases to complicated money laundering investigations.

Ms. Myers received her bachelor's degree from Baylor University and her J.D. from Cornell Law School.

"Since its creation in 2003, ICE has been at the forefront of our effort to protect

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Julie Myers Takes Reins As ICE Assistant Secretary

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America from the threat of terror and criminal activities,” Myers said in a letter to ICE employees. “ICE has achieved significant success in combating immigration and customs violations during this time. In my view, this success is attributable to one thing: ICE employees. From agent to analyst to attorney, and from Laredo to Los Angeles to London, ICE’s achievements stem from the hard work and dedication of each and every one of you.”

Myers said she will take concrete steps to ensure that the agency’s forward progress continues under her leadership, and:

- Help attract, recruit, and retain the best agents, analysts, lawyers, law enforcement officials, and support staff in all of law enforcement;
- Strengthen ICE’s administrative structure to support the field from agency headquarters;
- Aggressively seek the financial resources ICE needs to carry out all aspects of its mission; and
- Serve as a forceful advocate for ICE within DHS, the federal government, and private industry.

“Although the demands are great, this is an exciting time for ICE,” Myers said. “The enforcement of our country’s immigration laws is in the spotlight right now, and ICE is playing a leading role as we move forward with the DHS Secretary’s Secure Border Initiative. I am also particularly interested in further developing ICE’s effectiveness in financial and strategic investigations, and providing support for the critical role that the Federal Protective Service plays in carrying out ICE’s mission. Moreover, our intelligence capabilities should be strengthened and utilized to more directly support our investigations. Through the successful combination of immigration and customs authorities, along with our intelligence capabilities, ICE is fighting terrorism and protecting American citizens in ways that were not possible prior to the agency’s creation.”

In a message to all DHS employees announcing Myers’ appointment, DHS Secretary Chertoff said Myers has extensive law-enforcement experience and is well known throughout the law enforcement community.

“I look forward to working with Ms. Myers as she leads our team at ICE working to prevent acts of terrorism and to detect and prevent threats to our national security,” Chertoff said.



Bill Reid, left, Assistant Director of the ICE Office of Investigations, speaks with ICE's new Assistant Secretary Julie Myers.

Myers noted that during her time at the Justice Department’s Criminal Division she had the opportunity to work closely with DHS Secretary Michael Chertoff. She looks forward to having the further opportunity to work with Chertoff as an advocate for ICE’s goals and agenda, and plans to enhance ICE’s coordination with U.S. Attorney’s offices across the country to maximize the impact of our criminal investigations.

Myers praised the work of Deputy Assistant Secretary John Clark during this transitional period, saying his dedication during the last four months have made ICE an even stronger organization.

“As Assistant Secretary, I look forward to working with him, the other senior managers, and all of you to continue further advancing ICE as one of the nation’s preeminent law enforcement agencies,” Myers said.

ICE’s new assistant secretary said that in the months ahead she will travel to ICE offices around the country and that she looks forward to meeting and talking with many ICE employees.

“During these visits, I want to hear from you about what ICE should be doing, what you are worried we aren’t doing enough of, and what you think the agency should invest in to become even more successful,” Myers said. “Your input is critical if we are to succeed.” ■

Inside ICE is an e-newsletter produced by the ICE Office of Public Affairs to inform the public about the mission, operations and activities of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

ICE Expands Investigations To Fight Money Laundering Threats

WASHINGTON, D.C.—At a January 11 ceremony to unveil the national Money Laundering Threat Assessment, Department of Homeland Security Assistant Secretary for ICE Julie Myers highlighted ICE's innovative efforts and ongoing commitment to combat those money laundering threats identified in the report.

“ICE is proud of its substantial contributions to the government's first national Money Laundering Threat Assessment. We look forward to working with our partners in formulating a comprehensive strategy to address these threats,” said Assistant Secretary Myers. “Over the past few years, ICE has dramatically expanded its anti-money laundering efforts to address those financial systems most vulnerable to criminal and terrorist exploitation.”

