



Inside ICE

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287(g) Program Trains State and Local Law Enforcement To Identify Criminal Aliens



Section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act delegates authority to state and local law enforcement agencies, permitting designated officers to perform immigration law enforcement functions provided that these officers receive appropriate training and function under the supervision of sworn U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers.

In the first two weeks of May 2007, 82 law enforcement officers were 287(g) trained, including participants from agencies in Arizona and Colorado.

ICE offers two training programs including a five-week program for field level law enforcement officers and a four-week program for correctional personnel. These officers work in conjunction with ICE to gain necessary resources and

authority to pursue investigations relating to violent crimes, human smuggling, gang/organized crime activity, sexual-related offenses, narcotics smuggling and money laundering; and support in more remote geographical locations.

Mecklenburg County (N.C.) Sheriff's Office received its 287 (g) authority in February 2006. Sheriff's deputies in county jail facilities check the immigration status of all non-U.S. born arrestees. According to county documents, in the first nine months of the program, deputies examined over 1,600 arrestees, placing 853 of them in deportation proceedings.

The 287 (g) partnerships continue to generate hundreds of investigative leads, arrests and convictions for a variety of federal and state charges. ■

ICE Seizes Cocaine at Newark, N. J. Airport

Earlier this month, ICE agents seized 34 kilograms of cocaine at Newark's Liberty International Airport, inbound from the Dominican Republic and arrested four individuals. Part of that seizure is shown in the photo to the right.

ICE has seized more than 5 million pounds of illegal narcotics since the agency was created on March 1, 2003. More importantly, ICE has helped reduce critical vulnerabilities in America's border and economic security by dismantling some of the world's most notorious criminal drug organizations in this short period of time. ■



U. S. No Haven for Human Rights Violators

Late last month, Gonzalo Guevara-Cerritos was returned to El Salvador. He was a former Salvadoran army lieutenant convicted of participating in the Salvadoran military's 1989 massacre of six Jesuit priests. Guevara was arrested by ICE at a motel near the UCLA campus in October 2006 after the agency received a tip about his possible whereabouts. Guevara illegally entered the United States in January 2005.

Prince Solomon Knox, a native of Sierra Leone suspected of committing crimes against humanity in Liberia was convicted April 4 in federal court for lying about his involvement with armed rebel groups to falsely gain entry to the U.S. as a refugee. A resident of St. Louis, Mo., he entered the U.S. in 2004 as a refugee through a program to admit Liberians living in the Ivory Coast. When Knox's criminal case, including any incarceration, is complete he will be placed into deportation proceedings.

Recently in Miami, ICE arrested Telmo Ricardo Hurtado-Hurtado on visa fraud charges. According to Peruvian military court documents, the ex-Peruvian Army platoon commander led the massacre of 69 villagers during a 1985 military raid in an area known as a stronghold of the

Shining Path guerilla group. In connection with the same investigation, ICE officers in Baltimore, Md., arrested Juan Manuel Rivera-Rondon on administrative charges. He is also a former Peruvian Army officer who allegedly participated in the same massacre.

Following the conclusion of their criminal cases, Hurtado and Rivera will be placed into removal proceedings with the goal of returning him to Peru, where they will be turned over to local authorities to face charges for their roles in the 1985 killings.

In The Plains, Va., ICE agents arrested Ernesto Guillermo Barreiro. He is accused by federal prosecutors in Argentina of being personally responsible for the torture and death of several individuals considered political opponents of the 1976-1983 ruling dictatorship. Barreiro faces U.S. criminal charges of visa fraud. Following the conclusion of criminal cases, Barreiro will be placed into removal proceedings with the goal of returning him to Argentina, where he will be turned over to local authorities.

To date, ICE has initiated nationwide more than 800 human rights related investigations or removal cases from more than 26 countries. ■

Fugitive Operations Teams Active Across the Country

ICE Fugitive Operations Teams identify dangerous fugitive and criminal aliens and place them in removal proceedings. Removing these aliens from streets and neighborhoods is an agency-wide initiative that improves national security and reduces local crime rates.



