



CommuniQUE

MARCH 2001



Mary Ann Wyrsh
Departs for U.N. Post

**WYRSCH DEPARTS
FOR U.N. POST;
ROONEY COMES
ON BOARD AS
ACTING INS
COMMISSIONER**



Kevin D. Rooney
Arrives from the Executive
Office of Immigration Review



Berks Family Shelter in Pennsylvania is designed to provide safe and stable housing for families placed in INS custody.



From New York to Anchorage, INS district offices rolled out special citizenship ceremonies for children in February.



LIFELines, a Web-accessed service devised by the Career Sustainment Program for INS staff.

**Border Patrol Agent
Daniel M. James Jr.
Dies From Injuries**

*“ I’m reminded
every day
of how
dedicated our
agents are,
even in the
face of
considerable
danger. ”*

**MARY ANN WYRSCH,
ACTING COMMISSIONER**

Border Patrol Agent Daniel M. James Jr., 30, died March 2 as a result of injuries sustained from an accident in January in which James and his partner attempted to stop a vehicle believed to be involved in alien smuggling near Freer, Tex.

After refusing to stop, the operator of the suspect vehicle drove off the roadway. Agent James and his partner, Agent Padraic Paffen, pursued in their 4x4, but their vehicle went into a culvert that was obscured by brush and then rolled over. Agent James was thrown from the patrol unit, which then crushed him under its weight.

"I'm reminded every day of how dedicated our agents are, even in the face of considerable danger," said Acting Commissioner Mary Ann Wyrsh at funeral services for Agent James on March 7.

Wyrsh noted the remarkable strides that the Border Patrol has made "in restoring the rule of law and public safety along the Southwest border, especially here in Texas." She said that such success "is built on the unwavering commitment and deep devotion that our agents bring to their work, as exemplified by Agent James."

"It is tragic every time we lose a member of the INS family, but this loss is especially sad because Agent James was so young and his future so bright."

James sustained critical injuries and had been treated in the intensive care unit of a Corpus Christi hospital since the Jan. 29 accident. He died March 2, following surgery to treat his injuries. His partner, Agent Paffen, received minor injuries in the accident.

Agent James was born in Canton, Ohio, on April 15, 1970 and served in the U.S. Marines and Reserves from 1988 to 1996. He entered duty with the Border Patrol in September 1998 at Freer in the Laredo Border Patrol Sector. Besides his work, he volunteered his time working with the Border Patrol Explorer post in Freer.

James is survived by his wife, Melinda, and two sons, Devin, age 9, and Joshua, age 2.

EDITOR'S NOTE

A Revived Communiqué Wants to hear about your news

As we put to bed the third issue of the revived Communiqué, our thoughts turn to how to sustain and build on a proud heritage. For more than two decades the Communiqué provided the news of the INS each month.

We are asking for your help. What new features or articles would you find interesting or useful?

Is there news or an event in your sector or office that you think is worth sharing with the wider INS community? Perhaps you know about how a fresh approach to a problem yielded good results or offered a lesson to share with staff at other facilities. There's room too for news of off-duty activities, especially those cases where INS staff lends a hand to help fix a community problem.

If you have something of interest to share, send it along, using the E-mail or postal addresses that appear under the staff listing on this page.

Also, the Public Affairs Officer in your district or office can be a great help in supplying advice or helping to assemble the facts for a story. Many PAOs are looking to help, so please call them.

When submitting material, always include the name of a person who can be contacted and their daytime telephone number and, if they have one, an E-mail address.

We welcome photographs that illustrate the events and accomplishments of the INS staff. Photos can be submitted in the old-fashioned form, glossy images on paper, or in electronic format. In either case, please be sure to include the names and job titles of people who are pictured. If you would like a credit line for taking the photo, please note that too.

Electronically transmitted photos are relatively new to us, so we don't have a laundry list of suggestions. However, some of the same general notions of traditional photography apply to the electronic format. For example, bigger is better regarding how an image appears on the computer screen. A bigger image is easier to enlarge or reduce to fit a space without loss of clarity. When using a digital camera, be sure that it is set for the highest possible resolution.

We'll be keeping an eye on the mailbox.

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The INS *Communiqué* is published by INS Headquarters under a contract with *Casals & Associates, Inc.*, of Alexandria, Virginia. The publication is committed to informing the employees of the Immigration and Naturalization Service about official and unofficial activities. Readers are encouraged to submit articles, photographs and letters to the editor. Write to *Communiqué* c/o Casals & Associates / 1199 North Fairfax Street, Third Floor / Alexandria, VA 22314 / attention: INS *Communiqué* Editor. Submissions in electronic format may be sent to << ins@casals.com >>.

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PEOPLE ON *the Move*

Acting Commissioner Wyrch Appointed U.N. Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees

After three years with the INS, Acting Commissioner Mary Ann Wyrch shifts her focus from immigration issues facing the United States to improving the lot of 22 million displaced persons around the world.

Wyrch's appointment as the U.N. Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees was announced Feb. 28. Her last full day of work at the INS was March 15 and she takes over her post with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (U.N.H.C.R.) in Geneva, Switzerland, on April 8.

"I consider her very broad and rich management experience as a particularly valuable asset," said Ruud Lubbers, the High Commissioner for Refugees, in announcing her appointment. U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan fully supported Lubbers' choice of Wyrch, he said.

At the U.N.H.C.R., Wyrch will serve as financial controller with responsibility for managing financial and human resources, information systems and technology, and supervising communications and information for an agency with 5,000 employees working in 120 countries.

"It has been a great honor to serve with INS during a period of tremendous growth and change," Wyrch said. However, her new position "is a unique opportunity to use my experience in a key role with this prestigious, global organization which has a vital, important mission." Lubbers, a former prime

minister of The Netherlands, took over as U.N.H.C.R. High Commissioner in January. He has called on the U.N.H.C.R. staff to approach its work with a "minimum of bureaucracy and a maximum of flexibility."

