



# Inside ICE

## ICE SEIZES OIL COMPANY, WELLS

In what may be a first for federal law enforcement, ICE has seized a U.S. oil company and its 43 oil wells in Pennsylvania in an ongoing money laundering investigation.

ICE Special Agent-in-Charge for Miami Jesus Torres and Col. Rick Ramsay, Under Sheriff of the Monroe County, Fla. Sheriff's Office, announced the seizure January 22. The assets, which also include numerous trusts and bank accounts in Europe, are valued at roughly \$6.5 million, bringing the total amount seized in this ongoing money laundering investigation to more than \$70 million.

On January 21, ICE agents seized Shaboom Oil, Inc., its 43 operating oil wells and the mineral rights to approximately 1,100 acres of land in the Allegheny National Forest in northwest Pennsylvania. ICE agents also seized a Panama-based investment company that owns Shaboom Oil. In the principality of Monaco, ICE agents seized assets in numerous trusts and bank accounts.

The oil company, its oil fields and the other assets have all been linked to Paul Edward Hindelang, who operated one of the nation's largest marijuana smuggling operations in the late 1970s. In 1981, Hindelang pled guilty to importing roughly 250 tons of marijuana, and conspiring to import an additional 150,000 pounds of marijuana into Florida, Louisiana and other U.S. locations. As part of his plea agreement, Hindelang agreed to forfeit \$640,000 to U.S. authorities, asserting this amount represented all his illegally earned assets.

Several years later, ICE agents learned that Hindelang had hidden away millions of dollars worth of drug funds in overseas accounts. Working together with the Monroe County Sheriff's Office, ICE

launched "Operation Cash Extraction" in 1992 to track down Hindelang's hidden funds. After years of investigative work, agents found many of his assets in a maze of offshore accounts and corporations in Switzerland, Panama, the Turks and Caicos Islands, the Netherlands Antilles, the Cayman Islands and other locations.

In 1998, ICE agents seized \$50 million from accounts tied to Hindelang. The agents continued their search and, in 1999, located additional drug proceeds in bank accounts in the Channel Islands (in Jersey and Guernsey) and invested in a property in Colorado. ICE agents launched forfeiture proceedings and were ultimately able to recover approximately \$15 million in assets that constituted illicit proceeds of drug sales.

Last year, further investigation by ICE and the Monroe County Sheriff's Office turned up an additional \$6.5 million worth of illicit assets in Monaco and the United States. The investigation into Hindelang's drug funds continues.



Shown above is one of the 43 active oil wells in Pennsylvania seized by ICE agents as part of the continuing investigation into convicted marijuana smuggler Paul Hindelang.

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## ICE JOINS UNIQUE VIRTUAL GLOBAL TASK FORCE

LONDON - ICE has joined international law enforcement and the technology industry in the Virtual Global Task Force, a partnership to fight the online exploitation of children worldwide.

Led by the United Kingdom (UK) National Crime Squad (NCS) the task force includes ICE, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Australian High Tech Crime Centre, and Interpol.



A new international website, [www.virtualglobaltaskforce.com](http://www.virtualglobaltaskforce.com), includes information on how to report suspected child exploitation in the UK, U.S., Canada and Australia, as well as related safety and resource information from partner organizations such as the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children in the United States (NCMEC).

Jim Gamble, Deputy Director General of the UK's National Crime

Squad, and Chair of the Virtual Global Taskforce, said, "The Virtual Global Task Force is a unique partnership in the history of law enforcement. Internet users access a worldwide service so we must tackle abuse from a worldwide perspective. Strategic partnerships such as this are vital to our success."

ICE's participation in the Virtual Global Task Force is part of Operation Predator, a Department of Homeland Security initiative to protect children from criminal alien sex offenders, child sex tourists, Internet child pornographers and human traffickers. Since Operation Predator began in July 2003, more than

4,900 individuals have been arrested nationwide. Foreign law enforcement, acting on ICE leads, have arrested more than 860 individuals.

