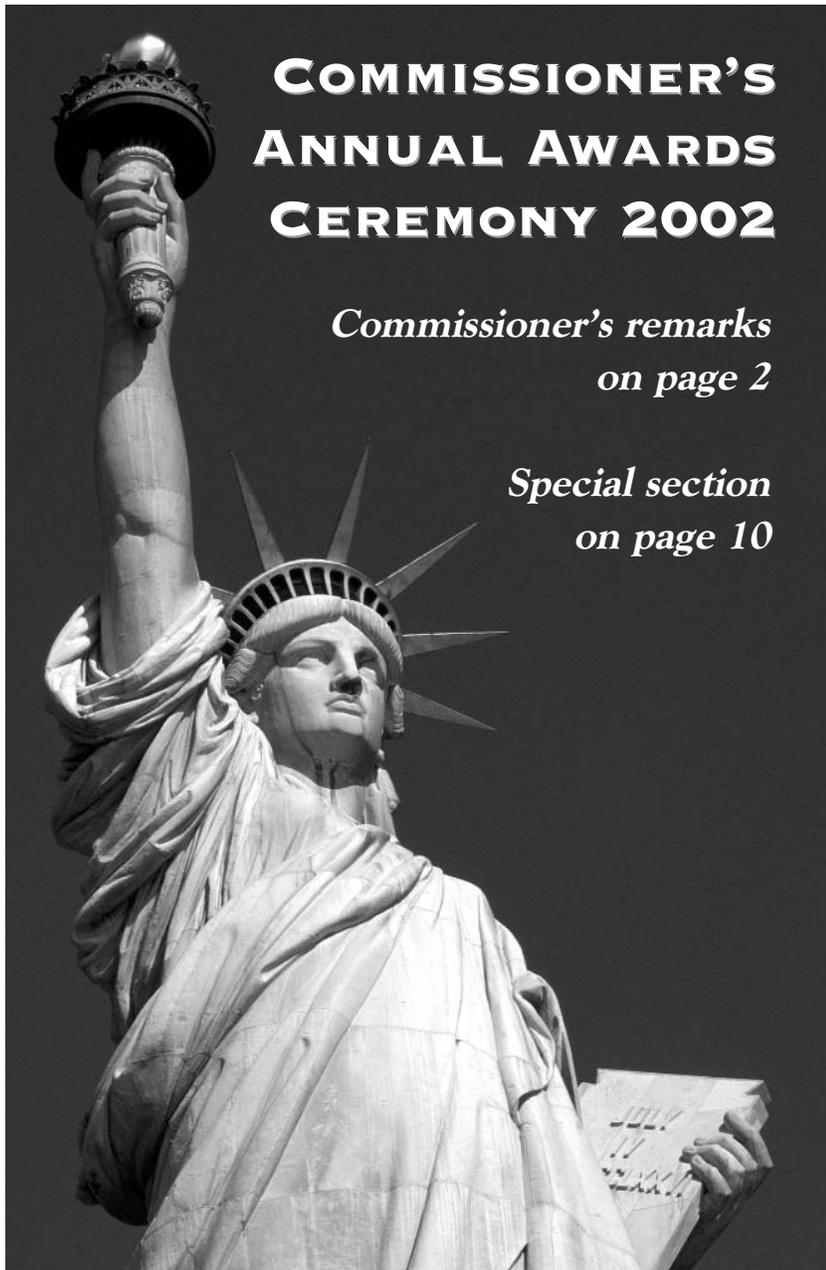




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COMMISSIONER'S ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY 2002

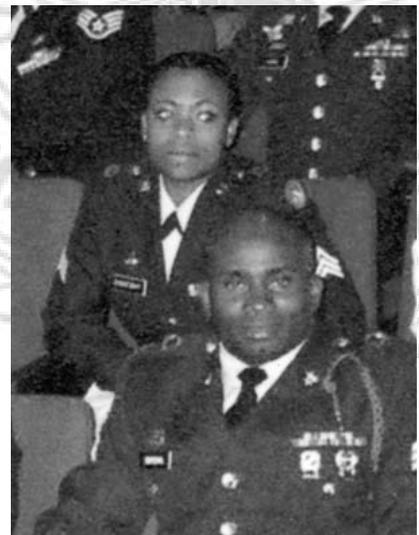
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*Special section
on page 10*



**Former federal prosecutor named
new INS acting Commissioner**

See page 5



**Special U.S. military naturalization
ceremony organized in 3 weeks**

See page 7

INS NEWS *of Note*

INS EMPLOYEES THANKED, REWARDED FOR HARD WORK, WELCOMED TO NEW DEPARTMENT

"I find that the great thing in this world is not so much where we stand as in what direction we are moving. To reach the port of heaven, we must sail sometimes with the wind and sometimes against it—but we must sail, and not drift, nor lie at anchor."

—Oliver Wendell Holmes Sr.

CHANGE is never easy but always necessary, Commissioner James W. Ziglar said as he quoted the words of Oliver Wendell Holmes Sr. in his opening



Commissioner James W. Ziglar hands out a 2002 Commissioner's Award.

remarks at the Commissioner's Annual Awards Ceremony 2002 on Nov. 21 in Washington, D.C.

"INS has stayed its course, and we are moving full steam ahead," he said. "We are guided by our goal of protecting our borders from individuals who are intent on tearing us down and our mission of assisting the many immigrants who are eager to come to the United States to help us build America."

Agency ready for the move

The Commissioner thanked employees for the extra hours they put in after Sept. 11 and the extensive work they have done to separate the services and enforcement functions of INS in preparation for the move into the Department of Homeland Security. He said all that hard work has put the agency in a good position, and the officials within the White House's Office of Homeland Security are aware and appreciative of their efforts.

"They never cease to be impressed when we show them where we are in our planning and our structure and how much progress we've made," he said.

Maj. Gen. Bruce Lawlor, the Office of Homeland Security's senior director of protection and prevention, also addressed the awards ceremony as a surprise guest speaker.

"Believe me, we need you very much, your contribution. You've done a great job," he said. "I really appreciate the opportunity to talk to you about it. I welcome you on behalf of the Office of Homeland Security to the department."

"Interesting ride ahead"

Lawlor said an "interesting ride is ahead" but stressed that INS will be a centerpiece of the new department and its employees should not get discouraged.

"We know it's hard work, and we know all the times you're out there as unsung heroes and doing things that are hard and difficult," he said.

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Laredo Sector Senior Patrol Agent Henry K. Chang, Laredo South Station; Supervisory Patrol Agent Ricardo Barreda, Laredo North Station; and Senior Patrol Agent Gabriel Acosta of the Laredo South Station and San Diego Sector Senior Patrol Agent Dora M. Gonzales of the Campos Station (right to left) prepare to present the colors.

Lawlor said workloads are large because more people around the world want to immigrate to the United States than anyplace else, and the Department of Homeland Security will ensure the promise of a new life in the United States is kept alive.

“It’s not about creed, it’s not about religion, and it’s not about a particular ethnic group. It’s certainly not a set of ideas,” he said. “It’s about respect for individuality. It’s about respect for religious freedom. It’s about hope, and it’s about character underneath, and that’s what we’re committed to, and that’s what we’re up to.”

Core values a solid foundation

Similarly, Ziglar stressed that effective leadership is not tied to title or tenure but is rooted in good, solid values. He said INS will enter the department on solid ground with its core values of professionalism, accountability, integrity, respect, and service.