For Wyrch, the new position involves both a move overseas and her first job outside the federal government since 1966. Her distinguished 35-year federal career started a year after her college graduation, when she joined the Office of Economic Opportunity. She then moved to the Department of Labor, where she held several senior positions including director of budget, director of the Unemployment Insurance Service and chief of operations for the Employment and Training Administration.

Wyrch joined the INS in March 1998 as a Deputy Commissioner, serving under long-time INS Commissioner Doris Meissner. She was named Acting INS Commissioner last November following Meissner's departure. The last three years have been a period of rapid growth in the INS' budget, workforce and operations.

A native of Kansas City, Wyrch holds a Master of Arts degree from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., and an MA in Public Administration from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. She received her BA degree from Webster College in St. Louis.

U.N.H.C.R. Carries On Its 50-Year Role Of Helping Refugees Find a Home

Rising ethnic conflict in Kosovo and similar problems in other parts of Europe's Balkan region explained why an 800,000 people were added to the U.N.H.C.R.'s roster of persons "of concern" in

The United Nations High Commission on Refugees faced the new millennium by celebrating a 50th anniversary and contending with a surge in the number of uprooted people around the globe.

1999, bringing the worldwide total to 22.3 million by the start of the year 2000.

Throughout its first half-century, the U.N.H.C.R. has aided refugees, who are the byproduct of wars, ethnic conflicts and political upheavals.

The U.N.H.C.R. has been busy in places besides the Balkans during the last decade. It assisted Kurdish people in northern Iraq in the early 1990s. It airlifted 43,000 refugees returning to newly independent Namibia in southwest Africa and some 60,000 refugees out of war-torn Congo to Rwanda in central Africa.

INS NEWS *of Note*

Incoming Acting Commissioner Rooney Arrives Well-Versed in Immigration



Acting Commissioner Rooney

Attorney General John Ashcroft announced March 6 that Kevin D. Rooney will serve as Acting INS Commissioner.

Rooney, who has served two years as the Director of the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR), took over

as Acting INS Commissioner on March 29. He is expected to serve until a permanent Commissioner is appointed.

"Kevin's broad-based management experience within Justice and his knowledge of immigration issues at the helm of the EOIR will help make the interim transition virtually seamless," Ashcroft said.

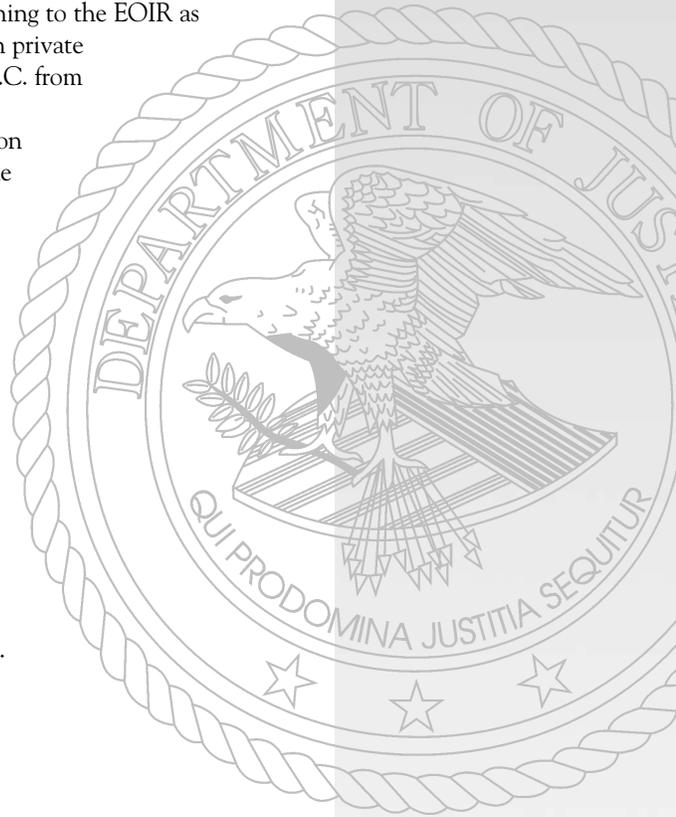
The EOIR, based in Falls Church, VA., oversees the immigration court system, including the Board of Immigration Appeals and 52 immigration courts nationwide.

Rooney previously served as the EOIR's Deputy Director from 1995 to 1997. Earlier in his career, he was the Assistant Attorney General for Administration from 1977 to 1984, serving as the

senior career official and chief management and financial officer of the Department of Justice during the Carter and Reagan Administrations. Rooney was Assistant Director of the Bureau of Prisons from 1997 to 1999, before returning to the EOIR as Deputy Director. He was in private practice in Washington, D.C. from 1984 to 1995.

"I have great appreciation for the work of INS and the dedication of its employees," Rooney said. "I look forward to this outstanding opportunity to lead the agency in the coming months."

A native of Palmer, Mass., Rooney graduated from St. Mary's Seminary and University and George Washington University School of Law. He and his wife, Annette, have two daughters. He is a U.S. Army veteran.



The U.N.H.C.R.'s umbrella term of persons "of concern" covers three major groups: people who are legally defined as refugees, which is the largest component with 11.7 million persons; those who have fled their homes, but not their native countries, 6.9 million; and asylum seekers, 1.2 million.

The agency describes its core mandate as helping those people who are legally defined as refugees by providing international protection and assisting them to restart their lives. This is accomplished by a refugee's voluntary repatriation to their home country, which is the preferred approach, or by their resettlement in a new country.

The U.N.H.C.R. is increasingly asked to assist uprooted people who do not fit the legal definition of a refugee. (The U.N.H.C.R. defines refugees as people who have fled across a national border and cannot return home due to a well-founded fear of persecution because of their race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular group.)

