



CommuniQUÉ

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ZIGLAR UNVEILS NEW SECURITY MEASURES

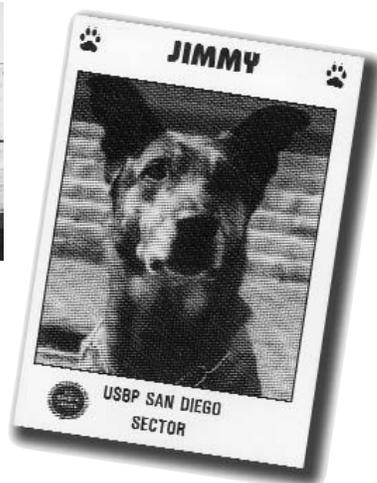
DataShare, a new fraud detection tool at ports of entry, supports INS' commitment to working more closely with other government agencies in sharing information vital to homeland security

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Senior Border Patrol K-9 retires after long, successful career

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Flag Day Children's Citizenship Ceremony features baseball game, fireworks

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HEADQUARTERS *News*

In his own words

ZIGLAR COMMENTS ON PROPOSED DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Commissioner James W. Ziglar issued the following statement to employees June 7 regarding President George W. Bush's announcement of the formation of a Department of Homeland Security.

“THE President has announced his intention to ask Congress to create the Department of Homeland Security. This new department will incorporate the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and a number of other government agencies into a unified border security and domestic defense department.

An important mission

“I want all of you to know that I strongly support the creation of this new cabinet-level department and that I consider this an important and very positive development for the security of our nation and for the mission and employees of the INS. In this new structure, the INS will become a key part of one of the largest agencies in the federal government, and we will be partners in what is the most important mission of our government: protecting the American people and ensuring the safety of our institutions and our precious freedoms.

“The new Department of Homeland Security holds many advantages for the mission of the INS. First, border security has been a primary mission of the INS for many years. By moving this undertaking to a much larger agency, we will better leverage our ability to achieve this mission with the addition of other disciplines and additional resources.

“Second, the INS is particularly well situated for the transition to this new department. We have long recognized that the INS needs to be restructured, and we have taken many fundamental steps in that direction. However, there has been the lingering question as to what the final new structure would look like. We now know how the INS will be restructured. The President's plan will pre-empt all other restructuring proposals, and we can now work toward what will be the final INS structure. In reviewing the President's plan, it is reassuring to see that we have indeed been going down the correct path all along.

Action required now

“Action is required now to make the President's plan a reality. Toward that end, I am today forming an Implementation Task Force to work with the Office of Homeland Security to ensure a smooth transition into the new department. I will personally chair the task force, and its membership will be reflective of the many elements of the INS. The Office of Restructuring will be merged into the Implementation Task Force and will be a major player in its activities.

“The plan that the President unveiled last night will bring both the service and enforcement functions of the INS into the new department. There will be a stronger separation between those two responsibilities, as our own plan reflects, but the new department will also accommodate communication between the service and

“We have long recognized that the INS needs to be restructured, and we have taken many fundamental steps in that direction.”

—Commissioner Ziglar

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Commissioner James W. Ziglar

enforcement functions, a critical element to the success of our mission.

“Of course, this new department will have to be created through the passage of legislation, but the initial outline announced by the President has INS well situated for this transition. Until the new department is created, we should remember that our day-to-day work is just as important as ever. We are the guardians of the borders and our nation still depends on us to inspect new arrivals, protect the borders and ports, and adjudicate benefit applications.

New and great day

“As the legislation progresses and this new department takes on greater definition, I will continue to keep you informed. This is a new and great day for the INS, one in which the mission of border security has taken on a whole new national prominence. Congratulations on the good work you have done in the past, and the future good work I know you will do in aggressively writing this important new chapter in America’s history.”

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INS NEWS *of Note*

6 INDICTED FOR TRAFFICKING, ENSLAVING WORKERS IN N.Y. MIGRANT LABOR CAMPS

SIX people accused of virtually enslaving several dozen Mexican workers at two migrant labor camps near Buffalo, N.Y., and threatening them with physical harm if they tried to escape were indicted June 19 for forced labor under the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Prevention Act (TVPA) of 2000.

“Trafficking of migrant workers is a crime that exploits some of society’s most vulnerable people,” said Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights Ralph F. Boyd Jr. “We will prosecute to the fullest extent of the law those who conspire to traffic in human beings for the purpose of using them as forced labor.”

The 18-count indictment was one of the first brought under the TVPA’s labor and trafficking provisions. The TVPA both mandates serious penalties for conviction of trafficking offenses and allows victims of its severe forms to stay in the United States provided they assist in the investigation or can demonstrate that they would suffer severe harm if returned to their country of origin.

INS Agent Kevin Ryan of the Buffalo District, who worked on the case, said the TVPA provides clear ways to deal with and define trafficking victims as well as enables the victims to feel safe enough to come forward.

“This is the first time that we were able to get anyone to be a witness,” he said. “Now, they know that we’re going to look into it and not just treat them as illegal aliens ..., that our job is not only to locate illegal aliens but to enforce laws regarding those who seek to exploit their illegal status.”

The 18-count indictment accused Maria Garcia, 52; her husband, Jose I. Garcia, 52; their son, Jose J. Garcia, 21; and Elias Botello, another family member, of running the forced labor ring. The defendants are farm contractors, who serve as middlemen providing farmers in the United States with low-cost labor from Mexico, Guatemala, and other countries.

Another relative, Rogelio Espinoza, and a helper from Arizona, Sylvia Munoz Rubio, were also indicted. All the defendants have been arrested, except Espinoza and Rubio, who remain at large. If convicted, the defendants each face up to 20 years in prison.

According to the indictment, alleges that the six defendants conspired to recruit undocumented Mexican boys and men from Arizona and transport them to live in crowded, unsanitary migrant labor camps and perform agricultural work in Orleans and Genesee counties in western New York.

