



INSIDE ICE

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ICE ARRESTS SHOW PROGRESS IN FIGHTING ILLEGAL FLOW OF ARMS, TECHNOLOGY, WMD

In Brooklyn, a man plots to sell U.S. weapons technology, including Hawk missile components and radar systems, to shadowy figures in the Middle East. In Florida, two men conspire to illegally export computer chips with missile applications to China. In both instances ICE agents foiled the plots, but these are just the latest in a series of investigations under ICE's Arms and Strategic Technology Investigations (ASTI).

This unique and specialized component of ICE enforces import and export control laws and prevents terrorist groups and hostile nations from illegally obtaining U.S. military products and sensitive technology, and helps fight the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and their components.

ICE agents of ASTI work around the globe on this vital mission, in cooperation with federal prosecutors, the Justice Department's Criminal Division, officials from the CIA and the Departments of Treasury, Justice, Commerce, State, and Defense. Clearly, in the post 9/11 world, keeping sensitive U.S. technology



ICE agents arrested a man for illegally exporting to Israel components for a Hawk missile system like the one displayed above. Investigators believe Israel was not the final destination for the parts.

and weapons out of the hands of terrorists and rogue regimes has never been more important.

Over the past year, ICE has met this challenge by enhancing its investigative efforts in this arena. The number of arrests resulting from ASTI investigations, each of which represents a potential national security threat, has roughly doubled from 62 to 125 from Fiscal Year 2002 to Fiscal Year 2003. Last fiscal year alone, ICE launched roughly 3,000 new criminal investigations into the illegal export of arms and

strategic technology. These investigations have been paying off.

On January 1, 2004, ICE agents arrested an individual in Denver on charges of illegally exporting devices with nuclear weapons applications to Pakistan. The probe established that the defendant was at the center of a global operation that used false billing records and front companies to route nuclear trigger devices from a firm in Massachusetts, to South

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ICE's ASTI SEEKS TO STOP ILLEGAL WEAPONS PROLIFERATION

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Africa, to the United Arab Emirates and on to Pakistan.

On August 12, 2003, ICE and FBI agents arrested an accused British arms dealer on charges of attempting to sell a shoulder-fired missile to individuals in the U.S. with the understanding that it would be used to shoot down an American commercial jetliner. The criminal complaint alleged that the dealer sought to arrange the sale of at least another 50 shoulder-fired missiles to an individual posing as a member of a terrorist organization in the United States.

These successful domestic cases mirror ICE's investigative efforts in Iraq. ICE deployed teams of agents to Iraq in March, 2003 to determine whether any U.S. persons or entities had illegally supplied the regime of Saddam Hussein with munitions or sensitive technology in violation of U.S. law. The work of these teams has spawned more than 40 criminal investigations into U.S. entities suspected of illegally exporting sensitive technology to Iraq.

The first U.S. charges to result from this effort occurred in October 2003 when Sabri Yakou, 69, and his son Regard Yakou, 43, were charged with violations of the Arms Export Control Act for allegedly brokering



ICE agents operating in support of ICE's Arms and Strategic Technology Investigations Division pose in Iraq during their operations. The investigative efforts of ICE teams like this one have resulted in more than 40 criminal investigations into U.S. entities suspected of illegally exporting sensitive technology to Iraq.

the sale of six armored patrol boats, worth a total of \$11 million, to the Saddam Hussein regime in Iraq.

Another critical component of the ASTI program is industry outreach. Through Project Shield America, ICE is visiting U.S. manufacturers of sensitive technology to educate them about export laws and solicit their assistance in preventing illegal foreign acquisition of their products. Since November 2001, ICE agents have conducted approximately 9,200 industry outreach vis-

its to these U.S. companies. These visits have resulted in tips that have prompted dozens of ICE criminal investigations nationwide.

These are just a few of the many accomplishments of ICE in halting the illicit flow of weapons. ICE is proud of these successes, but there is still much to do. This is an important mission that directly impacts the security of America and our allies, and it will remain as one of ICE's top priorities.

