



Homeland
Security

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

THE DHS BULLETIN

The DHS Bulletin provides up to date information on Department of Homeland Security initiatives on which the news media is focused. The Bulletin draws from press releases, statements, op-eds, testimony, blog posts and other public documents to provide an overview of the most newsworthy topics.

ISSUES IN THE HEADLINES

March 27, 2012

ON THE DHS BLOG: [THE RICK RESCORLA NATIONAL AWARD FOR RESILIENCE](#)

Secretary Napolitano today announced the creation of the Rick Rescorla National Award for Resilience at DHS. This award is inspired by the heroic efforts of Rick Rescorla, who gave his life helping his colleagues at Morgan Stanley safely evacuate the World Trade Center on 9/11.

- **“The Rick Rescorla National Award for Resilience recognizes outstanding response to a catastrophic incident and leadership in fostering resilient and prepared communities. If you know of any organization or individual like Rick that has demonstrated superior leadership and a focus on effective preparation, response, and recovery in the face of disasters, you can nominate them [here](#).”** —Secretary Napolitano

[Read more about the Rick Rescorla National Award for Resilience](#)

[CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION PROPOSES EXPANSION OF JOINT CUSTOMS DECLARATIONS](#)

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) today proposed a revision to its customs declaration regulations that will save returning U.S. travelers time and save the agency money while still maintaining security at our ports of entry.

On the DHS Blog, Deputy Secretary Lute writes about the proposed update, which addresses when members of a family residing in one household and traveling together on their return to the U.S. may make a joint declaration for all members of the family.

- **“CBP’s mission is to facilitate legal travel in the U.S. while protecting our borders. By reducing costs, improving traveler processing, and more accurately reflecting relationships between members of the public who are traveling together as a family, we believe this rule update will assist CBP in delivering on its goal.”** --Deputy Secretary Lute

AT NATIONAL HURRICANE CONFERENCE, FEMA ADMINISTRATOR EMPHASIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF ENGAGING THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN DISASTER RECOVERY

FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate today delivered remarks at the National Hurricane Conference in Orlando in preparation of the upcoming hurricane season. In his address, Fugate encouraged the emergency management team to work inclusively with all partners to meet the needs of the whole community when responding to and recovering from disasters, and the importance of engaging the private sector early and often.

- **“When we look at the disasters last year, the unreported story was how the private sector was a part of the recovery team. The sooner we can get private businesses -- and government-backed infrastructure -- up and running, the sooner communities will recover.”** -- FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate

USCIS NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR CITIZENSHIP AND INTEGRATION GRANT PROGRAM

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is accepting applications for a competitive grant opportunity designed to promote immigrant civic integration and prepare permanent residents for citizenship. This year’s program will offer approximately \$5 million in funding for citizenship preparation programs in communities across the country.

Organizations selected to receive funding will offer both citizenship instruction and naturalization application services to permanent residents.

- **“These programs have a tremendous impact on immigrants who may not have other means to achieve their dream of becoming a citizen... In FY 2012, we will continue to support organizations nationwide whose hard work make such success stories possible.”**--Laura Patching, Acting Chief, USCIS Office of Citizenship

Apply by May 7th: Visit grants.gov

Did you know? Since the creation of the Citizenship and Integration Grant Program in FY 2009, USCIS has awarded a total of \$18.3 million through 111 grants to immigrant-serving organizations.

[Read more about the Citizenship and Integration Grant Program](#)

ENGAGING OUR PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERS AT DHS FOR A DAY

Earlier this month, the Private Sector Office (PSO) coordinated DHS for a Day VIII, which brought together representatives from the business, academic, and non-profit communities to visit three DHS emergency operations centers. The event was part of DHS’s efforts to increase public-private collaboration before, during, and after emergencies.

- **“Engaging the private sector and our many partners across the homeland security enterprise helps build a safer, more secure, and more resilient homeland.”** --Assistant Secretary for the Private Sector Douglas A. Smith

Through its DHS for a Day series, the Department is engaging with partners including the veteran community and the private sector to foster a greater understanding of DHS’s role in ensuring a safer, more secure and more resilient homeland. [Read more.](#)

HOMELAND SECURITY ON THE HILL

Senior leaders from across the Department have testified recently before Congress.

- [Testimony](#) of Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Assistant Administrators Chris McLaughlin and Steve Sadler and U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Deputy Commandant for Operations Vice Admiral Brian Salerno at a general TSA and USCG oversight hearing:
 - **“TSA employs risk-based, intelligence-driven operations to prevent terrorist attacks and to reduce the vulnerability of the Nation’s transportation system to terrorism. TSA protects the Nation’s transportation systems to ensure freedom of movement for people and commerce.”**
- [Testimony](#) of U.S. Coast Guard Master Chief Petty Officer Michael Leavitt before the House Armed Services Committee, Subcommittee on Military Personnel on the coast Guard’s efforts to limit hazing:
 - **“As the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard ensuring our personnel are treated with dignity and respect is a responsibility I take very seriously.”**
- [Testimony](#) of Chief Human Capital Officer Catherine Emerson before the House Homeland Security Committee, Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Management on employee morale:
 - **“It is our goal to ensure that the Department of Homeland Security is considered ‘a best place to work’... Through the collective efforts described in the statement, I believe that the Department has instituted a strong and broadly-scoped foundation upon which our efforts to improve employee morale will continue.”**
- [Testimony](#) of Assistant Secretary for Policy David Heyman before the House Judiciary Committee, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security on The REAL ID Act’s Minimum Standards for Driver’s Licenses and Identification Cards:
 - **“The Department, along with our federal, state and territory partners, has made great strides in improving the security of credentials since 9/11 and the subsequent enactment of the REAL ID Act of 2005.”**
- [Testimony](#) of FEMA Protection and National Preparedness, Grant Program Directorate Assistant Administrator Elizabeth Harman, and Assistant Administrator for the National Preparedness

Directorate Corey Gruber before the House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications, on FEMA's grant programs:

- **“Over the past 10 years, the homeland security grants have provided State, territorial, local, and tribal governments with more than \$35 billion in Federal funds to enhance capabilities to plan, prepare for, prevent, respond to, and recover from natural disasters and other terrorist threats.”**

PHOTO OF THE DAY

Last week, FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate [met with](#) Israeli Home Front Commander Maj. Gen. Eyal Eizenberg, the commanding general of Israel's Home Front Command. The Home Front Command and Israel's National Emergency Management Authority -- FEMA's Israeli counterpart -- have collaborated with FEMA for over four years under a memorandum of understanding with DHS.



[READ ABOUT THE PROGRESS WE MADE IN 2011](#)

DISCLAIMER: The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) provides links to non-government websites for convenience and informational purposes only. These websites may contain information that is copyrighted with restrictions on reuse. Permission to use copyrighted materials must be obtained from the original source and cannot be obtained from DHS. DHS is not responsible for the content of external websites linked to or referenced from the DHS web server. DHS neither endorses the information or content of external websites, nor guarantees the accuracy of the information contained on external websites. When you select a link to an external website, you are leaving the DHS site.