



Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General

Special Report: Summary of Significant Investigations

October 1, 2009 to December 31, 2010





**Homeland
Security**

April 15, 2011

Preface

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Inspector General (OIG) was established by the *Homeland Security Act of 2002* (Public Law 107-296) by amendment to the *Inspector General Act of 1978*. This is one of a series of audit, inspection, and special reports prepared as part of our oversight responsibilities to promote economy, efficiency, and effectiveness within the Department, and to deter fraud, waste, and abuse.

This special report addresses significant investigative work undertaken by our office from October 1, 2009 to December 31, 2010. This work contributes significantly to the Department's overall mission and specifically addresses the Secretary's priorities and goals concerning (1) Preventing Terrorism and Enhancing Security and (2) Securing and Managing the Nation's Borders. Our work was based on interviews with employees and officials of relevant agencies and institutions, direct observations, and a review of applicable documents.

We trust this report will result in an increased awareness by Department management and staff regarding potential fraud, waste, and abuse that could hamper the Department's ability to fulfill its mission, priorities, and goals. We express our appreciation to all of those who contributed to the preparation of this report.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles K. Edwards".

Charles K. Edwards
Acting Inspector General

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Abbreviations

AO	Adjudication Officer
BPA	Border Patrol Agent
CBP	U.S. Customs and Border Protection
DHS	Department of Homeland Security
DOJ	U.S. Department of Justice
EDS	Enforcement Data System
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FPU	Fraud Prevention Unit
HUD	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
ICE	U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
IEA	Immigration Enforcement Agent
JTTF	Joint Terrorism Task Force
NEMIS	National Emergency Management Information System
OIG	Office of Inspector General
OPR	Office of Professional Responsibility
PGPD	Prince George’s County Police Department
POE	Point of Entry

SBA	U.S. Small Business Administration
SPI	Superior Protection Inc.
TSA	Transportation Security Administration
TSO	Transportation Security Officer
USCIS	U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

OIG

Department of Homeland Security
Office of Inspector General

Executive Summary

Our Office of Investigations has statutory authority for investigating allegations of criminal misconduct of Department of Homeland Security employees within the Department, and conducts investigations into allegations of criminal, civil, and administrative misconduct involving Department of Homeland Security employees, contractors, grantees, and programs. These investigations also result in criminal prosecutions, fines, civil monetary penalties, administrative sanctions, and personnel actions.

During the period October 1, 2009 to December 31, 2010, our investigative efforts resulted in 519 arrests and 416 convictions. These investigations also led to fines, restitution, recoveries, and administrative cost savings of more than \$114.5 million dollars.

The Office of Investigations also has statutory authority to oversee and monitor the investigative activity of the various internal affairs elements within the component agencies that make up the Department of Homeland Security.

This special report is prepared as part of our oversight responsibilities to prevent and detect fraud, waste, and abuse in the Department's programs and operations. On a daily basis, our investigative staff works diligently to deter those who would engage in criminal wrongdoing; and to promote more effective, efficient, and economical operations within the Department of Homeland Security. This report serves to inform and assure the Department, the Congress, and the American public of our steadfast resolve to identify and deter fraud, waste, and abuse wherever it may occur in the Department.

Statistical Highlights of Investigations: October 1, 2009 to December 31, 2010

Allegations, Investigations and Other Actions	
Allegations Received and Reviewed	15,779
Investigative Reports Issued	1,184
Investigations Initiated	1,685
Investigations Closed	1,445
Arrests	519
Indictments	401
Convictions	416
Personnel Actions	158

Fines and Restitution	
Fines	\$218,570
Restitution	\$7,613,714
Recoveries	\$1,169,712
Administrative Cost Savings	\$105,521,312
Aggregate Dollar Value Impact	\$114,523,310

The Office of Investigation's Four Mission Priorities

The mission of the Office of Inspector General (OIG), Office of Investigations is to strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). This shall be accomplished, in part, by successfully conducting criminal investigations in the four Investigative Mission Priorities areas listed below:

- I. Preventing Terrorism, Enhancing Security, and Securing and Managing the Nation's Borders
- II. Protect Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
- III. Enforce and Enhance DHS Priorities and Programs
- IV. Promote the Office of Inspector General Law Enforcement Mission



Dangerous weapons and symbols used by terrorist groups.

Investigative Mission Priority I: Preventing Terrorism, Enhancing Security, and Securing and Managing the Nation's Borders

The DHS OIG Office of Investigations is committed to investigating:

- 100% of referrals relating to allegations of corruption or compromise of DHS employees or systems that relate to securing the Nation's borders, including the smuggling of drugs, weapons, and people.
- 100% of referrals relating to allegations of corruption or compromise of DHS employees or systems that relate to securing the Nation's federally regulated transportation systems.
- 100% of referrals relating to allegations of corruption or compromise of DHS employees or systems that relate to the immigration process and documentation.



Dangerous goods confiscated by DHS OIG Office of Investigations.

Investigative Mission Priority I: Significant Investigations

Conspirator of Corrupt U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officer Convicted of Narcotics Smuggling



On March 23, 2010, a non-DHS employee who conspired with a corrupt U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Officer was sentenced to 60 months incarceration and ordered to pay a \$2,500 fine in the U.S. District Court, El Paso, Texas. The civilian had been indicted by a federal grand jury for Conspiracy to Import a Controlled Substance after our investigation disclosed the individual smuggled several drug-laden vehicles through the Paso Del Norte Port of Entry (POE), El Paso, Texas with the assistance of former CBP Officer Margarita Crispin.



Crispin is currently serving a 120-month sentence in federal custody for accepting bribes to allow safe passage of narcotics through the Paso Del Norte POE.

Corrupt CBP Officer Sentenced for Alien Smuggling

On April 6, 2009, an El Paso CBP Officer called DHS OIG to report that CBP Officer Martha Alicia Garnica, also of El Paso, Texas, had attempted to use the lure of sex and money to recruit him for cross-border drug smuggling.

The CBP Officer agreed to work as an undercover agent with us.





Garnica's Texas Residence (FBI Photo)

Our investigation revealed that in October and November of 2009, Garnica smuggled an undocumented alien into the United States and also attempted to smuggle 162 pounds of marijuana. In addition, we documented Garnica's actions as she paid several bribes to the undercover CBP Officer in exchange for that CBP Officer's assistance in smuggling drugs and aliens.

Additionally, in one incident, we witnessed as Garnica changed her rotation on the primary border inspection lane schedule without permission, allowing her to place herself on a specific lane. Shortly after Garnica started duty on that lane, other CBP Officers stopped a van in that lane containing more than 500 pounds of marijuana.

We arrested Garnica and she pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court, El Paso, Texas, to charges that included Importation of a Controlled Substance, Alien Smuggling, and Bribery. On August 26, 2010, she was sentenced to 240 months incarceration and 48 months of supervised release, and fined \$5,100.

With information we developed in this investigation, we arrested several of Garnica's conspirators. On March 26, 2010, a drug trafficker who conspired with Garnica, pleaded guilty to Importation of a Controlled Substance. On June 4, 2010, he was sentenced to 24 months confinement and 36 months probation.

On April 29, 2010, another drug trafficker, who paid Garnica, pleaded guilty to Importation of a Controlled Substance in U.S. District Court, El Paso, and was sentenced to 24 months confinement to be followed by 24 months probation.

CBP Officer Garnica's boyfriend, who assisted her in her attempt to recruit another corrupt CBP Officer and who attempted to smuggle marijuana into the United States, was arrested and convicted in U.S. District Court. On July 7, 2010, he was sentenced to 63 months in prison for Bribery of a Public Official and Conspiracy to Import a Controlled Substance.

CBP Officer Pleaded Guilty to Bribery and Alien Smuggling

We arrested a CBP Officer after we uncovered evidence that he accepted bribes to allow undocumented aliens to be smuggled into the United States through his primary inspection lane at the San Luis, Arizona POE. The officer later pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court to violations relating to one count of Alien Smuggling and one count of Bribery. On January 21, 2010, he was sentenced to a term of 37 months of incarceration, followed by 36 months of supervised release, and he was ordered to pay a \$4,000 fine and \$5,100 in restitution. His four conspirators were also arrested by DHS OIG after our multi-year investigation revealed they had paid bribes to the officer to smuggle aliens through his lane.

USCIS Adjudication Officer and Conspirator Pleaded Guilty to Bribery

We conducted a joint investigation with the U.S. Postal Inspection Service in the Eastern District of New York concerning violations of Bribery of Public Officials and Witnesses, and Conspiracy to Commit Any Offense or to Defraud United States by a U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Adjudication Officer (AO), located at Garden City, New York. The USCIS AO conspired with a non-DHS employee, a hair salon owner, to provide immigration benefits to ineligible alien salon clients in exchange for cash payments and bribes. On January 16, 2008, the USCIS AO and his accomplice were arrested, indictments followed, and the USCIS AO resigned his position on June 18, 2008. On February 25, 2009, the USCIS AO pleaded guilty to one count of Conspiracy to Commit any Offense or to Defraud United States via receiving bribes as a public official, and he was sentenced in March 2010 to 18 months imprisonment, followed by 36 months supervised release. On November 4, 2010, his conspirator was sentenced to a term of 14 months incarceration, followed by 36 months supervised release.

