



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

ICE FEDERAL AIR MARSHALS HOST INTERNATIONAL AIR MARSHAL CONFERENCE -- Third Annual International Conference Being Held at FAMS Headquarters --

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Thomas D. Quinn, Director of the Federal Air Marshal Service (FAMS), a division of the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, today announced that the Federal Air Marshal Service is hosting the 2004 International Air Marshal Conference at FAMS headquarters from October 5 – 7, 2004.

The International Air Marshal Conference is an annual gathering of government officials from nations with air marshal programs in place and from nations contemplating starting an air marshals program. The conference is designed to promote international aviation security through the sharing of global experiences.

A different member nation hosts the international conference each year. Previous conferences have been hosted by Israel, Austria, and Germany. Each proved extremely valuable in developing professional relationships between organizations and countries.

Participants at this year's conference will discuss a wide range of topics, including universal air marshal training standards; international training opportunities; international organization of air marshal programs; aviation improvised explosive devices; legal/liability issues; and international status of air marshals.

The attendees will also tour the FAMS Systems Operation Control Division, the FAMS Washington Field Office, and the FAMS training center in Atlantic City, New Jersey. In addition, attendees will visit the National Air & Space Museum's Udvar-Hazy Center in northern Virginia.

The 2004 conference will be critical in demonstrating the importance that the U.S. government places on air marshals, on the Federal Air Marshal Service, and on international cooperation in the aviation domain.

The conference also offers a unique opportunity for the Federal Air Marshal Service to enhance international relationships that are critical to the achievement of its mission -- to detect, deter, and defeat hostile acts targeting U.S. air carriers, airports, passengers, and crews.

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