



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

April 9, 2012

SECRETARY NAPOLITANO HIGHLIGHTS STRATEGY TO SECURE THE SOUTHWEST BORDER WHILE FACILITATING LEGITIMATE TRADE AND TRAVEL

Secretary Napolitano last week delivered remarks at the National War College highlighting the Department's strategy for securing the Southwest border while facilitating legitimate trade and travel. During her remarks, Secretary Napolitano discussed the important steps taken by the Obama administration to strengthen and secure the Southwest border.

- **"Taken as a whole, our strategy represents the most serious and sustained action to secure our border in our nation's history, and every key measure indicates that this approach is working. The challenges we face at the border are real, but so too is the progress we've made."** -- Secretary Napolitano

Did you know? Over the past several years, DHS has deployed unprecedented levels of personnel, technology, and resources to the Southwest Border, resulting in a 53 percent decrease in border apprehensions - a key indicator of illegal immigration - over the past three years.

SECRETARY NAPOLITANO SPEAKS AT 2012 NATIONAL FUSION CENTER TRAINING EVENT

Secretary Napolitano last week traveled to Phoenix to meet with state and major urban area fusion center leaders and deliver remarks on information sharing and analysis, and collaboration with federal, state, local, tribal and territorial partners at the 2012 National Fusion Center Training Event.

- **"Homeland security begins with hometown security, and fusion centers play a vital role in keeping communities safe all across America. Fusion centers enhance hometown security in**

many ways - as they are uniquely well-positioned to help local officials better protect their communities from all threats, whether it is terrorism or other criminal activities." -- Secretary Napolitano

FIRST LADY MICHELLE OBAMA HELPS WELCOME COAST GUARD CUTTER STRATTON

The U.S. Coast Guard recently welcomed its newest cutter – a cutter honoring the legacy of [Captain Dorothy Stratton](#), the first woman accepted into the Coast Guard’s Women’s Reserve. As the third national security cutter, Stratton is the largest and most technically advanced class of cutter in the Coast Guard. First Lady Michelle Obama, the ship’s sponsor, participated in the commissioning ceremony.

- **“No matter what this country asks of you, you always step up to answer the call...So it is fitting that all of you are here today, because it is that ethic of service that defined the life of this cutter’s namesake, Capt. Dorothy Stratton.”** -- First Lady Michelle Obama, to Coast Guard men and women at the commissioning ceremony of Coast Guard Cutter Stratton

DHS ANNOUNCES NEW LANGUAGE ACCESS PLAN

DHS recently announced its first-ever [Language Access Plan](#) to address the language needs of persons with limited English proficiency (LEP). The LEP Plan provides a framework for the Department to improve our delivery of language services for diverse communities across the country, demonstrating our commitment to providing meaningful access to DHS programs and activities.

- **“We are proud of the work we’ve done thus far to address the critical language needs of our country’s diverse landscape. CRCL will continue to support the Department’s goal to ensure that all individuals can meaningfully participate in DHS programs and activities.”** -- Tamara Kessler, Acting Officer for the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

ON THE DHS BLOG: [DON’T BE FOOLED BY “TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE” WEBSITES](#)

Cybercriminals often rely on social engineering to trick people into installing malware with scams for free products, offers for pirated entertainment, or “never before seen” footage or photos that spark a fan’s curiosity. Clicking on one of these links makes it easy for criminals to steal your identity and passwords.

Protect yourself by following these tips:

- **Be cautious when accessing or downloading content.** If something seems too good to be true, it probably is.
- **Do not trust a site if it doesn’t appear legitimate.**
- **Install and keep your anti-virus software up-to-date.**

HOMELAND SECURITY ON THE HILL

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

- [Testimony](#) of Assistant Secretary for Health Affairs (OHA) Alex Garza before the House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications, on OHA’s fiscal year 2013 budget request:
 - **“OHA has four strategic goals: Provide expert health and medical advice to DHS leadership; Build national resilience against health incidents; Enhance national and DHS medical first responder capabilities; and Protect the DHS workforce against health threats.”**
- [Testimony](#) of Office of the Chief Human Capital Officer, Balanced Workforce Executive Director Debra Tomchek before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Subcommittee, on Contracting Oversight on the Department’s Balanced Workforce Strategy:
 - **“DHS has devoted significant attention to achieving the correct mix of public and private sector resources...We will continue to work to have a federal workforce that allows maximum flexibility to accomplish our homeland security mission.”**
- [Testimony](#) of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office of Detention Policy and Planning Assistant Director Kevin Landy before the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration Policy and Enforcement, on performance based national detention standards:
 - **“In August 2009, Director John Morton announced that ICE would begin reforming ICE’s detention system...Our reforms have addressed many of the concerns raised about the immigration detention system, while also allowing ICE to operate essential detention facilities to complete its mission and achieve greater operational efficiency.”**
- [Testimony](#) of Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Office of Security Operations Assistant Administrator Chris McLaughlin before the House Homeland Security Subcommittee on the TSA workforce:
 - **“The TSA workforce occupies the frontline in executing the agency’s transportation security responsibilities in support of the Nation’s counterterrorism efforts. These responsibilities include security screening of passengers and baggage at 450 airports in the United States that facilitate air travel for 1.8 million people per day.”**
- [Testimony](#) of National Protection and Programs Directorate (NPPD) Office of Cybersecurity and Communications Acting Assistant Administrator Roberta Stempfley before the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, on cybersecurity and communications network security:
 - **“The work that public safety agencies, Federal partners, and industry are doing to ensure effective and secure network operations is a significant start... DHS looks forward to continued partnerships with government and private-sector stakeholders to build a secure communications network for our Nation’s first responders.”**

PHOTO OF THE DAY

First Lady Michelle Obama poses for a group photo with the crew of the Coast Guard Cutter Stratton before the ship's [commissioning ceremony](#) in Alameda, CA. U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Patrick Kelley.



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

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