However, millions of people have been forced to flee their homes, but have not reached a neighboring country. Therefore, they are not protected by international law and are not eligible to receive many types of aid. "They are now the second largest group of concern," the U.N.H.C.R. reports.

INS NEWS FROM *the Field*

Russian Women Freed by INS in Alaska Mark First Charges Under New Law

Four persons were charged in Alaska with conspiring to enslave Russian women and girls in a strip club in Anchorage, the Justice Department announced Feb. 22. The indictment brings the first case prosecuted under the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000, enacted by Congress last October to stop the practice of trafficking in humans.

The six Russian victims were brought to the United States in December 2000, purportedly to perform Russian folk dances in a cultural festival. The indictment charges that they instead were forced to perform in a strip club. They were freed from the defendants by the INS in January.

The four defendants — three U.S. citizens and a Russian national — were charged under a 23-count indictment with conspiring to lure the Russian women and girls to Alaska to enslave them. The defendants were previously indicted for falsely representing to immigration authorities that the Russian women would be in the United States for a cultural exchange.

The indictment brought in February charges that the defendants recruited the females under false pretenses only to force them into servitude once they arrived in the United States.

The charges against the defendants include six counts of forced labor for coercing the victims to perform in a strip club by employing a scheme that relied on threats, isolation, and confiscation of the victims' passports, visas, and plane tickets. The indictment also charges the defendants with kidnapping, transportation of minors for illegal sexual activity, and visa fraud. In addition, the Russian national is charged with witness

intimidation. If convicted of all counts, the defendants could face sentences of life in prison.

The women and girls have temporary legal immigration status and are being housed in a safe location.

"Slavery and trafficking violate the American promise of freedom," said Robert C. Bundy, the United States Attorney for the District of Alaska. "We will vigorously enforce our anti-slavery laws against those who try to exploit others."

The indictment is the result of a coordinated effort of the National Worker Exploitation Task Force, which brings together different agencies to combat the problem of trafficking in persons and modern-day slavery in the United States.

The case was investigated jointly by the INS, FBI, and the Anchorage Police Department. It 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 District of Alaska.

The Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act increased penalties and broadens prosecutors' authority in trafficking cases to reach modern forms of slavery. It also gives victims better access to such services as shelters, counseling and medical care.

The act also created two new nonimmigrant visa classifications for which the INS is developing regulations and procedures. Victims of a severe form of trafficking will be allowed to apply for a "T" classification. Victims of other crimes will be allowed to apply for a "U" visa.

For additional information and to report cases of trafficking, INS employees should contact the Implementation Steering Group for the act at INS.

Miami

Miami Agents Nab Five Fugitive Aliens

Five international fugitives wanted overseas for crimes ranging from euthanasia to fraudulent bankruptcy were arrested by Special Agents with the Miami District INS Special Investigations Section.

The Miami office announced March 1 that all five fugitives were initially arrested without incident on immigration removal charges. Officials requested that they be detained pending removal proceedings.

Those arrested ranged in age from a 31-year-old man, residing in Aventura and wanted in Russia since 1998 for a large-scale misappropriation of funds to a 60-year-old medical doctor charged with euthanasia in Belgium. He was picked up in Fort Lauderdale.

Two of the five fugitives were arrested in Miami. They were wanted, respectively, in Chile for fraudulent bankruptcy and in Romania for fraud and forgery. The fifth man, apprehended in Hollywood, Fla., was wanted in Hungary on fraud charges.

The District's Special Investigations Section, which is responsible for conducting immigration-related investigations involving aliens who are international fugitives, was assisted by the U.S. Marshals Service and the Department of State Diplomatic Security Service. Also instrumental in making the arrests were Interpol and the Department of Justice's Office of International Affairs.

Miami District Director Robert A. Wallis emphasized that identifying, locating, arresting and removing international fugitives who seek to flee prosecution in their home countries by hiding in South Florida is a high priority of the Miami District Investigations Division.

"Such cases will be aggressively pursued," said James Goldman, Assistant District Director for the Investigations Division.



Photos by Pete Macias

The Anguish Seen in a Mother's Tears Reveals Another Side of The Border Story

In the dark of night along a stretch of the border near Brownsville, Tex., a group of visiting Central American journalists unexpectedly encountered a real-life, headline-grabbing story in the making.

Over the next few days, the tale of an anguished mother crying out of fear that a smuggler had stolen her child was told, and retold, on television news and in newspapers in Central America.

The compelling news coverage, which pointed out the dangers faced by illegal immigrants, was welcomed by organizers of Border Journalists, a program that took those reporters and producers who work for newspapers and broadcasters in Central America on a two-day tour of the United States-Mexico border last year.

Presenting the grave dangers of illegal border crossing to reporters and television news producers – and ultimately to their readers and viewers back home — is one facet of the Border Journalists program. But the broader aim is to put the journalists in touch with another side of the border story, one that receives little play in the region's newspapers and television news, says Art Moreno, the Public Affairs Officer in Harlingen, Tex.

"They get a feeling for what Border Patrol agents go through, but also what illegal immigrants have to suffer," he said.

The Border Journalists program started in 1998 as a joint effort of Mexican officials, the INS, and the United States Information Service, which has since been absorbed into the Department of State. Through its embassies, the State Department selects and sponsors the visiting journalists for the tours and monitors

the resulting news coverage in their host countries. The INS manages the tour and provides speakers, information and ground transportation.

Border Journalists is offered twice a year and hosts eight to 10 reporters, producers and camera operators on each tour. About half of the participants work for newspapers and broadcasters in Mexico. Three other countries – El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua – account for most of the others, although journalists from Brazil, Colombia and Ecuador have also taken part.

Border Journalists found an early backer in Mike Trominski, Harlingen District Director, who has devoted resources to the program. In addition, Jose Garza, Chief of the Board Patrol's McAllen Sector, has lent his backing and uses the program as a means to promote the Border Safety Initiative (BSI). The task of coordinating the tours falls in large part to Moreno and Carlos Quevedo, a Supervisory Border Patrol Agent in Brownsville.



