



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

# Fact Sheet

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## **HERO Corps pilot class includes veterans from all branches of service deploying to 11 states**

- **David Blau**, of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., will be assigned to HSI **Tampa**. Blau was a U.S. Marine Corps section leader who has been on two tours to Iraq. He has an associate's degree in psychology and is working towards a bachelor's degree in the same field.
- **Jeremy Boutwell**, of San Antonio, Texas, will be assigned to HSI **Atlanta**. Boutwell was a U.S. Marine Corps infantryman and intelligence specialist and has been deployed to Iraq, Haiti and Horn of Africa. He has also spent time training and mentoring other combat injured Marines while recovering and transitioning from active duty service.
- **Jeremiah Butler**, of Pine Meadow, Conn. will be assigned to HSI **New Haven, Conn.** Butler served five years in the U.S. Army special operations forces, with two deployments in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.
- **Robert Cowans**, of St. Elizabeth, Jamaica, will be assigned to HSI **Miami**. Cowans was a U.S. Army cargo specialist who deployed to Iraq. He has a degree in computer information systems and is pursuing a bachelor's degree in information technology.
- **Nathan Cruz**, of Trujillo Alto, Puerto Rico, will be assigned to HSI **Orlando, Fla.** Cruz served 10 years in the U.S. Army as a special operations helicopter crew chief.
- **Hampton Culp**, of Savannah, is assigned to HSI **Savannah**. Culp was a U.S. Army signal corps officer working with command, control, communications, computers and intelligence systems for joint military operations and served tours in Kuwait and Afghanistan. He has been working at HSI Savannah for the past year.
- **Justin Gaertner**, of Tampa, will be assigned to HSI **Tampa**. Gaertner served in the U.S. Marine Corps as a combat engineer and three combat deployments, two in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, where he served as a fire team leader and lead sweeper for IEDs. He was wounded in combat by multiple IEDs resulting in the loss of both legs and other permanent injuries. He is a para-Olympic athlete in multiple sports and is assisted by his service dog "Gunner." Most recently, Gaertner worked with the Wounded Warrior Athlete Reconditioning Program at MacDill Air Force Base's Special Operations Command.
- **Steven Gibson**, of Fort Walton Beach, Fla., will be assigned to HSI **Baltimore**. Gibson was a U.S. Army animal care specialist and trainer. He was also a site director and instructor for the Fort Bragg (N.C.) Wounded Warrior Project training soldiers and spouses in computer and information technology.
- **Shannon Krieger**, of Southern Pines, N.C., will be assigned to HSI **New Orleans**. Krieger was a U.S. Army special operations command soldier injured in a helicopter crash conducting combat operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

- **Kevin Leduc**, of Cathedral City, Calif., will be assigned to HSI **Las Vegas**. Leduc was a U.S. Army special operations infantryman, ranger and parachutist with deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. He has degrees in criminal justice and security.
- **Christopher Lehmann**, of Naples, Fla. is assigned to HSI **Savannah**. Lehmann served 10 years in the Army working on joint network radios and has been working in HSI Savannah since January.
- **Thin Luu**, of Saigon, Vietnam, will be assigned to the HSI **Cyber Crimes Center in Fairfax, Va.** Luu was a U.S. Army supply and logistics technician, who has served tours in various combat zones. He has also worked as a supply technician for the warrior transition unit at Fort Belvoir, Va.
- **Jason**, of Fort Worth, Texas, will be assigned to HSI **Dallas**. Jason was a U.S. Air Force special operations pilot who has flown more than 800 combat hours.
- **Neil Wiles** of Scottsdale, Ariz., will be assigned to HSI **Phoenix**. Wiles worked in the U.S. Navy as a Seabee and in the Army as an intelligence officer specializing in biometrics technology. He currently serves as an Air Force Reserve intelligence officer. His assignments included Guantanamo Bay, Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan. He also worked in law enforcement, for the Harrison County Sheriff's Department in Gulfport, Miss., and for the court systems in Maricopa County and Pinal County, Ariz.
- **Thomas**, of Cape Canaveral Fla., will be assigned to HSI **Memphis, Tenn.** Thomas still serves in the U.S. Navy and has served more than 20 years as an air rescue chief, conducting combat and civilian search and rescue and other surveillance and reconnaissance missions.
- **Oskar Zepeda**, of San Fernando, Calif., will be assigned to HSI **Seattle, Wash.** Zepeda has served 10 years as a U.S. Army special operations staff sergeant as a platoon sergeant, ranger and sniper team leader and has been deployed nine times.

# ICE #

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