



Inside ICE

HUTCHINSON RECOGNIZES ICE'S AMO SUPPORT OF ARIZONA BORDER INITIATIVE

Asa Hutchinson, Undersecretary for Border and Transportation Security (BTS) for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), visited Tucson June 2, to recognize the vital role being played by ICE's Tucson Branch of Air and Marine Operations (AMO) in the Arizona Border Control (ABC) initiative.

Since the launch of the initiative in March, ICE pilots have flown nearly 250 sorties and logged more than 650 flight hours as part of the ABC initiative, providing crucial intelligence gathering, enforcement and humanitarian support. Working closely with agents on the ground, personnel from the Tucson Air Branch have aided in the arrest of 60 suspected human smugglers and the rescue of at least 10 migrants stranded in the desert west of Tucson.

The ABC initiative was launched to combat the criminal human smuggling organizations operating on the Southwest Border in Arizona. These illegal activities, in addition to undermining the nation's immigration



With an ICE Black Hawk helicopter as a backdrop, Undersecretary for Border and Transportation Security Asa Hutchinson addresses the media during a visit to Tucson.

laws, pose a significant threat to homeland security because human smuggling can be exploited by terrorist organizations. In addition, the organizations place thousands of aliens at risk, leading them through dangerous territory and, at times, abandoning them to die in the desert.

The unique capabilities of ICE's AMO Tucson-based air fleet make it a valuable asset for an enforcement and humanitarian oriented mission like the ABC initiative. The Tucson Air Branch maintains an in-

ventory of 13 aircraft, including five Citation interceptor jets, four Black Hawk helicopters and four light observation planes.

All of these high-speed aircraft can travel substantial distances without refueling, enabling them to cover hundreds of square miles in a single flight, an important advantage when the target area includes vast stretches of international border. In addition, the Black Hawk helicopters

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ICE SUPPORTS SECURITY FOR MAJOR SUMMER EVENTS

To ensure public safety and guard against potential threats, ICE is providing substantial law enforcement and security support to a wide range of high-profile government, political and athletic events scheduled for the summer months in the

ICE's Federal Protective Service (FPS) and ICE's Federal Air Marshal Service (FAMS) will also be providing substantial law enforcement and security support. The FPS will deploy hundreds of officers and specialized units to some of these events to help protect federal facilities.



ICE's Federal Protective Service and Air and Marine Operations supported security for the dedication of the World War II Memorial on May 29. The event was the first in a series of major gatherings this summer that will have security operations supported by ICE personnel and resources. (Photo by Rick Latoff, WWII Memorial)

United States and around the world.

The ICE Office of Investigations is providing the U.S. Secret Service with a potential surge capacity of roughly 2,300 ICE Special Agents to support security events in the coming months.

Hundreds of ICE agents are already scheduled to support upcoming National Special Security Events. Each of the ICE agents has received training in Secret Service procedures. In addition, on any given day five to 20 teams of ICE agents are positioned around the country in support of Secret Service Presidential campaign details.

The ICE Office of Intelligence is also increasing its efforts to identify, monitor and target any emerging threats related to these particular events. Certain units have been expanded to analyze and process any increase in intelligence traffic.

At the same time, the Federal Air Marshals will be working to ensure that commercial flights into and out of these venues are secured against potential threats. In some instances, ICE may provide additional law enforcement support

to these events through its Office of Air & Marine Operations (AMO) and its Office of Detention and Removal Operations (DRO).

Some of the events include:

The G8 Summit, scheduled for June 8-10 at Sea Island, Ga. ICE will provide the second largest cadre of law enforcement personnel, after the Secret Service. ICE's Office of Investigations will deploy 261 Special Agents and 165 vehicles for Counter-Terrorism Surveillance Units and Protective Intelligence Units. ICE's FPS will deploy 180 personnel at approximately 24 federal facilities in the area. The FPS deployment includes Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) technicians, Explosive Detecting Dog (EDD) teams, mobile command vehicles, uniformed officers, intelligence and undercover special agents, bicycle and motorcycle officers and rapid response teams.