ICE encourages the reporting of suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. This hotline is staffed around the clock by investigators.

Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to NCMEC, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

## FPS ACTIVE IN INAUGURATION

ICE's Federal Protective Service (FPS) deployed over 400 personnel in Washington, D.C., providing security for federal facilities and supporting other federal and local law enforcement agencies during the 2005 Presidential Inauguration.

Prior to the January 20 inauguration events, FPS personnel received an intelligence briefing and conducted advanced training in riot and demonstration control, use of non-lethal weapons, and hazardous material (HazMat) recognition and response.

In addition to patrol officers, FPS provided HazMat personnel, K-9 teams, motorcycle officers, special agents, medical support team members, administrative personnel and electronic technicians. An FPS mobile command vehicle was also deployed which was linked to the Homeland Security Operations Center (HSOC) and other command centers.

In addition, FPS Officers provided security during protests at various federal facilities throughout the

United States. Demonstrations were held at federal buildings in Vermont, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Tennessee, Illinois, Ohio, New Mexico, Texas, North Dakota, Utah, Nevada, California, Arizona, Oregon and Washington.

For the most part, FPS activities occurred without incident. One subject in the capital was arrested for trespassing.



**Federal Protective Service hazardous material teams like the one shown above deployed in support of the Presidential Inauguration in Washington, D.C.**

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. Please send comments and contributions to:

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**Russ Bergeron**  
Editor

## 'BLOWFISH' DISMANTLES MASSIVE DRUG GROUP

**NORFOLK, Va.**—ICE agents, leading a joint operation, have dismantled a large-scale drug and money laundering organization that spanned much of the southeastern United States.

As part of Operation "Blowfish," ICE agents arrested 36 individuals on drug and money laundering violations in Virginia, Maryland, Texas, Georgia, Kentucky and other states. The individuals are charged in 324-count indictment issued in the Eastern District of Virginia January 14.

ICE worked on the two-year investigation with the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Internal Revenue Service and the Peninsula Narcotics Enforcement Task Force of Virginia, which is comprised of officers from the Hampton, Newport News and Poquoson Police Departments and the Virginia State Police. Also assisting in the investigation were officers from the Henrico County and City of Norfolk Police Departments.

Mike Netherland, Resident Agent-in-Charge for ICE in Norfolk, Va.,



**Some \$2 million in illegal drug proceeds, shown above, were seized by ICE agents during the course of Operation "Blowfish." Among other locations, the money was hidden in a safe kept in a storage facility and in bags and shoe boxes hidden away in closets.**

said, "This was one of the most significant and successful Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force investigations ever conducted in the Hampton Roads area. The coordinated arrests in Virginia and other states around country would not have been possible without un-

numerous federal, state and local law enforcement agencies."

According to the indictment, beginning in September 1996 the drug ring moved about \$20 million in illicit drugs across several states, including Georgia, Kentucky, Missouri and Texas. The indictment charged members of the group with establishing fictitious businesses and laundering the illegal proceeds of the drug sales through bank accounts and credit unions. Some purchased real estate, and some threatened people and carried firearms.

One of those arrested January 24 was Pamela Y. Hoffler-Riddick, an assistant superintendent in charge of 35 schools in Prince George's County, Md. Hoffler-Riddick, 43, was arrested by ICE agents at her home in Rockville, Md., and charged with five counts of money laundering. Hoffler-Riddick allegedly used proceeds from laundering illegal drug money to pay off loans on two houses and a car.



**ICE agents seized more than \$48,000 in cash, three ounces of cocaine, one ounce of cocaine base, one pound of marijuana and a set of scales during the arrest of just one of the more than 30 persons indicted as a result of Operation "Blowfish."**

## ICE RETURNS PRICELESS ANTIQUITIES TO IRAQ

**NEW YORK, N.Y.**—Assistant Secretary Michael Garcia met with His Excellency Samir Sumaidaie, the Ambassador of Iraq to the United Nations, on January 18 to return to the government of Iraq stolen 20th century B.C. cultural antiquities recovered by ICE agents.