“Basically, they were sold,” Ryan said, explaining the workers agreed to go to New York in exchange for the defendants paying operators of an Arizona safe house their smuggling fee of up to \$1,800 each. “They just figured somehow they’d work it out.”

Upon arrival, however, the operation allegedly used guards to monitor movements, verbally abused the workers, and threatened them with physical harm, deportation, and arrest. As part of the plan to control and exploit the workers, the operation took large deductions from the workers’ earnings, leaving them with virtually no pay.

Ryan said the workers were also frequently not fed—despite working from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. performing manual farm labor in fields of squash, cabbage, and onions.

“If your group’s food ran out on Tuesday, and you were not suppose to go to the store until Thursday, you didn’t eat,” he said.

The case is the result of an interagency investigation by agents of the INS and the U.S. Department of Labor. The case is being prosecuted by the Criminal Section of the Department of Justice’s Civil Rights Division and the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Western District of New York.

The Justice Department got involved after six workers escaped and contacted the Farmworker Legal Services of New York (FLSNY), who contacted the Justice Department on their behalf.

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ZIGLAR UNVEILS NEW SECURITY MEASURES, PORT ENHANCEMENTS DURING BORDER TOUR

By Marilu Cabrera

CREATING safer and smarter borders was the impetus behind the recent enhancement of a computer software program being used at more than 300 U.S. ports of entry. DataShare, as this software program is commonly known, was developed to bolster security by providing an additional tool for inspectors to detect and deter immigration fraud.

“This fraud detection tool goes right along with INS’ commitment to working more closely with other government agencies in sharing vital information in order to ensure the safety and security of the American people,” Commissioner James W. Ziglar said at a June 14 press conference inaugurating DataShare’s first six months.

The press conference took place at San Francisco’s International Airport, one of DataShare’s initial test sites. It was held in conjunction with the Department of State whose information is shared with the INS through DataShare, as the name implies.

While the DataShare system has been in use since December 1995, providing information on immigrant visas, in December of last year, INS and State expanded the initiative to include information on non-immigrant visas.

This expansion includes the technology to use a computer to view both biographic information and photographic images of visa holders who received their documents at consular posts thousands of miles away. Within seconds, INS inspectors in the secondary inspection area are able to determine whether an imposter photo has been substituted for the image of a legitimate visa recipient.

“Before introducing DataShare at the ports of entry, inspectors did not have the capability of downloading a digital photograph on their computers to verify the true identity of a non-immigrant being questioned in secondary,” said Chief Inspector Lourdes Garcia. “Our inspectors are very well-trained in detecting fraud, yet sometimes doubts exist, which can now be quickly clarified by using this very reliable tool to combat fraud.”

Garcia is responsible for the implementation of DataShare at ports of entry across the nation, and attributes the success of this system to the dedication of all INS employees involved in the project. She particularly praises Inspector Valerie



Photo by Sharon Rummery

Commissioner James W. Ziglar discusses creating safer, smarter borders with Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, representing the 18th Congressional District of Texas, during his visit to San Francisco.

Isabell who has been working diligently to ensure DataShare’s success.

According to Garcia, DataShare was tested in Miami, Fla.; Newark, N.J.; and San Francisco, Calif. After the tragic events of Sept. 11, the inspections program moved immediately to implement DataShare at all ports of entry and quickly trained inspectors on using this software to augment its fraud detection capabilities.

The afternoons before and after the press conference, the Commissioner did not miss the opportunity to participate in one of the events he enjoys most—meeting and listening to the men and women who work for the INS. San Francisco District employees were able to ask the Commissioner questions about the future of the agency, express some of their concerns, and share their ideas about their respective programs.

“I truly enjoy meeting the many spectacular people that work for our agency,” Ziglar said. “The opportunity to listen to their concerns, especially during these times of uncertainty, is a very important part of my job, and one which I thoroughly enjoy.”

HEADQUARTERS *News*

ATTORNEY GENERAL CALLS FOR NEW RULES GOVERNING ENTRY OF INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

CALLING for a new “vital line of defense” against terrorists, Attorney General John Ashcroft proposed Justice Department regulations recently that will require 100,000 foreign students, tourists, researchers, and other visitors to register with the federal government.

“In this new war, our enemies’ platoons infiltrate our borders quietly, blending in with visitors and tourists and students and workers,” Ashcroft said at a June 5 press conference.

The new regulations, which will take effect this fall after a public comment period, require fingerprinting and photographing at the border, periodic registration of international visitors who stay in the United States 30 days or more, and exit

controls to help INS remove those visitors who overstay their visas.

Aimed at responding to a Congressionally mandated goal of developing by 2005 a system that tracks virtually all of the 35 million annual visitors to the United States, the regulations call for a pilot entry-exit registration system focusing on individuals who pose potential national security risks.

Under the pilot system, international visitors arriving at airports and seaports who fit the profile of potential terrorists will have their fingerprints matched electronically against federal databases.

“We will be able to stop terrorists from entering the country,” Ashcroft said of the first phase of the Congressionally mandated endeavor. “Fingerprints don’t lie.”

After 30 days in the country, international visitors will have to register with the INS. Those already in the United States who fall into categories of elevated national security concern also will be instructed to report to the INS for registration, fingerprints, and photographs. All of these individuals will be required to report to INS offices every 12 months until they leave. Failure to register will result in the visitor’s name being turned over to law enforcement, and the visitor will be subject to a

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“We will be able to stop terrorists from entering the country. Fingerprints don’t lie.”