Since ICE was created in 2003, the number of arrests resulting from ICE financial investigations increased from 1,224 in Fiscal Year (FY) 2003 to 1,567 in FY 2005, while the number of indictments increased from 865 to 932. The number of convictions increased from 703 to 823. ICE financial investigations have resulted in the seizure of more than \$477 million over the past three fiscal years.

The increases stem, in part, from the expansion of ICE's financial authorities to address human smuggling and other immigration violations. Prior to the creation of ICE, there was no systemic effort to target the financial infrastructure of human smuggling and trafficking. Today, ICE is combining its financial and immigration authorities in a coordinated campaign that focuses on the underlying financial systems most vulnerable to exploitation. Below are examples of how ICE is addressing some of these threats.

Money Services Businesses—For decades, money service businesses have proven vulnerable to criminal exploitation. The “USA Patriot Act of 2001” enhanced ICE's ability to combat the international movement of illicit funds through these businesses. Since the enactment of the “USA Patriot Act,” ICE agents have used this statute to aggressively target unlicensed money transmittal businesses and underground hawalas nationwide. These efforts have resulted in the arrest of more than 155 individuals and the seizure of more than \$25 million in illicit profits related to unlicensed money transmittal businesses.

Trade-Based Money Laundering—Trade-based money laundering encompasses a number of schemes

that enable dirty cash to be separated from the crime early in the money laundering process. The most common trade-based, money laundering scheme in the Western Hemisphere is the Black Market Peso Exchange (BMPE), in which Colombian drug traffickers swap illicit dollars in the United States for clean pesos in Colombia. ICE leads a multi-agency U.S. initiative to attack the BMPE. ICE has also created a Trade Transparency Unit that uses sophisticated computer systems to analyze trade data and financial information to detect anomalies in international commerce that may be indicative of money laundering.

Bulk Cash Smuggling—The threat posed by bulk cash smuggling is seen by law enforcement at home and abroad as increasingly acute, due in part to the increased anti-money laundering vigilance by U.S. financial institutions. The Department of Homeland Security, through ICE and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), plays a leading role in combating this threat. From FY 2003 through FY 2005, ICE agents have arrested more than 260 individuals for bulk cash smuggling and, together with CBP officials, have seized a combined total of more than \$100 million in bulk cash smuggling cases. ■

ICE Fugitive Op Nets MS-13 Gang Member Wanted For Murder

MIDLAND PARK, N.J.—A man wanted by authorities in El Salvador for murder is behind bars following his arrest on January 12 by the ICE Newark Fugitive Operations Team.

Newark Detention and Removal officers arrested 25-year-old Rene Hugo Mejia Juarez in a pre-dawn operation. Mejia was located following a brief but intensive investigation.

When ICE officers knocked on the door of the house Mejia was in, he attempted to flee through a side entrance but was apprehended. The Midland Park Police Department and the United States Marshals Service assisted in the operation.

Mejia is the subject of an Interpol warrant for a murder committed in El Salvador.

“Apprehending and removing violent alien gang members from the United States is a priority for ICE,” said Field Office Director Raymond Simonse. “In the last 11 months ICE has arrested more than 1,800 gang members, including 805 MS-13. The message is loud and clear: Those who were once the hunters are now the hunted.” ■

Man Pleads Guilty To Using Embassy Ties To Smuggle Aliens

ALEXANDRIA, Va.—An Egyptian national pled guilty January 10 to using his position as a driver at the Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Washington, D.C. to secure fraudulent Saudi diplomatic visas to help aliens enter the United States illegally.

Mohamed Abdel Wahab Yakoub, a.k.a. Mohamed Wardi, a 61-year-old native of Egypt and a resident of Maryland, was arrested by ICE agents working with the Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) in Washington, D.C. at Dulles International Airport on Feb. 14, 2005, upon his arrival on a flight from Cairo, Egypt.

Yakoub, who was fired by the Embassy of Saudi Arabia in late 2002, pled guilty to one count of smuggling aliens into the United States. JTTF agents in Washington had been investigating Yakoub and his alleged human smuggling scheme for more than a year before his arrest.