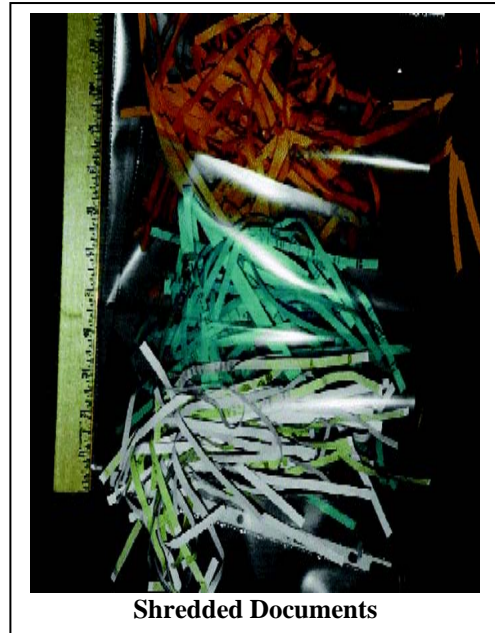
Border Patrol Agent Pleaded Guilty to Bribery and Conspiracy to Traffic Narcotics

We initiated an investigation based on information received from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), El Paso, Texas, that a confidential source alleged a Border Patrol Agent (BPA), at Deming, New Mexico, offered to facilitate the transportation and distribution of drugs upon graduation from the U.S. Border Patrol Academy. During the investigation, DHS OIG agents developed evidence that the BPA had solicited and accepted bribes in exchange for providing information to circumvent detection of drugs by CBP, and also for personally escorting two shipments of cocaine. The BPA was

arrested and subsequently pleaded guilty to Accepting a Bribe, Conspiring to Distribute Cocaine, and Attempting to Aid and Abet the Distribution of Cocaine. On June 14, 2010, the BPA appeared in U.S. District Court, Las Cruces, New Mexico, and was sentenced to 72 months in prison followed by 60 months supervised release.

ICE Deportation Officer Resigned After Guilty Plea to Obstructing Proceedings

We conducted an investigation in Chicago, Illinois, concerning violations of Obstruction of Proceedings Before Departments, Agencies, and Committees, which led to the arrest of an ICE Deportation Officer. Our investigation substantiated that the Officer accepted bribes to destroy the U.S. immigration “A” files of two deportable Iraqi alien nationals and prevent their deportation; for the fraudulent issuance of an Alien Documentation, Identification, and Telecommunication stamp to another deportable alien; and for arranging for the unauthorized release of an alien in ICE custody.



Shredded Documents

The Officer was charged with one count of Obstruction, pleaded guilty, and was convicted in the Northern District of Illinois on November 23, 2009. He was sentenced on May 6, 2010, to a term of 3 months incarceration and 24 months probation, and was ordered to perform 300 hours of community service and pay a \$4,000 fine. The Officer resigned from his employment at ICE, Detention and Removal Operations, on November 23, 2009, as a result of his conviction.

ICE Special Agent Pleaded Guilty to Bribery of a Public Official

We conducted a joint undercover investigation with ICE, Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR), in the Southern District of Florida concerning violations of Bribery of Public Officials and Witnesses resulting in the arrest of an ICE Special Agent. Our investigation documented kickbacks received from confidential funds paid to agency informants, and found the agent disclosed information to criminal subjects to help them avoid capture by law enforcement. In April 2009, the agent pleaded guilty to, and was convicted of, one count of Bribery of Public Officials and Witnesses. He was sentenced on July 23, 2010, to a 24-month term of confinement. ICE terminated his employment as a result of his conviction.

Former USCIS Clerk Pleaded Guilty to Bribery

We conducted an investigation in the Central District of California concerning allegations that a former USCIS clerk and current ICE Mission Support Specialist at Los Angeles, California, ordered alien “A” files on the behalf of amnesty applicants who were previously denied amnesty. In February 2007, DHS OIG agents learned that the USCIS clerk was charging amnesty applicants between \$3,000 and \$4,500 to process their applications, collecting the money at the applicants' homes. On August 17, 2010, the USCIS clerk was indicted by a federal grand jury for her illegal actions and she pleaded guilty on November 9, 2010. The USCIS clerk resigned from her employment with ICE on November 11, 2010.

Three Pleaded Guilty to Bribery and Narcotics Smuggling Charges

A CBP Officer at the Douglas, Arizona POE reported to DHS OIG that he was offered \$60,000 by his cousin to cross a load of marijuana through his primary inspection lane. An investigation by our office in Tucson, Arizona, resulted in the January 29, 2009, arrests of three individuals (non-DHS employees), including the leader of the smuggling conspiracy. On December 4, 2009, the ringleader was sentenced to 78 months in prison following his plea in Tucson, Arizona federal court, to violations of Bribery and Conspiracy to Possess with the Intent to Distribute Marijuana. The other 2 offenders were previously sentenced in federal court to incarceration of 48 months and 37 months, respectively, on the same charges.

CBP Officer Pleaded Guilty to Bribery and Smuggling Aliens and Narcotics



We investigated an allegation that Jose Montano, CBP Officer, accepted bribes to allow vehicles to cross through his primary inspection lane at the Gateway International Bridge in Brownsville, Texas, without inspection. After we arrested Montano, he admitted he accepted \$500 to allow undocumented aliens, and up to \$8,000 for cocaine shipments, to pass through his checkpoint and enter the United States. He began his corrupt activity in the summer of 2007.

On March 31, 2010, following his guilty plea to charges of Bribery, Cocaine Trafficking, and Smuggling of Undocumented Aliens, Montano was sentenced in U.S. District Court to 140 months in prison, followed by 60 months supervised release, and was ordered to forfeit \$134,000, his estimated illegal proceeds from his smuggling activity.

Transportation Security Officer and Two CBP Officers Pleaded Guilty to Smuggling Narcotics at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport

We investigated an allegation that DHS employees at the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood, Florida International Airport accepted bribes to permit heroin to be smuggled into the United States. We arrested the ringleader of the conspiracy, who was not a DHS employee. After being convicted of drug charges in U.S. District Court and sentenced to 262 months imprisonment, the ringleader agreed to cooperate with our investigators. He provided information that three DHS employees used their positions at the airport to facilitate the heroin smuggling operation: Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Supervisory Transportation Security Officer (TSO) Jose Sanchez; Sanchez' wife, CBP Officer Cindy Moran-Sanchez; and Cindy's sister, CBP Officer Elizabeth Moran-Toala.

As a result of our ensuing investigation, CBP Officers Cindy Moran-Sanchez and Elizabeth Moran-Toala pleaded guilty to Importing Heroin into the United States. On April 16, 2010, Moran-Sanchez was sentenced in the Southern District of Florida to 168 months incarceration and 60 months of supervised release, and ordered to pay a \$30,000 fine. Moran-Toala was sentenced to 120 months incarceration and 60 months probation. Supervisory TSO Jose Sanchez was sentenced to 135 months imprisonment.



Three U.S. Virgin Islands Airport Employees Pleaded Guilty to Alien Smuggling

We arrested airport employees, who worked at Cyril E. King International Airport, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, and used their airline employment positions to sell passage on commercial aircraft to illegal aliens. They assisted the aliens around the Customs and Immigration checkpoint to directly board Delta Airline flights bound for the continental United States. Two former Delta Airline reservation agents, along with an airport baggage handler, pleaded guilty in District Court, U.S. Virgin Islands, to violations of Transportation of Illegal Aliens for Profit, and Conspiracy to Smuggle Aliens. On December 16, 2009, all 3 defendants were sentenced to 10 months confinement and 36 months probation, and each was ordered to make restitution in the amount of \$16,000.

CBP Officer and Boyfriend Pleaded Guilty to Alien Smuggling

We conducted a joint investigation with ICE, which led to our arrest of a CBP Officer for alien smuggling when she and her boyfriend attempted to smuggle an undocumented alien into the United States via her personally owned vehicle. We developed evidence that the Officer had smuggled aliens into the United States in her personally owned vehicle on several occasions through the Otay Mesa POE in California.

On September 17, 2010, the CBP Officer was sentenced to 30 months in prison, followed by 36 months supervised release, following her plea of guilty in the Southern District of California to a two-count, federal indictment for Alien Smuggling and Aggravated Identity Theft. The conspirator, a Bolivian national, was turned over to ICE custody for

deportation. The CBP Officer also agreed to forfeit her Hummer H3 vehicle, which had been used in furtherance of the crime.

ICE Immigration Enforcement Agent and Two Conspirators Pleaded Guilty to Smuggling Narcotics

We conducted a joint investigation with ICE in New York after receiving information that an Immigration Enforcement Agent (IEA), ICE, Detention and Removal Operations, was conspiring to distribute cocaine. Our investigative efforts resulted in the September 11, 2009, arrest of the agent and two conspirators. In June 2010, the three offenders appeared in U.S. District Court, District of New Jersey, at which time each individual pleaded guilty to one count of violation of the Controlled Substances Act. The agent resigned from his position at ICE.