The two-day tours give visiting journalists a glimpse of efforts on both sides of the border to staunch the illegal flow of people and contraband. The reporters and producers visit facilities and talk with U.S. and Mexican border officials. They also have an opportunity to interview some of their countrymen who were apprehended while attempting an illegal crossing.

Detainees at the Port Isabel Service Processing Center (SPC) who volunteer to talk with journalists from their home countries often provide the most persuasive element of the tour, Moreno said.

"They (detainees) provide better testimony than we ever will," he said. What they tell the visiting journalists often repeats the very messages that the program organizers want to convey.

News conferences and formal interviews with the journalists are conducted entirely in Spanish, which lends credibility to the reports for audiences in Central America, Moreno said.

INS staff members offer a wealth of information to the journalists. For the recent tour that kicked off Feb. 28, Luisa Aquino, Public Affairs Officer in Houston, talked about the kidnapping of babies and use and abuse of children in smuggling activities. Tomas Zuniga, with the Central Regional Public Affairs Office in Dallas, discussed statistics gathered in the region regarding fraud, alien smuggling and border deaths.

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INS NEWS FROM *the Field*

INS and Motor Vehicle Agents Raid Alleged ID-Seller in Virginia

A Northern Virginia real estate office, which was believed to be the source for official identification papers used by thousands of undocumented immigrants along the East Coast, was raided by INS and Virginia investigators on Feb. 26.

The 58-year-old owner of real estate and notary offices in Falls Church and Manassas Park was arrested. She was charged with conspiring to transport undocumented aliens for the purpose of obtaining by fraud Virginia driver's licenses and identification cards, according to a statements issued by Helen F. Fahey, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Va., and Warren A. Lewis, INS Washington District Director.

A complaint filed with the United States District Court in Alexandria, Virginia, said that the office owner would notarize false forms so that undocumented aliens who she knew did not live in the state could obtain residency certificates from the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV).

"It is well known that identification documents and driver's licenses can be procured with much greater ease in Virginia than in other states because Virginia does not require the same level of proof of identity and residency that most states do," Lewis said.

As a result of looser requirements, the state has become a prime destination for persons who arrange to drive van loads of undocumented workers into Virginia from other East Coast states. In this case, some of the aliens who claimed Virginia residency actually lived in Massachusetts. An operator of such a documentation service typically charges an alien \$300 to \$700 for transportation to Virginia and assistance in completing the fraudulent forms, according to an affidavit.

Driver's licenses are considered key documents in an undocumented alien's efforts to assemble a legal identity.

Washington-area news media reported that, unlike nearby states and the District of Columbia, Virginia accepts as evidence of residency a notarized claim of residency that is signed by both the applicant and a Virginia resident. The real estate and notary offices in this case would charge up to \$50 for the form and \$20 extra for a legitimate Virginia address that would be less likely to draw close scrutiny at the DMV.

The Washington Post noted increased concern by the Virginia DMV about abuse of residency and identification affidavits, which have been used since 1994. A DMV spokesperson was quoted as saying that the agency has been investigating the problem since 1998.

Virginia DMV and INS officers jointly investigated this recent case, assisted by agents of the Internal Revenue Service and the Fairfax County Police.



In Anchorage, children walk down the museum steps to the ceremony. At left, Robert C. Eddy, INS Alaska District Director, speaks to the gathering.

Children Celebrate Citizenship, Coast-to-Coast

From New York to Anchorage, INS district offices rolled out special citizenship ceremonies for children in February.

New York Lt. Governor Mary O. Donohue was the guest speaker for a ceremony Feb. 16 at Northpoint High School on Long Island, organized by the New York District Office. The ceremony celebrated citizenship for 34 youngsters. Richard D. Berryman, Assistant District Director for Adjudications, administered the Oath of Allegiance and presented Certificates of Citizenship.

In Anchorage, 45 children, many of them orphan adoptees, were honored as new U.S. citizens on Feb. 27 at the Anchorage Museum of History and Art. On hand to present citizenship pins were U.S. District Judge John Sedwick and Judge John Duggan, probate master of the Alaska Supreme Court.

Speaking to the Anchorage gathering were Judge Sedwick and Robert C. Eddy, INS Alaska District Director. The Kids for Character Children's Choir, the 9th Army Band Brass Quintet and the Air Force Band of the Pacific performed.



Welcoming the new citizens and their parents on Long Island is Richard D. Berryman, Assistant District Director of Adjudications, New York Lt. Gov. Mary O. Donohue and James Catterson, Suffolk County District Attorney.

Berks Facility Houses Detained Families Under One Roof

The first of several Family Shelter Care facilities in which the INS plans to house detained family members as a group was dedicated March 15 in Berks County, about 60 miles northwest of Philadelphia.

The Family Shelter Care (FSC) is designed to provide a safe and humane setting for entire families placed in INS custody. The Berks facility can accommodate 40 persons and is expected to draw detainees from major Ports of Entry on the East Coast as far south as Miami.

"INS Philadelphia's new Family Shelter Care offers the best facilities and services when the law requires us to take families into custody," said Charles Zemski, Philadelphia Acting District Director. "FSC allows parents to remain with minor children in a safe and stable environment."

The Shelter Care concept highlights INS' ongoing commitment to treat all aliens with dignity and respect. The new facility provides a setting for families that are in the United States illegally. The demand for this type of housing that allows families to stay together has increased

steadily nationwide over the last several years.

"Changes in U.S. immigration law, combined with recent international migration patterns, have increased the need for housing that allows families to stay together when they reach U.S. shores," Zemski said.

The building in Leesport was constructed in the 1960s and was once used as a nursing home for residents of Berks County. Renovations have made the facility well suited for family use. It looks similar to a college dormitory and will provide services to families 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Berks was chosen as the site of the first family shelter in large part because of the productive relationship that the Philadelphia District has had with Berks County since the early 1990s, according to officials.