—Attorney General Ashcroft

INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT OF NEW REGISTRATION SYSTEM

THE registration system Attorney General John Ashcroft announced June 5 will be similar to those systems already in place in most European countries. Examples include:

- **Aliens in France must register within seven days.** Aliens who stay for an extended period of time in France must register with the local prefecture of the national police within one week of arriving in the country, every 12 months, and whenever they change address. Everyone in France—alien, tourist, citizen, or otherwise—is required to carry identification or registration papers with them at all times.
- **Aliens in Great Britain are required to register within seven days.** In addition to the seven-day registration requirement, whenever aliens change address, university, or job, they must notify the local police station and provide passport, visa, proof of financial means, proof of enrollment in school or employment, and proof of a place to live.
- **Aliens in Germany must register and carry registration papers on their person at all times.** In Germany, aliens must register when they establish residence and whenever they change address. They must provide their passport and documentation of intended activities while in the country and carry registration papers on their person at all times.

SOME 50 WASHINGTON, D.C., EMPLOYEES PARTICIPATE IN SPECIAL OLYMPICS RUN

MORE than 50 INS employees from the Washington, D.C., area participated in the 17th Annual Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics on June 7 benefiting the District of Columbia Special Olympics.

An estimated 1,200 people from more than 40 federal and local law enforcement agencies participated in the event, raising money to enhance the lives of some 2,500 D.C.-area children and adults with developmental disabilities. Participants gathered on the steps of the U.S. Capitol to light the Special Olympics "Flame of Hope" Torch and run the 3-mile course.

"The U.S. Border Patrol and INS were fortunate to participate in the 17th Annual Law Enforcement



Border Patrol agents carrying the colors during the run.

Torch Run for the Special Olympians in the Washington, D.C., area. This event allows the different law enforcement agencies and their co-workers the opportunity to get together and make liaison while participating in this worthwhile activity," said Al Morris, director of health improvement and physical fitness for the



INS employees gathered on the U.S. Capitol steps waiting for the "Flame of Hope" Torch to be lit.

Border Patrol. "Contacts made and discussions held during this activity can serve the agency and increase cooperation among the different federal and local law enforcement agencies in this time of increased law enforcement alertness."

The Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics is a partnership between local law enforcement communities and Special Olympics to raise money and awareness for the organization. Since the program's inception in 1981, torch runs around the country have raised \$54 million, making the program the most successful grass-roots fundraiser for the Special Olympics in the world.

VISITORS

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\$1,000 fine, incarceration, and possible removal from the country.

"On Sept. 11, the American definition of national security changed and changed forever," Achcroft said.

The changes update existing regulations—which are not always enforced—allowing the registration and fingerprinting of any illegal immigrant older than 14 who is in this country for more than 30 days as well as requiring rigorous registration and fingerprinting for nationals of Iraq, Iran, Sudan, and Libya.

Under the new regulations, visitors from Iraq, Iran, Sudan, and Libya will make up less than one-fifth of the 100,000 subjected to the new registration system. The remainder, Ashcroft said, will be targeted based on criteria to determine their "risk of

involvement in terrorist activity" and whether they fall into "categories of elevated national-security concern."

"No country is totally exempt," he said.

The final component of the system proposed under the new regulations will be establishing a system of exit controls, so that individuals who attempt to evade the registration requirements or who attempt to stay in the country beyond their permitted time are arrested and removed.

International visitors who violate these rules, along with other alien absconders, will have their photographs, fingerprints, and information placed in the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) system. The nation's 650,000 police officers check this system regularly in the course of traffic stops and routine encounters.

INS PROCESSING CENTER PHYSICIAN CARES FOR RESCUE WORKERS FOLLOWING SEPT. 11 ATTACKS

This article is the fourth in a series of articles about INS people and partners detailing their contributions to the search, rescue, and relief efforts following Sept. 11. This article is about the experience of the clinical director of the INS Service Processing Center in Queens, N.Y., a physician and captain in the Commissioned Corps Readiness Force (CCRF), who was deployed to the World Trade Center ground zero first as an independent volunteer and then as a member of the CCRF in the days immediately following Sept. 11.



SEPT. 11 began just like any other day at the INS Service Processing Center in Queens, N.Y. Clinical Director Neal Collins had just finished seeing his first group of patients when he learned of the initial attack on the World Trade Center.

“I remarked to my administrator that no pilot would fly into a building of that size by accident,” Collins recounted. “I felt that the pilot must have wanted to commit suicide.”

Second plane hit

When the second plane hit, Collins contacted Public Health Service (PHS) Headquarters and was advised to call all available staff to return to work and plan to stay for the duration.

Collins and the other health professionals staffing INS detention facilities work for the Department of Health and Human Services’ Division of Immigration Health Services (DIHS). Through a long-standing agreement, DIHS medical staff—PHS-commissioned officers, civil servants, and contract employees—are assigned to 11 INS facilities nationwide.

As the morning’s events unfolded, the INS facility lost communications with Washington and the two other New York area clinics. “The mood was not one of fear amongst my staff, but an incredible desire for information,” Collins said. “The lack of

communication with Washington was especially frustrating.”

Collins went to the dorms to see how the detainees were responding to what they saw on television. “Most seemed as shocked as we were, and a few wanted to give blood,” he said.

He anticipated keeping a small staff in place at the processing center and sending the rest to help out in the emergency response. The Surgeon General, however, ordered all officers to stay at their duty stations until officially relieved. INS also asked staff to remain on duty.

“It was very frustrating, as a native New Yorker, to see a desperate need in my home town and not be able to respond,” Collins recalled.

Virtually no work

There was virtually no work for the processing center staff members to do with the airports closed. They spent the rest of the week expecting to be called to respond to ground zero, but the call never came. The staff was finally released on seven-hour recall on Friday, Sept 14.

That afternoon, Collins decided to go to ground zero and help out along with Tom Hochberg, a social worker friend. They took the Long Island Rail Road into Penn Station, went as far as they could on the subway, and began what promised to be a very long walk. Later some military personnel offered to drive Collins and Hochberg the rest of the way. During the ride, they were struck by the sheer enormity of the disaster site—debris was scattered on the roads and buildings, and finely pulverized concrete covered every surface.