Yakoub admitted he helped Egyptian and Filipino aliens get fraudulent Saudi diplomatic visas to the United States. Yakoub prepared documents on Saudi Embassy letterhead falsely stating that a Saudi diplomat was requesting a visa for Egyptians and Filipinos to work for the Saudi diplomat in the United States. These fraudulent letters, complete with Saudi government stamps, were then sent to the U.S. Embassy in Cairo or to the U.S. Embassy in Manila, Philippines, to help the aliens receive U.S. visas for entry into this country.

Yakoub admitted that he charged each alien between \$5,000 and \$7,000 for securing the false Saudi diplomatic visas. At this time, JTTF has no information indicating that any of those illegal aliens who entered the United States via this alleged smuggling scheme had any terrorist ties.

“Anytime you have an individual exploiting his post at an embassy in the United States to smuggle people into this country illegally,



Mohamed Abdel Wahab Yakoub

it raises serious homeland security concerns,” said Thomas Madigan, acting special agent-in-charge for ICE in Washington, D.C. “Thankfully, we have closed down this human smuggling pipeline.” ■

Two Arrested In International Child Sex Tourism Case

PHILADELPHIA—A New Jersey hotel owner and an individual in the Republic of Moldova have been arrested as a result of an international child sex tourism investigation conducted by ICE agents and authorities in Romania and Moldova.

According to an indictment returned in Philadelphia, Anthony Mark Bianchi, 44, of North Wildwood, N.J., traveled from Philadelphia to Cuba, the Republic of Moldova and Romania to engage in illicit sexual conduct with males younger than 16 years of age. ICE agents arrested Bianchi at his home on January 11. On the same day, Moldavian police also arrested

Ion Gusin, who allegedly served as Bianchi’s translator.

In one instance, Bianchi allegedly took a young male to a Romanian pub, gave the boy wine until he became intoxicated and engaged in illicit sexual conduct with him.

The arrests of Bianchi and Gusin were the result of a joint international investigation led by ICE agents from Philadelphia, with assistance from the ICE Attaché in Vienna, Austria; the ICE Cyber Crimes Center in Virginia; Romanian and Moldavian police and prosecutors; and the Polish Border Police. The U.S. Diplomatic Security Service;

the Justice Department’s Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section; the U.S. Postal Inspection Service; the Cape May County Prosecutor’s Office; and the U.S. Attorney’s Office in New Jersey provided critical assistance to the investigation.

The arrest of Bianchi and Gusin is the latest enforcement actions under ICE’s Operation Predator, which protects children by investigating and presenting for prosecution pedophiles, Internet predators, human traffickers, international sex tourists and other predatory criminals. ■

Miami ICE Nabs Five In Counterfeit Goods Scheme

MIAMI—An ICE-led investigation in Miami has led to the indictment of five persons for conspiracy and the importation and sale of truckloads of counterfeit goods.

Lizhou Shao, Changbiao Fu, Li Fen Fu, Ji Wu Chen and Meihua Li were arrested by ICE agents and charged in multiple indictments with conspiring to traffic in counterfeit goods, trafficking in counterfeit goods and concealing and selling imported counterfeit goods. The defendants were arraigned before a U.S. Magistrate in Miami on Dec. 29, 2005.

The indictments allege that the five persons arrested illegally imported and sold

electrical cords, batteries, handbags, wallets, suitcases, shoes, hats, sunglasses, watches, key holders, umbrellas and different items of clothing and accessories bearing various counterfeit trademarks, including Underwriters Laboratories, Rolex, Disney, Nike, Major League Baseball, Oakley and others.

The charges say the five men imported the counterfeit goods from China and then sold the counterfeit products directly from warehouses and at a Florida flea market.

On Dec. 13, 2005, ICE agents and officers from the Miami-Dade Police Department arrested the

defendants and conducted searches of their homes, warehouses and flea market booths. The agents seized counterfeit items that filled several tractor-trailers with not only counterfeit clothing and clothing accessories but also untested and hazardous electrical cords and batteries. In addition, illegal toy Glock pistols were seized from two of the defendants.