A fugitive alien apprehended in San Diego in April.

May 1st marked the completion of a three-week targeted law enforcement operation in New Jersey that resulted in the arrest of 217 immigration violators and alien fugitives, including 37 with criminal records. Among this group were Edgar Gomez Romero, a 32 year-old Mexican national convicted of assault, burglary and criminal mischief and Wesley Stephen Retemiah, a 41-year-old Guyanan national convicted of multiple drug offenses and weapons possession.

Individuals arrested during the New Jersey operation came from the following 31 countries: Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Mexico, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India,

Indonesia, Ivory Coast, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Nicaragua, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Trinidad, Uruguay, and Yugoslavia.

Criminal convictions among those arrested include sexual assault, child abuse, domestic violence, theft, criminal mischief, weapons charges, counterfeit credit cards, identity theft, burglary, possession of drugs with the intent to distribute, terroristic threats, patronizing prostitution, aggravated assault, and driving under the influence.

In late April in Yavapai County, Arizona, a total of 35 immigration violators were arrested during a joint three-day operation.

Around the same time in Dallas, Texas, ICE officers arrested 148 illegal aliens including 41 with criminal convictions, during a four-day enforcement operation.

Among those arrested were 124 men and 17 women; seven juveniles were also apprehended and returned to their countries of origin. Most were from Mexico, and 84 of them were able to be quickly returned to Mexico.

Arrestees included; David Santamaria, from Mexico, was convicted of “unlawful sexual intercourse with a minor under the age of 18” in Los Angeles, Calif. and Jose Aleman, from El Salvador, who was convicted for “indecentcy with a child, sexual contact” in Dallas.

In mid-April, ICE officers arrested 49 illegal aliens, criminals and immigration fugitives during a four-day operation in Minnesota.

Also among those arrested were six fugitives - illegal aliens who had been ordered removed by a federal immigration judge but failed to surrender or leave the U.S.—and 25 aliens in violation of U.S. immigration law. ■

Arms and Strategic Technology Investigations Yield Convictions

Sentences were handed down on both coasts in early May 2007 for persons convicted of arms and strategic technology export crimes.

Leib Kohn, age 68, of Brooklyn, New York, was sentenced in New Haven, Conn. to 30 days of imprisonment, followed by two years of supervised release. Kohn had pleaded guilty to conspiracy to violate the Arms Export Control Act by sending military components out of the United States without the required authorization from the U.S. Government. Kohn and his companies have also paid a fine in the amount of \$25,000.

Kohn was charged with procuring various munitions items from U.S. manufacturers, including one based in Connecticut, and shipped them to Israel without seeking permission of the U.S. Government for the export. These items are controlled by the U.S. State Department and require licenses and approvals from the U.S. State Department prior to export.

Some of the items Kohn pro-



High-tech pressure sensors seized last year from a man attempting to export them to Iran.

cured and exported are: Parts designed for use in military radar, parts for the F-4 Phantom jet fighter aircraft, and parts for the Hawk guidance missile systems.

Two days earlier in Santa Ana, Calif. an Iranian-born United States citizen was sentenced to two years in prison and six months of home confinement for illegally exporting U.S. military aircraft parts to Iran via associates in Germany and the United Arab Emirates.

Reza Tabib, 52, of Irvine, pleaded guilty to violating the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), which prohibits the export and re-export to Iran of certain items of U.S. origin.

In January 2006, agents intercepted and seized maintenance kits specifically designed for the F-14 "Tomcat" aircraft that Tabib, along with his wife, Terri Repic-Tabib, had sent to Iran via Germany. Agents arrested the couple at their Irvine residence in February 2006. A search of the Tabibs' home led to the seizure of 13,000 more aircraft parts worth an estimated \$540,000. Those seized parts included military-grade hardware for different aircraft, including the F-14. The search also turned up numerous aircraft parts lists that were provided to the couple by an Iranian military officer. In addition, agents located two suitcases and two briefcases filled with aircraft parts believed to be destined for Iran. The investigation revealed that prior to his arrest, Tabib had purchased tickets to travel to Iran.