The facility is ideally housed in the same building as an existing Youth Center, a shelter-care facility that houses unaccompanied minors in INS custody.

As a result, state-required school classes can be offered to both unaccompanied minors from the Youth Center and minors from Family Shelter Care.

Other services, such as medical and dental examinations and treatment, and language translation can also be delivered more efficiently. The INS already has an existing inter-governmental service agreement with Berks County.

The Berks Facility will address all of the adult detention standards implemented by INS in January that apply to shelter care, according to officials. The facility is also required to meet 152 INS juvenile shelter care standards.



What is Family Shelter Care?

A Family Shelter Care provides safe housing for non-criminal alien immediate family members with minor children who were determined to be inadmissible to the United States and are detained under the provisions of mandatory detention.

Q What services are available to the families that stay at the Family Shelter Care facility at Berks?

A Daily meals; translation services; state-required schooling for school-age children; English language and life skills orientation classes for adults; preventive medical and dental examinations and emergency treatment; legal services from local volunteer organizations.

Q Where and when will other INS Family Shelter Care facilities open?

A INS is planning to open several other FSC facilities around the country during the next year, as needs dictate. Target locations include the Southwest border and the northern Midwest/Chicago area.

Q What are the advantages of Family Shelter Care?

A Family shelter care keeps parents with minor children together in one safe and stable environment. Families will be able to maintain their family unit in the facility. School-age children will attend school during the day, while adults will attend life skills orientation classes. The shelter-care process and its stable environment will be much less traumatic to the family members, especially to the minor children. This stable environment is available because all the security and services required by INS can be accommodated in one facility - by familiar on-site staff, trained to handle families' needs.

Q How much "family togetherness" time will families actually get?

A During the week, the family units will eat meals together daily. The residents at the FSC have from dinnertime until "lights out" to associate as a family group on weekdays. On the weekends, they could conceivably be together all day as a family unit. However, the children residing at the FSC will be allowed to participate in any and all programs and field trips offered to the other unaccompanied juveniles.

Q How does the INS determine who is to be housed in Berks?

A The only people who will be coming to the FSC are those who were in the expedited removal process at the time of arrival at a Port of Entry, expressed credible fear and have been referred to the Asylum Office for a determination of credible fear.

Q Why did INS choose a government organization to run the family shelter care facility instead of a private contractor?

A INS Philadelphia has developed exceptionally productive relationships with county governments throughout Pennsylvania to house criminal and non-criminal aliens in county prisons. Federal government regulations allow more flexibility in contracting with other government organizations than with private businesses; the contracts are quicker to institute and easier to maintain. In addition, many of the facilities required for the family shelter care program are already in place, including: buildings, infrastructure, staffing, business relationships and service programs.

Continued on page 12

INS NEWS FROM *the Field*

New Presidents exchange fresh ideas on migration and border protection

A wide range of bilateral issues, including new approaches to migration and border protection, were on the agenda for President George W. Bush's first official international visit, with his counterpart in Mexico Feb. 16 in San Cristobal, Mexico.

Presidents Vicente Fox and Bush agreed to form a High Level Working Group to consider fresh approaches to migration and border issues. It is to be chaired by the U.S. Attorney General and Secretary of State and Mexico's Secretary of Foreign Relations and Secretary of the Interior.

The new leaders discussed, among other issues, possibilities for a comprehensive program of temporary work permits for Mexicans working in the United States and efforts to combat violence against migrants in border areas.

"We exchanged ideas about safe and orderly migration, a policy that respects individuals on both sides of the border," President Bush said following the meeting. "We talked about what we can do together to fight drug trafficking and other types of organized crime."



Mexican President Vicente Fox with President George W. Bush

Fox said the discussions were not intended to immediately yield new agreements on migration, but rather to set the stage for new approaches to the many issues.

"We have spoken of a long-term vision and constructive approach on this topic," Fox told reporters. "Certainly there is a new attitude, there is a new way of approaching things, (a) much more positive approach on this issue of migration."

The two presidents also discussed cooperation on trade, economic growth, water use and energy demand.

Temporary Protected Status Granted Following Earthquakes in El Salvador

President George W. Bush announced March 2 that Salvadorans residing in the United States since February 13, 2001 have been granted Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for a period of 18 months.

Eligible Salvadorans will not be removed and can apply for permission to work in the United States during the designated period. The TPS designation is part of ongoing efforts by the United States to assist El Salvador in recovering from devastating earthquakes.

The TPS designation was made by Attorney General John Ashcroft. It covers as many as 150,000 potential applicants and applies only to those

Salvadorans who have continuously resided in the United States since February 13, 2001. The TPS application period begins upon publication in the Federal Register and continues for 18 months from that date.

El Salvador was devastated by two major earthquakes on Jan. 13 and Feb. 13 of this year. To date, the earthquakes have resulted in at least 1,100 deaths, 7,859 injured, and over 2,500 missing.

In addition, the earthquakes have displaced an estimated 1.3 million persons out of El Salvador's population of 6.2 million.

WIZARDS AHEAD AT THE HALF FINAL SCORE: 50 NEW CITIZENS



Washington District Director Warren Lewis with upraised hand (in the photo topping the left column) administers the citizenship oath. He is flanked by Rabbi Laszlo Berkowitz and Deputy District Director Phyllis Howard.



The Washington Wizards, an NBA team with a dismal 15 and 48 record when it took to its home court against the Detroit Pistons on March 15, were at least assured of scoring big with 50 people in the audience.

Those 50 came from 50 different nations and were scheduled to take the oath of citizenship at a special half-time ceremony sponsored jointly by the Wizards and the local chapter of the American Jewish Committee.

"When you have it in a courthouse, the public doesn't see the ceremony," said Warren Lewis, INS Washington District Director, who administered the oath. "It's good for others to see that people still come to the United States and try to make it better."