“It doesn’t matter what we are called, INS or Department of Homeland Security, and it doesn’t matter what the agency head is called, commissioner or secretary,” he said. “What is going to matter most in this transition is what we bring to the job.”

Lawlor stressed that homeland security is something employees can feel good about because it directly impacts everyone and their families.

“It’s not about over there any more,” he said. “It’s about right here, and we have to protect our values, and I really appreciate all the efforts you’ve made.”

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Michael Garcia
Acting Commissioner

William Strassberger
Acting Director of the Office of Public Affairs

Monica Jerbi
Editor

Don Abalos
Graphic Design

Reggie Borges
Assistant Editor

Jeanne Dorado
Photographer

HEADQUARTERS *News*

NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION FEATURES HOOP DANCE, U.S. POLICY PRESENTATION

THE familiar beat of Native American drums vibrated the sixth floor conference room during Headquarters' Native American History Month Celebration Nov. 13. Eddie Swimmer, a renowned Cherokee dancer featured on the American Indian collector stamp series, began to perform a traditional dance.

That would be a hoop dance—not a war dance around a campfire like you would see in a Western movie.

"We never danced like that. Think about it," Swimmer said. "Would it be wise to party all night before going out on a major battle?"

A past recipient of the World Champion Hoop Dancer title, Swimmer gave a talk aimed at breaking down Native American stereotypes, and then amazed the crowd with his intense 10 minutes of nonstop twirling. Using 38 hoops, he spun them to form designs of animals as the hoops looped around his body and each other.

The celebration also featured a speech on the U.S. government's past and present policies related to Native Americans and their impact on native peoples by Phil Hogen, a former U.S. attorney in South Dakota and current associate solicitor for Indian Affairs at the Department of Interior. A member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, Hogen was confirmed by the Senate as a commissioner on the National Indian Gaming Commission two days after he spoke at INS.

Hogen talked about how during the early colonial days European governments would sign treaties with Indian nations "that were no different than between Britain and France" and how that

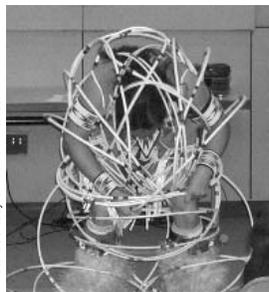


Photo courtesy of Mario Villarreal

The hoop dancer's intense, nonstop twirling amazed the audience.

policy evolved into an effort to move Native Americans to Arkansas and later Oklahoma. In 1871, Congress decided the United States would no longer make treaties with Indian tribes, he said, and shortly thereafter the government began focusing on assimilating Native



Photo courtesy of Mario Villarreal

Phil Hogen, associate solicitor for Indian Affairs at the Department of Interior, details past and present policies related to Native Americans.

Americans and allotting them land to transform them into "gentleman farmers."

"During that period of time huge amounts of land passed out of Indian ownership," Hogen said.

By the 1920s, it was becoming clear that the allotment and assimilation effort was failing, he said, and in 1934 Congress passed a law putting land held by Native Americans in trust indefinitely. Then the termination era began, and in the early 1950s, federal legislation ended the recognition of some 100 tribes (many were later reinstated), he said. Then, in 1975, the Self-Determination Act was passed, and court rulings enabled reservations to set up gambling operations and any other type of regulated—rather than prohibited—activity as Native American leaders saw fit.

"That is economic development that works. That is the good news," he said. "The bad news is it doesn't work every place."

During his opening remarks, Commissioner James W. Ziglar said the United States owes a great deal to Native Americans, reminding the audience that if it wasn't for them, the Pilgrims would not have survived their first winter.

"We've not always been that open and that gracious to them, but we need to do that," Ziglar said. "Quite frankly, we could learn a lot from the cultures that were first here."

BUSH SIGNS HOMELAND SECURITY ACT, CREATES 2 NEW INS BUREAUS WITHIN NEW DEPARTMENT

PRESIDENT Bush signed the Homeland Security Act into law Nov. 25, promising the new cabinet-level Department of Homeland Security “will focus the full resources of the American government on the safety of the American people.”

The act, which passed Congress with bipartisan support, placed 22 federal agencies involved with homeland security—including the INS, Coast Guard, Transportation Security Administration, Secret Service, and Federal Emergency Management Administration—under the umbrella of the new 170,000-worker department. The biggest government reorganization in more than a half-century also split the INS into two separate bureaus.

“In the new department, there will be a stronger separation between the service and enforcement responsibilities of the INS, but there also will be enhanced communication between those functions, a critical element to the success of our mission,” Commissioner James W. Ziglar said.

Most INS’ service functions will be handled through a Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services, a separate and distinct bureau headed by a director reporting to the department’s deputy secretary, number two in the chain of command. INS enforcement responsibilities will fall under the new Bureau of Border

Enforcement. That bureau, along with the U.S. Customs Service, will be part of the department’s Directorate of Border and Transportation Security, headed by an assistant secretary.

Unaccompanied juveniles, meanwhile, will become the responsibility of the Office of Refugee Resettlement in the Department of Health and Human Services. The move enables the growing number of undocumented young people entering the country without any relatives or guardians to gain better access to the nation’s refugee assistance and foster care systems.

“The creation of this new department is critical to the success of one of the most important missions of our government: securing the safety of the American people and protecting our institutions and our precious freedoms,” Ziglar said.

Before Bush signed the bill in a White House ceremony, he announced he will nominate former Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge to be the first secretary of Homeland Security. He also nominated Navy Secretary Gordon England to be the deputy secretary and Drug Enforcement Administration Administrator Asa Hutchinson to be undersecretary, heading the Directorate of Border and Transportation Security, which includes the Bureau of Border Security.

Continued on page 16

FORMER FEDERAL PROSECUTOR NAMED AS NEW ACTING INS COMMISSIONER

MICHAEL Garcia, a former federal prosecutor who led several successful prosecutions of high-profile terrorism cases, was selected by President Bush to serve as acting INS Commissioner, the Justice Department announced Nov. 25.

“Mr. Garcia is one of America’s top terrorism prosecutors and will lead tough enforcement of our immigration laws to protect Americans from terrorism and secure our homeland,” Attorney General John Ashcroft said.

Garcia will take the Commissioner post Nov. 30 when current Commissioner James W. Ziglar retires from federal service. Commissioner Ziglar announced his intention to retire from federal service in August and plans to begin teaching law at George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

Garcia will lead INS’ transition to the new Homeland Security Department, created in a bill the President signed into law Nov. 25. The law absorbs INS’ duties into two bureaus within the new department, one for border security and one for citizenship and benefits.

“I welcome the President’s choice of Michael Garcia to shepherd the INS into the new Department of Homeland

Security, with its central mission to keep our nation safe from future acts of terrorism,” the Attorney General said.

Garcia has been the Assistant Secretary for Export Enforcement at the Commerce Department since August 2001.

Previously, he worked as a federal prosecutor in the Southern District of New York for nine years, handling terrorism-related cases, including the following successful prosecutions:

- The four defendants in the first World Trade Center bombing trial
- The four defendants charged with conspiring with Osama bin Laden to kill Americans abroad with the bombing of two American embassies in East Africa
- Ramzi Ahmed Yousef and two others on charges of planning 48 hours of “terror in the sky” in a conspiracy to plant bombs aboard 12 American passenger airlines in the Far East

Garcia was awarded the U.S. Attorney General’s Award for Exceptional Service, the Department of Justice’s highest award, in 1994 and 1997 for those cases.

