

The fingerprints are not only checked against FBI criminal history records, but also against DHS immigration records.

If fingerprints match those of someone in DHS's biometric system, the new automated process notifies ICE. ICE evaluates each case to determine the individual's immigration status and takes appropriate enforcement action. Once identified through fingerprint matching, ICE will respond with the first priority placed on aliens convicted of the most serious crimes, such as those with convictions for major drug offenses, murder, rape and kidnapping.

ICE has already used this tool to identify thousands of convicted criminal aliens in local communities and to remove them from the U.S. ICE is using the Secure Communities capability in hundreds of jurisdictions across the nation and plans nationwide use by 2013.

Secure Communities leads to removal of more than 5,500 convicted criminal aliens from LA County in first year

In its first year of activation in Los Angeles County, ICE's Secure Communities program resulted in the identification and removal of more than 5,500 convicted criminal aliens from the U.S., all of whom local law enforcement encountered within the county.

Of the aliens removed from Los Angeles County, nearly 2,500 were considered Level 1 offenders, which include those convicted of serious or violent crimes, such as murder, sexual assault or robbery. Another 2,540 were Level 2 offenders, which includes individuals with convictions for offenses, such as arson, burglary and property crimes. As part of Secure Communities strategy, ICE is prioritizing its enforcement efforts to ensure that individuals who pose the greatest threat to public safety are removed first.

(September 2010)





Worksite Enforcement

Effective worksite enforcement plays an important role in the fight against illegal immigration. ICE has developed a comprehensive worksite enforcement strategy that promotes national security, protects critical infrastructure and targets employers who violate employment laws or engage in abuse or exploitation of workers. An effective worksite enforcement strategy must address both employers who knowingly hire illegal workers, as well as the illegal workers themselves. In worksite cases, ICE investigators adhere to high investigative standards, including the following:

- ICE will look for evidence of the mistreatment of workers, along with evidence of trafficking, smuggling, harboring, visa fraud, identification document fraud, money laundering and other criminal conduct.
- ICE will obtain indictments, criminal arrests or search warrants, or a commitment from a U.S. Attorney's Office to prosecute the targeted employer before arresting employees for civil immigration violations at a worksite.

In pursuing this strategy, ICE applies risk assessment principles in order to maximize the impact of investigations against the most significant threats and violators. For example, unauthorized workers employed at sensitive sites and critical infrastructure facilities — airports, seaports, nuclear plants, chemical plants and defense facilities — could pose serious homeland security threats. These investigations are given a higher priority.

Worksite enforcement investigations often involve egregious violations of criminal statutes by employers and widespread abuse. ICE also investigates employers who use force, threats or coercion (e.g. threatening to have employees deported) in order to keep the unauthorized alien workers from reporting substandard wages or working conditions. By uncovering such violations, ICE can send a strong deterrent message to other employers who knowingly employ illegal aliens.

Partnership with Employers

Announced in 2006, the ICE Mutual Agreement between Government and Employers (IMAGE) is designed to build cooperative relationships with the private sector to enhance compliance with immigration laws and reduce the number of unauthorized aliens within the U.S. workforce. IMAGE offers employers a comprehensive and pragmatic solution to the many challenges facing them in the area of employment eligibility verification.

The Charter IMAGE membership program was extensive, fairly complicated and possibly intimidating to prospective employers. On July 20, 2011, ICE announced the IMAGE Certification Process. Under the newly modified and simplified IMAGE program, companies will become IMAGE Certified. The new structure seeks to remedy some of the barriers to broader IMAGE participation, most notably, fear that the IMAGE program could expose employers to civil or criminal liability. The IMAGE Certification Process will help to promote a culture of compliance among employers.

Employers seeking to participate in the streamlined IMAGE certification process must agree to:

1. Complete the IMAGE Self-Assessment Questionnaire
2. Review and sign an official IMAGE partnership agreement with ICE
3. Enroll in the E-Verify program
4. Establish a written hiring and employment eligibility verification policy
5. Submit to a Form I-9 Inspection

Upon completion of the process, program participants are deemed "IMAGE Certified" – a distinction DHS believes will become an industry standard.

The benefits of becoming IMAGE certified are

- Public recognition of the employer's IMAGE certification;
- Avoidance of lawsuits and other legal actions resulting from unauthorized employment;
- Brand name protection;
- Fine mitigation;
- A stable workforce;
- No Form I-9 inspection for a minimum of two years; and
- ICE provided training and guidance on proper hiring procedures and fraudulent document awareness.

