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News Releases

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First removals executed under New Hampshire Rapid REPAT program

CONCORD, N.H. - New Hampshire Department of Corrections Commissioner William L. Wrenn announced that nine inmates who were serving sentences in the New Hampshire State Prison were transferred to the jurisdiction of U.S. Immigration Customs and Enforcement (ICE) to be deported to their homelands. They were conveyed to ICE agents on Feb. 2.

"Today's transfer of eligible parolees to ICE in New Hampshire represents a significant step forward in removing criminal aliens from the country," said Bruce Chadbourne, field office director for ICE's Office of Detention and Removal Operations in Boston. "ICE anticipates working closely and cooperatively with the New Hampshire Department of Corrections throughout the process."

"Rapid REPAT is a positive program that decreases the prison population and reduces corrections costs," Corrections Commissioner William Wrenn said. "This is a way to expeditiously return them to their country of origin. We anticipate as many as 50 inmates could qualify for this program."

These are the first inmates who qualified for conditional early release and deportation through a new agreement between the state and ICE under the Rapid REPAT (Removal of Eligible Parolees Accepted for Transfer Program. The Rapid REPAT agreement is one part of ICE ACCESS (Agreements of Cooperation in Communities to Enhance Safety and Security), the umbrella of services that provide local law enforcement agencies opportunities to team with ICE to combat specific public safety challenges.

Under Rapid REPAT, certain aliens who are incarcerated in state prisons and 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. Only aliens convicted of non-violent offenses are eligible for the program and they must cooperate fully throughout the removal process.

If an alien re-enters the U.S. after being removed under this program, state statutes may provide for revocation of parole and confinement for the remainder of the alien's original sentence. Additionally, they may be prosecuted under federal statutes that provide for up to 20 years in prison for illegally reentering the United States.

Of the nine offenders, eight are citizens of the Dominican Republic and one is a citizen of Mexico. All were serving sentences for drug-related offenses.

-- ICE --

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security.

ICE comprises four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities. For more information, visit www.ICE.gov. To report suspicious activity, call 1-866-347-2423.

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