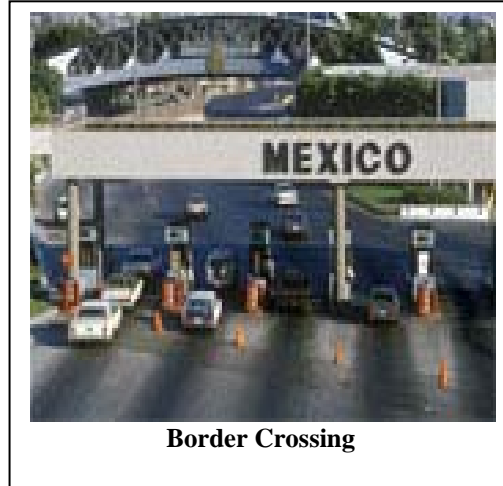
Federal Protective Service Contract Employee Pleaded Guilty to Possession of Narcotics

Our joint investigation with the Prince George's County (Maryland) Police Department (PGPD) led to the arrest of a Federal Protective Service contract employee and the subsequent arrests of two non-DHS accomplices as they attempted to distribute more than 37 pounds of marijuana. On February 18, 2010, a second Maryland state arrest warrant for the contract employee was issued and executed by the PGPD Narcotics Enforcement Division in connection with illegal narcotics found in his possession on January 25, 2010. The contract employee was arrested at the Bowie, Maryland, residence of his girlfriend, an employee in the Federal Protective Service (Maryland) Regional Director's Office. On September 28, 2010, the contract employee pleaded guilty in state court to possession of marijuana. On December 22, 2010, the contract employee appeared in the Prince George's County Circuit Court, and was sentenced to 36 months confinement, with all but 6 months suspended.

Mexican National Sentenced for Attempted Bribery of CBP Officer

On March 26, 2010, an individual attempted to illegally enter the United States at the Calexico, California POE by using a fraudulent immigration document. While being led to the processing area, the individual offered a CBP Officer a \$3,000 bribe to release him and let him enter the United States illegally. The CBP Officer reported the bribe attempt and DHS OIG agents arrested the illegal alien for a violation of Bribery of a Public

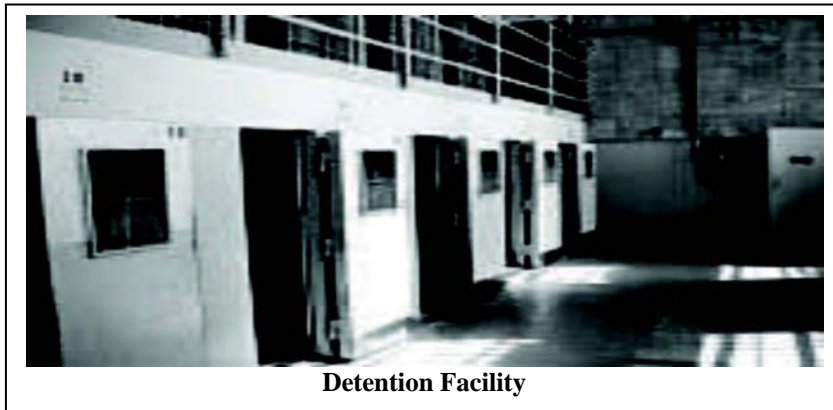
Official. On May 3, 2010, the offender was sentenced to 60 days confinement and 1 year probation.



Investigative Mission Priority II: Protect Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

DHS OIG Office of Investigations is committed to:

- Investigate referrals of ICE detainee deaths that involve suspicious causes or circumstances.
- Investigate credible referrals of physical abuse of detainees, suspects, or prisoners.
- Investigate all on-duty shooting incidents involving DHS employees (excluding accidental discharges without unusual circumstances, such as personal injury).
- Investigate credible allegations of criminal abuse of authority, including those that result in deprivation of rights or large-scale thefts.



Investigative Mission Priority II: Significant Investigations

Border Patrol Agent Convicted for Theft of Personal Property

We conducted an investigation of a BPA in Del Rio, Texas, who we arrested for Theft of Public Money. The BPA was arrested after he removed \$2,500 from what he thought was an abandoned vehicle near his patrol area and failed to report the money or to turn it in to authorities. On November 2, 2009, the former BPA was sentenced in District Court, Western District of Texas, Del Rio, to 11 months incarceration and 36 months supervised release, and levied a fine of \$1,000.

Supervisory Detention and Deportation Officer Convicted After Committing Assault with a Firearm and Threatening Members of the Public

We conducted a joint investigation with the Detroit Police Department and the Wayne County (Michigan) Prosecutor's Office into various violations of Michigan State Law by a Supervisory Detention and Deportation Officer, ICE, Detroit, Michigan. On May 23, 2009, the Officer, in an attempt to solve the burglary of a relative's residence, had forced a citizen, at gunpoint, into a government-owned vehicle. Once in the vehicle, the Officer drove the victim to an abandoned house, where he began to beat the victim with his duty weapon. The victim was able to escape after the Officer fired one round from his duty weapon as a threat. On May 25, 2009, the Officer approached a second citizen concerning the same burglary, pushed the victim to the ground, and then threatened him with his duty weapon.

The Officer was indicted in September 2009 by a State of Michigan Grand Jury in Detroit, Michigan, on the following violations: Unlawful Imprisonment; Felonious Assault; and Felony Firearm. We arrested him and in July 2010, he was convicted on all counts after a trial. ICE terminated the Officer from employment and on August 27, 2010. He was sentenced to 48 months incarceration and was ordered to pay a \$600 fine.

CBP Officer Pleaded Guilty to Child Pornography Violations

DHS OIG received an allegation that a CBP Officer, Port Huron, Michigan, used the internet to engage in sexually explicit conversations with juvenile females and viewed child pornography on his personal laptop computer. The Officer was the subject of a police report filed with the Port Huron Police Department, alleging that pornographic images were found on his laptop computer. We interviewed him and obtained a confession. The Officer admitted to being addicted to pornography and to visiting child pornographic websites on a regular basis. He consented to a search of his laptop computer, which was turned over to the United States Secret Service for forensic testing. Over 40 images previously identified as sexually explicit child pornography by the National Association for Missing and Exploited Children were recovered. On August 31, 2010, the Officer pleaded guilty in Federal Court, Eastern District of Michigan, for violations of Possession of Child Pornography.

USCIS Adjudications Officer Pleaded Guilty to Sexual Misconduct and Bribery

We conducted a joint investigation with the Queens County, New York, District Attorney's Office concerning violations of bribery, coercion, and sexual misconduct by an Adjudications Officer, USCIS. The joint investigation revealed the Officer admitted to calling a married female applicant whose application he was reviewing and asking her to meet him in his car outside the USCIS office.

He then coerced her to perform a sexual act in return for assistance in obtaining a green card. On March 3, 2009, the Officer was terminated from employment with USCIS and on April 14, 2010, he pleaded guilty in Queens County, New York Supreme Court. On July 22, 2010, he was sentenced to 54 months confinement by the State of New York.

Contract Corrections Officer Pleaded Guilty to Sexual Abuse of a Detainee

We investigated a contract Correctional Officer at the LaSalle Juvenile Detention Center, Jena, Louisiana, after receiving allegations from a federal detainee who had been forced to perform a sexual act with the Officer while awaiting deportation to his native Mexico. Our agents obtained a written confession from the Officer and on May 6, 2010, he pleaded guilty to a one-count violation of Sexual Abuse of a Minor or Ward. The contract Correctional Officer was sentenced to 10 months of incarceration plus 24 months supervised release probation, and was ordered to pay a fine of \$3,000.

Former New Orleans Police Officer Pleaded Guilty to Misprision of Felony

On March 11, 2010, an ICE Special Agent, Phoenix, Arizona, was indicted on, and pleaded guilty to one count of Misprision of Felony after failing to report shootings that occurred in New Orleans, Louisiana, after Hurricane Katrina, while he was employed as a New Orleans Police Officer. He ultimately cooperated with federal prosecutors as they probed the fatal shootings of two persons and the nonfatal shootings of four unarmed persons by New Orleans Police Officers. After the shooting, the Officers covered up their actions. After his plea, he was terminated from employment with ICE and sentenced to a term of 36 months imprisonment.

CBP Officer Convicted of Possession of Child Pornography and Sexual Exploitation of a Minor

North Dakota state investigators executed a search warrant on the residence of Darren Henry, a CBP Officer at the Dunseith, North Dakota POE, and seized two computers, which later produced digital photos of Henry and a female minor engaged in sexual acts at Henry's residence. When the victim was interviewed and shown the pictures from the computer, she disclosed she had been involved in a sexual relationship with Henry, which resulted in his arrest on state charges. The case was initiated because Henry was the subject of a restraining order pertaining to inappropriate contact with the minor female child. We joined the investigation, which led to federal charges being filed. Henry was later arrested by DHS OIG and subsequently found guilty in federal court of violations of Sexual Exploitation of a Minor and Possession of Child Pornography. On November 23, 2009, in U.S. District Court, Minot, North Dakota, Henry was sentenced to 180 months incarceration.

