



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

MAY 10, 2011

[SECRETARY NAPOLITANO JOINS PRESIDENT OBAMA IN EL PASO, TX FOR SPEECH ON IMMIGRATION REFORM](#)

Secretary Napolitano joined President Obama today on a trip to Chamizal National Memorial in El Paso, TX, where he spoke on the importance of fixing the broken immigration system for our nation's 21st century economic and security needs.

- “Over the past two years ... Under Secretary Napolitano’s leadership, we have strengthened border security beyond what many believed was possible.... We now have more boots on the ground on the southwest border than at any time in our history. The Border Patrol has 20,000 agents – more than twice as many as there were in 2004, a build up that began under President Bush and that we have continued. (quote by President Obama – [El Paso speech](#)).
- “... Violent crime in southwest border counties has dropped by a third. El Paso and other cities and towns along the border are consistently rated among the safest in the nation.” (quote by President Obama – [El Paso speech](#)).
- “Beyond the border, we’re also going after employers who knowingly exploit people and break the law. And we are deporting those who are here illegally... we are focusing our limited resources on violent offenders and people convicted of crimes; not families, not folks who are just looking to scrape together an income. As a result, we increased the removal of criminals by 70 percent.” (quote by President Obama – [El Paso speech](#)).

[Read Secretary Napolitano’s testimony last week on the Department’s efforts to strengthen security at the Southwest border.](#)

FEMA ADMINISTRATOR FUGATE, MAYOR MICHAEL BLOOMBERG, FCC AND WIRELESS INDUSTRY ANNOUNCE “PLAN” – THE PERSONAL LOCALIZED ALERTING NETWORK

FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate today joined Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Federal Communications Commission Chairman Julius Genachowski and top executives from AT & T, Sprint, T-Mobile and Verizon to announce the early launch of the Personal Localized Alerting Network – a free service that will allow customers with an enabled mobile device to receive geographically targeted, text-like messages alerting them of imminent threats to safety in their area. This service will be available in New York City and Washington, D.C by the end of 2011.

- “Following the devastating tornadoes in the Southeast, we are witnessing yet again the critical role the public plays as part of our nation’s emergency management team... This new technology could become a lifeline for millions of Americans and is another tool that will strengthen our nation’s resilience against all hazards.” (quote by FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate – [FEMA press release](#))

What are the key features of PLAN?

- **Alerts are geographically targeted**, so people will receive them based on where they are when an emergency hits, as opposed to where they live.
- **Alerts will get through to phones** – no matter how jammed nearby cell towers are.
- **Alerts are free of charge and require no sign up.** Wireless carriers voluntarily choose to provide the technology to new and existing customers. Customers whose phones include the new PLAN technology can opt out of receiving PLAN alerts if they choose to do so.

[Find answers to your questions on the PLAN fact sheet](#)

[Read more about PLAN on the FEMA Blog](#)

SECRETARY NAPOLITANO VISITS GEORGIA TO SURVEY DAMAGE, RECOVERY EFFORTS FOLLOWING SEVERE STORMS ACROSS SOUTHEAST

Secretary Napolitano on Sunday traveled to Ringgold, GA – where she joined Senator Johnny Isakson, Representative Tom Graves, Georgia Emergency Management Agency Director Charley English, Chairman of the Catoosa County Board of Commissioners Keith Greene, Ringgold Mayor Joe Barger, and Catoosa County Sheriff Phil Summers – to survey the damage and the response and recovery efforts following the severe storms and tornadoes that affected many regions in the Southeast. Secretary Napolitano also met with first responders as well as the survivors and their families at the Ringgold Disaster Recovery Center (DRC).

- “We thank the first responders and emergency personnel, as well as the citizens and volunteers –many of whom are survivors of this disaster – for working around the clock to help with response and recovery efforts. Rebuilding from this terrible storm will be a longer-term effort, but we will continue to stand with all those affected, every step of the way.” ([FEMA readout](#))

***In Case You Missed It:** [Chattanooga Times Free Press](#): “After a morning driving around the destroyed homes and businesses of Ringgold on Sunday, Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano was struck by one thing above all else — the community’s resilience.”*

CONTINUING TO SUPPORT SOUTHERN STATES' STORM RECOVERY

Since the deadly tornadoes first struck parts of the country, the federal government has been in constant contact with all of the impacted states as they responded to and began recovery efforts from these devastating storms. For more information and the latest updates, check the [FEMA Blog](#).

Register for Help:

Families and individuals who have been impacted by the tornadoes and storms can register for assistance online at www.disasterassistance.gov or m.fema.gov on a web-enabled mobile device, or by phone at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY) for the hearing and speech impaired. [Find more online and mobile resources for helping survivors on the DHS Blog](#).

For more information about flood safety, visit www.Ready.gov/floodawareness or www.listo.gov to find out how you can prepare your family for flooding and other disasters.

Donate or volunteer to help disaster survivors

View the latest photos of ongoing recovery efforts

STAY TUNED: NATIONAL POLICE WEEK 2011 IS MAY 15th to 21st

National Police Week “recognizes the service and sacrifice of U.S. law enforcement” and “pays special recognition to those law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others,” according to the [website](#) of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, a principal organizer of the event.