**His Excellency Samir Sumaidaie, left, Iraq's Ambassador to the United Nations, and Assistant Secretary Michael Garcia examine ancient artifacts recovered by ICE agents.**

Garcia returned three Mesopotamian Cylindrical Seals from the Akkadian period, estimated to date back to between 2340 and 2180 B.C. The seals are about an inch tall and one-half inch in diameter and have partially preserved registration numbers written on them. Expert analysis concluded that the seals are genuine and a comparison to Iraq Museum Catalog cards last May confirmed that the seals once belonged to the Iraq Museum collection.

"We are grateful for the vigilance of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents who successfully retrieved and are now returning a part of Iraq's heritage back to where it belongs," said Ambassador Sumaidaie.

On June 11, 2003, Joseph Braude arrived in New York from London. During a routine examination, Customs and Border Protection officers found three cylindrical stone seals inside his suitcase which had been not been declared on Braude's cus-

toms declaration. The objects were seized and Mr. Braude was permitted to leave.

ICE brought the seals to an associate professor of ancient Near Eastern art and archeology at Columbia University, who inspected the seals and authenticated them as Mesopotamian Cylindrical Seals of the Akkadian period, c. 2340-2180 B.C., which appear to have been removed from the collection of the Iraqi National Museum in Baghdad.

When questioned at his Cambridge, Massachusetts, home on June 18, 2003, Braude admitted to ICE special agents that he had in fact traveled to Baghdad on his trip earlier that month, and that he had purchased the seals there for \$200. Braude told ICE agents he knew that they had probably been stolen from the Iraqi National Museum. ICE agents arrested Braude, who pled guilty to all three counts of his indictment (smuggling and false statements) and was sentenced to six months of house arrest and two years probation.

## LEADER OF FAKE DRUG INTERNET SITE SENTENCED

**SAN DIEGO, Calif.**—A man who led one of the largest online counterfeit pharmacies until an ICE investigation broke the scam has been sentenced to 51 months in prison.

Mark Anthony Kolowich, the owner of World Express Rx, had pled guilty to conspiring to sell counterfeit pharmaceuticals, mail fraud, smuggling unapproved pharmaceuticals into the United States, importing unapproved drugs, transporting unapproved drugs in interstate commerce and conspiracy to launder money. Five other persons have also been charged in the investigation.

"The smuggling of pharmaceuticals

poses a significant threat to public health and ICE is committed to putting these illegal enterprises out of businesses," said Assistant Secretary Michael Garcia. "The reality is, the quality and content of drugs sold over the Internet is a big question mark. Consumers should take extra precautions and only buy from reputable online pharmacies."

Kolowich operated an Internet pharmacy ([www.WorldExpressRx.com](http://www.WorldExpressRx.com)), from which customers could order prescription drugs without having a prior prescription. The website directed the customer to fill out a health questionnaire and pay a \$35 fee for a doctor's consultation. The

website falsely represented that a doctor would review the questionnaire and issue a lawful prescription before the drugs were shipped to the customers. However, there was no doctor employed by or associated with World Express Rx who reviewed the questionnaires.

Kolowich had counterfeit drugs manufactured in Mexico and smuggled across the border into California. The drugs were then packaged and sent to customers throughout the United States and the world. Some of the ingredients for the drugs were shipped in from China and India using false shipping documents.

## ICE REMOVES ALIEN CONVICTED IN BRUTAL ASSAULT, KIDNAPPING

**BLOOMINGTON, Minn.**—ICE detention and removal officers deported an illegal alien January 14 who was convicted of kidnapping a Minneapolis woman in 2001.



**Aldo Acosta-Dominguez**

Aldo Acosta-Dominguez, 21, of Mexico, was convicted of kidnapping in Hennepin County District Court March 6, 2002, and sentenced to 60 months in prison.