ICE's FAMS will be working 24/7 to ensure that commercial flights are secure and free of potential attacks. The ICE Atlanta DRO Field Office will have officers on duty at the Multi-Agency Command Center and officers ready to supplement the Georgia Department of Public Safety.

The Democratic National Convention, July 26-29, Boston, Mass. ICE's FPS will provide substantial law enforcement and security support to the Democratic National Convention. FPS will deploy approximately 200 personnel to this event. A mobile command vehicle will be deployed to maintain communications with other federal, state and local law enforcement agencies. ICE's Office of Investigations has up to 400 ICE agents on stand-by. ICE's FAMS will be working 24/7 to secure commercial aviation into and out of the Boston.

The 2004 Olympic Games, August 13-19, Athens, Greece. ICE's FAMS will be working closely with other law enforcement agencies to help protect the Olympics.

The Republican National Convention, August 30-September 2, New York, NY. ICE's FPS will be placing additional security at federal facilities in the vicinity of the convention. ICE's Office of Investigations stands ready to provide additional agents and ICE's FAMS will secure commercial flights.

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 story contributions to: Russ.Bergeron@dhs.gov
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ICE MOVES ON TWO WITH TIES TO 9/11 TERRORISTS

ICE agents have deported one man with associations to the 9/11 terrorist attacks and arrested another who has been linked to two 9/11 hijackers.

Mohdar Abdullah, 26, was escorted by ICE officers and deported back to his native country of Yemen on May 21. In a separate case, Hasan Saddiq Faseh Alddin, a 34-year-old Saudi national and legal permanent resident of the United States, was arrested April 27, by ICE agents in San Diego on immigration charges after an exhaustive investigation by San Diego's Joint Terrorism Task Force.

Alddin was arrested May 28, near his residence in Vista, Calif. He is accused of associating with friends of two of the deceased 9/11 hijackers who lived in the San Diego area, Nawaf Alhazmi and Khalid al-Midhar. The two men were on board the American Airlines plane that crashed into the Pentagon. In September 2001, Alddin roomed with a close friend of the two hijackers. The roommate departed the United States the day before the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

Alddin initially entered the United States on a student visa in August 1994. He subsequently married a United States citizen and became a legal permanent resident in 1999. ICE placed Alddin in deportation proceedings and he is being held without bond.

Federal agents arrested Abdullah and another Yemeni national, Omar Bakarbashat, shortly after the 9/11 attacks because of their close ties to Alhazmi and al-Midhar. Court documents filed in the 9/11 investigation revealed that Abdullah provided substantial assistance to Alhazmi and al-Midhar, helping them obtain Social Security cards, drivers licenses and information on flight schools.

ICE sought to deport Abdullah based on his conviction for visa fraud. He pleaded guilty in October 2002 to charges that he lied on an application to legalize his immigration status.

Abdullah received a six-month prison sentence, but was released immediately into ICE custody because of time served. He remained in ICE custody because of the pending immigration charges and was ordered deported by an immigration judge in May 2003. He lost his subsequent legal efforts to overturn that ruling, clearing the way for his removal.

"ICE is dedicated to restoring the integrity of our immigration system," said Assistant Secretary Michael Garcia regarding Abdullah's removal.



Mohdar Abdullah, left, and Hasan Saddiq Faseh Alddin were the targets of separate ICE operations. Abdullah was deported by ICE on May 21. Alddin was arrested by ICE agents on May 28

"By removing individuals who have exploited the system, in this case an associate of known terrorists, we systematically eliminate risk and enhance our security."

Joint Homeland Security Initiative Works to Combat Criminal Human Smuggling

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can land in rugged terrain and transport up to 10 passengers, making them invaluable for rescue and evacuation operations in remote and inaccessible areas.

To fly these aircraft, the ICE Tucson Air Branch relies on more than 60 pilots who are also trained as enforcement agents. ICE's AMO aviators come from a variety of backgrounds, including corporate and commercial airline pilots, former military special operations and fighter pilots and Marine pilots who have flown the President of the United States aboard Marine One. ICE's roster of pilots is augmented by a cadre of 20 aviation enforcement officers who fly along to provide tactical support, from conducting surveillance to carrying out arrests and rescues.