Collins told the first person he found that he was a doctor and was there to volunteer in any way that he could. He was taken to a hastily set up, but well equipped, emergency treatment area in the Equitable Building. During that first night, he treated a variety of medical problems, including a

heart attack and a psychotic breakdown.

“It was clear to me that most of the firefighters and police officers were working on pure adrenaline,” Collins said. “The point of exhaustion had well passed for them.”



Collins remembers being struck by the sheer enormity of the disaster site.

SENIOR BORDER PATROL K-9 RETIRES AFTER MORE THAN 10 YEARS OF SERVICE

Construction workers affected most

“Most would work until they couldn’t stay awake anymore and then go to the edge of the pile and curl up and get some sleep ... most said they were not leaving their buddies.” he continued. “They clearly meant those friends who were still lost. The construction workers seemed to be the most affected by the site of the human remains brought out of the pile.”

Collins would occasionally leave the clinic and walk to the recovery site. Once, he found some human remains. The tissue was so impregnated by pulverized concrete that initially he did not realize what it was. When he took the remains to the morgue, he realized that most of the recovered remains were in similarly unidentifiable condition.



Neal Collins, the clinical director of the INS Service Processing Center in Queens, N.Y., at the New York ground zero.

He would spend most of the weekend taking care of more common problems such as cuts, scrapes, bruises, and eyes filled with grit and particles.

Collins would return to ground zero two days later to work on official orders as a member of the CCRF through Oct. 3. CCRF participation is voluntary, and commissioned public health officers who volunteer for the CCRF receive training and stand ready to assist with emergency responses when the U.S. Surgeon General activates them under the Federal Response Plan.

Grateful for experience

“The work I did was not as stressful to me as it was to those who knew someone who was killed or injured in the attack,” Collins said. “I am grateful that I was able to help out my home town when I felt they needed me most.”

A long-time employee of the Border Patrol’s San Diego Sector, known for his outstanding service record and enthusiastic attitude, was honored June 4, his last day on the job. Combining an unwavering devotion to duty, a friendly personality that appeals to young and old alike, and a playful spirit, the retiree’s presence will be greatly missed by his colleagues.

At the time of his retirement, Jimmy was the oldest active Border Patrol detection dog. The 12-year-old Belgian Malinois was also the longest serving of the INS’ some 275 active detection dogs. Jimmy’s service record boasts 10 years and eight months of active duty and several major accomplishments.

“My K-9 is trained to locate concealed human beings in a manner similar to that of a search and rescue dog and is additionally trained to detect the presence of marijuana, cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, and the derivative odors of all of those drugs,” said Jimmy’s handler Bill Kocan, senior Border Patrol agent, San Diego Sector. Kocan is also the San Diego Border Patrol K-9 coordinator overseeing 31 dog teams in the San Diego Sector.



A Jimmy trading card for “anti-drug” education programs.

A nose for contraband

Jimmy performed most of his work at the U.S. Border Patrol checkpoint in San Clemente and at various border areas throughout the San Diego Sector. Additionally, Jimmy rendered assistance to federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies in the execution of search warrants, Fourth Amendment searches, and consent searches of residences and vehicles.

Thanks to Jimmy’s olfactory abilities, the Border Patrol located 332 concealed human beings and made a total of 456 narcotics-related seizures

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Jimmy (left) and Bill Kocan’s new detection dog, Wendy, relax together on a couch in a hotel room.

INS NEWS FROM *the Field*

EL PASO SECTOR DRAWS MORE THAN 125 OFFICERS TO 'WOMEN IN LAW ENFORCEMENT CONFERENCE'

IN an event that drew more than 125 law enforcement professionals from around the country, the El Paso Border Patrol Sector, hosted its second "Women in Law Enforcement Conference" June 4 and 5 in El Paso, Texas.

"The guest speakers were outstanding and contributed a great deal to this year's conference,"

Chief Luis E. Barker of the El Paso Sector said. "Their remarks were timely, informative, and certainly kept the crowd captivated."



Deputy Assistant Regional Director Debi Hines, Border Patrol, Central Regional Office, addresses the conference as Chief Luis E. Barker of the El Paso Sector (right) looks on.

The El Paso Sector Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Advisory Committee sponsored the event, which featured training and discussion in verbal judo, stress management, and even financial management.

Among the law enforcement women executives to speak at

the conference were Deputy Assistant Regional Director Debi Hines, Border Patrol, Central Regional Office; Maj. Dolores Messick, El Paso County Sheriff's Department; and Cmdr. Sylvia Aguilar, El Paso Police Department.

Respecting diversity

Keynote speaker Rosa Guerrero, an educational consultant, spoke about "respecting diversity" during the luncheon the first day of the conference.

"I thoroughly enjoyed the presentation given by Mrs. Rosa Guerrero," Jose Luis Patch, Border Patrol Agent, El Paso Sector said. "The wisdom she shared was both inspirational and enlightening."

Although conference participants consisted primarily of women in law enforcement, participation was open to anyone in the law enforcement profession. It was designed to encourage officers at all levels to reaffirm their goals and network with others in the law enforcement field.

Many of the participants, including Group Supervisor Lupe Gillespie, U.S. Customs Service, Office of Investigations, said they were proud to be part of the event and were grateful to the El Paso sector for hosting it.

Enhancing job performance

"We felt honored because this type of conference recognizes the important contributions made by women in law enforcement," Gillespie said. "The training provided enhances our job performance and teaches us to appreciate the complexity of our different cultures and learn how they all interlock with one another."

Deputy Chief Patrol Agent Jerry L. Armstrong, who also attended the event, said similar events are likely to be planned in the future.

"If this most recent conference is a barometer for the swell of interest, the future bodes well for hosting a similar event in days to come," he said.



The Women in Law Enforcement Conference drew more than 125 law enforcement professionals from around the country.