ICE partners with Tyson Foods and announces creation of an I-9 inspections center

Tyson Foods, Inc. became the newest member of ICE's nationwide program designed to encourage businesses to collaborate with ICE and use hiring best practices to ensure they are maintaining a lawful workforce.

Tyson Foods, Inc. Senior Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer Ken Kimbro and ICE Director John Morton signed the IMAGE agreement during a ceremony at ICE Headquarters. Tyson Foods, Inc., which employs almost 100,000 people at locations throughout the U.S., is the first major food company to become a full member of ICE's IMAGE program.

"ICE's collaboration with Tyson Foods illustrates this administration's commitment to working with industry to encourage a culture of compliance with U.S. employment laws," said Morton. "Tyson Foods is setting the gold standard for Fortune 500 companies everywhere, and ICE is proud to be partnering with the company in this significant effort to protect our nation's lawful workforce."

During the ceremony, Director Morton also announced the creation of an employment compliance inspection center in Crystal City, Va. This center will be home to 15 auditors who will support ICE's worksite enforcement strategy by helping agency field offices around the country expedite Form I-9 audits of businesses selected for inspection by ICE.

(January 2011)

Human Rights Violators and War Crimes Unit

The Human Rights Violators and War Crimes Unit (HRVWCU) prevents the admission of foreign war crimes suspects, persecutors and human rights abusers into the U.S. It also identifies, prosecutes and ultimately removes such offenders who are already unlawfully residing in the U.S. In performing both missions, HRVWCU works closely with the ICE Human Rights Law Division.

In January 2009, ICE established the HRVWC to further increase the efficiency of these complex investigative and litigation actions. Within this center, ICE taps the knowledge and expertise of a select group of special agents, lawyers, intelligence specialists, researchers, historians and analysts who direct the agency's broader enforcement efforts against human rights offenders. The center manages two ICE initiatives designed to more effectively employ ICE resources against these offenders — No Safe Haven and Human Rights Target Tracking.

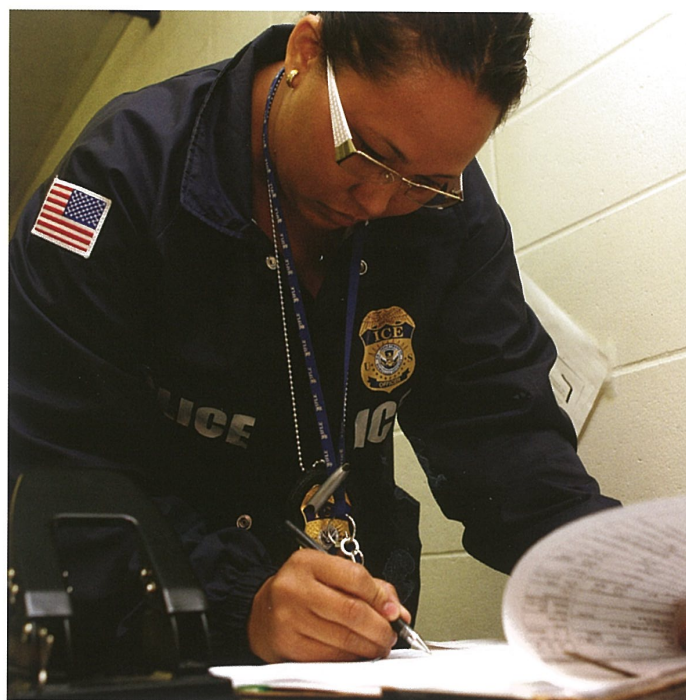
Bosnian-Serb human rights violator suspect removed

ICE removed suspected human rights violator Marko Boskic to Bosnia and Herzegovina, turning him over to authorities in Sarajevo to face war crimes charges.

Boskic admitted his direct participation in the killing of unarmed victims during the 1991-1995 Yugoslavian civil war. He was assigned to the 10th Sabotage Detachment, a unit that was involved in the murder of at least 1,200 unarmed prisoners of war at Branjevo Farm near Srebrenica in 1995.

ICE special agents originally arrested and charged Boskic with fraud and misuse of visas, permits and other documents. In 2006, the U.S. District Court of Massachusetts convicted him of two counts of immigration fraud and sentenced him to 63 months imprisonment. Boskic was turned over to ICE after completing a significant portion of his sentence and removal proceedings were initiated. An immigration judge ordered Boskic removed to Bosnia and Herzegovina in February 2010.