Earlier in his career, Garcia was a law clerk for New York State Court of Appeals Judge, Judith S. Kaye, from 1990 to 1992 and was with the Manhattan law firm of Cahill Gordon & Reindel from 1989 to 1990.

A New York native, he is a graduate of the State University of New York at Binghamton, received his master’s from the College of William and Mary and his law Degree from Albany Law School of Union University, where he was first in his class.



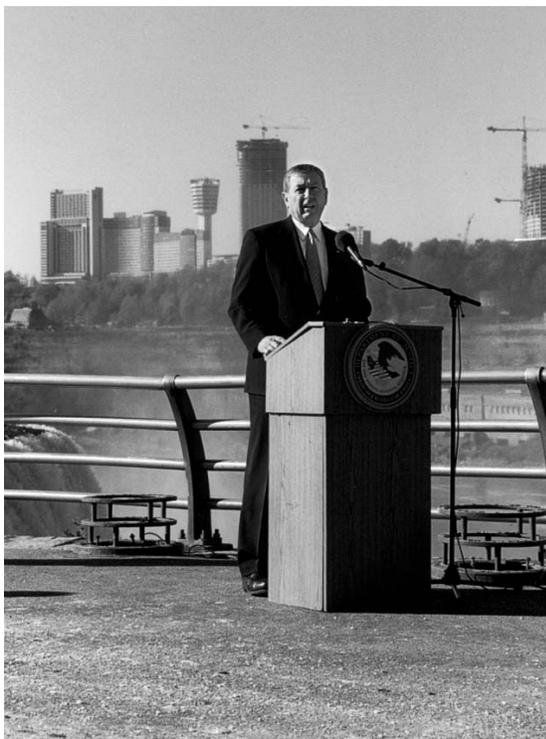
Michael Garcia

INS NEWS FROM *the Field*

ATTORNEY GENERAL VISITS NIAGARA FALLS FOR NSEERS BRIEFING, NEWS CONFERENCE

THE majesty of Niagara Falls is a physical reminder of the “importance national boundaries play in securing free peoples,” Attorney General John Ashcroft noted Nov. 7 when he combined a visit to the falls with a news conference on the new National Security Entry-Exit Registration System, known as NSEERS.

“When our nation was founded, the raging waters of the Niagara River served as a barrier that protected Americans against hostile British troops on the other side,” he said. “Two and a quarter centuries later, on Sept. 11, 2001, we saw just how much things had changed. The physical borders of the United States are no longer sufficient to prevent our nation’s enemies from treading on American soil and endangering our freedoms.”



Attorney General John Ashcroft discusses border security in front of Niagara Falls, a physical reminder of the “importance national boundaries play in securing free peoples.”

As such, the Attorney General said Prospect Point, with the U.S. and Canadian falls as a backdrop, was a fitting locale to announce that the NSEERS system is up and running at every U.S. port of entry. Under the first component of the system, international visitors may be required to undergo digital fingerprinting at ports of entry and have their prints ran against criminal databases. The other two components consist of a system of exit controls and periodic registration and confirmation of visitors’ activities while they are within the United States.

Aimed at responding to a Congressionally mandated goal of developing a system that tracks virtually all international visitors to the United States by 2005, NSEERS is a pilot program focusing on individuals who may pose potential national security risks.

“Today, I am pleased to report that the system is performing extremely well,” Ashcroft said. “In the eight weeks since the operation of NSEERS commenced, the INS has fingerprinted and registered more than 14,000 visitors.”

The Attorney General also said since NSEERS was first introduced on Sept. 11, the system has resulted in 179 arrests. Some of those arrested were either wanted felons who fled authorities during previous visits, foreigners with serious criminal records, or others attempting to enter the country with fraudulent documents or under false pretenses.

“Part of its success lies in the cutting-edge technology that makes it possible to intercept terrorists and criminals at our borders by scanning fingerprints and searching databases in a matter of seconds,” he said. “But a more important aspect of the system’s success lies in its human dimension.”

The Attorney General said he was grateful for the service of INS inspectors and the crucial role they play in homeland security.

“INS inspectors who serve on the front lines—literally—of our national defense have proven extremely capable in operating the system, and have been vigilant in applying the intelligence-

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IDEA MENTIONED OVER COFFEE RESULTS IN SPECIAL NATURALIZATION CEREMONY

AN idea first mentioned over coffee in mid-October resulted in a very special naturalization ceremony three weeks later for 72 immigrants serving in the U.S. military.

“We knew that we had a lot of military cases pending and decided that with a lot of hard work, by both officers and clerks, we could pull this together before Veterans Day,” said Jerri Adair, a supervisor in the Atlanta District’s Naturalization Department, of the conversation with some of her staff.

On Nov. 8, the idea—which originated from Adjudications Officer Roger Williams—became reality.

Immigrants from 35 countries—including Honduras, Liberia, Mexico, Panama, and Vietnam—swore in as U.S. citizens at a special naturalization ceremony for U.S. military personnel at Atlanta’s federal building.

“About half of the cases had already been interviewed and granted and were only awaiting ceremony. The rest of the cases had not been scheduled for interview,” Adair said. “The entire staff got busy running all of the necessary checks and making certain that all military checks and fingerprints were current.”

They also faced the daunting task of telephoning all the eligible applicants to determine if they would be able to report to the Atlanta District Office and attend the ceremony on Nov. 8. The new citizens participating in the ceremony traveled from military bases in Europe, Central America, and around the United States.

The planning and execution required military precision. “Everyone who had not been interviewed reported to this office at 8 a.m. for their interview and testing, and other applicants reported at 11 a.m.,” Adair said. “At 12:30 p.m. everyone reported to the Strom Auditorium for the naturalization ceremony.”

Wearing their military dress uniforms, they promised to “support and defend the constitution

and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic.” After finishing with “so help me God” to the cheers and tears of friends and colleagues, they crossed a stage to receive a citizenship certificate from Assistant District Director for Examinations Sheila Benton as well as a U.S. flag.

Other program highlights were a presentation of the colors by four cadets from Morrow High School; a speech by U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel Kenneth L. Harris of Ft. McPherson, Ga.; and welcoming and closing remarks by Adair.

“Not only did the military seem to have a great time and appreciate what was done, but the INS staff was really excited we were able to do this,” Adair said.

The new citizens are part of a little known group of U.S. military personnel who are prepared to fight for this country, perhaps die for this country, even though they aren’t U.S. citizens. According to Defense Department numbers, some 31,000 foreign nationals are enlisted in the U.S. military.

Some of the new citizens participating in the Atlanta ceremony were aided by special immigration law provisions allowing U.S. military personnel to apply for citizenship after living in the United States legally for

three years, rather than the standard five years. Others were aided by President Bush’s July 3 executive order speeding up citizenship proceedings for non-citizens who have been serving in the U.S. military since the Sept. 11 attacks. The executive order eliminates their three-year wait.

Adair said the Atlanta office has a number of military veterans who are district adjudications officers, and they and the other district adjudications officers were key to the ceremony’s success.