“ICE is committed to working with its federal, state and local partners to

protect the American consumer from inferior and unsafe products, and to ensure that the interests of legitimate trademark holders are addressed,” said Jesus Torres, special agent-in-charge of ICE Investigations in Miami. ■



Defective power cords with a fake Underwriters Laboratory label, like the one shown here, were among the thousands of counterfeit items seized by Miami ICE in an operation that resulted in the arrest of five people for conspiracy, importation and sale of counterfeit goods.

ICE Investigation Breaks Two Texas Smuggling Groups

EL PASO, Texas—The masterminds of two major alien smuggling organizations and 13 of their associates have been indicted in El Paso, Texas on charges of smuggling and transporting more than 600 aliens from the El Paso area to Dallas and beyond.

The ICE led investigation revealed that the organizations generated more than \$1.6 million in smuggling fees between March 2003 and October 2005.

Depending on the nationality, aliens were charged between \$1,500 and \$6,000 each to be smuggled into the United States and transported to points that included Arizona, Colorado,

Oklahoma, Illinois, Florida and New York

ICE special agents, assisted by U.S. Border Patrol agents, late last week arrested 12 of 16 people named in two sealed indictments returned Dec. 21, 2005, by an El Paso federal grand jury. The defendants are charged with conspiracy to smuggle aliens, and the charges are the result of an ICE investigation that spanned more than two years.

Three of the defendants remain at large, and another, Roger Alvin Auxter, is already in La Tuna Federal Correctional Institute on a previous alien smuggling

conviction. The 54-year-old truck driver was arrested in Fort Worth in 2004 after ICE special agents discovered 79 illegal aliens in his trailer.

Mike Price, 53; his wife Fabiola del Carmen Moguel de Price, 39; and Sam Jarvis, 52, headed two separate organizations. Jarvis and the Prices, all of Socorro, Texas, originally worked together. However in 2003, the Prices left the Jarvis organization to establish their own alien smuggling criminal enterprise.

The ICE investigation revealed Jarvis and both Prices headed two

networks that smuggled Brazilians, Colombians, Hondurans, Salvadorans, Guatemalans, Nicaraguans, Ecuadorians and Mexicans. Both organizations housed the aliens in “drop houses” throughout El Paso County after smuggling them into the United States from Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico.

“These unscrupulous smugglers operate ruthlessly and with no regard for the human beings whose lives they endanger,” said Kyle Hutchins, special agent-in-charge of the El Paso ICE Office of Investigations. ■



U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.

Inside ICE

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This Week's Featured Fugitive:

Robert Anthony Walker



ICE MOST WANTED

ALIASES: Ralph Newman (real name), Colin James, Preston LNU, Rusty LNU. **HEIGHT:** 6'01"

DATE OF BIRTH: 11/02/1971 **WEIGHT:** 225 lbs.

PLACE OF BIRTH: St. James Jamaica **HAIR:** Black

SCARS/MARKS: Unknown **EYES:** Brown

LAST KNOWN WHEREABOUTS: 4760 NW 24th Court #B116, Lauderdale Lakes, Florida.

BACKGROUND: In February, 2001, Walker was indicted in the Middle District of Florida, charging him with conspiracy to import a controlled substance (cocaine) in violation of Title 21 United States Code, Section 963. On March 13, 2001, a federal arrest warrant was issued for Walker from the Middle District of Florida. Walker also has a Federal

bench warrant for his arrest issued from the Southern District of Florida for violation of his probation. Walker is the leader of a cocaine smuggling organization and is responsible for the importation of at least 100 kilograms of cocaine smuggled from Jamaica and distributed to Central and Southern Florida during the last three years. Walker is a Jamaican National. Walker is believed to and should be considered Armed and Dangerous.

If you have any information on the whereabouts of the above fugitive, please call **1-866-DHS-2ICE**
View more ICE Most Wanted online at: www.ice.gov/graphics/investigations/wanted/

Presidential Performance



Luis Figueroa, left, ICE's attaché in Honduras, receives an award from the Honorable Ricardo Maduro, the President of Honduras. The citation thanks Figueroa for his "constant collaboration and support to the Minister of Security and Public Ministry of Honduras in developing an efficient fight against drug trafficking, alien smuggling and organized crime that has allowed a greater fortification of the police operations that are developed in benefit of all the inhabitants of our country."