Armed Carjacker Fleeing to Canada Assaults CBP Officer

We conducted a joint investigation involving a non-DHS employee who, on April 7, 2009, committed an armed carjacking of an elderly couple in Detroit, Michigan, and attempted to flee the United States into Canada via the Detroit Ambassador Bridge POE. The offender disregarded orders to stop from CBP Officers, nearly striking one of them with his vehicle. The CBP Officer, fearing for his safety, fired one round from his duty weapon, which resulted in no injuries. The subject was apprehended by Canadian authorities after fleeing the United States, and a handgun was recovered. He was

promptly deported to the United States into the custody of the DHS OIG. This was a joint investigation with DHS OIG; Detroit Police Department; Windsor, Canada, Police Department; and U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Maryland.

On December 1, 2009, the defendant was sentenced in U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Michigan, to 360 months incarceration for committing the following crimes: Carjacking; Use of Firearm during Crime of Violence; High Speed Flight from an Immigration Check Point; Assault, Resisting, or Impeding Certain Officers; and Felon in Possession of Firearm.

Transportation Security Officer and Conspirator Pleaded Guilty to Theft of Property

We conducted an investigation into allegations of baggage theft involving a TSA TSO and an airline baggage handler at John F. Kennedy Airport in New York. The TSO and a Delta Airlines baggage handler were arrested after we observed them stealing a cell phone from a checked bag. On March 25, 2010, in Queens County Supreme Court, New York, the TSO pleaded guilty to theft-related charges. Both offenders were sentenced in May 2010 to 45 days confinement and 60 months probation. This case was worked jointly by DHS OIG and TSA Office of Inspection.

TSA TSO Sentenced for Making Bomb Threat at Airport

We conducted an investigation of a bomb threat at the Columbus Regional Airport on May 6, 2009, after receiving information that the threat had been made by a TSA Officer at the airport, where he was employed. We reviewed text messages sent by the TSO that implicated him as the person responsible for making the telephone bomb threat. When confronted with that information, he made a full confession. On November 17, 2009, the TSO was sentenced to 1 year probation and 40 hours of community service in the Southern District of Ohio for violation of Impeding a Federal Agent in the Performance of Official Duties.

CBP Supervisory Chemist Pleaded Guilty to Trafficking in Child Pornography

Agents of DHS OIG executed a search warrant at the Woodbridge, Virginia, residence of Edwin Torres, a CBP Supervisory Chemist, as part of an Internet child pornography

investigation. Prior to the search, Torres provided a full confession of his involvement with the acquisition and sharing of illegal child pornographic material via his personal computers. He was arrested, charged, and convicted of violations of Receipt of Child Pornography. Torres resigned from CBP and on September 17, 2010, was sentenced to 72 months incarceration and 60 months probation.

Immigration Enforcement Agent Pleads Guilty to Firearms Violations

We conducted a joint investigation with the Madison County, Illinois, Sheriff's Department and ICE, after receiving information that an ICE IEA was falsely representing himself to be a police officer and that he was in possession of a firearm. On September 15, 2009, a search warrant was executed at his residence. The search resulted in the seizure of numerous firearms, ammunition, fraudulent DHS credentials and replica badges, and other items bearing DHS and ICE markings and insignia. Our investigation determined that the agent illegally possessed firearms, failed to return his agency-issued radio, stole one case of .40 caliber ammunition, and illegally manufactured replicas of agency credentials and his official agency badge.

We arrested the agent on November 14, 2009. He pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court to Unlawful Possession of a Firearm, Possession of Stolen Ammunition, and Conversion of Government Property. He was sentenced on June 18, 2010, to a term of imprisonment of 48 months.

Border Patrol Agent Intern Convicted of Possessing and Distributing Child Pornography

In a joint investigation with ICE, our agents arrested BPA (Intern) Jarrett Jung and executed a search warrant on his California residence, based on information from the ICE Child Exploitation Unit regarding an email IP address being used to distribute child pornography. On November 10, 2010, Jung was sentenced in the U.S. District Court, Southern District of California, to a term of 72 months followed by 10 years supervised release for violations of Receipt of Images of Minors Engaged in Sexually Explicit Conduct. Prior to sentencing, Jung resigned from the Border Patrol.

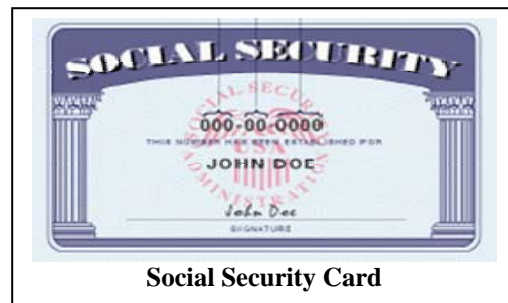
Investigative Mission Priority III: Enforce and Enhance DHS Priorities and Programs

DHS OIG Office of Investigations is committed to:

- Investigate significant grant and procurement contract fraud allegations.
- Investigate Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) fraud involving contractors, claimants, or FEMA employees.



- Continue to actively participate in the Department of Justice’s National Center for Disaster Fraud. The Center (formerly known as the Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force) was established by the U.S. Attorney General on September 8, 2005, in response to the need to investigate fraudulent activities associated with FEMA disaster relief efforts following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. To support this effort, we have established offices in Mobile, Alabama; Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Biloxi, Mississippi; and Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and have staffed these offices primarily with temporary investigators from a cadre of on-call response employees.
- Investigate allegations of corruption or criminal misconduct by DHS employees in the processing of immigrant and nonimmigrant documents.
- Exercise oversight of DHS component internal affairs investigations.
- Investigate gross misuse or abuse of classified information, privacy information, or law enforcement information.



Investigative Mission Priority III: Significant Investigations

FEMA Contractor Pleaded Guilty to Bribery Related to Natural Disaster

A DHS OIG fraud investigation, which was conducted in the U.S. Virgin Islands more than 10 years ago, revealed that a Disaster Relief Contractor, FEMA, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, bribed an official of the Virgin Islands Department of Housing, Parks, and Recreation, in exchange for his approval of false and/or inflated invoices submitted by the contractor to a FEMA-funded program initiated in the aftermath of 1995's Hurricane Marilyn.

A search of the Disaster Relief Contractor's residence yielded various firearms, none of which she was authorized to possess under U.S. Virgin Islands law. Upon learning of her indictment, the contractor fled to France. However, the contractor was arrested on November 11, 2010, upon her re-entry into the United States in San Juan, Puerto Rico. On November 22, 2010, the FEMA Disaster Relief Contractor pleaded guilty to Bribery Concerning Programs Receiving Federal Funds, and two counts of Virgin Islands Criminal Code, Unlawful Possession of a Firearm, and was sentenced to 6 months confinement and 24 months supervised release, and fined \$1,500.

Contract Security Guard Firm Executives Pleaded Guilty to Bribery



DHS OIG conducted a multi-year investigation involving Superior Protection Inc. (SPI), a company that provided armed guard security services at several U.S. Government facilities. As part of the investigation, on October 8, 2010, an Operations Manager at SPI pleaded guilty to Bribery of a Public Official. On November 11, 2010, a federal jury in the Southern District of Texas convicted the owner of SPI; his wife; and a second Operations Manager of SPI on 16 counts related to Bribery, Conspiracy, Tax Evasion, and Bankruptcy Fraud.

The DHS OIG investigation determined that the above individuals bribed a Federal Protective Service Contracting Officer with airline tickets, hotel stays, golf expenditures, and the promise of post-government employment in exchange for favorable references

that resulted in the continuance of a multi-million dollar contract to provide armed security guards at U.S. Government buildings. The Contracting Officer pleaded guilty to bribery charges in 2007.

Zylon Ballistic Material Manufacturer Paid a Settlement with the U.S. Government

We conducted a multi-agency fraud investigation with the Department of Justice's Civil Division and other federal agencies into False Claims Act violations by 15 separate manufacturers and distributors of defective Zylon fiber ballistic body armor that was purchased by the United States for federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies.



In December 2009, the Department of Justice announced that as one result of our joint investigation, the Itochu Corporation of Japan, and their American subsidiary, Itochu International Inc., agreed to pay a \$6.7 million dollar settlement to resolve claims.

Three DHS Law Enforcement Officers, Two Members of the Public Convicted of Government Credit Card Fraud

An ICE Special Agent, and two CBP Officers, all of Tucson, Arizona, were convicted of defrauding the U.S. Government and stealing U.S. Government property after misusing government fleet credit cards. Our investigation revealed that the three DHS employees conspired with two employees of a local car repair garage to create fraudulent invoices totaling over \$55,479, which was then shared by the conspirators. The two garage employees have also entered guilty pleas. In the scheme, the garage received large markups and increased business in exchange for gifts of cash and merchandise to the DHS employees.

On March 12, 2010, in the District of Arizona, one of the CBP officers was sentenced to 12 months of home confinement and 36 months of supervised release, and was ordered to pay \$37,525 restitution. The ICE Special Agent was sentenced to 60 months probation and \$6,613 restitution, and the other CBP officer was sentenced to 60 months probation and ordered to pay \$6,531 restitution.

