



Homeland
Security

Office of Public Affairs
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

THE DHS BULLETIN: WEEKLY UPDATE

The **DHS Bulletin: Weekly Update** provides an in-depth summary of both the current and the previous week's events and initiatives throughout the Department of Homeland Security on which the news media is focused.

ISSUES IN THE HEADLINES

MARCH 14, 2011

SECRETARY NAPOLITANO IN BOSTON AND DENVER THIS WEEK

Secretary Napolitano is traveling to Boston and Cambridge, Massachusetts today, where she joined the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority and other state officials to promote the "If You See Something, Say Something" campaign ([The Boston Herald](#) covers the story), and delivered remarks at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) as part of the historic MIT Compton Lecture series about the vital role science and technology play in keeping America safe and secure.

Tomorrow, the Secretary will travel to Denver to deliver remarks highlighting the importance of state and major urban area fusion centers in protecting communities nationwide against all types of threats at the National Fusion Center Conference. Following her remarks, Secretary Napolitano and Colorado Lieutenant Governor Joe Garcia will participate in a media availability to discuss fusion centers and DHS's close partnership with Colorado.

SUBMIT YOUR IDEAS ON HOW DHS CAN REDUCE ITS REGULATORY BURDEN

DHS today announced the opening of a 30-day comment period to solicit public input on whether any existing significant regulations should be modified, streamlined, expanded or repealed to better serve the American people and reduce regulatory burden — a key step in implementing [Executive Order 13563](#) and the Obama administration's efforts to make our regulatory program more effective.

DHS wants your input. Think a regulation should be modified, streamlined, expanded or repealed? [Tell us on IdeaScale](#) — where you can submit new ideas, and comment and vote on ideas submitted by other participants — or [view the Federal Register notice](#). (For more background on the DHS-wide review, visit [The DHS Blog](#).)

- “We are committed to continuing to increase efficiency, transparency and accountability in the regulatory process. I look forward to working with the American people and the business community to determine how DHS regulations can best serve the interests of the public.” (quote by Secretary Napolitano – [DHS press release](#))

FEMA AND FEDERAL PARTNERS SUPPORT STATES, TERRITORIES IN TSUNAMI RESPONSE

When the earthquake and tsunami struck Japan early Friday morning, FEMA stayed in close contact with state and local officials through its regional offices in the West Coast and the Pacific area, ready to respond to requests for federal assistance, with water, meals, blankets and cots prepositioned in Hawaii, Guam, and the Bay area of California.

FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate posted a [video message on the FEMA Blog](#) at 8am on Friday morning emphasizing FEMA’s close monitoring of the effects of the earthquake and tsunami, and underscoring the agency’s commitment to the safety of the people and communities in the affected areas.

[Visit the FEMA Blog to read about FEMA’s preparations for a potential domestic response.](#)

As of Saturday, [all Tsunami Warnings and Advisories have been canceled for the U.S.](#)

ICE DIRECTOR JOHN MORTON INTERVIEWED ON C-SPAN’S “WASHINGTON JOURNAL”

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Director John Morton appeared on C-SPAN today to discuss U.S. border security and the safety of agents working on the U.S. Mexico border in light of the recent killing of ICE Agent Jaime Zapata ([C-SPAN video](#)).

FEMA: ARE YOU PREPARED FOR SPRINGTIME FLOODING?

Flood Safety Awareness Week is March 14th through March 18th. This week and throughout the spring season, FEMA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration are providing [tips to help individuals and families prepare for flooding dangers](#).

For more information, [visit the Flood Safety Awareness Week landing page](#).

- “As the nation’s most common and expensive natural disaster, floods can strike virtually every community. We're encouraging individuals and families to take a few simple steps to protect themselves and their property. These include learning about their risk of flooding, having an emergency preparedness kit, storing important documents in a safe place and considering the purchase of flood insurance.” (quote by FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate – [FEMA press release](#))
- In most cases, standard homeowner's insurance policies don't cover flood damages. FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program makes flood insurance available to renters, homeowners and business owners through thousands of insurance agents located in nearly 21,000 communities around the nation. ([FEMA press release](#))

LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER FOR THE DHS SCIENCE CONFERENCE

Registration for the DHS Science Conference closes today! Don't miss out on the chance to hear senior leaders from across the Department – including Secretary Napolitano, Under Secretary for Science and Technology Tara O'Toole, Transportation Security Administration Administrator John Pistole, FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate and Customs and Border Protection Deputy Commissioner David Aguilar – discuss [this year's theme, "Catastrophes and Complex Systems."](#) with a focus on the role of transportation systems in preventing, mitigating, responding to, and recovering from natural disasters and terrorist attacks.