ICE special agents placed a “detainer” on him, which meant that ICE was notified prior to his release from prison. ICE conducts checks of jails and prisons nationwide under its Institutional Removal Program to identify

criminal aliens. Acosta-Dominguez told ICE agents that he had paid a smuggler \$2,500 to smuggle him into the United States in 2000.

At approximately 2 a.m., Aug. 25, 2001, as a woman pulled a car into the parking lot of her Minneapolis apartment building, a second car pulled in behind her, according to the criminal complaint filed in district court. A man emerged from the second car and pointed a shotgun at the woman, ordering her and her female passenger into his car, which contained five or six men. The women were driven to an unknown location and forced to kneel on the grass at gunpoint, where the men took their money and smashed a cell phone belonging to one of them. The victims were then separated, and Acosta-Dominguez and two other men took one woman to the Hidden Beach area in Minneapolis, where they walked her toward the beach at gunpoint, demanding sex. The man with the shotgun became distracted by others in the area, and the victim was able to escape and ask strangers to call the police.

## ALIENS CAUGHT AT REFINERY

**MOBILE, Ala.**—ICE special agents arrested 17 aliens at a chemical refinery in the Port of Mobile January 14 as part of an ongoing investigation of petroleum industry subcontractors.

ICE special agents received information indicating that a subcontractor was supplying illegal aliens as laborers for the facility. Possible federal violations by those arrested include use of fraudulent documents, misuse of Social Security cards, re-entry after deportation, and false

claims of U.S. citizenship. At least one of the aliens working there was previously deported by ICE as an aggravated felon. Another alien is named under an outstanding arrest warrant for possession/intent to manufacture narcotics.

## FLORIDA, NEW JERSEY DETENTION FACILITIES WIN ACCREDITATION

Two ICE facilities used to detain illegal aliens - one in Miami, Fla., and one in Elizabeth, N.J. - have recently been given high marks by the American Correctional Association (ACA), a standards board responsible for accrediting correctional facilities nationwide.

The facilities operate under ICE detention standards that were jointly drafted with the American Bar Association. Additionally, ICE detention facilities are subject to regular visits by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees.

To be accredited by the ACA, facilities must earn a 90 percent score through an audit of 41 mandatory standards and 366 recommended non-mandatory standards. The accreditation program assesses services, operations and management at correction and detention facilities to ensure a balance between public safety and a quality environment for staff and detainees at the facilities.

## ICE DEPORTS SUDANESE MAN WHO STALKED CAMPUS WOMEN

**DALLAS, Texas**—A Sudanese man who harassed and stalked women on campuses in Arlington, Texas and Boulder, Colo., was deported by ICE January 14.

Muhayed Nasreldin Abdelmagid, 25, was escorted under guard to Sudan by ICE detention and removal officers after his conviction for harassing a Boulder woman in July 2003. He was also arrested in Texas after leaving obscene messages on a woman’s cell phone.

Abdelmagid had a well-earned reputation for loitering on college campuses, even though he was never enrolled as a student. He used the campuses as his stalking grounds to seek out women and solicit them for sex. When he was rejected, he berated his victims with extreme profanity.

“He stalked and intimidated women who wouldn’t submit to his anti-social sexual advances,” said Nuria T. Prendes, field office director for ICE Dallas Detention and Removal Operations (DRO). “We’re glad to be rid of him.”

## Inside ICE

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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, responsible for the enforcement of border, immigration, customs, infrastructure and transportation security laws.**

### ***READY TO ROLL***



*ICE's new Mobile Command Center (MCC) is ready to roll. Custom designed and built for ICE, it was delivered in June 2004. Since then, it has been undergoing final outfitting and configuration. It is designed to deploy in a national emergency or another other event where ICE needs an on-scene presence and the ability to communicate, coordinate, direct, command and control ICE operations. It has its own internal computer network and power source, satellite link capabilities and a full suite of cellular, landline and tactical communications, including high frequency and interoperable communications with other agencies. The MCC is manned by two officers and can accommodate a six-person staff.*