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www.ICE.gov

NY ICE BREAKS MASSIVE \$400M IPR SMUGGLING GROUP

ICE agents arrested at least 12 people, seized six shipping containers and executed five search warrants in New York on June 3, in a massive Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) case targeting an organization believed to have smuggled at least \$400 million in counterfeit goods into the United States in a year.

While details of the case were still emerging as *Inside ICE* went to press, another 14 shipping containers, some of which may be connected to the case, were being held by ICE in Oakland, Calif. In addition, ICE had seized the funds in 11 bank accounts, two in Los Angeles and nine in New York.



Some of the counterfeit designer goods seized in "Operation Executive" in New York are shown in this photo. At least 10 shipping containers, with more than \$40 million dollars in counterfeit goods were seized by ICE.

Including the six containers seized on June 3, at least 10 shipping containers with goods valued at more than \$40 million had been seized since the case, "Operation Executive," began in April 2003.

Of the six containers seized June 3, five held counterfeit designer luxury handbags, luggage and wallets and the sixth contained counterfeit cigarettes. In addition, the search warrants executed on June 3, targeted five businesses and were yielding hundreds of boxes of counterfeit goods.

"Operation Executive" is an ICE undercover operation launched by SAC New York in April 2003. The investigation targeted an organization involved in large-scale smuggling of counterfeit trademark merchandise into the United States from China. The organization primarily used ports in New York and Los Angeles/Long Beach to smuggle 40-ft. ship containers packed with counterfeit jeans, sweatshirts, sunglasses, belts, handbags and other consumer goods.

ICE's IPR investigations are a critical part of the Cornerstone initiative, which attacks criminal and terrorist organizations, targeting the means by which they earn, move and store their illicit funds. Proceeds from the sale of counterfeit and pirated goods, such as computer software, sporting goods, CDs and DVDs and designer clothes have emerged as a significant source of revenue for criminal organizations. These crimes also represent a potential area of vulnerability for the nation's economic and homeland security.

Testifying before a Senate committee in April, Francis Gary White, the chief of ICE's commercial fraud division, said fighting IPR crime is key to battling criminal and terrorist organizations.

"Our ultimate goal is to dismantle the smuggling organizations and halt the flow of counterfeit merchandise into the United States," Mr. White told the committee.

"Our ultimate goal is to dismantle the smuggling organizations and halt the flow of counterfeit merchandise."

TWO MEN INDICTED FOR ILLEGAL ARMS SALES TO CHINA

Two men and a California company have been arrested and indicted following an ICE investigation into the illegal sale of sophisticated night vision cameras to foreign countries, including China.

Philip Cheng, 57, of Cupertino, Calif., and Matin Shih, 61, of San Jose, Calif., and Shih's company, Night Vision Technologies, were indicted on June 2.

According to the indictment, between July 1, 1999, and June 17, 2003, Cheng and Shih exported defense articles and services without the licensing and authorization required by the Department of State. The indictment specifically charges that through his company, Shih, sold a night vision infrared camera known as the "Panther I" to the North China Research Institute for Electro-Optics for approximately \$65,000. The indictment also charges that Shin traveled to China in June 2002, to provide instruction

on the manufacture, use and testing of night vision technology to persons in China.

According to the indictment, in May 2002, Shih and his company illegally concealed a night vision technology component within another legal shipment and falsified the export declaration. Cheng then allegedly laundered the proceeds of that illegal sale through wire transfers from Hong Kong to his bank account.

Cheng and Shih face a nine-count indictment which was handed down in San Jose, Calif. If convicted on all counts, they could be sentenced to a maximum of more than 100 years in federal prison.



People, cars and aircraft stand out clearly and in stark contrast in this color infrared photograph taken at night without special lighting at Salt Lake City Airport in Utah. The photograph illustrates why ICE protects U.S. Military infrared technology.