“Thanks to all, Nov. 8, 2002, was a great day for Atlanta,” she said.



Members of the U.S. military get ready to swear in as new citizens at a special naturalization ceremony in the Atlanta District.

LAREDO SECTOR'S 'CHIEF FOR A DAY' PROGRAM BENEFITS YOUTH, AGENTS

IN many ways, Bobby Palacios of Laredo, Texas, is a typical 18-year-old high school senior. He has plans for the future but doesn't know what the future has planned for him.

"After graduation I am going to go to Southwest University in San Marcos, Texas," Palacios said. "Either there or the University of Texas in San Antonio. I'm not sure yet."

Even though his final destination after high school is still under question, Palacios is sure about what field of study he wants to go into after being a Border Patrol "chief for the day."

"After spending the day with Chief Montoya I decided that law enforcement is something that I am interested in," Palacios said.

One student chosen every year

The Laredo Sector has been involved in the city of Laredo's "Official for a Day" program for three years, and Chief Patrol Agent John Montoya feels the program benefits more than just the student who becomes chief for a day.

One student is chosen each year to tag along with Montoya and experience a day in the patrol. Palacios, a United High School student, was chosen this year to be chief for the day on Nov. 20.

"Sometimes they really don't know what we do on a regular basis," Montoya said. "So we try to give them an overview of everything that happens."

The student gets an opportunity to tour the whole facility and see the entire aspect of the Border Patrol. "We want to show them the importance of what we do and how we do it," Montoya said.

Palacios said he didn't know what to expect from the experience but came away at the end of the day with an appreciation and understanding of what members of the Border Patrol do.

"At first I thought it was going to be boring," Palacios said. "But then he showed me around the complex and it became real exciting."

Program benefits everyone involved

For Montoya, the experience is also rewarding for him and the agents who work in the sector.

"It restores that optimism and confidence in the youth and the future for many of the agents that spend time with the student," Montoya said. "You run into so many negative things that it can affect you sometimes."



Laredo Sector "Chief for the Day" Bobby Palacios (center) sits in the chief's chair. The next day the chair returns to Chief Patrol Agent John Montoya (right) who along with Assistant Chief Patrol Agent Lee E. Bargerhuff (left) served with Palacios his day in the patrol.

Palacios got a firsthand look at exactly at what agents deal with when a vehicle was confiscated near the border. It was carrying more than 200 pounds of marijuana.

"One Border Patrol officer said it was worth \$360,000 on the street," Palacios said. "To think that they just kept 200 pounds of that stuff from coming in is amazing."

Experience leaves positive impression

The role that the agents play in the community is something that also stuck out in Palacios' mind and is what made him think of law enforcement as a possible career.

"You are actually helping the community in many different ways," Palacios said. "You are helping parents, the country, and the people that are involved."

Ultimately, that is what the program is intended for, Montoya said. "We engrain our trainees during their training that they are part of the community that they serve. This is one way to contribute to the community."

That is the message Palacios will take with him after his experience.

"When you think of Border Patrol you think its just watching the border," Palacios said. "But they also take care of the community."

Commissioner's Awards 2002

Nov. 21, 2002

COMMISSIONER James W. Ziglar handed out more than 60 awards at the Annual Awards Ceremony 2002 Nov. 21 in Washington, D.C., as Deputy Commissioner Mike Becraft announced the recipients.

Following is a list of individual and group recipients. Due to space limitations, only the names of group members accepting on behalf of their colleagues appear.

JOYCE CHIANG MEMORIAL AWARD

NATALIE VEDDER
Special Assistant
Administrative Center, Burlington
South Burlington, Vt.
For Excellence in Customer Service

MARY GALETICH
Human Resources Specialist
National Hiring Center
Ft. Snelling, Minn.
For Excellence in Customer Service

EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
Headquarters Office of Human Resources Management
Accepted by Elsy Sharpe and John Rogers
For Excellence in Customer Service

COMMISSIONER'S CHALLENGE AWARD

WILLIAM MCELHANEY
Director, Technical Architecture Branch
Headquarters Office of Information Resources
Management
For Data Integrity

AMY WHEELOCK
Supervisory Computer Specialist
Headquarters Office of Strategic Information and
Technology Development
For Data Integrity

RECORDS SERVICES BRANCH
Headquarters Office of Records Management
Accepted by Office Chief Ruth Jones
For Data Integrity

**NATIONAL SECURITY ENTRY-EXIT
REGISTRATION SYSTEM TEAM**
Headquarters Office of Field Operations
Accepted by San Diego Deputy District Director Robert
Schoch
For Data Integrity

EXAMINATIONS ADJUSTMENT UNIT
San Antonio District Office
Accepted by Senior District Adjudications Officer Chris
Saucedo
For Immigration Services

FACILITIES AND ENGINEERING BRANCH
Headquarters Office of Administration
Accepted by Jim Caffrey, Rufus Johnson, and Manny
Rodriguez
For Border Enforcement

INVESTIGATIONS
Mexico City District Office
Accepted by David Ramirez
For Border Enforcement

“Today’s recipients are a shining example of the outstanding work that is done by so many people in the INS. Each person being recognized here today simply represents a score of unheralded heroes.”

—Commissioner Ziglar



Deputy Commissioner Mike Becraft announces the recipients of the Commissioner's Annual Awards.

**BORDER PATROL ACADEMY and the
IMMIGRATION OFFICERS ACADEMIES**
Glynco, Ga.; Artesia, N.M; and Charleston, S.C.
Accepted by **Tom Walters** and **Russell Wright**
For Border Enforcement

OFFICE OF INSPECTIONS
Miami District
Accepted by Assistant District Director for Inspections
John Garofano
For Border Facilitation

OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS
Western Region
Accepted by **Tony Esposito** and **Gary Hughes**
For Interior Enforcement

**INVESTIGATIONS/ADJUDICATIONS FRAUD
UNIT**
Detroit District Office
Accepted by **Philip Wrona** and **Jack Lin**
For Interior Enforcement

KERRY GILL
Community Relations Officer
Newark District Office
For Community Impact

MELISSA EDMON
Special Assistant
Headquarters Office of Commissioner
For Infrastructure and Professionalism

MARY ELIZABETH BADEN
Facilities Program Officer
Headquarters Office of Administration
For Infrastructure and Professionalism

NATIONAL HIRING INITIATIVE
Accepted by **Sid Waldstreicher**
For Infrastructure and Professionalism

HEADQUARTERS MAILROOM
Headquarters Office of Administration
Accepted by **Glenn Brown, Anthony Douglas, Kevin
Edwards, Matthew Greene, Philip Kramer, Linda Lakey,
Janice Rivers, Louis Rochester, Alphonso Smith,
Kimberly Strothers, Joyce Toler, Kahill Warren, Donna
Whitley, Allen Williams, and Denise Young.**
For Infrastructure and Professionalism

SAN DIEGO PEER SUPPORT PROGRAM
San Diego Border Patrol Sector
Accepted by Peer Support Team Manager **Stacy Henry**
For Infrastructure and Professionalism

**COMMISSIONER'S INTERAGENCY
ASSISTANCE AWARD**

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE
Accepted by **Bill Ard**

BORDER SECURITY ENHANCEMENT TEAM
General Services Administration
Accepted by **Jim Oberg**

**COMMISSIONER'S EQUAL
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
AWARD**

CARLOS DOMINGUEZ
Border Patrol Agent
Calexico Station
El Centro Border Patrol Sector

SHAPEL HALL
Black Affairs Program Manager
Baltimore District Office

NATIONAL RECRUITMENT TEAM
Accepted by **Kathy Hochman**



Kathryn Price, Marfa Sector counsel, accepts the Rookie Attorney-of-the-Year Award from the Commissioner.