At the half, with the Wizards ahead 50 to 39, the public address system announced the special ceremony. "Just minutes from now, they will be full-fledged American citizens!"

The crowd, "perhaps intoxicated by a rare Wizards lead," at first paid scant attention, a *Washington Post* writer noted. However, most were soon listening intently as Rabbi Laszlo Berkowitz of Falls

Church, Va., told of his personal journey to citizenship. He was rescued by the U.S. Army from the Wobbelin concentration camp in Germany 1945, then relocated to the United States and became a U.S. citizen while serving in the U.S. Army as a private, first class.

"Being a citizen of the United States is a great opportunity to live as a human being in freedom," Berkowitz told the audience. The introduction helped quiet the crowd. Lewis then read the name and country of origin as each immigrant stepped forward. When the ceremony concluded, the fans gave their new fellow citizens a long, loud standing ovation.

"The most important thing for me is the ceremony, not the game," Carlos Pasquel, 37, a computer network engineer who was born in Ecuador and now lives in Arlington, Va., told *The Washington Post*. "I was a fan of this country because of your principles and your values."

The other winners that night were the Wizards, by a score of 103 to 96.

HEADQUARTERS *News*

What is a Family Shelter?

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Q Who will be operating and supervising the Family Shelter Care facility?

A Staff from Berks County, directly supervised by its County Commissioners, will operate the Family Shelter Care facility. An INS Supervisory Deportation Officer, Deportation Officers and Detention Enforcement Officers are permanently stationed at the facility. They will closely monitor and work daily with the Berks County staff and the aliens detained there.

Q What about dysfunctional families? What provisions has the INS made to prevent domestic violence and other family problems?

A Before families get to the FSC, the apprehending officer must complete a screening sheet that includes questions and officer observations regarding any violent tendencies, criminal history and other factors. Since shelter care is designed for those who have not shown disruptive or violent behavior, based on this information, a determination will be made as to whether a family unit will qualify for admission to the FSC. During admission to the family shelter, all adult family members will be provided an orientation package, which will explain the rules and regulations of the facility, including the penalty for failure to follow the rules and regulations, which may result in removal from the shelter. Berks County also employs a full-time social worker who will evaluate each family group after arrival. In addition, there is a high ratio of staff to residents, allowing for close monitoring of residents. Also, families are separated by age and sex when they retire for the evening, to curtail the possibility of abuse.

Central American journalists get a first-hand look at the border

Continued from page 7

The journalists started with a tour of the Gateway Port of Entry in Brownsville, where they heard from representatives of INS, the U.S. Customs Service and Immigration Court. Back on the bus, they crossed the border to tour Mexico's immigration offices in nearby Matamoros and heard from officials of Mexican immigration and Policia Federal Preventiva, Mexico's version of the Border Patrol. A reception at the home of the U.S. Consul General in Matamoros capped the first day's itinerary.

Day Two began with a tour of the SPC in Los Fresnos, Tex., where the journalists heard about the facility's operations and interviewed detainees. The tour moved along in the afternoon to Border Patrol Headquarters in Brownsville for presentations. Following a dinner break, the journalists returned for a

night tour and demonstration with the Border Patrol.

It was during a similar nighttime demonstration last year that the journalists encountered the distraught mother who was missing her child. The woman, who had separately entered the United States, said she had arranged for a smuggler to deliver the child. Border Patrol Agents obtained the name of the alleged smuggler and communicated with Mexican authorities. They, in turn, located and arrested the man and found the mother's child.

The tearful reunion of mother and child was arranged within a few hours – and captured on film and in the words of journalists reporting back to viewers and readers in Central America.

The Office of Equal Employment Opportunity Announces an Alternative Dispute Resolution Program

The Office of Equal Employment Opportunity is pleased to announce that the **INS Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)** is available.

The Office of EEO, National Border Patrol Council, National Immigration and Naturalization Service Council and Professional Employees Bargaining Unit, Local 511, have been working diligently to develop an effective and efficient option to the existing EEO complaint process.

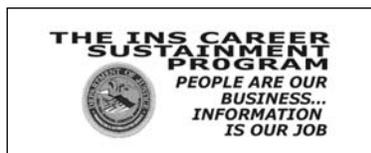
We are very pleased to announce that these negotiations paid off. We've reached an agreement on a servicewide EEO ADR program. The ADR program aims to improve the INS EEO complaint process by offering mediation as an option in resolving workplace disputes. The broader use of various ADR techniques is being promoted throughout the federal sector. Wherever they are already in place, they've proven highly successful in resolving disputes quickly, economically and without polarizing employees and managers.

If you have a workplace dispute, mediation may be the answer. A copy of the program procedures may be immediately downloaded from the "EEO News and Views" cc:mail bulletin board.

To obtain additional information about this program, please contact the
Headquarters, Office of EEO at (202) 514-2824;
or the **EEO ADR Help Line at (612) 725-1713.**

INS CAREER SUSTAINMENT GOES ELECTRONIC WITH NAVY PARTNERSHIP

By Douglas Batson



Imagine this: you are home on a Saturday afternoon discussing care for a chronically ill family member. You need to know what options you have, including provisions of the Family Friendly Leave Act.

With the help of LIFELines, a web-accessed service, these types of questions can be answered anytime – 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Stocked with information assembled by the INS Career Sustainment Program, LIFELines can help you set up, or strengthen, a personal financial plan and just possibly introduce you to some information and resources that you didn't know were offered to INS's widely dispersed workforce and their families.

"The Service has developed many products to which employees in the field have sometimes had limited access," said Glenda Nogami, Director of the Workforce Effectiveness and Planning Branch at HQ Human Resources and Development. For example, you will find on-line Assimilation Training for Supervisors, the INS Employee Handbook, digital maps of INS locations and an INS Video Library. "LIFELines brings these products directly to the home or office computer."