The indictments are the result of a multi-agency investigation led by ICE, with the assistance of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Department of Commerce and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

AFTER HIGH-SPEED CHASE

ICE SEIZES \$20 MILLION IN COCAINE, ARRESTS SIX

ICE agents seized \$20 million in cocaine, arrested six suspected smugglers and seized two fishing boats from the Bahamas off the

coast of Hollywood Beach, Fla. the evening of May 26, following a high-speed chase by ICE boats and a Black Hawk helicopter.

search for two suspected drug boats that were reported to have departed from Freeport, Grand Bahamas, and were heading toward South Florida.



An ICE Interceptor patrol boat similar to the one shown above was involved in the high-speed chase that netted a \$20 million cocaine seizure off the coast of Florida.

Arrested were Carlos Diaz, 42, of Broward County, and Bahamian citizens Nigel Grey, 32; Tiko Small, 19; Santero Dhyly, 28; Davero Rolle, 21; and Nemo Cooper, 25.

An ICE CHET (Customs High Endurance Tracker) patrol plane working with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) was dispatched on the afternoon of May 26, to

The plane's aircrew detected and tracked the two boats while serving as an airborne command and control center. The aircrew guided ICE patrol boats and the arresting officers to the smugglers' location off of Hollywood Beach.

One boat was stopped without incident. The second boat attempted to flee the ICE patrol boats at a high rate of speed, making wild and dangerous evasive maneuvers. Two ICE patrol boats and an ICE Black Hawk helicopter halted the boat after a 15-minute chase.

Inside ICE

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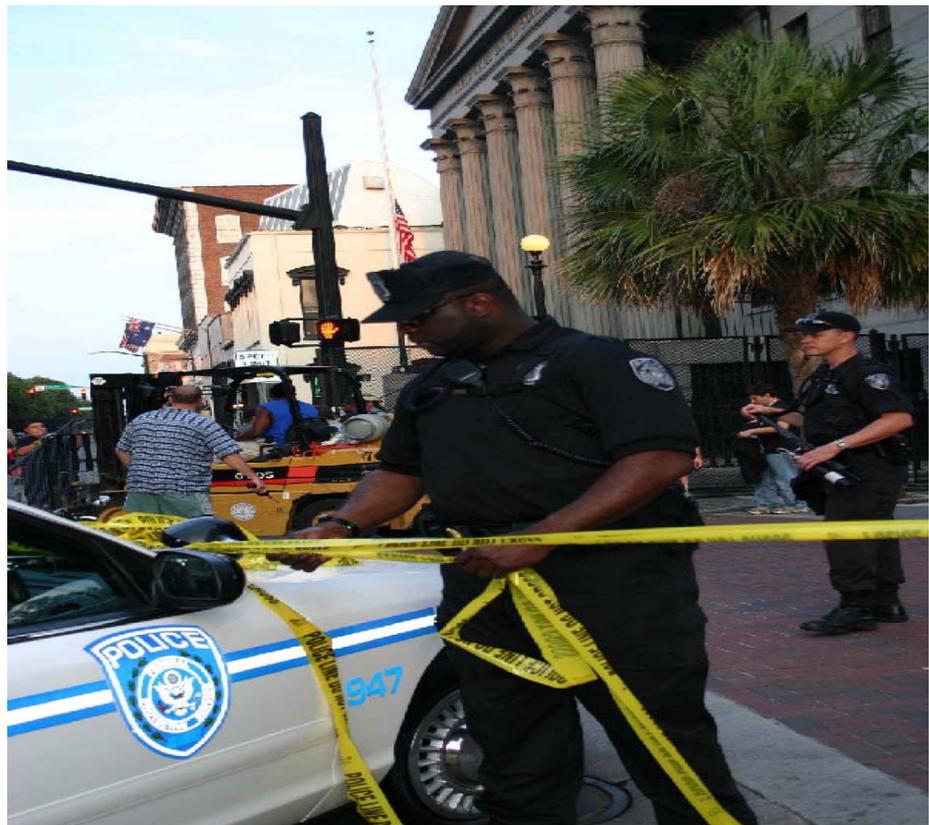


U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security (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.

Federal Protective Service



Victor Jordan, an ICE officer out of FPS' Washington DC Field Office, helps make preparations in Savannah, GA, for the G8 Summit being held June 8-10.