Terri Repic-Tabib pleaded guilty to providing a false statement on a shippers' export declaration form and was sentenced to two years probation. ■

Document and Benefit Fraud Efforts Expand/Produce Results

One year after establishing successful document and benefit fraud task forces in 11 major U.S. cities, six more are being added in Baltimore, Chicago, Miami, Phoenix, San Francisco and Tampa. The task forces primarily target two types of crimes, document fraud and benefit fraud. These task forces have initiated 541 investigations, 350 indictments, 456 criminal arrests and 243 convictions as of mid-April 2007.



Counterfeit documents seized in Los Angeles last year.

Led by ICE, the task forces build on existing partnerships to bring together investigators from many agencies with expertise in different aspects of document and benefit fraud.

In late April 2007, 22 persons were arrested in and around Chicago's Little Village community and charged with participating in a conspiracy to illegally produce identification documents. The organization's leader was also charged with allegedly conspiring with a co-defendant to kill two competitors.

The Mexican-based crime organization's counterfeit identification document business

allegedly generated profits between \$2 million and \$3 million a year. The organization allegedly recruited illegal aliens to come to Chicago and sell false documents on street corners in the Little Village neighborhood. If convicted, conspiracy to produce fraudulent identification documents carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

In a case completed on May 1, two illegal aliens who ran a fraudulent document ring in Texas were each sentenced to 15 months in prison. Helga Estrada-Rodriguez and Marcino Reyes-Flores, both of Dallas, each pleaded guilty in December to one count of conspiracy to produce and transfer false identification documents. As a part of the investigation, Estrada-Rodriguez met with an undercover ICE agent on three separate occasions and agreed to produce and deliver false identification documents to the agent.

Estrada-Rodriguez is originally from Honduras and Reyes-Flores is from Mexico. They are both in the United States illegally and are subject to deportation after they serve their prison sentences.

Document fraud refers to the manufacture, sale, or use of counterfeit identity documents - such as fake driver's licenses, birth certificates, Social Security Cards or passports - for immigration fraud or other criminal activity. Document fraud also involves efforts to obtain genuine identity documents through fraudulent means. These activities have helped illegal aliens, criminals and even terrorists evade detection and embed themselves in our society. Document fraud often supports the crime of benefit fraud. ■



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 five 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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ICE MOST WANTED

Featured Fugitive:

Fabio Enrique Ochoa Vasco



Aliases: Carlos Mario Ochoa, Carlos Mario Vega Tobon, Juan Carlos Martinez Perez, Antonio Martinez, Kiko Ochoa, Kiko Chiquito

Height: 5' 4" **Date of Birth:** 11/20/1960 or 1963

Weight: 200 **Sex:** Male **Eyes:** Brown

Place of Birth: Colombia **Hair:** Brown

Place of Last Known Residence:

Buenos Aires, Argentina; Guadalajara, Mexico; Brazil; Medellin and Monteria, Colombia

Wanted: Involved in drug trafficking since the early 1980s, is allegedly responsible for sending six to eight tons of cocaine monthly from Colombia to Central America for later importation into the United States for distribution. Ochoa-Vasco has been associated with members of the Amado Carrillo Fuentes organization. He has a documented history of violence and should be considered armed and dangerous.

The U.S. Department of State is offering a REWARD OF UP TO \$5 MILLION for information leading to the arrest and/or conviction of Fabio Enrique Ochoa Vasco.

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

ICE Police Week Commemoration



The ICE honor guard lays a wreath to fallen officers during Police Week, 2007. ICE honored all those who lost their lives in the line of duty, including Immigration Enforcement Agent Lorenzo Roberto Gomez, who died following a training exercise in 2003.