Weekly Muster

Week of Muster: June 1, 2008

Topic: Permanent Resident Cards (PRC), Forms I-551, Without Expiration Dates (WED); Abandonment of Residence Cases

Reference Materials: 8 CFR 211; Inspector's Field Manual, Chapters 13 and 17.10

Headquarters POC: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) [redacted]

Office: Office of Field Operations, Admissibility and Passenger Programs

Permanent Resident Cards (PRC), Forms I-551, Without Expiration Dates (WED)

- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) published a notice of proposed rulemaking in the Federal Register (FR) on August 22, 2007, concerning the forthcoming termination of the nearly 750,000 Forms I-551 WED held by LPRs.
- Until further notice CBP officers should continue to accept I-551 WED as proof of lawful permanent resident status, unless otherwise abandoned.
- Until further notice CBP officers should not lift these cards or require LPRs to file I-90's.
- When USCIS issues further notice regarding the timeline to phase out the I-551 WED, CBP will provide further guidance to the field.

Abandonment of Residence

- CBP officers should not coerce LPRs to surrender their Permanent Resident Card (PRC), Form I-551, since this frequently leads to the former alien seeking reinstatement of LPR status at a later date.
- In determining whether an LPR has abandoned their status, CBP officers should refer to Chapter 13.1 of the Inspector's Field Manual (IFM).
- Abandonment indicators include, but are not limited to:
  - Being outside the United States for more than one year;
  - Employment abroad;
  - Immediate family members who are not permanent residents;
  - Arrival on a charter flight where most passengers are non-residents with return passage;
  - Lack of a fixed address in the United States; or
  - Frequent prolonged absences from the United States.

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