Teacher Convicted of False Statements Against a Border Patrol Agent and E-Mail Threats

We arrested a San Antonio, Texas–area high school teacher, Steven Weste, who concealed his identity and used masking techniques on the Internet while making a false allegation of child molestation and sexual assault against a BPA. As the investigation progressed, Weste made numerous death threats via e-mail to various individuals, including a campus police officer and a DHS OIG Special Agent. A federal Grand Jury indictment charged Weste with 10 counts of Interstate Communication of a Threat, and 5 counts of False Statements. Following a 2-week jury trial, he was found guilty on all counts on December 17, 2009, in the Western District of Texas. He was sentenced to 180 months incarceration and 36 months supervised release, and ordered to pay a \$1,500 fine.

CBP Officer Convicted of Releasing Law Enforcement Sensitive Information

We conducted an investigation in which we arrested a CBP Officer working at Houston International Airport, Houston, Texas, for providing information from a law enforcement database to an individual under investigation by the Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) for mortgage fraud and other crimes. The CBP Officer assisted his associate by conducting queries in government databases for the names of the associate’s friends and family, who served as partners in fraudulent mortgage schemes. The CBP Officer was terminated from employment by CBP, and on October 13, 2009, he was sentenced to 36 months probation and ordered to pay a \$3,000 fine after a guilty plea to making false statements.

Over \$2 Million Restitution in Louisiana for Vehicle Theft and Eight Individuals Sentenced

We participated in a multi-agency fraud investigation that was initiated in September 2006 by Louisiana state and local investigators from multiple agencies to investigate the theft of vehicles and vehicle identification numbers after Hurricane Katrina. The investigation revealed that 8 individuals fraudulently submitted 85 names to the Internal Revenue Service and FEMA to wrongfully receive potential government benefits.

On June 19, 2008, seven defendants were sentenced in the Middle District of Louisiana for Conspiracy and Removing/Altering Motor Vehicle Identification Numbers as follows:

- Individual #1 received 21 months confinement, 36 months probation, and \$338,756 in restitution;
- Individual #2 received 30 months confinement, 3 months probation, and \$330,063 in restitution;
- Individual #3 received 18 months confinement, 3 months probation, and \$330,063 in restitution;
- Individual #4 received 60 months probation and \$46,716 in restitution;
- Individual #5 received 36 months probation and \$338,756 in restitution;
- Individual #6 received 18 months confinement, 36 months probation, and \$330,063 in restitution; and
- Individual #7 received 60 months probation and \$41,122 in restitution.

The U.S. Government restitution was court-ordered to pay various car dealerships and insurance companies that had to absorb the costs of altered flood-damaged vehicles and theft stemming from this case.

On August 13, 2010, the last of the 8 individuals was sentenced in the Middle District of Louisiana to 57 months confinement and 36 months probation, and ordered to pay restitution of \$299,351 following his conviction for Conspiracy and Removing/Altering Motor Vehicle Identification Numbers. In all, the total court-ordered restitution resulting from this investigation was \$2,055,892. The case was investigated by the DHS OIG, the Louisiana State Police, the East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office, the Baton Rouge Police Department, the New Orleans Police Department, the Terrebonne Parish Sheriff's Office, the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office, the United States Marshals Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigations, and the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections.

FEMA Employee and Relative Pleaded Guilty to Stealing Hurricane Katrina Funds

Our investigation resulted in Lashonda Booker, former FEMA employee, and her cousin being charged with stealing \$721,000 in Hurricane Katrina disaster relief funds. We determined that Booker used her position in the Biloxi, Mississippi FEMA office to access the FEMA database of storm victims and to send recovery money under those names to her cousin's bank account. Both defendants were charged with Conspiracy to

Commit Mail Fraud and subsequently entered guilty pleas in federal court. On April 29, 2010, Booker was sentenced in federal court to 82 months confinement and 60 months probation. Her cousin was sentenced to 114 months confinement and 60 months probation. Both women were also ordered to make restitutions that together totaled \$721,000.

FEMA Disaster Benefit Recipient Convicted of Wire Fraud

We investigated a disaster benefit recipient who filed numerous bogus FEMA damage claims following Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans. On November 5, 2009, the disaster benefit recipient of Metairie, Louisiana, was sentenced in the Western District of Louisiana for violations of Wire Fraud relating to FEMA fraudulent claims. She was sentenced to 30 months confinement and 60 months supervised release, and was ordered to pay restitution of \$71,814.

FEMA Disaster Benefit Recipients Convicted of Defrauding the Government

We conducted a FEMA fraud investigation of four defendants after they received Habitat for Humanity homes through Oprah Winfrey's "Oprah's Angel Network" and FEMA assistance that they were not entitled to receive following Hurricane Katrina.



A former Harris County Probation Officer received a Habitat for Humanity home in Houston, Texas, after evacuating from New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. She and her sister entered into a false landlord/tenant relationship with FEMA and accepted payments in excess of the monthly mortgage amount. Our investigation determined the sisters obtained \$14,214 by filing false documents.

On January 15, 2010, they were sentenced in the Southern District of Texas to one day confinement and 36 months supervised release, and ordered to pay \$14,214 in restitution after they pleaded guilty to Conspiracy to Defraud the U.S. Government.

On March 29, 2010, the remaining 2 defendants who had engaged in a similar scheme were sentenced in Houston, Texas, to 36 months probation and ordered to pay \$9,082 in restitution.

Non-DHS Employee Convicted for Impersonating FEMA Disaster Relief Employee

We investigated an individual who wrongfully possessed magnetic signs and shirts bearing the DHS logo and had accessed secure U.S. Government areas following Hurricane Katrina. He also falsely claimed to be a Captain in the U.S. Army, but was actually found to be a convicted felon on parole, and in possession of firearms and boxes of ammunition. On January 15, 2010, the individual was sentenced to 24 months confinement and 36 months supervised release in the Eastern District of Texas.



Confiscated Weapons



Fraud Props

DHS Security Guard Contractors Pleaded Guilty to False Statements

We conducted a joint civil and criminal contract fraud investigation with the Department of Justice's Civil Division in Washington, DC, into DHS contract vendors Blackhawk Security Inc. and DB Training Services. Blackhawk Security Inc. provided armed security guards at several federal buildings in Washington, DC, including DHS Headquarters, and DB Training Services provided American Red Cross-approved training in First Aid and CPR to Blackhawk guards. The investigation revealed that an official of DB Training failed to provide adequate training to guard staff, but certified that the training had been accomplished. The Blackhawk official later billed the government for the nonexistent training. The two defendants each pleaded guilty to one felony count of Making a False, Fictitious, or Fraudulent Statement.

Southern Arizona Legal Aid Paralegal Pleaded Guilty to Mail Fraud

We conducted a joint investigation with the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) in Arizona into mail fraud that was committed against both departments by a non-DHS employee. The joint investigation determined a paralegal for Southern Arizona Legal Aid defrauded her employer by charging both the legal aid service provider and her clients for the same legal services.

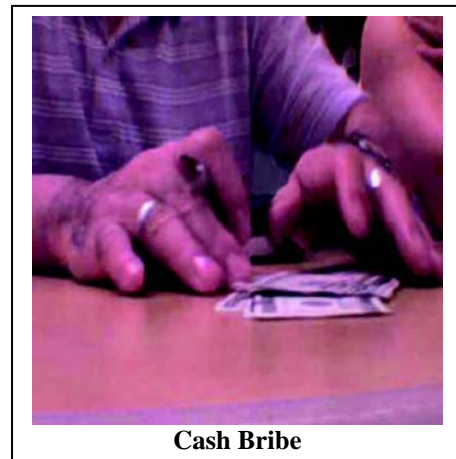
Southern Arizona Legal Aid was a recipient of DOJ grant funds intended to provide legal advice without cost to individuals who were dealing with USCIS. On January 14, 2009, the individual was indicted for mail fraud. She was later arrested, pleaded guilty to one count of Mail Fraud - Frauds and Swindles, and on November 12, 2009, was sentenced to 3 months in prison, 5 months of home confinement with electronic monitoring, and 36 months supervised release, and was ordered to pay \$20,914 in restitution.

Mission Support Specialist Pleaded Guilty to Steering Government Contracts

We investigated an ICE Field Office Mission Support Specialist and Contracting Officer, New York, NY. During the execution of his official duties, he was responsible for authorizing the ICE Detention and Removal Operations Field Office to enter into various contracts with vendors, such as a courier service. We determined that he steered contracts to companies that were owned by him and his wife. As part of his plea agreement, he agreed to forfeit cash and property valued at \$200,000, which he obtained from the fraud. Additionally, on January 14, 2011, he was sentenced to 6 months imprisonment, followed by 24 months supervised release, and was ordered to pay a \$5,000 fine.

USCIS Adjudication Officer Pleaded Guilty to Misuse of Government Computer in Connection with Accepting Bribes from Aliens

We conducted an investigation in the Southern District of Texas of a USCIS Adjudication Officer at the USCIS Life Act Office in Houston, Texas. The Officer was alleged to have accepted money from aliens to prepare their immigration benefit applications. Search and arrest warrants were executed on October 22, 2009, at his Houston, Texas, residence. On December 8, 2009, the Officer pleaded guilty via information to one count of Misuse of Government Computer and Disclosure of Information.