ICE ARRESTS 60 FUGITIVE CRIMINAL ALIENS IN NEW ENGLAND

ICE Detention and Removal officers from the Boston ICE office made 60 arrests throughout New England in a weeklong operation targeting violent criminal alien fugitives.

The arrests made are part of the ICE National Fugitive Operations Initiative. The aim of the effort is to reduce the number of alien absconders in the United States.

All of those arrested have been previously ordered deported by a federal Immigration Judge, and have failed to comply with those orders. Since these individuals have already been through immigration proceedings, they are subject to immediate removal from the country.

The individuals arrested in this operation have a history of violent criminal activity. Their criminal convictions include: threatening murder, assault and battery with dangerous weapons; carrying a dangerous weapon; intimidation of a witness and auto theft.

"Removing dangerous criminal alien fugitives is a high priority for ICE," said ICE Field Office Director Bruce E. Chadbourne of the New England Detention and Removal Field Office. "ICE is committed to reducing the number of dangerous criminals hiding in New England communities. This should be a strong message to those fugitive aliens trying to avoid deportation."

ICE CLOSES BROTHEL THAT SMUGGLED, EXPLOITED WOMEN

An ICE investigation in the Los Angeles area led to a 28-count federal indictment April 6 charging four individuals with immigration violations related to a brothel where undocumented Mexican women, including a 14- and a 15-year-old girl, worked as prostitutes.

Among those charged in the indictment is 26-year-old Jenny Valle-Maldonado, a Mexican national who allegedly oversaw the brothel and served as the “Madam.” Valle and three Mexican accomplices are accused in the indictment of importing, transporting and harboring aliens for immoral purposes.

The ICE investigation revealed that at least 12 Mexican women, includ-

ing the two teenagers, worked for Valle and her accomplices. According to the indictment, unidentified co-conspirators recruited the young women in Mexico, and Valle and others helped arrange for them to be smuggled into the United States so they could work as prostitutes, typically for five or six months, in exchange for being smuggled into the United States.

ICE agents initially uncovered the brothel after receiving a tip about a house of prostitution using smuggled aliens as sex workers.

In addition to engaging in sex acts with clients at the brothel, the investigation revealed that many of the women were transported to area

massage parlors and other locations to engage in further acts of prostitution. Valle controlled the prostitution proceeds earned by the young women. According to the indictment, Valle angrily rebuked any of the young women who expressed reluctance at performing requested sex acts.

“The activity spelled out in this indictment amounts to callous, calculated sexual exploitation,” said Kevin Jeffery, Associate Special Agent-in-Charge for ICE investigations in Los Angeles. “It’s another chilling example of the complete disregard smugglers have for human dignity.”

ICE FPS CONDUCTS COUNTER-TERRORISM EXERCISE IN D.C.

ICE’s Federal Protective Service (FPS) successfully completed a counter-terrorism exercise at the Ronald Reagan Building, the nation’s second largest federal build-

ing, in Washington, D.C. March 31.

The exercise was an interagency, multi-disciplinary computer simulation using the Emergency Preparedness Incident Command Simulation (EPICS). The simulation integrated the response procedures and capabilities of the FPS, the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Services departments and D.C. Emergency Management Agency, the U.S. Park Police, U.S. Secret Service and tenet agencies that occupy the Ronald Reagan Building.

This was the second in a series of exercises that FPS is hosting to im-

prove intergovernmental cohesion, efficiency and effectiveness at the state, local and federal levels in addressing the threats facing America in the 21st Century. FPS officials said the exercise was a tremendous success, demonstrating the effectiveness of past exercises involving all aspects of the emergency services community in cooperative response.



An ICE FPS officer standing outside the Mobile Command Unit coordinates by phone during the counter-terrorism exercise held March 31 at the Ronald Reagan Building in Washington, D.C.



ICE FPS officers in the Mobile Command Unit monitor data and video during a counter-terrorism exercise held March 31 at the Ronald Reagan Building in Washington, D.C.