(April 2010)



Document, Identity and Benefit Fraud

ICE places a high priority on investigating document and benefit fraud. These types of fraud pose a severe threat to national security and public safety because they create a vulnerability that may enable terrorists, criminals and illegal aliens to gain entry to — and remain — in the U.S.

Document and benefit fraud are elements of many immigration-related crimes, involving human smuggling and trafficking, critical infrastructure protection, worksite enforcement, visa compliance enforcement, and national security investigations.

Document fraud, also known as identity fraud, is the manufacturing, counterfeiting, alteration, sale or use of identity and other fraudulent documents to circumvent immigration laws or for other criminal activity. In some cases, identity fraud also involves identity theft, a crime in which an imposter takes on the identity of a real person (living or deceased) for some illegal purpose.

Benefit fraud is the willful misrepresentation of material fact on a petition or application to gain an immigration benefit. Benefit fraud can be an extremely lucrative form of white-collar crime, often involving sophisticated schemes and multiple co-conspirators. These schemes can take years to investigate and prosecute.

ICE's Identity and Benefit Fraud Unit (IBFU) is charged with investigating and disrupting document and benefit

fraud schemes. IBFU coordinates its investigative efforts with other DHS components, such as CBP and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), as well as other federal agencies, such as the U.S. Department of State and U.S. Department of Labor.

Another key tool in the fight against fraud is the Document and Benefit Fraud Task Force (DBFTF) initiative. DBFTFs, established in 2006 and led by ICE, detect, deter and disrupt document, identity and benefit fraud.

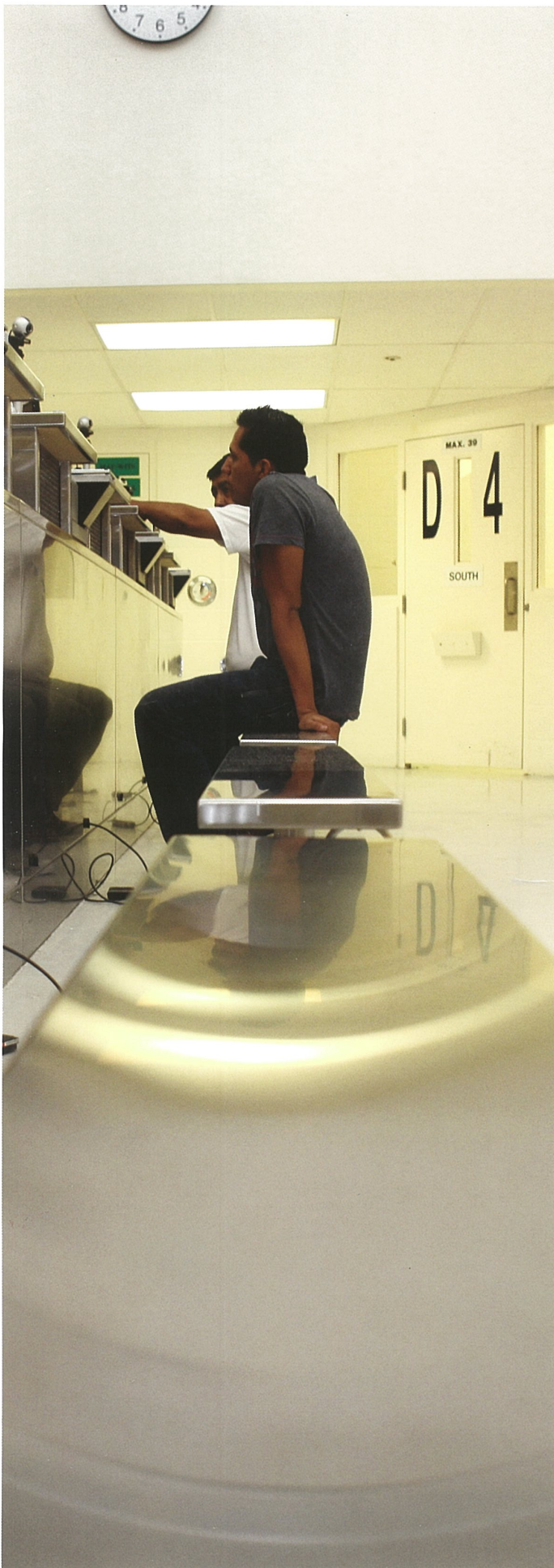
Under the DBFTF framework, investigators from a variety of agencies with expertise in different aspects of fraud collaborate with U.S. Attorneys Offices around the country to formulate a comprehensive approach to targeting the criminal organizations, as well as their beneficiaries, behind these schemes.