On March 30, 2010, the Officer was sentenced in federal court to 6 months confinement and 36 months probation, and was ordered to pay a \$2,000 fine. On May 3, 2010, his employment with USCIS was terminated.

Road Home Benefit Recipient Convicted of Program Fraud

A resident of Metairie, Louisiana, pleaded guilty in the Eastern District of Louisiana to making false statements in an application with the Louisiana Road Home Program by claiming his primary residence was damaged in Hurricane Katrina. As a result of his false statement, he received \$122,396 in Road Home assistance to which he was not entitled. On March 22, 2010, he was sentenced to 3 months probation, fined \$20,100 and ordered to make full restitution to the Louisiana Road Home program.

Hurricane Katrina Disaster Benefit Recipient Conspired to Defraud the U.S. Government

We investigated and found that a resident of Houston, Texas, and his ex-wife conspired to defraud the federal government after Hurricane Katrina. Although both were evacuees from Louisiana who initially received a payment of more than \$100,000 in FEMA benefits to which they were entitled, they later made five false disaster claims for housing assistance using multiple stolen Social Security numbers and bogus rent receipts. On March 24, 2010, the husband was sentenced to 10 months incarceration and ordered to pay restitution of \$30,766. On May 27, 2010, his ex-wife was sentenced to 12 months confinement and 36 months probation, and ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$50,295.

Disaster Benefit Recipient Convicted of Fraud

Our investigation determined that a resident of Belle Chasse, Louisiana, applied for \$119,935 in financial assistance for Hurricane Katrina-related damage to a house he wrongfully claimed was his primary residence. During our investigation, he admitted that he was living in Las Vegas, Nevada, at the time of Katrina.

He pleaded guilty in the Eastern District of Louisiana to one count of Making False Statements to a Federal Agency and was sentenced to one month confinement and 36 months probation, and was ordered to pay a \$1,500 fine and full restitution of \$119,935.

DHS OIG conducted this investigation with the assistance of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) OIG.

Federal Protective Service Program Analyst Pleaded Guilty to Making False Statements and Marriage Fraud

We conducted an investigation in Maryland after we received an allegation that a Management and Program Analyst employed by the Federal Protective Service was involved in a fraudulent marriage in order to obtain immigration benefits on behalf of an unauthorized person. Our investigation, including review of USCIS records and personal interviews of the Analyst, revealed that she illegally petitioned to seek immigration benefits for a Ghanaian citizen who was not entitled to immigration benefits. We arrested the Analyst in September 2010. She was sentenced on January 13, 2011, to 12 months of probation and 4 months of home detention for a one-count violation of False Statement in Matters Relating to Registry of Aliens.

BPA Pleaded Guilty to Bribery Charges for Selling Law Enforcement Sensitive Information

A rookie BPA working at the Sonoita, Arizona, BP Station was observed acting suspiciously as he asked others about the technology used to interdict smugglers. We opened an investigation and, working with the FBI, developed evidence that the BPA had sold to a purported drug trafficker sensor maps, trail maps, landmarks, and terminology used by the BP to combat smuggling. Evidence showed that on at least four separate occasions, the agent accepted bribes totaling over \$5,000. On August 12, 2010, the BPA pleaded guilty in federal court to one count of Public Official Accepting a Bribe.

Chinese National Pleaded Guilty to Unlawful Acquisition of Citizenship

We identified this suspect as a person who had paid bribes to a corrupt USCIS employee in order to unlawfully obtain immigration naturalization benefits. On February 27, 2009, we secured an indictment in the Eastern District of Virginia, charging conspiracy to commit passport fraud and unlawful procurement of citizenship. The offender fled the United States to avoid arrest, seeking sanctuary in his native China. On November 2, 2009, we arrested the fugitive at Dulles International Airport upon his return from China. He pleaded guilty to one count of Procurement of Citizenship or Naturalization

Unlawfully, and was sentenced on April 20, 2010, to a period of time served plus 24 months supervised release, pending expedited deportation.

ICE Official Impersonator and Conspirators Pleaded Guilty in Immigration Fraud Scheme

We conducted a joint investigation with the Montgomery County, Maryland Police Department and ICE after we received information that a group of individuals posing as federal immigration officials were extorting large sums of money, ranging from \$6,000 to \$30,000, in exchange for purportedly being able to provide authentic immigration documents and U.S. citizenship to illegal immigrants. We determined that Robert Mejia, a non-DHS employee, posed as an ICE agent and dressed in an ICE-type uniform as part of the scheme to defraud aliens. Two female accomplices were identified.



ICE Uniforms

On April 28, 2010, Mejia and his two accomplices were arrested. Mejia appeared in the Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Maryland, and pleaded guilty to five counts of Felony Theft, one count of Participation in a Felony Theft Scheme, and one count of Conspiracy to Commit Theft. On November 1, 2010, Mejia was sentenced to 840 months incarceration with all but 120 months suspended in connection with his July 7, 2010, plea of guilty.

Mejia also pleaded guilty to federal charges in the U.S. District Court, Greenbelt, Maryland, of Transportation of Money Obtained by Fraud; Conspiracy to Impersonate an ICE Officer; and Felon in Possession of Ammunition. On January 10, 2011, Mejia was sentenced to a term of 60 months to run consecutively to the State of Maryland sentence.

The first accomplice pleaded guilty to one count of Felony Theft and one count of Practicing Medicine Without a License. She was sentenced to 120 months incarceration with the Maryland Department of Corrections, with 60 months suspended. On January 12, 2011, the second accomplice appeared in the Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Maryland, and pleaded guilty to one count of Participation in Felony Theft Scheme.



Former FEMA County Director Pleaded Guilty to Theft of Government Property

Our investigation determined that the former director of a county emergency management agency in Indiana stole property purchased with FEMA grant money for a Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program. He took \$19,196 worth of items such as televisions, kitchen appliances, and a Kubota tractor paid for by the FEMA grants and converted the property to his personal use. On February 17, 2010, in the Southern District of Indiana, he was sentenced to 10 months incarceration and 24 months supervision, and was ordered to pay \$19,196 to FEMA.

Two Plea Guilty in Road Home Program Benefit Program Fraud Scheme

Our investigation uncovered a conspiracy by two individuals to steal approximately \$600,000 in government funds from elderly individuals who were waiting to receive disaster assistance benefits from FEMA Road Home grants. We found that an individual employed in the closing department of First American Title Company would alter the bank routing instructions on the Road Home grantees' closing documentation, which caused the funds to be wired into the personal bank accounts of both persons.

On January 27, 2010, in the Eastern District of Louisiana, the pair was sentenced to terms of 30 months and 18 months imprisonment, respectively, following their earlier guilty plea to one count of Conspiracy. This case was worked jointly with HUD OIG and the Social Security Administration OIG.

FEMA Benefit Recipient Convicted of Program Fraud

We arrested a resident of New Orleans, who fraudulently represented that she used a property located in New Orleans as her primary residence at the time of Hurricane Katrina. On June 10, 2010, she was sentenced to 5 months confinement and 60 months probation, and was ordered to pay restitution of \$75,949.

FEMA Contract Disaster Inspector Pleaded Guilty to Making False Statements

A Disaster Benefit Applicant in Beaumont, Texas, filed a fraudulent FEMA Katrina claim in association with Hurricane Ike by claiming damage to an apartment from which she had been evicted. We determined that a FEMA contract inspector assisted the applicant with her false application by submitting photographs of other damaged apartments and claiming they were photographs of her apartment. As a result, the woman received in excess of \$18,000 in disaster assistance, rental assistance, and housing payments. On August 26, 2010, the contract FEMA inspector pleaded guilty to one count of False Statements in the Eastern District of Texas, Beaumont, Texas.

DHS Employment Investigator Pleaded Guilty to Making False Statements

During a routine quality control check, it was discovered that a contract background investigator for DHS, provided false information related to background investigations he had conducted on applicants for employment with CBP. The DHS OIG investigation determined that he falsified interviews of persons associated with the background investigations. On August 12, 2009, he was indicted on six counts of False Statements to a Government Agency. On May 25, 2010, he pleaded guilty in the Eastern District of Michigan to violation of Theft of Government Funds and was sentenced to 12 months probation.

Seventy-two Individuals Convicted for Disaster Food Stamp Program Fraud

The DHS OIG worked jointly with the State of Louisiana Attorney General's Office, the U.S. Secret Service, and other federal agencies in an investigation that resulted in the arrest of 72 persons who were prosecuted as felony offenders in State Court by the District Attorney in Beauregard Parish, Louisiana, for fraudulent disaster assistance

provided by Louisiana Disaster Food Stamp Program.

Subsequent to arrest, each subject was convicted with the following restrictions: placed on supervised probation for a period of one year; placed on pre-trial diversion for one year; fined \$660 payable to the Beauregard Parish District Attorney's Office; and disqualified from obtaining food stamps for 12 months.