ICE AGENTS ARREST PHYSICIAN "SEX TRAVELER"

ICE agents arrested a Georgia doctor when he arrived in New York April 12 on federal charges of traveling to a foreign country for the purpose of engaging in illegal sexual conduct with a minor.

Gregory C. Kapordelis, 43, of Gainesville, Georgia, was arrested after he arrived at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport on a flight from Russia. Kapordelis was released on a \$500,000 bond and ordered by a federal judge to stay away from children pending his trial. He is believed to be the fifth person in the United States to be charged with violations of the child sex tourism provisions of the PROTECT Act, which was enacted in April 2003.

According to a criminal complaint, the Criminal Investigations Division of the St. Petersburg Police Department in Russia began an investigation of Kapordelis in March 2004 after getting information that he had molested minor males at a St. Petersburg hotel in 2003. St. Petersburg

"DOS COYOTES" OPERATION ENDS WITH DRUG SMUGGLING ARRESTS

Eighteen men are in custody and ICE agents and other authorities have seized \$7.2 million in cash and three houses in a major drug smuggling and money laundering case in Texas.

A 17-count federal indictment unsealed April 20 in McAllen, TX revealed the arrest of seven people by ICE agents and another 11 who were already in state or federal custody. The indictment charges 26 individuals with conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute marijuana and cocaine, and with laundering the money generated by the illegal narcotics activity over a three-year period.

Eight of the 26 defendants were arrested on April 13 by arrest teams comprised of ICE agents and representatives of other agencies.

Most of the defendants were charged with conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute marijuana and cocaine. The money-laundering conspiracy alleges that 13 of the defendants used proceeds of drug-trafficking to buy vehicles to transport narcotics and to conceal currency, to store marijuana, and to purchase real estate. The indictment also seeks to forfeit the interest of two of the defendants in \$7.2 million in cash and in residences and real properties located in McAllen and Mission, TX. Real properties and banks accounts of some of the defendants were seized in Mexico by the Under Attorney's Office for the Republic of Mexico.

burg police soon began working with the ICE Attaché in Moscow in the investigation. ICE agents and St. Petersburg police interviewed several juveniles, including a 12-year-old boy, who alleged they were subject to sexual encounters with Kapordelis after he fed them pills.

Kapordelis' arrest is part of ICE's Operation Predator, which targets convicted sex offenders, child sex predators, child pornographers on the Internet, human smuggling organizations trafficking in children for sexual exploitation and "sex tourists," American citizens who travel to other countries to engage in sex with minors.

The results of Operation Predator are unprecedented in law enforcement. Since Operation Predator was launched in July 2003, ICE has arrested more than 2,000 child predators. Protecting children from ruthless predators is integral to ICE's homeland security mission. As ICE attacks the predators, Internet child pornographers, human traffickers and others who abuse children, ICE also closes the loopholes and lessen the vulnerabilities in homeland security that could be exploited by other criminals and terrorist organizations.

ICE STING GETS ARMS DEALER LINKED TO TERRORIST GROUP

A Columbian man was arrested by ICE agents in Tampa April 1 and charged with attempting to purchase over 1,000 machine guns, rifles, grenades, grenade launchers, and pistols on behalf of a Colombian terrorist group.

Carlos Gamarra-Murillo, 53, of Bucaramanga, Colombia, was arrested on a criminal complaint filed in United States District Court in Tampa for violations of the Arms Export Control Act.

According to the complaint, Gamarra-Murillo traveled to the United States to meet in Tampa with ICE investigators posing as arms suppliers. Gamarra-Murillo was a representative of the FARC, the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia), an organization listed by the State Department as a terrorist group. The total estimated value of the weapons to be brokered was nearly \$4 million. According to the negotiated deal, Gamarra-Murillo offered 15,000 kilograms of cocaine as 60 percent of the payment for the weapons, with the rest to be paid in U.S. currency. The arms were to be delivered to a clandestine airstrip in another South American country.

FLORIDA ICE AGENTS ARREST 13 ILLEGAL WORKERS AT PORT

ICE agents from Tampa arrested thirteen Mexican nationals in Port Canaveral, FL April 6 for using fraudulent social security numbers to acquire area access badges to restricted areas at the port. According to port officials, the area access badges allowed the illegal immigrants access to all areas of Port Canaveral.