LIFELines was pioneered by the U.S. Navy to offer virtual quality of life services to its geographically dispersed fleets of sailors and families. With the Navy web infrastructure already in place, INS became the first civilian agency to partner with LIFELines. The INS site was officially launched in January to provide information of interest and importance to INS employees with an Internet connection. Family members benefit, too. Many new INS employees have alerted their families that they can watch the Immigration Officer and Border Patrol Academy videotapes on LIFELines from their home computers.

The Navy thought so highly of the INS Financial Management package, compiled by INS Retention Specialist Regina Dolan, that it became the first of many links between the Navy and INS portions of the LIFELines Services

Network. INS employees can also access information offered by the Navy on various topics.

A wealth of human resource information is found in the electronic version of the INS Employee Handbook. From the INS LIFELines homepage, click on Products, then on Employee Handbook. One can query the searchable database for specific topics by typing in a keyword, such as "Family Friendly Leave Act."

Here's what is currently available on LIFELines:

- ▶ News from the Career Sustainment Program
- ▶ Frequently Asked Questions about the Career Sustainment Program
- ▶ Career Sustainment Coordinators Forum
- ▶ INS TV Locations & Monthly Schedule
- ▶ INS Video Library
- ▶ INS Employee Handbook
- ▶ Employee Resource Guide
- ▶ Financial Management
- ▶ INS Health & Fitness
- ▶ Assimilation Training for Supervisors
- ▶ Digital Maps of INS Locations
- ▶ Interactive Border Patrol Quiz
- ▶ Manual of Job Related Thinking Skills

More topics are in the works and you can help us develop others by sharing your views, using LIFELines' feedback and guestbook features.

Visit the site at www.lifelines2000.org/ins.

By registering as a user, you can post messages on the Coordinators Forum and receive replies to questions via e-mail.



INS NEWS FROM *the Field*

▶ **Woman With An Eye for Excellence Chosen for Courage and Vision Award**

Barbara LeMaster, who wrote her master's degree thesis on "What motivates federal employees to excel?," was chosen in March to receive the "Distinguished INS Woman of Courage and Vision" award from the Department of Justice.

Barbara LeMaster's life might seem like a case study in overcoming obstacles through perseverance. She has overcome a series of challenges, starting with a gradual loss of hearing that started at age 12, and on through early marriage, early motherhood and the death of her first husband soon after she gave birth to her third child.

Shortly after losing her husband of 17 years to cancer, completing the previously cited master's thesis and returning from maternity leave, LeMaster faced a new problem. She learned that her federal job in Ohio would soon be eliminated due to the down-sizing of another agency.

LeMaster adjusted by picking up her children, who then ranged in age from 1 to 13, and moving to Washington, D.C. for a job at the INS. She now works as a Program Analyst in the Office of Strategic Information and Technology Development.

Her supervisor, Paul R. Rosenberg, nominated LeMaster for the award "not only for her outstanding performance in the workplace, but also for her personal strength, courage, determination and perseverance."

LeMaster is now profoundly hearing-impaired, but is able to comprehend most conversations with the help of a hearing aid and the ability to read lips. Now remarried and with just one child left at home, she spends some of her spare time teaching sign language classes to students at an elementary school near her home.

The name for the award was shared with the theme for this year's observance of National Women's History Month at the INS. LeMaster was also honored at a Department of Justice ceremony attended by Attorney General John Ashcroft on March 21.

According to the INS Office of Management, which received nominations for 50 INS employees, the award was to honor women "who have successfully struggled to balance their professional and personal lives, often at significant sacrifices, thereby providing a positive role model for other employees."

▶ **Brownsville Speaker Urges Youth to Study their Community's History**

Actions speak louder than words was the theme struck by speakers at a joint observance of Black History Month in Brownsville, Tex.

The event, which drew an audience of more than 40 persons, was jointly sponsored by the INS, Department of Agriculture and U.S. Customs Service, and held Feb. 28 at the USDA conference room at Veterans International Bridge in Brownsville.

To emphasize the need for young people to learn of the origins and the history of their own community, Willie Barber, a U.S. Border Patrol Supervisor, showed a clip from "Roots," a movie based on the book by Alex Hailey. It is also

important that adults teach the young by the example of their actions and not merely with words, Barber said.

A similar view was shared by the second speaker at the event, George McShan, the dean of enrollment at Texas State Technical College in Harlingen. Offering a strong role model for young people to emulate is an effective means to teach an appreciation of one's own community and its relationship with other groups, he said.

Manuel Sloss, the INS Area Port Director, read the President Bush's proclamation and introduced the speakers.

Omaha District Arrests Two Suspects Wanted in 1997 Slaying of a Bahamian Policeman

Two men wanted for the murder of a police officer in the Bahamas were apprehended in Nebraska and are being prepared for deportation, the Omaha District of the Immigration and Naturalization Service announced Feb. 26.

The two allegedly killed a Bahamian police officer while being chased in October 1997 in Mangrove Cay on the island of Andros. The men, who are cousins, had been recently living in Kearny and Risen City, Neb., under false names.

"I think Nebraskans will feel better once these men are no longer in our communities," said Tom DeRouchev, who was recently selected as Deputy District Director of the Omaha INS office.

The men, who entered the United States in Miami as visitors on the day after the shooting, then overstayed their visas, took on false identities and melted into society, according to INS officials.

A cooperative effort among the U.S. Marshals Service, Bahamian police and Interpol resulted in an extradition warrant being issued for the two in New York State in 1998, said Beau Campbell, a Deportation Officer in Omaha who worked on the case.

One of the men was arrested in Nebraska on assault charges last September and later convicted. He originally claimed to be a national of Jamaica, so Platte County authorities contacted the INS. Campbell eventually determined that he was a citizen of the Bahamas.

Using information obtained from the first fugitive, INS officers were able to arrest his cousin without incident on Feb. 21. In addition to being wanted in connection with the 1997 shooting, a criminal record check revealed that he had been arrested in Texas in November 1999 and convicted of marijuana trafficking charges. Authorities there were apparently unaware of his true identity.