DBFTF partners vary from location to location but can include agencies such as U.S. Attorneys Offices, U.S. Department of Labor, U.S. Social Security Administration, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, USCIS, U.S. Department of State, and state and local law enforcement agencies. Each of these agencies has a different area of expertise and knowledge, and their contributions enable the DBFTFs to conduct more comprehensive investigations.

In 2011, DBFTFs were active in the following 18 locations across the country:

- Atlanta;
- Baltimore;
- Boston;
- Chicago;
- Dallas;
- Denver;
- Detroit;
- Houston;
- Los Angeles;
- Miami;
- New York;
- Newark;
- Philadelphia;
- Saint Paul;
- San Francisco;
- San Juan;
- Tampa/Orlando; and
- Washington, D.C./Northern Virginia.





28 alleged members of sophisticated, violent, fraudulent document ring indicted

HSI's "Operation Phalanx" ferreted out a highly sophisticated and violent fraudulent document trafficking organization, resulting in the arrest of 28 members for conspiracy to produce and transfer false identification documents and conspiracy to commit money laundering crimes, which carry a maximum penalty of 15 and 20 years in prison, respectively. Of the 28 members, 22 were also charged with racketeering conspiracy, which carries a maximum penalty of 20 years to life, depending on the racketeering activity.

cities and 11 states, the organization is accused of kidnapping, beating, and on at least one occasion, murdering competitors, and using violence to discipline its own members.

U.S. ring leader, Israel Cruz Milan of Raleigh, N.C., managed the organization's operations in the U.S., overseeing cells in nearly a dozen states that produced high-quality false identification cards to illegal aliens. Additionally, the indictment alleges that he sought to drive competitors away from their territory by posing as customers and attacking them when they arrived to make a sale.

(February 2011)

287(g) - Immigration Authority Delegation Program

The 287(g) program, an important ICE partnership initiative, was introduced as a part of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996. The program authorizes agreements with state and local law enforcement agencies, permitting designated officers to perform immigration law enforcement functions, provided that the local law enforcement officers receive appropriate training and function under the supervision of ICE officers. ERO is responsible for overseeing the drafting and implementation of 287(g) agreements.

Law Enforcement Support Center

The Law Enforcement Support Center (LESC) is a critical point of contact for the national law enforcement community, providing a wide range of informational services to local, state and federal officers and investigators. Established in 1994, the LESG has evolved into a national center for supporting law enforcement operations and investigations.

Local and state law enforcement officers often use the LESG to find information about foreign nationals they encounter in the course of their daily duties.

The LESG, located in Williston, Vt., operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to provide timely and accurate information to law enforcement officers on the immigration status and identities of individuals who have been arrested or are under investigation for criminal activity.

LESG technicians have ready access to a wide range of databases and intelligence resources. In addition, the LESG analyzes and disseminates information received from the public about suspicious or criminal activity. Information obtained from the public via ICE's toll-free tip hotline is analyzed by the professional law enforcement staff at the LESG and quickly forwarded to ICE field units for investigation or other action.



Removal Management

Removal management involves planning and coordinating removals across the country, as well as developing and implementing strategies to support the return of all removable aliens to their country of origin. ERO coordinates the removal of illegal aliens from the U.S. once they have been deemed removable by an immigration court. ERO's robust removals program also serves to reduce the number of illegal alien absconders — that is, those who have been ordered removed but have not complied with the removal order.

ERO's removal management program consists of the following three components:

- Case Management Unit: Oversees ERO non-detained and detained caseload docket;
- Flight Operations Unit: Coordinates flights to return removable aliens to their countries of origin; and
- Removal Coordination Unit: Oversees the removal process and provides liaison to government agencies in other nations.

Removal of Parolees

The Rapid Removal of Eligible Parolees Accepted for Transfer (Rapid REPAT) program offers selected criminal aliens incarcerated in U.S. prisons and jails the opportunity to accept early release in exchange for voluntarily returning to their country of origin.

Aliens who have been convicted of non-violent offenses may receive early conditional release if they have a final order of removal and agree not to return to the U.S. Eligible aliens must agree to waive appeal rights associated with their state convictions.

If aliens re-enter the U.S. following removal under the Rapid REPAT program, state statutes may provide for revocation of parole and incarceration for the remainder of the alien's original sentence. Additionally, aliens illegally re-entering the U.S. may face additional federal charges and penalties.

Rapid REPAT also helps participating states reduce the costs associated with detention.