FLAG DAY CHILDREN'S CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY FEATURES BASEBALL GAME, GIANT FLAG, FIREWORKS

By Jeffrey Belling

WOULDN'T it be a thrill to throw out the first pitch of a game from the mound at a professional baseball field? How about watching a fireworks show in the stadium? And, maybe most important, at least to the parents of the children who experience this, what if you were presented with a certificate proclaiming you to be a U.S. citizen on the same day?

Ten orphans from several countries were able to take advantage of these opportunities at a special Flag Day Children's Citizenship Ceremony held June 14 in Buffalo, N.Y.

"This ceremony is part of a special celebration of Flag Day, a nationally designated day to honor our flag, the very symbol of our freedom," Buffalo District Director M. Frances Holmes said.

The special ceremony—held at Dunn Tire Park, home of the Buffalo Bisons baseball team—celebrated children and their importance as the fabric of the United States.

The 10 orphans adopted by U.S. families were invited to receive their certificates of citizenship at the ceremony and also witness the unveiling of a homemade U.S. flag. The flag was made up of 686 individual squares painted by elementary and middle school students from the Williamsville schools and then sewn together into a 25-by-30-foot stars-and-stripes.

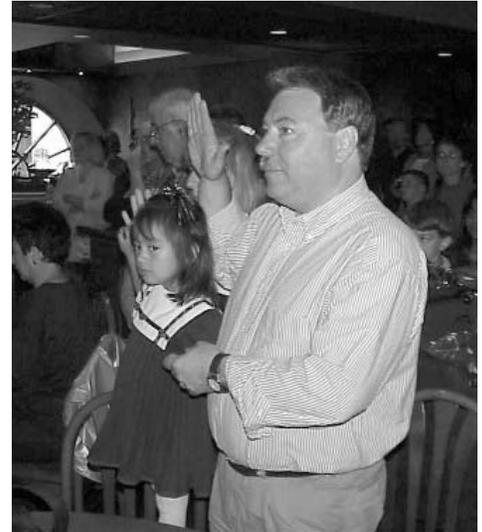
The project, sponsored as the Nextel Partners American Art Flag, was unfurled on the field by a group of students, teachers, and administrators from Williamsville before the ceremony.

"It is a point of civic pride that Flag Day has its origins in Buffalo and Erie

County," Holmes noted. "Sara M. Hinson, a Buffalo school teacher at the turn of the century, is credited with inspiring President Woodrow Wilson to proclaim Flag Day a national holiday on June 4, 1917."

After the citizenship ceremony and oath, the children's recognition continued during the Buffalo Bisons' evening baseball game against the Durham Bulls. The children and their families received complementary tickets to the game and were invited with their parents out onto the field to throw the first pitch. The patchwork flag was displayed over the right field fence during the game.

Other highlights included a re-enactment of the first Flag Day and an open tent party with a live band. As a grand finale, an after-the-game fireworks display illuminated the evening sky.



Maria Alexandria Bigos, a 3-year-old orphan from Guatemala, swears in as a U.S. citizen with her adoptive father, Robert, at a special Flag Day Children's Citizenship Ceremony in Buffalo, N.Y. Nine other orphans from China, Romania, Korea, Russia, and the Ukraine also participated.



Students, staff, and administrators from the Williamsville Schools unfurl the Nextel Partners American Art Flag.

BUFFALO

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Some of these workers have been granted T visas under TVPA provisions to serve as witnesses in the case.

Attorney Dan Werner of FLSNY said, despite a few paperwork glitches between the agencies involved in the case because of the newness of the T visa process, his clients were pleased with the experience. "They've been very relieved about the way they have been treated," he said.

He also stressed how pleased he is that the TVPA enables his office to assure victims of severe forms of trafficking that they will not be deported for coming forward and reporting their abuse.

"These are people that have been put through incredible trauma," he said. "There's no need to put them through additional turmoil."

SMUGGLERS INDICTED FOR TRAFFICKING, FORCING WOMEN INTO PROSTITUTION

SIX immigrant smugglers who brought hundreds of Ukrainians into the United States through Mexico and forced some women into prostitution were convicted June 26 in Los Angeles, Calif.

The convictions resulted from an investigation begun in 1999 after Border Patrol agents discovered a discarded video camera on a dirt trail east of San Diego containing a videotaped recording of a Russian-speaking family's journey to Mexico. The investigation gained ground over the next few months when agents began noticing a large number of Ukrainians trying to enter the United States from Mexico without proper paperwork.

"Thanks to the high degree of cooperation and coordination between the INS investigation unit, the FBI, and the U.S. Attorney's Office, we have definitely dismantled the pipeline for smuggling illegal Ukrainians through the San Diego Sector," said Lauren Mack, INS public affairs officer in San Diego. "The INS identified the pattern of Ukrainians attempting to enter the United States through San Ysidro, the FBI provided the wiretapping that gathered the evidence that supported the indictments, and the U.S. Attorney's office got the indictments and convictions."

Among those convicted were the organization's ringleaders, a man and woman who oversaw dozens of lower-level conspirators in Ukraine, Mexico, and the United States. They were Serge Mezheritsky, 35, of Los Angeles, the outfit's leader, and Tetyana "Tanya" Komisaruk, 49, of North Hills, the outfit's manager of smuggling operations.

Several of Komisaruk's family members also were convicted of participating in the smuggling operation, including her husband, Valeriy, and daughter and son-in law, Lorina Latysheva, 24, and Oleksander Valerievich Latyshev, 28, both of Los Angeles. The sixth defendant convicted was Grigory Chernov, 49, of Los Angeles.

The defendants were among 18 people indicted last year on charges ranging from importing and harboring aliens for purpose of prostitution, conspiracy to transport illegal aliens, smuggling aliens for profit, and money laundering. Six of the charged remain fugitives, and five defendants have pleaded guilty.