ROOKIE ATTORNEY-OF-THE-YEAR AWARD

KATHRYN PRICE
Sector Counsel
Marfa Border Patrol Sector

DISTRICT COUNSEL-OF-THE-YEAR AWARD

PATRICIA VROOM
District Counsel
Phoenix District

ATTORNEY-OF-THE-YEAR AWARD

PAUL NISHIIE
Assistant District Counsel
San Francisco District

ANDREW STEINBERG
Associate General Counsel
Headquarters Office of General Counsel

EMPLOYEE-OF-THE-YEAR AWARD IN SECRETARIAL, TECHNICAL, AND ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS

NANCY INGALLS
Secretary
Boston District Office
For Secretarial/Clerical Support

ANN HANSON
Secretary
Western Regional Office
Laguna Niguel, Calif.
For Secretarial/Clerical Support



Headquarters Secretary Erma M. Paliani (right), a recipient of the Commissioner's Exception Service Award, stands in applause. Paliani herself received a standing ovation along with other several other recipients, including the employees of the Headquarters mailroom; James Bailey, Central Region transition field coordinator; and Border Patrol Agents Robert Lawler and Jered Bacon of the Nogales Station in Arizona.

COLLEEN RYAN-RATH
Immigration Status Verifier
Buffalo District Office
For Technical Support/Front Line

JOYCE GORHAM
Program Specialist
Headquarters Office of Border Patrol
For Administrative Excellence

COMMISSIONER'S QUALITY AND PRODUCTIVITY IMPROVEMENT AWARD

BARBARA BLESSING
Director
Carrier Compliance Branch
Office of Financial Management
Dallas, Texas

RICHARD COFFIN
Supervisory Immigration Officer
Headquarters Office of Field Operations

INTERNAL INVESTIGATIONS BRANCH ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM
Headquarters Office of Internal Audit
Accepted by Anita Richardson

NATIONAL SECURITY LAW DIVISION
Headquarters Office of General Counsel
Accepted by Division Chief Sarah Kendall

NATIONAL SECURITY UNIT
Headquarters Office of Field Operations
Accepted by Acting Director Lou Nardi

COMMISSIONER'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN LEGAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

ANNA HARRELL
Administrative Officer
Office of the District Council
Phoenix District

KARMAN BEAMON
Program Analyst
Newark District Office.
For Administrative Excellence

**OFFICER CORPS EMPLOYEE-OF-
THE-YEAR AWARD**

TRINA FENDER
Senior Special Agent
Portland District Office

CESAR CASTRO
Immigration Inspector
El Paso District

CLARENCE ROBINSON
District Adjudications Officer
Chicago District Office

CHRISTOPHER SHANAHAN
Supervisory Deportation Officer
Newark District Office

SHERI ALTHOFF
Supervisory Border Patrol Agent
El Paso Border Patrol Sector

BRYAN CHRISTIAN
Asylum Officer
Chicago Asylum Office

**FEDERAL WAGE SYSTEM
EMPLOYEE-OF-THE-YEAR AWARD**

JOHN O'NEILL JR.
Mechanical Maintenance Supervisor
San Diego Border Patrol Sector

ELOY MORALES
Maintenance Supervisor
El Paso Border Patrol Sector

**COMMISSIONER'S SUPERVISOR-
OF-THE-YEAR AWARD**

CLEMENTINA ROVIN
Supervisory Applications Clerk
Los Angeles District Office

CHRISTINA MALMGREN-MIDBY
Supervisory Human Resources Specialist
National Hiring Center
Ft. Snelling, Minn.



Officer Bill Ard of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police accepts the Commissioner's Interagency Assistance Award on behalf of his agency.

**COMMISSIONER'S MANAGER-OF-
THE-YEAR AWARD**

JAMES BAILEY
Transition Field Coordinator
Central Region Office
Dallas, Texas

JOHN LAFFERTY
Deputy Director
Los Angeles Asylum Office

**COMMISSIONER'S MERITORIOUS
SERVICE AWARD**

VIRGINIA McKINNEY
Assistant Commissioner
Data Systems Division
Headquarters Office of Information Resources
Management.

RONALD SMITH
District Director
Portland and Phoenix District Offices

JACQUELYN BEDNARZ
Special Assistant
Headquarters Office of Policy and Planning

JOSE GARZA
Sector Chief
McAllen Border Patrol Sector

JOHN BULGER
Acting District Director
Miami District

SPOTLIGHT ON 5 LUMINARY EMPLOYEES

RECIPIENTS OF COMMISSIONER'S EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE AWARD

Victor Cerda

Acting Chief of Staff

Headquarters Office of the Commissioner

IN the immediate aftermath of Sept. 11, Acting Chief of Staff Victor Cerda played an instrumental role in INS' response to the nation's rapidly evolving security priorities. He assisted in the development, implementation, and coordination of INS' deployments to protect the nation's borders and to ensure the safety of its air, land, and seaports.

He also effectively coordinated INS' responses to the relentless demands for assistance from other government agencies. Without his considerable strengths and talents, INS wouldn't have been able to meet the challenges created by the agency's rapidly expanding mission and the Department of Justice's growing expectations in respect to border enforcement and services. In addition, he lent his energy and expertise to dealing with the precedent-setting Cambodian adoption policy, the Alien Absconder Initiative, Haitian migrants, and many other critical issues.

Throughout his service following Sept. 11, he worked extra hours at great personal sacrifice, none greater than not being able to spend time with his wife and their young daughter.

Owen B. "Bo" Cooper

General Counsel

Headquarters Office of General Counsel

IN the wake of Sept. 11, General Counsel Owen B. "Bo" Cooper's crisis management skills were tested like never before.

His leadership was unsurpassed as he ensured that the will of the President and the Attorney General were promptly embodied in appropriate regulations and statutes. He also monitored these developments to ensure that the balance between the security interests of the country and the rights of the individual was maintained.

In addition to his contributions in response to Sept. 11, Cooper directed INS' efforts to implement the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act.

This ensured that regulations struck a balance that carried out Congress' intent to protect the rights and interests of victims, while also protecting the process from potential abuse. He has also been a leading voice in repatriation, international adoption, and other highly sensitive issues, never losing sight of the human faces that were behind them.



Acting Chief of Staff Victor Cerda (left) accepts an award from Commissioner James W. Ziglar for his key role in enabling the INS to respond to its rapidly expanding mission.



General Counsel Owen B. "Bo" Cooper (left) and the Commissioner hold the award Cooper won for his crisis management skills.

Erma M. Paliani

Secretary

Headquarters Office of Investigations

ERMA M. Paliani began her career in government service 66 years ago in the War Department. Twelve years later, she joined the INS as a stenographer in Philadelphia.

The longevity of her service alone makes her deserving of the exceptional service award, but she also received it for her deep commitment to making a meaningful contribution every day. She facilitates the functioning of the Office of Investigations through her hard work and attentiveness, which include keeping the assistant commissioner informed of procedural and administrative matters.