INS NEWS *of Note*

New rules under the LIFE Act Could help some lacking legal status

An interim rule for adjustment-of-status application procedures under Section 245(i) of the Immigration and Naturalization Act (INA) was published in March in the *Federal Register*.

Adjustment of status under Section 245(i) is one of several immigration benefit provisions created by the Legal Immigration Family Equity Act and LIFE Act Amendments enacted last Dec. 21.

"The LIFE Act provides relief for a number of individuals seeking to become lawful permanent residents, but it is not amnesty for all persons unlawfully in the United States," said then Acting Commissioner Mary Ann Wyrsh. "A major provision of the law is now in place, and we are moving as quickly as possible to develop regulations for all other LIFE benefits."

Section 245(i) allows certain persons - who are eligible for an immigrant visa that is immediately available but who entered without inspection or otherwise violated their status - to apply for adjustment of status in the United States with the payment of a \$1,000 penalty. Previously, the use of Section 245(i) was limited to eligible individuals who were the beneficiary of a visa petition or labor certification application filed on or before Jan. 14, 1998.

The LIFE Act extends until April 30 of this year the period of time the family member or employer can file the visa application or labor certification application to preserve the applicant's eligibility for this 245(i) provision.

The new law offers an important benefit for eligible individuals. Without Section 245(i), many individuals who entered the United States illegally or violated their status are restricted from filing for adjustment in the United States when a visa number becomes available. Such persons must obtain

their immigrant visas overseas, where they could be subject to three-year and 10-year bars to admission to the United States because of their prior unlawful presence here. Generally, the three-year bar applies to those who were unlawfully present in the United States for more than 180 days and the 10-year bar applies to those who were unlawfully present for one year or more.

The LIFE Act brought four other important changes:

- ▶ A new temporary "V" non-immigrant status was created. It allows the spouses and minor children of lawful permanent residents - those waiting more than three years for an immigrant petition filed on or before Dec. 20, 2000 - to be admitted to and work in the United States while awaiting their visa number, or priority date, to be reached on the State Department's visa waiting list.
- ▶ Spouses and accompanying minor children of U.S. citizens can be admitted to the United States with "K" nonimmigrant status while their permanent immigration cases are being processed. The K visa was previously limited to fiancées of U.S. citizens.
- ▶ Adjustment of status was provided for persons who filed before Oct. 1, 2000 to be included in one of three "amnesty" lawsuits (*GSS v. Meese*, *LULAC v. INS*, and *Zambrano v. INS*).
- ▶ Individuals, who were ordered deported or removed from the United States and thus were ineligible for relief under the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act (NACARA) or the Haitian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act (HRIFA), can now reopen their removal proceedings to apply for adjustment of status under NACARA or HRIFA on or before June 19, 2001.

Additional information concerning the LIFE Act is available on the INS Web site (www.ins.usdoj.gov). Applicants can also call the INS' toll-free telephone service (1-800-375-5283).



Pictured above is Richard D. Berryman (on the right) receiving his 25 years of Time in Service award from Edward McElroy, District Director of NYC.

Two Careers Total More Than a Half-Century of Service

January, the time of year best known for fresh starts, also happens to be the starting point in the careers of two long-time staff members of the New York District. Together, they represent more than a half-century of service to the INS for which each received a Time in Service award on Feb. 1.

The first day of work for David Nixon, a Correspondence Clerk in the information branch and a 30-year veteran, was Jan. 10, 1971. For Richard D. Berryman, Assistant Director of Adjudications with 25 years of experience, the important date was Jan. 8, 1976.

On hand to present the awards was District Director Edward McElroy. Thirty-six managers and employees from the 26 Federal Plaza facility and the Garden City office also received awards.

PEOPLE ON *the Move*



Wallis Returns to The Lone Star State as Director of the Central Region Office

The selection of Robert A. Wallis as Director of the Central Region Office in Dallas was announced March 2. He moves from Miami, where he has served as District Director since 1996.

"I am deeply honored to be selected for this position," Wallis said. "I'm especially appreciative to the outstanding men and women of the INS Miami District for their continuous support and friendship. I owe many of my accomplishments to their efforts and sacrifices over the past five years."

The INS Central Region oversees immigration enforcement and benefits for 18 states, including five states that border Canada and two that border Mexico.

Wallis began his INS career 27 years ago as an immigration inspector in Detroit and then served as a Special Agent of the investigation branch in Boston. He worked two years with an undercover group of agents on a highly successful inter-agency task force targeting fraudulent document vendors in Chicago.

In 1985, Wallis was promoted to Senior Special Agent of what was then called the Southern Regional Office in Dallas, where he coordinated anti-smuggling enforcement operations along the Mexico-United States border. He was appointed Deputy District Director of the San Antonio District Office in 1988, and District Director of the Houston District Office in 1991. Five years later, Wallis

was named Acting District Director of the Miami District Office, where he was selected for the permanent position in February 1997.

Then Vice President Al Gore in May 1996 presented Wallis with a Hammer Award, which honors efforts by federal employees to improve the quality and reduce the cost of government services. The award recognized his leadership in establishing in Houston the first U.S. General Store for Small Business.

In August of that year, Wallis received the "Just Works" award from then Attorney General Janet Reno for creating the innovative "Customer Service Quality Olympiad" in Houston.

He authors a series of columns entitled "Leadership in Enforcement," which appear in the *Federal Investigator*, the newsletter of the Federal Criminal Investigators' Association of which Wallis is a former National Vice President. He is also a past chairman of the Houston Federal Executive Board and a member of the Senior Executives Association, International Narcotic Enforcement Officers Association and the Federal Executive Institute Alumni Association.

A native of Detroit, Wallis graduated with honors from the University of Detroit with majors in political science and history. He is married to the former Theresa Iglesias. They have two daughters.