The 46-page indictment filed last year alleged members of the conspiracy arranged for Ukrainians to travel to Mexico with valid tourist visas and stay at a villa just south of Tijuana before being smuggled into the United States. While at the villa, Komisaruk coached them on how to look and act like U.S. citizens and how to say "United States citizen" to border guards without an accent. Other Ukrainians, the indictment said, were smuggled into the United States via boat and unfenced portions of the U.S.-Mexico border near San Diego.

Once in Los Angeles, some women were forced to work as prostitutes for six months or more to pay off their travel fees and living expenses. Often, women were sold to pimps and madams, according to an FBI affidavit.

DEPLOYMENT OF 'RESCUE BEACONS' IN ARIZONA RESULTS IN FIRST RESCUE

THREE undocumented immigrants, suffering from dehydration and heat exposure, were rescued June 14 after alerting Border Patrol agents by activating a "rescue beacon" located 30 miles north of the U.S.-Mexico border.

They were the first people to use one of the six "rescue beacons" the Yuma Sector recently deployed in remote desert areas of western Arizona. Border Patrol Search, Trauma, and Rescue (BORSTAR) team agents responded quickly and administered first aid.

"I'm encouraged by this initial success," Yuma Sector Border Patrol Chief Mike Nicley said. "We will continue to test the beacons as we also develop other measures to ensure the safety and security of our Southwest border."

The beacons are one of several new safety measures Commissioner James W. Ziglar announced during a visit to the Southwest border in May. Resting on a concrete base, the 30-foot tall beacons are topped by reflective mirrors and a strobe light to make them visible for up to four miles during the day and five miles at night.

Designed and built by the sector, the beacons send an electronic distress signal to the sector's communications center

when the button at their base is pushed. A metal sign posted on the beacons advises migrants in English and Spanish, "If you need help, push red button. U.S. Border Patrol will arrive in 1 hour. Do not leave this location."

Last year, 336 migrants died attempting to cross into the United States. So far this year, more than 179 have met that fate. Coyotes, or migrant smugglers, often leave their charges in the desert with insufficient provisions after being paid thousands of dollars to guide them across the border.

"We are committed to doing everything possible to make our Southern border safer and more secure and that should be reassuring for citizens of both nations," said Ziglar when he announced the new safety measures.

Other new safety measures the Commissioner announced in May, also targeting southwestern Arizona and southeastern California, include an unprecedented agreement by the United States and Mexico to collaborate to identify and arrest migrant smugglers; stepping up aerial surveillance north of the border; deploying hovercraft and horses to patrol the All-American Canal; and extending the testing of a non-lethal pepperball system beyond the San Diego area.

BORDER PATROL PLACES FIRST IN DEATH RACE'S LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION, SERVES OTHER TEAMS

DURING the more than 250-mile Mojave Death Race in southern California and southwestern Nevada June 8 and 9, Border Patrol agents did what they always do in a day's work.

They biked and ran through remote desert sands and gravel, coping with rattlesnakes and scorpions, potential heat exhaustion from 127-degree temperatures, and vertigo from steep downhill declines. They also provided emergency medical treatment to those in need around them.

This time, however, their endurance, stamina, athleticism, and valor not only brought them first place in the race's law enforcement division with a time of 28:56:52, it also brought them recognition for going beyond the call of duty in serving those around them.

"Lucky thing that they were there. I'm glad that they could help," said Death Race Coordinator Ron Cooke. "It was an added means of medical support and aid."

Agent Diana Hill from San Diego Sector, one of the 12 members of the Border Patrol team, said as the name "death race" implies, the event is a potential killer.

There are some 105 miles of running, 78 of mountain biking, and 100 of road biking through some of the most desolate land in the Mojave Desert. Terrain ranges from soft desert sand to hard-packed dirt, rocks, gravel, weathered asphalt, and paved and dirt roads. Nighttime temperatures can dip into the 30s and daytime temperatures can push to nearly 130, less than ideal conditions for heavy exertion.

That, of course, is part of the attraction. "This is not another pretty 5 or 10 K race on Sunday morning at the beach," Hill said. "It's hard to explain, and people think we're crazy for doing it, but it's a great experience."

Having the Border Patrol's ambulance and emergency medical technicians (EMTs) around, she said, offered tremendous support to some of the teams participating who were less familiar with harsh desert conditions and the signs of dehydration and heat exhaustion.

"People were definitely calling us whenever they had a runner who was dizzy," she said. "It was good PR, but our guys were kind of getting overwhelmed."

But the camaraderie and appreciation before and after the finish line made it all worthwhile, she said.

This year, as in the past eight years since the race began, nobody was seriously injured.

Second year in a row

This is the second year in a row that the Border Patrol has placed first in the death race's law enforcement division. The Arizona Trailblazers, an open division team out of Tucson, came in first overall the third year in a row.

The teams range from groups of friends in the open division to teams representing fire departments, military services, and corporations. There are teams made up of only women, and there is even a team from a middle school in South Central Los Angeles.

Each team is made up of 12 members who divide 21 legs of running, mountain biking, and road biking



Team Captain Bill Fuller about to cross the finish line with Dave Wilson riding an ATV next to him.

that range from 6 to 42 miles. The race begins and ends in Primm, Nev., and continues relay style throughout the day and night until the race is finished ... or a team drops out.

This year's Border Patrol team consisted of Team Captain Bill Fuller, Bill Allan, Glen Graczyk, Linda Morlet, Manny Ng, George

Prat, Shane Smith, Jed Terry, Dave Wilson, and Hill out of the San Diego Sector as well as Peter Hermansen and Charles Sachs from Tucson Sector.

The support crew from San Diego Sector consisted of Wally Davenport and Jay Visconti, who drove the pace and chase vehicles, and Bobby Hill, who drove the motorhome and cooked the team's meals.