CBP Officer Misused U.S. Government Computer Systems

We opened a criminal investigation after receiving information that a CBP Officer assigned to Field Operations in Tucson, Arizona, misused his official position by making unauthorized use of law enforcement and other government databases to obtain information about a person associated with a civil case in which he was the plaintiff. He obtained the data by falsely reporting that the person associated with his civil case was the subject of a CBP investigation.

As a result of our investigation, the Officer was charged with three counts of misdemeanor Misuse of Government Computers. The Officer pleaded guilty and on February 1, 2010, was sentenced in the U.S. District Court of Arizona to three years of probation and a fine of \$3,000. CBP terminated his employment.

Road Home Benefit Recipient Pleaded Guilty to \$439, 000 in Fraud

A New Orleans resident defrauded FEMA, the Road Home Program, and the Small Business Administration (SBA) of more than \$439,000 relating to false disaster claims. On November 10, 2010, she entered a guilty plea to Possession of Falsely Obtained Canadian Passport, False Statements to FEMA, Theft of Disaster Funds from the SBA, and Mail Fraud regarding Louisiana Road Home Program funds. This was a joint investigation with the DHS OIG, SBA OIG, and HUD OIG.

ICE Special Agent Pleaded Guilty to Illegal Importation of Steroids

We conducted an investigation into allegations that an ICE Special Agent imported steroids into the United States from China. On June 22, 2010, as a result of our investigation, the agent pleaded guilty to one count of Importation of Controlled Substances, was sentenced to probation, and fined. The employee was separated from service with the government.

CBP Officer Pleaded Guilty to Defrauding the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

A CBP Officer submitted false certifications to HUD in order to receive special financing and a 50% reduction in the fair market value of a home offered to law enforcement officers through the government's "Good Neighbor Next Door" program.

On March 30, 2010, the Officer pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court, Houston, Texas, to Making a False Statement and was sentenced to a period of probation and restitution of \$30,676. As part of her plea agreement, the Officer resigned from her CBP position.

Hurricane Katrina Disaster Benefit Recipient Convicted of Program Fraud

We conducted an investigation of a Moss Point, Mississippi resident who on January 20, 2010, pleaded guilty in the Eastern District of Louisiana to two counts of Theft of U.S. Government Funds relating to fraudulent business and home loan applications he made to SBA for financial assistance in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Between March 2006 and February 2008, he intentionally applied for business and home loans and received \$138,400 to which he knew he was not entitled. On October 27, 2010, he was sentenced to 18 months confinement and 36 months probation, and ordered to make restitution in the amount of \$136,982. The case was investigated jointly by the SBA and DHS OIGs.

Orlando Police Officer Convicted of Laundering FEMA Funds for Personal Use

We conducted a fraud investigation of an Orlando, Florida police officer involving more than \$200,000 in embezzled FEMA funds. The DHS OIG investigation determined that a recently retired female Orlando police officer and former Officer-of-the-Year, opened personal savings and checking accounts at an Orlando Federal Credit Union listing herself and the "Orlando Police Department Gang Resistance Education and Training" as the account holders. She subsequently opened and linked a City of Orlando grant recipient account to the original account to receive FEMA grant funds. FEMA approved a \$200,000 voucher and transferred the funds to her account, believing this was the correct account for the City of Orlando. She subsequently invested the proceeds of her crime in money market accounts and certificates of deposit. On November 17, 2010, in the Middle District of Florida, she was sentenced to 24 months incarceration and 36

months probation after being found guilty on 2 counts of Money Laundering of FEMA grant funds for her personal use. More than \$212,540 in misused funds embezzled and laundered by her were located and seized by the DHS OIG and the U.S. Secret Service.

Software Contract Vendor Suspended from U.S. Government Contract Work for Violating SBA Procurement Regulations

We initiated a joint investigation with the SBA in the Eastern District of Virginia concerning violations of Embezzlement or Theft of Public Money, Property, or Records and other related violations of the SBA's 8(a) Program, by GTSI Corporation, a large Northern Virginia computer software company, and as facilitated by other small business associates of GTSI. As a result, on October 1, 2010, the SBA imposed a temporary suspension of GTSI Corporation from receiving new U.S. Government software contract work, alleging the company inappropriately conspired with other vendors to gain access to contracts set aside for small 8(a) designated companies. At issue is work GTSI completed under the "FirstSource" Program, work performed by GTSI in the capacity of subcontractor for small businesses serving as the prime contractors on U.S. Government contracts. According to SBA officials, GTSI was an active participant in a scheme that resulted in contracts set-aside for small businesses being awarded to ineligible large contractors. GTSI has relied on the federal government for more than 90% of its sales in recent years. On November 18, 2010, the SBA, Suspension and Debarment Office, in cooperation with DHS OIG and the FBI, suspended two additional FirstSource contractors: EG Solutions, LLC and Multimax Array, Inc. Both companies were suspended from receiving any new federal contracts, based on evidence that, in conjunction with GTSI Corporation, they violated SBA regulations by inappropriately allowing GTSI access to contracts set aside for small businesses.

U.S. Coast Guard Civilian Pleaded Guilty to Auto Insurance Fraud

We conducted an investigation of a U.S. Coast Guard civilian employee in Houston, Texas, for filing a fraudulent auto insurance claim after he abruptly resigned his position at the beginning of the DHS OIG investigation. The former employee falsely reported to GEICO Insurance that his personally owned pickup truck had been stolen after being found fully engulfed in flames.

On December 3, 2010, the former employee pleaded guilty to one felony count of Insurance Fraud under the Texas State Penal Code and was sentenced to three years probation and a \$300 fine.

Two Individuals Plead Guilty to Immigration Document Fraud

We conducted an investigation in the Eastern District of Virginia concerning violations of Conspiracy to Commit any Offense or to Defraud United States, Fraud and Misuse of Immigration Documents, Procurement of Citizenship or Naturalization Unlawfully, and Bribery of Public Officials and Witnesses. This investigation of foreign national non-DHS employees resulted in the federal arrests and guilty pleas of two of the subjects. The investigation stemmed from a prior investigation into corruption by officials at the USCIS office in Fairfax, Virginia. The recent offenders conspired and engaged in illegal activities concerning immigration fraud, leading to April 14 and April 28, 2010, federal indictments. On April 29, 2010, we arrested two individuals. On June 10, 2010, the first offender appeared in federal court and pleaded guilty to one count of Fraud and Misuse of Immigration Documents, and on September 3, 2010, was sentenced to 43 days confinement and ordered to pay a \$3,000 fine. On July 1, 2010, the second offender appeared in federal court and pleaded guilty to one count each of Fraud and Misuse of Immigration Documents, and Aiding and Abetting, and on September 17, 2010, she was sentenced to 2 years supervised probation, fined \$3,000, and was ordered to pay a \$100 special assessment to the court.

CBP Technician and Conspirator Plead Guilty to Theft of Astronaut's Customs Declaration Form

We conducted an investigation that led to a CBP Technician in Boston, Massachusetts, and a non-DHS conspirator being charged with the theft of NASA astronaut Neil Armstrong's customs declaration form, which was collected by CBP upon his arrival at Logan International Airport, Boston, Massachusetts in March 2010. The CBP Technician stole the form and attempted to sell it on an auction collectibles website through his

partner's business contacts. On December 2, 2010, in the District of Massachusetts, he and the second offender entered guilty pleas to a one count information charging each with Theft of U.S. Government Property.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Customs Declaration

1. Family Name: [REDACTED]
2. Birth date: [REDACTED]
3. Number of Family members traveling with you: [REDACTED]
4. (a) U.S. Street Address (Do not leave blank): [REDACTED]
5. Passport issued by (country): [REDACTED]
6. Passport number: [REDACTED]
7. Country of Residence: [REDACTED]
8. Countries visited on this trip prior to U.S. arrival: [REDACTED]
9. Airline/Flight No. or Other Means of Transport: [REDACTED]
10. The primary purpose of this trip is business: [REDACTED]
11. I am (We are) bringing: [REDACTED]
12. I have (We have) been in the close proximity of such an individual (or individuals): [REDACTED]
13. I am (We are) carrying any monetary instruments over \$1000 U.S. or foreign equivalent (see definition of monetary instrument in the reverse): [REDACTED]
14. I have (We have) commercial merchandise (articles for sale, samples used for marketing orders, or goods that are manufactured and intended for sale): [REDACTED]
15. Residents — the total value of all goods, including commercial merchandise, that are purchased or acquired abroad, including gifts for someone else, must never exceed the U.S. limit and cannot be brought to the U.S. if: [REDACTED]
16. Visitors — the total value of all articles that will be brought to the U.S. must never exceed the U.S. limit and cannot be brought to the U.S. if: [REDACTED]

NEIL ARMSTRONG
Date of entry: 12/02/2010

NEIL ARMSTRONG

Neil Armstrong's Customs Form

Investigative Mission Priority IV: Promoting Our Law Enforcement Mission

DHS OIG Office of Investigations is committed to:

- Participate in Task Force operations involving border corruption, and in the Joint Terrorism Task Force to conduct DHS employee corruption investigations.
- Continue our reputation for excellence by producing thorough and timely investigations and reports.
- Ensure recruitment and development of a highly trained, diverse workforce.
- Continue to develop innovative ideas and solutions for law enforcement issues.
- Perfect workflow operations through continuing development of the hotline and referral process, and administration of a robust and innovative training program.
- Enhance relationships and communication with DHS internal affairs offices to advance intelligence gathering and information sharing.
- Participate in the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency functions and professional law enforcement organizations and associations.