As the final authority on administrative/clerical support matters within the division, Paliani maintains rigorous correspondence control procedures that reflect her thorough knowledge of complex investigation activities. The highly efficient system of office procedures that she has developed allows her to promptly alert the assistant commissioner and others to potential problems.



Headquarters Secretary Erma M. Paliani (left), whose government career spans 66 years, accepts an award from the Commissioner acknowledging her deep commitment to making a meaningful contribution every day.

RECIPIENTS OF COMMISSIONER'S NEWTON-AZRAK AWARD

Jered Bacon and Robert Lawler

Nogales Station

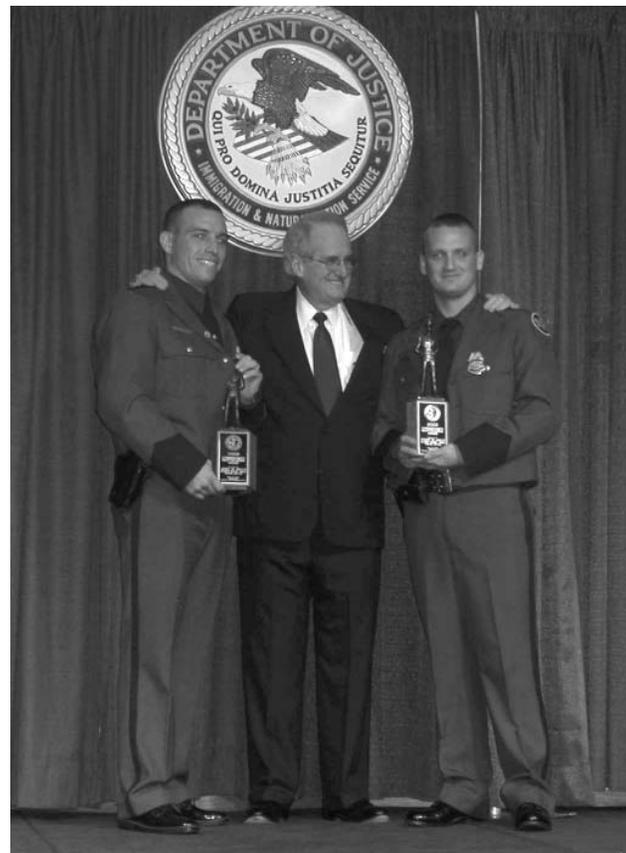
Tucson Border Patrol Sector

AGENTS Robert Lawler and Jered Bacon along with Supervisory Border Patrol Agent Ed Tracy, who has since left INS, were patrolling the border near Nogales on Aug. 31 when they noticed an apartment building on fire.

They immediately called the fire department for help but soon realized firefighters would not arrive in time because the blaze was spreading rapidly. As the only people on the scene, they knew they had to take action.

Without regard for their personal safety, the agents rushed into the building to evacuate the occupants, most of whom were sound asleep. Through their quick actions, which put their own lives at risk, they managed to rescue all 22 occupants from an almost certain death.

Just moments after they brought the last occupants out, firefighters arrived on the scene. By then, the building was completely engulfed in flames.



Border Patrol Agents Jered Bacon (left) and Robert Lawler get a pat on the back from the Commissioner. The two agents from the Nogales Station received the Commissioner's Newton-Azrak Award for putting their lives on the line to rescue people inside a burning apartment building.

Editor's note: The text on these two pages is comprised of excerpts from Deputy Commissioner Mike Becraft's prepared remarks honoring the recipients of the Commissioner's Exceptional Service Award and the Commissioner's Newton-Azrak Award.

INS NEWS FROM *the Field*

AGENTS HELP CREATE HAPPY THANKSGIVINGS FOR LOW-INCOME FAMILIES IN SANTA TERESA

MORE than 220 low-income families in Santa Teresa, N.M., dined on turkey, yams, cranberry sauce, stuffing, mashed potatoes, and pumpkin pie for Thanksgiving thanks to the Border Patrol.

Agents from the Santa Teresa Station donated money and time to gather and deliver food during Thanksgiving week, illustrating that their job is more than protecting the borders, but bettering the community they serve.

"We had agents donate money at the station and also got the four local schools in the area involved," Senior Patrol Agent Manny Calvillo said. "Our goal was to feed 150 families this year."

The goal, which agents exceeded by more than 70 families, was based on last year's accomplishment of providing meals for 130 families.

"We received more than \$3,100 from the community, making this all possible," Calvillo said, noting the 4-year-old station program has grown steadily each year with community support.

This year, after collecting donations from the community, agents went to a local grocery store and bought meals for the families, delivering them on Nov. 25.

"Some of us went to the grocery store the Sunday before delivery and prepared the boxes for the next day," Calvillo said. "About 10 officers arrived between 6 and 7 a.m. the next day and helped



Border Patrol agents carry food that will be given to low-income families for their Thanksgiving meals.

deliver the food for the families with the help of the Sundland Park Police Department."

Members of the Border Patrol who helped in the efforts included Senior Patrol Agents Richard Barragan, Art Mendoza, Carlos Flores, Elias Garcia, and Ruth Reyes.

The extra work is just part of the job for Calvillo, who also serves as the Partners in Education Coordinator for the station. An agent in the community for more than four years, Calvillo has been involved with the Thanksgiving program the past two years.

"I like helping the community ... especially during these times," he said.

SECURITY

Continued from page 5

"I commend the employees who will move into this new department for their hard work and dedication to the war on terrorism," the President said. "Setting up this new department will take time, but I know we will meet the challenge together."

INS, Secret Service, and Customs Service will be among the first to join the new department March 1. Others will come on board in the months leading

up to Sept. 30, 2003, the date when the department is to be fully operational.

"I speak for the men and women of the Immigration and Naturalization Service when I say that we look forward to working with the new Secretary of Homeland Security," Ziglar said. "We are prepared to facilitate the integration of the INS into the new department as we continue to write this important new chapter in America's history."

HALLWAY AT LAGUNA NIGUEL DISPLAYS FACES OF VETERANS, INS' UNSUNG HEROS

By Marie Sebrechts

WALKING through the entrance hall of the Chet Holifield Federal Building in Laguna Niguel this November, some vaguely familiar faces lined the path. People did double takes, stopped, and at times laughed in disbelief.

Here were the faces of INS colleagues—the mother whose children just graduated from high school, the man who always makes us laugh, the supervisor, and the deliveryman. Yet, they were in uniform—as the men and women whose service helped guarantee our freedoms and safety. Suddenly, there was a whole new dimension to those faces across the desk. These INS colleagues are veterans who served in World Wars I and II and the Korean, Vietnam and Persian Gulf wars.

Wall a labor of love

The wall is the personal project of Erwin “Marty” Martinez, a member of the INS Western Region Investigations staff.

“It was my son who inspired me to create the annual Veteran’s Wall. After 9/11, he wanted to serve his country, although, as an only son, he was exempt from doing so,” he said. “Despite the heartache of thinking of my son in this terrorist conflict, it made me proud that he wanted to serve his country. I thought of the many unsung heroes who cross our paths every day.”

Martinez solicited and received permission from the General Services Administration to put the display up on the wall for two weeks—the week before and the week of Veterans Day.

The ceremonial and respectful element of the “wall” is reminiscent of the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C.—but it’s not carved in granite, rather composed of office partitions. It also is a living wall of the friends and colleagues INS employees in Laguna Niguel see daily.