Thanks to many

"We had pretty great support. I would like to especially thank Patrol Agent in Charge Sherry Feltner and Assistant Patrol Agent in Charge Rene Gonzalez from the Temecula Station for their support and the use of service vehicles," Hill said, "also Western Region Deputy Assistant Regional Director Monty Garland and El Centro Sector for the use of the recruiting trailer.

"Their combined support definitely made a difference this year," Hill continued. "I'm glad we could share some of it with others."

STATE-OF-THE-ART BIOMETRIC TECHNOLOGY EASES PASSAGE ALONG CANADIAN BORDER

LOW-risk travelers enrolled in a program known as NEXUS began harnessing state-of-the-art biometric technology June 26 to ease their passage across the Canada-U.S. border at the Peace Arch and Pacific Highway ports of entry near Blaine, Wash.

NEXUS is a binational initiative being spearheaded by INS, Citizenship and Immigration Canada, the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency, and the U.S. Customs Service. It replaces PACE, a windshield decal program for expediting border crossings that ended because of post-Sept. 11 security concerns.

"This is a great example of U.S.-Canadian cooperation to speed the border crossing process for frequent visitors and to promote international trade and travel while maintaining the security of our borders," said Jan Peté, Seattle District

acting assistant district director for inspections.

NEXUS card holders are able to cross the border without the usual questioning. They flash their card to a border-crossing agent and, through radio-transponder and smart-card technology, the occupants' identities will immediately be flashed on a computer screen. The agent visually confirms their identities and then lets the vehicle pass. All passengers in a vehicle using NEXUS lanes must have cards.

Motorists who desire the conveniences of NEXUS must agree to background checks by U.S. and Canadian authorities, electronic fingerprinting, and an in-person interview at the NEXUS enrollment office, which also opened June 26 at the Pacific Highway truck crossing. U.S. citizens must

pay \$50, and Canadians \$80, for a NEXUS card, which is good for five years.

Authorities actually began accepting applications for the local NEXUS program in early June and received more than 18,000 applications in the first two weeks. Officials eventually expect to enroll more than 100,000 local participants.

The Peace Arch and Pacific Highway were the second and third ports of entry along the Canada-U.S. border to implement NEXUS. The first NEXUS lane opened as a pilot at the border crossing linking Port Huron, Mich., and Sarnia, Ont., in November 2000. The pilot was suspended after Sept. 11. Following a thorough review of the pilot results, the lane reopened in December. Other border crossings, including Point Roberts, Wash./Boundary Bay, B.C., are expected to follow suit in the near future.

K-9 PROGRAM GROWS, TEACHES TEAMWORK

FOR the past 10 years all INS detection dogs have been trained at the agency's National K-9 Facility in El Paso, Texas. Before that facility opened, Jimmy and his K-9 colleagues received their training from a private organization before beginning their careers.

During an initial 12-week training period, patrol dogs learn to alert on specific scents, sit and stare at the source of the scent, and wait for their handlers to acknowledge their alert.

About four weeks of the training are devoted to teaching the dogs and their handlers to work as a team. Each team must pass a three-day certification test before they can go to work.

Dogs and their handlers are then paired for the working life of the dog or until the handler retires or transfers out of the K-9 service. To retain their certification, each team must complete 16 hours of training each month.

DOG

Continued from page 9

valued at more than \$12 million. Many of the recovered narcotics were hidden in specially fabricated compartments—including false floors, working vehicle batteries, and gas tanks—that would not have been located without the K-9's special skills.

A four-footed goodwill ambassador

In addition to his detection duties, Jimmy traveled with Kocan throughout the San Diego Sector and across the nation promoting the Border Patrol's K-9 service, informing the public about its role in enforcing immigration and narcotics laws, and educating youth about the dangers of illicit drug use.

"I consider the hundreds of hours of 'anti-drug' education I have performed with my K-9 in public and private school sectors an investment in the future of our great nation," Kocan said.

During one recent visit to a high school, a male student approached Kocan and Jimmy and shared how their visit to his elementary school ten years earlier

helped him avoid experimentation with illegal drugs.

"That really made me feel that K-9 Jimmy and I had really made a difference in at least one young person's life," he said.

The team also represented the Border Patrol at the last six Public Service Recognition Week events, which are held annually in May on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

One of the family

Dogs and their handlers are paired for the working life of the dog or until the handler retires or transfers out of the K-9 service. During their careers, patrol dogs live with their handlers, and most stay with their handlers after retirement.

"K-9 Jimmy now belongs to me and will live out the rest of his life with me at my home. One thing I will say for sure, is that, he will be very well taken care in his retirement," Kocan said. "In my eyes, K-9 Jimmy is not just a dog, as some would say, but he is truly a member of my family."

A DAY OF DRAGON DANCING OPENS DALLAS ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE EVENT

By Jennifer A. West and Patricia James

THE pounding beat of drums accompanied shrieks of fearful delight from the crowd as colorful billows of dragon-shaped fabric gracefully weaved among the audience during the opening session of the 2002 Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Special Event on May 22 in Dallas, Texas.

This event, jointly hosted by the INS Administrative Center-Dallas (ACD), Central Region Operations, Dallas District, and Texas Service Center focused attention on the positive theme, "Unity in Freedom."

"Unity in Freedom"

"Unity means one, and 'Unity in Freedom' to me means that we need to value and respect each other," said Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Manager Katie Arnette. "Events like this enable us to have unity, and the freedom to celebrate and appreciate our differences as we continue to learn from each other."

The audience was invited to view beautiful and decorative displays of Japanese kimonos suspended from the ceiling as well as other cultural treasures, such as colorful lanterns, hand-painted silk scarves, and decorative fans. Smiles and applause erupted from the some 200 audience members during each of several Asian dance demonstrations.

Each unique performance, artistically presented by members of the Tarrant County Asian American Chamber of Commerce, was preceded by an educational segment on the significance and meaning of each dance.