Weekly Update

FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 7, 2011

ICE RETURNS \$160,000 TO 87-YEAR-OLD MAN TARGETED IN CANADIAN LOTTERY SCAM

Last week, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) returned \$160,000 to an 87-year-old Los Angeles-area man victimized by Quebec-based telemarketing con artists who told him he had won a \$3.3 million Canadian lottery prize – but would have to pay taxes on his winnings upfront. The man ultimately sent three checks, which were intercepted by law enforcement officials and returned to the victim as part of Project COLT (Center of Operations Linked to Telemarketing).

“This man was very fortunate investigators were able to get his money back,” said Claude Arnold, special agent in charge of ICE's Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) in Los Angeles. “Sadly, that's often not the case. While ICE HSI and its enforcement partners are doing everything possible to stop this kind of fraud, the first line of defense is for people to be suspicious of anyone who calls and asks them to send money.”

Through Project COLT – a binational effort involving numerous agencies, including ICE, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the Security and Investigation Services for Canada Post and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police – law enforcement officers intercept and return funds to victims of telemarketing schemes. Project COLT investigators also work to prevent victimization through public education and the prosecution of individuals who commit fraud.

HOMELAND SECURITY ON THE HILL

Last week, Secretary Napolitano and senior leaders from across the Department – including FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Commissioner Alan Bersin, ICE Director John Morton, United States Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Robert Papp, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Deputy Director Kumar Kibble and Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Transportation Sector Network Management Assistant Administrator John Sammon – testified before Congress.

[Addressing members of the Senate Judiciary Committee on March 9th](#), Secretary Napolitano focused her testimony on the core areas of the Committee's jurisdiction as they related to the Department's mission areas: preventing terrorism and enhancing security; securing and managing our borders; enforcing and administering our immigration laws; safeguarding and securing cyberspace; and ensuring resilience to disasters.

The Secretary noted that substantial progress has been made since DHS was established eight years ago. “In each area, we have continued to grow and mature as a department over the past year, by strengthening our existing capabilities, building new ones where necessary, enhancing our partnerships across all levels of government and with the private sector, and streamlining our operations and increasing efficiency,” she said in her prepared testimony. Secretary Napolitano

also emphasized that the priorities the Department has set over the past two years are working. “We are finding and interdicting terrorists and transnational criminals. Illegal immigration is decreasing. Deportations are increasing. Crime rates are dropping. The numbers that are supposed to go up have gone up, and the numbers that are supposed to go down have gone down.”

Also on March 9, [FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate testified](#) before the House Homeland Security Committee, Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications, on FEMA’s fiscal year 2012 budget request, saying the proposed budget provides FEMA with the funds necessary to fulfill its mission of ensuring domestic resilience to disasters while reducing spending in several areas through efficiencies and innovative thinking.

[Testifying on CBP’s fiscal year 2012 budget request that day, CBP Commissioner Alan Bersin](#) told members of the House Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Homeland Security, that the agency’s budget request provides CBP with the resources necessary to carry out its dual mission of protecting the United States against threats and securing the nation’s borders while facilitating lawful travel, trade, and immigration.

Testifying on money laundering and bulk cash smuggling across the Southwest border before the Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control, [ICE Deputy Director Kumar Kibble](#) and [CBP Commissioner Alan Bersin](#) stated that in the two years since the Southwest Border Initiative was implemented, they have strengthened the security of the Southwest border in a way that many would not have thought possible.

[TSA’s Transportation Sector Network Management Assistant Administrator John Sammon](#) spoke on securing air commerce from the threat of terrorism before the House Homeland Security Committee, Subcommittee on Transportation Security, saying that as TSA pursues intelligence-driven initiatives both domestically and internationally, the agency will continue to work closely with the Subcommittee in examining how best to protect the traveling public while facilitating the flow of commerce, and guard against the actions of terrorists.

Also last week, [ICE Director John Morton testified](#) before the House Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Homeland Security, on the agency’s fiscal year 2012 budget request saying that ICE is focused on smart and effective enforcement of our immigration laws, prioritizing the removal of criminal aliens and those who pose a threat to public safety, and making sure that employers have the tools they need to maintain a legal work force and face penalties if they knowingly and repeatedly violate the law.

In his fiscal year 2012 budget testimony before the House Appropriations Committee, [United States Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Robert Papp](#) discussed the important work done each day by the Coast Guard to keep the nation secure and provided several examples including rescuing workers from an oil platform fire in the Gulf of Mexico, interdicting a semi-submersible vessel carrying cocaine in the Eastern Pacific Ocean, and repatriating migrants picked up in the Straits of Florida.

Finally, [FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate provided written testimony](#) before the House Financial Services Committee, Subcommittee on Insurance, Housing and Community Opportunity, on National Flood Insurance Program reform, stating that the National Flood Insurance Program serves as the foundation for national efforts to reduce the loss of life and property from flood disasters, and is estimated to save the nation \$1.6 billion annually in avoided

flood losses. He did not testify in person at the Friday morning hearing as scheduled due to tsunami response efforts.

[**READ ABOUT THE PROGRESS DHS HAS MADE ACROSS OUR KEY MISSION AREAS**](#)

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