Display continues to grow

In November 2001, the first Veteran’s Wall consisted of about 40 photos; this year 157 veterans participated. Initially, Martinez approached INS employees; this year, people contacted him as well. The wall expanded even further as employees asked to include photos of their spouses who served, and more than a dozen Internal Revenue Service employees from the building requested inclusion.

Martinez is certain his project will continue and expand each year. It has been an exceptional tool



Erwin “Marty” Martinez, creator of the Veteran’s Day Wall, stands near his own photos.

for Western Region employees to get to know each other. Employees look forward to meeting more of their colleagues who helped defend the nation’s freedom, and the wall presents an annual opportunity to say “thank you.”

In the best selfless tradition of the Armed Forces and the INS, Martinez offered passersby an opportunity to do more than just learn about their colleagues. He included food collection boxes at the end of the Veteran’s Wall, and then single-handedly trucked donations to the Veteran’s Hospital in San Diego. There, a few more non-INS veterans have the chance to receive a special Veteran’s Day recognition and a holiday “thank you.”



Photos of 157 veterans were included in the second annual Veterans Day Wall in Laguna Niguel.

Photo courtesy of Marie Sebrechts

Photo courtesy of Marie Sebrechts

RAMEY SECTOR AGENTS SAVE 6 MIGRANTS FROM DROWNING

NOV. 12 started as a typical day in Puerto Rico for Supervisory Border Patrol Agent Joseph Herrero and the rest of the agents assigned to the Ramey Station.

"It was in the middle of a shift change around 6 a.m. when we got the call from the local maritime police in Puerto Rico about an approaching smuggling vessel that they were unable to overtake and interdict," Herrero said. "This was pretty typical for us but became different because we had to do more than just capture."



The rough sea tosses about the wooden boat packed with undocumented migrants.

On this nippy November day, the seas were particularly treacherous. Six to 8-foot waves and swells were placing the 30-foot wooden boat in grave danger. Packed with some 45 undocumented migrants from the Dominican Republic on its deck, the boat's motor broke, and waves crashed against it as the rough seas tossed it about.

"They were having trouble coming in," Herrero said. "They were about 50 yards out and the boat looked like it was going to capsize on three different occasions."

Some of the people on the boat decided to take their chances and began diving into the ocean, hoping to swim to shore. Crashing waves washed still more of the migrants overboard. The undercurrents and waves were way too powerful to swim against, however, and many nearly drowned.

"Ordinarily, our role is to apprehend," Chief Patrol Agent Daniel Geoghegan said. "That day we had to save lives."

Herrero said it was hard to fathom that migrants would risk trying to swim to shore under those conditions.

"I managed to pull two of them out but it was all very dynamic. They were coming from different distances," he said. "Usually you pick a point of landfall but they were jumping close to the rocks. Some were trying to swim in. All of that is very difficult when the current is that strong."

Supervisory Border Patrol Agent Edwin Rodriguez and Senior Patrol Agents Mark Lippa and Patrick Ott also dove into the water, removing their gun belts and gear, to rescue the distressed migrants. Rodriguez, Lippa, and Ott were directly responsible for saving six lives during the incident. In total, more than 10 migrants were pulled from the waters.

With the assistance from a Puerto Rican Maritime Police vessel and the Coast Guard, the wooden boat was eventually brought to shore. Supervisory Border Patrol Agents Victor Griffin, Xavier Morales, and Herrero; Senior Patrol Agents Victor Cancel, Ross Roley, and Pat Marez; and Agent Jose Valentin secured the vessel, ensuring the remaining undocumented migrants were safely taken into custody.

In the two months that he has served as Chief of the Ramey Sector, Geoghegan, who has more than 20 years of service in the Border Patrol, has developed an even higher appreciation for what his agents do.

"It's a different environment. There is a very genuine element of peril involved when these agents go out into that sea," Geoghegan said. "We are a small sector, but we do a good job."

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Continued from page 6

based criteria to identify aliens for inclusion in the program," he said. "At the same time, they have been courteous to our foreign guests, and have made every effort to minimize any delay or inconvenience."

Before the press conference, the Attorney General attended a briefing on the NSEERS system and the registration process by Buffalo District Director Frances Holmes and Assistant District Director for Examinations Cary Frieling. He also witnessed an actual exit registration of a foreign visitor at the Rainbow Bridge, which connects the U.S. City of Niagara Falls with the Canadian City of Niagara Falls.

After the press conference, the Attorney General traveled to Buffalo to address local Department of

Justice officials and employees. The media, meanwhile, were invited to the Rainbow Bridge Point of Entry for an opportunity to witness a staged NSEERS registration and to ask further questions.

Supervisory Immigration Inspector Timothy Andrews fielded questions about the registration process while Immigration Inspector Derek Fideli created a demonstration record for Immigration Inspector Jason Juran, who was not in uniform, during the staged registration. U.S. and Canadian media representatives aired footage of the demonstration in later newscasts.

"I was proud that the Niagara Falls Point of Entry was picked as the site for this NSEERS system demonstration," Andrews said.

NEW YORK AIRPORT WORKERS ARRESTED FOR USING FAKE SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS

OPERATION Eye Sky, a nine-month multi-agency investigation into security at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport and LaGuardia Airport, ended Nov. 19 with federal and state charges against 127 airport workers who received security clearances by lying about their criminal histories or by presenting fake identification.

"In a post-9/11 environment, security is always a critical issue," New York District Director Edward McElroy said. "We will conduct investigations and identify immigration violations and criminal charges, and we will continue to bring these cases to prosecution."

Twenty-eight of the workers were charged with using invalid or improperly obtained Social Security numbers. Twenty of the workers face deportation.

"The INS congratulates all of the agents who worked this case to bring about these arrests," McElroy said. "And I want to give

special thanks to the INS Worksite Enforcement Unit."

Other airport workers facing federal charges include 35 charged with lying about previous convictions for such crimes as armed robbery, assault with intent to commit physical injury, larceny, burglary, and multiple weapons and drug offenses, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York.

Most of the federal charges are felonies punishable by up to five years in prison plus fines of as much as \$250,000. Illegal re-entry after deportation for a serious felony, however, is punishable by up to 20 years in prison. The rest of the charged workers face state charges in Queens County and a maximum of four years in prison and up to \$5,000 in fines.

The airport workers, some current and some former, were security guards; baggage handlers; aircraft mechanics, cleaners, and

fuelers; food service workers; ramp agents; and customer service representatives.

Authorities said none of the charged workers appeared to have terrorist links, but they were concerned that persons using false identification or criminal convictions had access to planes and secured areas. Those areas include aircraft parking and maintenance areas, the tarmac and ramp, cargo storage facilities, and passenger and baggage screening areas.

"The arrests announced today are part of a nationwide, pro-active effort by the law enforcement community to strengthen security at our airports and ensure the safety of the traveling public," U.S. Attorney Roslynn R. Mauskopf said.

During the past year, similar operations have been conducted at airports in other cities, including Denver, Colo.; Los Angeles, Calif.; Baltimore, Md.; Washington D.C.; and, most recently, in Newark, N.J., on Nov. 14.