The 23rd Annual Candlelight Vigil honoring America’s fallen law enforcement heroes will take place on Friday, May 13th at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C. Stay tuned for events throughout the week.

Weekly Update **FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 2, 2011**

SECRETARY NAPOLITANO TO EMORY GRADUATES: PUBLIC SERVICE SHOULD BE PART OF ANY CAREER PATH

Yesterday, Secretary Napolitano delivered the Commencement Address at the 166th Commencement Ceremony for Emory University in Atlanta, GA – calling on graduates to take part in public service during their careers in order to ensure our nation’s best and brightest are working on our most pressing challenges.

- “Your challenge as graduates will be figuring out how to take advantage of the dynamism of today’s world – and use your unique skills – to make it better.” (quote by Secretary Napolitano – [Emory University Commencement](#))
- “No matter what career path you begin on, you should be able to spend a couple of years in government applying your particular talents and expertise to a public challenge.” (quote by Secretary Napolitano – [Emory University Commencement](#))

SECRETARY NAPOLITANO AND FEMA ADMINISTRATOR FUGATE MESSAGE TO SOUTHERN STATES: “YOU HAVE, AND WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE, OUR FULL SUPPORT”

Last week, the [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#), the [Montgomery Advisor](#), and the [Tennessean](#) published op-eds by Secretary Napolitano and FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate outlining the steps being taken across the Southeast to ensure states have the support they need, and that resources are available for individuals in need of assistance.

“We stand with all of the affected families, neighborhoods and communities on the journey forward,” Secretary Napolitano and FEMA Administrator Fugate wrote. “You have, and will continue to have, our full support.”

SECRETARY NAPOLITANO: INDICTMENT IN MURDER OF BORDER PATROL AGENT TERRY SENDS CLEAR MESSAGE: “WE WILL NOT STAND FOR AGGRESSION AGAINST OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN UNIFORM”

The indictment charging of Manuel Osorio-Arrelanes and unnamed co-conspirators with crimes related to the murder of Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry was unsealed last week.

The indictment “is an important step in seeing that justice is served for this unconscionable crime,” Secretary Napolitano said. “This indictment also sends a clear message to those who would consider committing violence against the Border Patrol: We will not stand for aggression against our men and women in uniform, and we will bring the full resources of the federal government to bear in protecting them from harm and holding accountable those who would threaten their lives or their safety.”

SECRETARY NAPOLITANO ON BORDER SECURITY: “OUR COUNTRY HAS MADE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS SECURING THE SOUTHWEST BORDER OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS”

On Wednesday, Secretary Napolitano testified before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee on the Department’s efforts to strengthen security at the Southwest border – emphasizing “the unprecedented resources that have been dedicated to securing the Southwest border over the past two years, the progress that has been made as a result, and the metrics we can use to better assess future progress.”

“The goal that we share with every border community is to have a safe, secure border region that fosters legal trade, travel and immigration – and every metric that we have shows we have made substantial progress toward these goals,” Secretary Napolitano said.

HOMELAND SECURITY ON THE HILL

Senior leaders from across the Department testified last week before Congress.

[On May 3rd, Kumar Kibble, Deputy Director for Immigration and Customs Enforcement \(ICE\) and Ronald Vitiello, Deputy Chief of the Border Patrol, testified](#) before the House Homeland Security Committee, Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security, on the 287(g) program, detection operations, and Secure Communities, emphasizing that “ICE works closely with our law enforcement stakeholders at all levels of government to create a seamless, united front to disrupt and dismantle transnational criminal organizations.”

[On May 4th, Transportation Security Administration Administrator John Pistole and FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate testified](#) before the House Homeland Security Committee on securing mass transit systems from terrorism.

[Pablo Martinez, Deputy Special Agent In Charge for the U.S. Secret Service Criminal Investigative Division, testified](#) before the Energy and Commerce Committee, Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing and Trade, on responding to the threat of cyber crime and terrorism, underscoring the Secret Service's commitment "to safeguarding the nation's financial payment systems by investigating and dismantling criminal organizations involved in cyber crime."

[Stephen Sadler, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Transportation Threat Assessment and Credentialing at the Transportation Security Administration, testified](#) before the House Committee on Homeland Security Subcommittee on Transportation Security on the Modern Security Credentialing Act, which will allow DHS to consolidate and harmonize the Department's security threat assessment (STA) and credentialing process for transportation workers to reduce duplicative efforts.

[On May 5th, Deputy Assistant Secretary of International Affairs Mark Koumans testified](#) before the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Subcommittee on Europe and Asia, on U.S., Europe, Russia and Caucasus cooperation on counterterrorism.

[FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate testified](#) before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, Subcommittee on Disaster Recovery and Intergovernmental Affairs, on FEMA's use of social media in emergency response. "My pledge to the individuals and communities we serve is that rather than asking them to change the way they communicate to fit our system, we will continue to change the way we do business to fit the way they communicate," he said.

[Allen Gina, Assistant Commissioner for Customs and Border Protection's \(CBP\) Office of International Trade, and J. Scott Ballman, Deputy Assistant Director for Immigration and Customs Enforcement's \(ICE\) Homeland Security Investigations, testified](#) on enforcement of anti-dumping and countervailing duty orders, which are imposed on certain imports in order to remedy unfair trade practices such as selling products in the U.S. below the cost of production or below the price in the home market.

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

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