DHS OIG Office of Investigations provides oversight and monitors the investigative activity of the various component internal affairs elements. We continuously seek to expand our liaison role in the law enforcement community, staying on the leading edge of various advances in technology and training with a talented and diverse workforce.



Special Agents Routinely Engage in Firearms Qualification

Increased Efficiency in FEMA Complaint Workflow Processing

Before 2010, FEMA complaints received at the Office of Investigations were entered in the case management system and then forwarded to the field for review and fraud occurrence analysis. Our Special Agents verified complaints by conducting in-depth research in FEMA's National Emergency Management Information System (NEMIS). The process was time-consuming and often resulted in negative findings (i.e., no disaster funds disbursed or no fraud occurred). In 2010, FEMA Hotline complaints began to be routed through FEMA's Fraud Prevention Unit (FPU) so the FPU could conduct NEMIS inquiries and validates complaints to determine the following:

-
- Whether disaster funds were disbursed
 - Dollar amount of disaster funds disbursed
 - Subject name (s) and damaged address location
 - Electronic funds transfer information
 - History of claims for subject name and address



The Office of Investigations now receives complaints and enters them into the Enforcement Data System (EDS) before they are electronically forwarded to the FPU for assessment and validation. Typically, within three days the FPU reports whether indications of fraud are present. If no indications of fraud are present, the complaint is closed in EDS. If fraud indicators are detected, the FPU forwards a preliminary report and associated documents to the Office of Investigations for input into EDS and referral to the appropriate field office for investigation.

From January 2010 to February 2011, 292 complaints were referred to the FPU; 141 (48%) were found to contain evidence of fraud, and these were then opened for investigation. The remaining 151 complaints (52%) containing no indications of fraud represent staff-hours and taxpayer dollars saved. The FPU initiative is an example of innovative collaboration and leveraging of departmental resources, which increases the Office of Investigations' investigative capacity and efficiency.

The Office of Investigations provides oversight and monitors the investigative activity of the various component internal affairs elements. We continuously seek to expand our liaison role in the law enforcement community, staying on the leading edge of various advances in technology and training with a talented and diverse workforce.

Issues that the Office of Investigations considers during the background process:

- Character: Individual's reliability, integrity, and trustworthiness
- Associates: Affiliations with people, groups, and organizations
- Reputation: General community opinion of an individual
- Loyalty: Individual's level of allegiance to persons and the Nation
- Ability: Individual's capacity and competency to perform duties
- Bias/Prejudice: Inappropriate attitude directed at any class of persons
- Financial Responsibility: Lifestyle is consistent with financial reality

Personnel Support

Recently requested budgetary funding for additional staffing resources facilitated the realization of increased oversight activities related to several Department initiatives on immigration and border security, transportation security, critical infrastructure protection, federal and state/local intelligence sharing, Secure Border Initiative, and acquisition strategies. In addition, the increase in staffing better positioned the Office of Investigations to assist in supporting the Department's plan to strengthen border security and interior enforcement. Our Office of Investigations was able to investigate more of the allegations received, delegating fewer of them to DHS component internal affairs offices. Our increased involvement realized an avoidance of fraud, waste, and abuse and provided DHS management and Congress with the assurances that departmental resources were being used as intended.

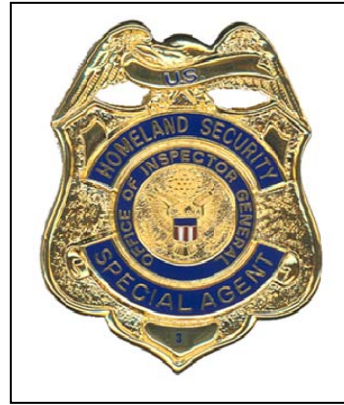
Training

A primary goal of the Office of Investigations is facilitating the continued development of our personnel's professional educational training requirements. Many of these training requirements, including professional, technological, and investigative education training, are mandated by



Special Agents Weapons Practice

the *Inspector General Reform Act of 2008*, P.L. 110-409, the *Inspector General Act*, Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards promulgated by the Government Accountability Office, and the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency.



Appendix A
Office of Inspector General Contact Information

OIG Headquarters and Field Offices

The Office of Investigations Headquarters / Field Offices can be contacted at:

Department of Homeland Security
Office of Inspector General/MAIL STOP 2600
Attention: Office of Investigations
245 Murray Drive, SW, Building 410
Washington, DC 20528
(202) 254-4100

Field Offices		
Alpine, TX (Information Pending)	Detroit, MI Detroit, MI 48126 (313) 226-2163 / Fax: (313) 226-6405	New York City, NY Jersey City, NJ 07657 (201) 356-1800 / Fax: (201) 356-4038
Atlanta, GA Atlanta, GA 30309 (404) 832-6730 / Fax: (404) 832-6646	El Centro, CA Imperial, CA 92251 (760) 335-3900 / Fax: (760) 335-3726	Orlando, FL Orlando, FL 32809-7892 (407) 804-6399 / Fax: (407) 8804-8730
Baton Rouge, LA Baton Rouge, LA 70803 (225) 334-4900 / Fax: (225) 578-4982	El Paso, TX El Paso, TX 79925 (915) 629-1800 / Fax: (915) 594-1330	Philadelphia, PA Marlton, NJ 08053 (856) 596-3800 / Fax: (856) 810-3410
Bellingham, WA Bellingham, WA 98226 (360) 527-4400 Fax: (360) 671-0576	Hattiesburg, MS Hattiesburg, MS 39402-8881 (601) 264-8220 / Fax: (601) 264-9088	San Diego, CA San Diego, CA 92101 (619) 235-2501 / Fax: (619) 687-3144
Biloxi, MS Biloxi, MS 39531 (228) 385-9215 / Fax: (228) 385-9220	Houston, TX Houston, TX 77027 (713) 212-4300 / Fax: (713) 212-4363	San Francisco, CA Oakland, CA 94612 (510) 637-4311 / Fax: (510) 637-4327
Boston, MA Boston, MA 02222 (617) 565-8705 / Fax: (617) 565-8995	Laredo, TX Laredo, TX 78045 (956) 794-2917 / Fax: (956) 717-0395	San Juan, PR San Juan, PR 00918 (787) 294-2500 / Fax: (787) 771-3620
Buffalo, NY Buffalo, NY 14202 (716) 551-4231 / Fax: (716) 551-4238	Los Angeles, CA El Segundo, CA 90245 (310) 665-7320 / Fax: (310) 665-7309	Seattle, WA Kirkland, WA 98033 (425) 250-1360 / Fax: (425) 576-0898
Chicago, IL Chicago, IL 60603 (312) 886-2800 / Fax: (312) 886-2804	McAllen, TX McAllen, TX 78501 (956) 664-8010 / Fax: (956) 618-8151	Sierra Vista, AZ (Information Pending)
Dallas, TX Frisco, TX 75034 (214) 436-5250 / Fax: (214) 436-5276	Miami, FL Miramar, FL 33027 (954) 538-7555 / Fax: (954) 602-1033	Tucson, AZ Tucson, AZ 85701 (520) 229-6420 / Fax: (520) 742-7192
Del Rio, TX Del Rio, TX 78840 (830)775-7492 x239 / Fax: (830)703-0265	Mobile, AL Mobile, AL 36609 (251) 415-3278 / Fax: (251) 219-3517	Washington, DC Arlington, VA 22209 (703) 235-0848 / Fax: (703) 235-0854
Denver, CO (Information Pending)	New Orleans, LA (Information Pending)	Yuma, AZ Yuma, AZ 85365 (928) 314-9640 / Fax: (928) 314-9679

Department of Homeland Security

Secretary
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Deputy Chief of Staff
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DHS Component Liaisons
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Office of Management and Budget

Chief, Homeland Security Branch
DHS OIG Budget Examiner

Congress

Congressional Oversight and Appropriations Committees, as appropriate



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND COPIES

To obtain additional copies of this report, please call the Office of Inspector General (OIG) at (202) 254-4100, fax your request to (202) 254-4305, or visit the OIG web site at www.dhs.gov/oig.

OIG HOTLINE

To report alleged fraud, waste, abuse or mismanagement, or any other kind of criminal or noncriminal misconduct relative to department programs or operations:

- Call our Hotline at 1-800-323-8603;
- Fax the complaint directly to us at (202) 254-4292;
- Email us at DHSOIGHOTLINE@dhs.gov; or
- Write to us at:
DHS Office of Inspector General/MAIL STOP 2600,
Attention: Office of Investigations - Hotline,
245 Murray Drive, SW, Building 410,
Washington, DC 20528.

The OIG seeks to protect the identity of each writer and caller.