FLORIDA CITRUS CONTRACTORS CONVICTED FOR VIRTUALLY ENSLAVING MIGRANT WORKERS

THE investigative work and persistence of a senior Border Patrol agent helped lead to the Nov. 20 conviction of three Florida citrus contractors for virtually enslaving some 700 undocumented farm workers and threatening them with violence if they left.

"Today's sentencing demonstrates that human trafficking will not be tolerated in the United States," said Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights Ralph Boyd Jr. "Those who target and enslave the vulnerable will face stiff penalties."

Senior Patrol Agent Craig Fohl was the lead investigator for the case, which initially broke after the defendants attacked the owner and employees of a small, unlicensed van service that transported farm workers from Lake Placid, Fla., to various locations. That investigation and ensuing breaks in the case ultimately resulted in the three defendants being convicted of conspiring to hold workers in involuntary servitude; harboring undocumented workers; interfering with interstate commerce by

extortion; and using firearms during the course of a violent felony.

U.S. District Judge K. Michael Moore sentenced brothers Ramiro Ramos, 42, and Juan Ramos, 34, to 12 years and three months of imprisonment each. Their cousin, Jose Ramos, 45, was sentenced to 10 years and 3 months. In addition, the judge ordered the defendants to forfeit real estate, personal property—including vehicles—and more than \$3 million in proceeds from the criminal activities.

Fohl's Border Patrol investigation began in May 2000 and uncovered an intriguing subculture involving family-controlled rings employing migrant workers.

"Several large groups of families controlled most of the businesses in the area," Fohl said. "So they were able to not only profit from these workers who lived in the area, but they could keep an eye on them. Since many of them lived on the family-owned property, their debts could never be repaid, so they could not leave."

He said it was not until March 2001 that he got a break in the case when four

workers escaped and were willing to talk to authorities. The workers provided evidence that the defendants recruited undocumented workers at a safe house in Arizona and paid their \$1,000 transportation fee to Florida, beginning the cycle of debt that could not be repaid.

"Once they arrived, they were threatened, and, basically, it turned into forced labor," Fohl said, noting "we got the break at the right time."

Attorneys for the Criminal Section of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division prosecuted the case, with the assistance of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Florida.

The conspiracy pre-dates enactment of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000, which increased criminal penalties and broadened prosecutors' authority in trafficking cases to reach modern forms of slavery. The defendants were sentenced in accordance with the laws in effect at the time of their offenses.

GOOD NEWS INSide

AGENTS APPREHEND

WANTED SEX OFFENDER

Agents from the **Nogales Border Patrol Station** apprehended 11 undocumented residents on Nov. 26 in a remote area five miles southwest of Green Valley, Ariz. While performing record checks, they discovered one of the males, a citizen of Honduras, was wanted under two outstanding arrest warrants issued by Los Angeles, Calif., dating back to 1991, for multiple rape and sex offenses, including the rape of a 10-year-old boy. Since Nov. 1, the Nogales Border Patrol Station has apprehended nine undocumented residents with outstanding arrest warrants from Arizona, California, Colorado, and Utah. The various charges included murder, aggravated assault, burglary, domestic violence, and parole violations.

AGENTS SEIZE 2,116

POUNDS OF MARIJUANA

Agents from the Border Patrol's **Rio Grande City Station** patrolling the Rio Grande River east of Rio Grande City, Texas, on Nov. 20 seized 2,116 pounds of marijuana valued at \$1.6 million. Agents discovered fresh footprints leading down river and found a total of 29 bundles of marijuana, weighing 2,116 pounds.

STATE CONSUL SCHMADEL

HONORED FOR ASSISTING INS

The INS Panama City sub-office awarded Department of State Consul **Fredericka A. Schmadel**



Assistant Officer-in-Charge George Suhr presents a plaque to Fredericka Schmadel in appreciation for her support to Immigration Control Officer Program in Caracas, Venezuela.

with a plaque in appreciation of her outstanding professional assistance in the first phase of the INS Immigration Control Officer Program in Caracas, Venezuela. The program's success in Caracas enabled Supervisory Border Patrol Agent **Carlos Quevedo** to intercept more than 170 malafide travelers at the

Maiquetia Airport during a 30-day period in September. Schmadel ensured the INS program had all the

necessary tools and all the right contacts with the local authorities to be able to assist the airlines and local migration officers in deterring and intercepting the flow of illegal alien towards the United States.

2 RESCUED AFTER ACTIVATING BEACON

Agents of the **Yuma Border Patrol Sector** rescued two undocumented migrants Oct. 14 in the Barry Goldwater range after the migrants activated a rescue beacon. Border Patrol Radio Communications immediately notified the field agents about the activation, and agents from the Border Patrol's Search Trauma and Rescue (BORSTAR) team responded and arrived at the scene within 30 minutes. The migrants had walked about 12 miles through the desert in scorching heat and unusually high humidity and had run out of water with several miles left to go. When they spotted the strobe light on top of the rescue beacon they walked to it; read the instructions; and, realizing their lives were in danger, activated it. BORSTAR agents treated the two for dehydration and then processed them for illegal entry into the United States.

BORDER PATROL RESCUES

WOMAN LOST IN DESERT

A 59-year-old woman from Yuma, Ariz., who spent three days lost in the desert near Dome Valley was rescued Nov. 4 after a Border Patrol helicopter found her beneath a tree. Both Border Patrol ground and air units assisted the county sheriff's department in searching for her after her husband notified law enforcement that she never returned from a hike. The woman was transported to Yuma Regional Medical Center where she was treated for dehydration and exposure to the elements.

NORTHERN BORDER

GETS 200 NEW AGENTS

More than 200 additional Border Patrol agents reported for duty along the Northern border in October and November. The 245 new agents, are being permanently posted on the Northern border to provide heightened security in the wake of Sept. 11. Besides an infusion of new agents, the Border Patrol has also increased its surveillance capabilities along the Northern border through the deployment of additional new aircraft and the installation of Remote Video Surveillance Systems over the last several months.

One facet of that expanded enforcement strategy includes the deployment of temporary mobile traffic



The INS San Luis Port of Entry donated used computers and equipment on Oct. 28 to Mrs. Villa's 3rd Grade class at H.L. Suverkrup School in Yuma, Ariz.

checkpoints to strategic locations beginning in late November. "These temporary checkpoints will aid our efforts to detect and deter the illegal entries and smuggling activity that pose a potential threat to border security," said the Blaine Sector's Chief Patrol Agent **Ron Henley**. "We are working closely with the community to ensure people are aware of our plans and to address any concerns residents may have."

The checkpoints are being set up in strategic locations along the Northern border. The Border Patrol will continue to work cooperatively with federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies along the Northern border.

600 POUNDS OF NARCOTICS SEIZED

Border Patrol agents from the **San Diego Sector** foiled an attempt to smuggle more than 600 pounds of narcotics across the border near Jacumba, Calif., on Oct. 31. The seizure was the sector's largest this year. An electronic sensor alerted agents to activity in the area, and agents on all-terrain-vehicles responded to the scene. They observed a blue pick-up truck quickly leaving the area, and footprints suggested that several people had crossed from the nearby border to the truck. They requested backup, and an agent near old Highway 80 west of Jacumba soon spotted the vehicle. The driver, realizing agents were following, turned south towards Mexico, leapt from the truck and ran south across the border. Agents found nine duffel bags in the truck containing 110 individually wrapped bundles with an estimated street value of \$439,600.

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