Federal arrest warrants were issued for fourteen Mexican nationals working at Port Canaveral who utilized fraudulent

“Our agents are committed to protecting the infrastructure of the United States and making America a safer place.”

documentation to acquire area access badges allowing them unrestricted access to all areas of the port. Thirteen were arrested. The United States Border Patrol arrested eight other illegal immigrants from Mexico also working at the port. Another individual was arrested on a state warrant from Brevard County, FL for possession of marihuana. All those arrested were residing in the United States illegally.

“Our agents are committed to protecting the infrastructure of the United States and making America a safer place,” said Tampa-based ICE Special-Agent-in-Charge Steven J Trent.

ICE BREAKS GROUND FOR NEW PORT ISABEL PROCESSING CENTER

ICE began construction April 7 of a new 124,000 square foot, \$32 million consolidated administrative, health care and processing detention complex at the Port Isabel Service Processing Center in Texas. The new complex is scheduled for completion within 18 months.

The Port Isabel center is located on 326 acres of the former Harlingen Army Airfield and has its own sewer and water treatment plant and fire department. ICE and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) use it for detaining and processing apprehended illegal aliens. The center provides living quarters, food, and medical services. ICE’s Detention and Removal Office, the U.S. Public Health Service, and the Corps of Engineers have been jointly planning the new complex since 1998.

Currently there are eight buildings spread throughout the facility, which includes temporary trailers. The new complex will consist of three buildings that will replace several of the existing antiquated buildings. It will feature a new health care facility that will add a 37-bed clinic for detainees and a 24-hour health unit.

“We are striving for a more efficient, smooth and secure operation,” said Marc Moore, the facility’s chief of operations. “This project will meet those needs. Improving ICE’s ability to remove persons from the country through an efficient, humane and secure facility is a strategic investment in the nation’s security.”

AMO LOCATES LOST FISHERMEN ; LEADS COAST GUARD TO RESCUE

Forty-four miles off the coast of Cuba, an ICE Air and Marine Operations (AMO) aircrew found two men who had been adrift for four days in a small fishing vessel April 4 and led a U.S. Coast Guard cutter to their location where they were rescued.

The ICE P-3 long-range patrol aircraft, based out of Cecil Field Commerce Park Airport in Jacksonville, FL, was flying counter-drug patrol at about 7:30 p.m. when its crew spotted the 15-foot skiff drifting in heavy seas north of Nuevitas, Cuba, on the Great Bahamas Bank.

The aircrew determined the men needed rescue and radioed the ICE Air and Marine Operations Center in Riverside, CA, which contacted the Coast Guard Cutter Drummond to retrieve the men. The men were taken aboard the Drummond at about 8:05 p.m. They explained they were part of commercial fishing flotilla when their fishing skiff developed engine problems.

ICE ROUNDS UP GANGS IN TEXAS

ICE agents and officers with the Nacogdoches, TX Police Department arrested six men with criminal offenses and immigration violations March 25.

All those arrested had criminal convictions, and ICE agents and police officers identified some of the individuals as local gang members living in the Nacogdoches area.

“We are committed to ensuring that our communities are safer today, and will continue to work closely with local law enforcement to get these criminals off our streets,” said Marty Greer, ICE Resident Agent-in-Charge in Beaumont, Texas. ICE agents routinely work with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies to ensure that every criminal aliens who commit crimes in this country will be apprehended and removed from the United States according to immigration law.

“We are committed to ensuring that our communities are safer and we will get these criminals off our streets.”

INSIDE ICE

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We're on the Web!
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U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), responsible for the enforcement of border, economic, infrastructure and transportation security laws.

ICE seeks to prevent acts of terrorism by targeting the people, money, and materials that support terrorist and criminal activities.

MIAMI ICE



*ICE
Air and Marine
Operations
units and officers
stage a
simulated
smuggling
interdiction
during ceremonies
in Miami
marking the
first anniversary
of ICE.*