Dancers donned hats upon the heads of individuals from the audience and enlisted each to become, often at first reluctant, eager volunteers to join in the dancing.

Oscar Macaraeg, chamber president, concluded the event with a speech of appreciation for the opportunity to provide education about, and to celebrate the Asian American/Pacific Islander cultures. Afterwards, the audience and dancers mingled while enjoying a delectable array of cultural food samples.

"This event helped to successfully achieve the INS EEO Special Emphasis and Affirmative Employment Program goals to educate employees about this exciting culture, and to promote an inclusive atmosphere where all individuals may feel valued for their unique contribution to our workforce," Arnette said.



▲ Colorful billows of dragon-shaped fabric gracefully weaving among the audience during the 2002 Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Special Event in Dallas, Texas.

▶ Some 200 audience members viewed and, in some cases, participated in several Asian dance demonstrations.



She noted that later in the month of May, the ACD-EEO staff was pleased to have the opportunity to represent the INS at the Greater Dallas Asian American Chamber of Commerce 2002 Excellence in Education Banquet in Dallas, Texas.

"We thoroughly enjoyed the keynote speaker of the banquet, U. S. Secretary of Labor, Ms. Elaine Chao," she said. "Ms. Chao was the first Asian-American woman appointed to a President's cabinet in U.S. history. The enlightening event was well attended and provided a revealing look into the culture of Asian young adults who have striven for excellence and to excel in education."

Pleased to extend support

Arnette said the INS was pleased to extend support to these young adults and to their goals in furthering educational pursuits as well as future careers in a wide range of areas, such as biology, chemistry, pediatrics, and electrical engineering.

"The ACD-EEO office took this occasion to progress the INS Affirmative Employment Program goals by promoting a positive public image of the INS to the attendees from the community who also may become job applicants of the future," she said.

GOOD NEWS INSide



Lou Nardi after bagging a hole-in-one.

NARDI BAGS FIRST GOLF HOLE-IN-ONE

Lou Nardi, acting deputy director for the National Security Unit, bagged his first-ever hole-in-one during a recent golf outing in the Wisconsin Dells, Wis., area.

Nardi participated in the third annual Chicago District golf outing June 5 and 6, during a visit with former colleagues. While on the ninth hole of the Wilderness Resort, he aced his 163-yard shot, sinking his very first hole-in-one. Nardi became a local celebrity, and his photo made the front page of the local newspaper's sports section.

BORDER PATROL AGENTS INTERCEPT 4 TONS OF POT

Marfa Sector Border Patrol Agents **Julian Hernandez** and **Robert Jock Jr.** seized close to 8,600 pounds of marijuana worth nearly \$7 million



Boxes containing \$7 million worth of marijuana

from a tractor trailer traveling eastbound on I-10 near Sierra Blanca, Texas, on June 28.

The agents were alerted by K-9 Harro while conducting a routine inspection at the Highway 10 checkpoint. Further inspection of the trailer revealed 108 boxes filled with marijuana. The driver and co-driver, both Mexican nationals, were placed under arrest. Both individuals are legal U.S. residents.

MARFA SECTOR HOSTS BINATIONAL TRAINING

Border Patrol agents from the Marfa Sector hosted 22 Mexican officials in a binational training session in Presidio, Texas. Representatives from Mexican local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies; medical personnel; and Mexican military personnel participated in the training June 25-27.

The training included role-playing scenarios in which U.S. Border Patrol agents taught participants how to carry out search and rescue operations, emergency medical response, and desert rescue.

"Both countries are committed to promoting safety along our borders," said Chief Patrol Agent **Simon Garza Jr.** "These binational training sessions are a crucial part of the border safety effort."



Marfa Sector Border Patrol agents and 22 Mexican officials during a binational training session in Presidio, Texas.

GORDON 2002 PEACE OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Supervisory Border Patrol Agent **Richard Gordon** was honored April 20 at the Peace Officer of the Year Ceremony for planning, coordinating, and participating in the Campo Station's First Alert Snow Team (FAST) program.

The FAST program is designed to deter illegal aliens from using the remote wilderness areas of the Cleveland National Forest as a means of entry into the United States. The program also includes rescue plans in the event individuals are caught in severe winter storms. This past winter, the FAST unit Gordon led rescued 232 individuals. As a result of FAST, there were no deaths in the Campo area during the winter season.

SENIOR DEFENSE OFFICIAL VISITS NOGALES STATION

The Nogales Border Patrol station hosted a visit from Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Counternarcotics **Andre Hollis** on June 13. Staff Sgt.

Samuel Martin of the Arizona National Guard briefed Hollis on the need for National Guard personnel. Sgt. Martin is part of the JTF-6 program assisting the Border Patrol with communication and surveillance.

COAST GUARD GIVES AGENCY CERTIFICATE

The Coast Guard presented a Certificate of Appreciation to INS in Tampa June 26 for the agency's "hard work and dedication to port security in Tampa Bay." Captain **Allen L. Thompson** of the U.S. Coast Guard made the formal presentation, and Tampa Port Director **Ron Johnson** accepted the award on behalf of INS.



Coast Guard Certificate of Appreciation

CONGRESSIONAL WORKERS ATTEND WORKSHOP, TOUR

The Buffalo District Congressional Liaison staff hosted a meeting for members of local Congressional staff June 5 at the Buffalo Federal Detention Center in Batavia, N.Y.

Ten staff members from the offices of seven House members and one Senator attended the meeting focusing on current INS events along with a tour of the facility. Opened in March 1998, the state-of-the-art facility holds some 450 detainees.



Buffalo District Director M. Frances Holmes (middle wearing scarf) talking with Congressional workers during a tour of the Buffalo Federal Detention Center.

To get a blurb published in *Communiqué's* "INSide" column, e-mail it to ins@casals.com or mail it to *Communiqué*, 1199 North Fairfax Street, Third Floor, Alexandria, Virginia 22314.