



Secretary Napolitano Highlights DHS' Major Accomplishments in 2009

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Fact Sheet: Department of Homeland Security 2009 Accomplishments & Reforms
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Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano today highlighted the Department's 2009 accomplishments in an address to employees—emphasizing the major steps the Department has taken this year to enhance America's capabilities to guard against terrorism; secure the nation's borders; engage in smart enforcement of our immigration laws; prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters; and unify and mature the Department and its 230,000-employee global workforce.

"We have built a spirit of collaboration into everything we do—within DHS and with our state, local, tribal, private sector and international partners," said Secretary Napolitano. "DHS and our 230,000 employees are connected by a common mission and responsibility to protect the United States from all threats and disasters."

The year-end accomplishments outlined today reflect Secretary Napolitano's commitment to strengthening activities in each priority area through three cross-cutting initiatives—increasing cooperation with federal, state, local tribal, private sector and international partners, deploying the latest science and technology to support DHS' mission; and maximizing efficiency in operations across the Department.

To guard against terrorism and threats to cyber networks and critical infrastructure, Secretary Napolitano forged new global partnerships in 2009 to share information, facilitate scientific research and coordinate law enforcement efforts; opened a new DHS-led coordinated cybersecurity watch and warning center; and created a new Fusion Center Program Management Office to support information sharing between federal, state, local and tribal law enforcement partners.

To secure our borders while facilitating lawful travel and trade, Secretary Napolitano deployed additional personnel and technology to the Southwest border while increasing coordination with federal, state, local and Mexican law enforcement as part of the Obama administration's Southwest Border Initiative; implemented the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative for land and sea travel to the United States; expanded Global Entry, a pilot program that streamlines the screening process at airports for trusted travelers through biometric identification; and entered into new partnerships across the federal government and with international counterparts to crack down on drug and firearms trafficking.

To engage in smart and effective enforcement of our immigration laws, Secretary Napolitano implemented a new, comprehensive worksite enforcement strategy to reduce demand for illegal employment and protect employment opportunities for the nation's lawful workforce; initiated major reforms to the nation's immigration detention system to enhance security and efficiency while prioritizing the health and safety of detainees; and expanded the Secure Communities program, which uses biometric information to target criminal aliens in U.S. correctional facilities, to over 100 jurisdictions across the country.

To prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters, Secretary Napolitano awarded more than \$2.1 billion to Louisiana and Mississippi for recovery and rebuilding from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita; established two joint public assistance teams and a new arbitration process to resolve long-standing issues over public assistance funding; and partnered with the Department of Housing and Urban Development to provide long-term housing to more than 11,000 families displaced by Hurricanes Gustav and Ike while providing families remaining in temporary Katrina-Rita housing new options to buy their mobile homes and park models.

To unify and mature the Department, Secretary Napolitano has launched major reforms to foster a culture of responsibility and fiscal discipline, including a Department-wide Efficiency Review to cut costs and streamline operations through a series of initiatives ranging from eliminating non-mission critical travel to acquiring enterprise licenses for commonly used software—collectively expected to lead to hundreds of millions of dollars in cost avoidances.

To view a comprehensive list of DHS accomplishments in 2009, visit www.dhs.gov.

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Department of Homeland Security 2009 Accomplishments & Reforms

The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) mission is to secure the United States and the American people from all threats, ranging from acts of terrorism to natural disasters.

In 2009, our 230,000 employees strengthened existing efforts and launched new initiatives to meet our five key responsibilities: guarding against terrorism; securing our borders; engaging in smart, effective enforcement of immigration laws; preparing for, responding to and recovering from disasters of all kinds; and building a mature and unified Department.

Secretary Napolitano has emphasized three cross-cutting approaches to achieve these aims – increasing cooperation with federal, state, tribal, local, private sector, and international partners; deploying the latest science and technology to support our mission; and maximizing efficiency and streamlining operations across the Department.

As a result, we have made major advances in addressing new and emerging threats to keep our homeland safe, fostering lawful trade and travel, and continuing to build a ready and resilient nation able to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

Guarding Against Terrorism and Threats to Cyber Networks and Critical Infrastructure

Protecting the American people from terrorist threats is the founding purpose of the Department and a top priority. Over the past year, DHS has continued to guard against terrorism by enhancing explosives detection and other protective measures in public spaces and transportation networks, working with the private sector to protect critical infrastructure and cyber networks from attack, improving detection of chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear materials, and building information-sharing partnerships with state and local law enforcement that enable law enforcement to better mitigate threats.

- DHS launched a new Joint Fusion Center Program Management Office to lead the Department's unified efforts to make fusion centers a key priority and to better coordinate DHS resources to enhance budget planning, operational coordination, and state and local support. ([link](#))
- Fulfilling a key 9/11 Commission recommendation, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) began implementing Secure Flight, which prescreens passenger name, date of birth, and gender against government watch lists for domestic and international flights. ([link](#))

- TSA achieved the 9/11 Act requirement of screening 50 percent of air cargo transported on domestic passenger aircrafts by February 3, 2009. 100 percent of cargo is screened on more than 95 percent of flights originating in the United States and 100 percent of all baggage is screened for explosives. [\(link\)](#)
- Secretary Napolitano and Attorney General Eric Holder announced the creation of dual Program Management Offices to coordinate support for state and local Fusion Centers and the Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting Initiative, housed within DHS and the Department of Justice, respectively, to work in partnership to enhance information sharing between federal, state, local and tribal agencies and the private sector.
- The DHS Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties and the Privacy Office launched a national privacy and civil liberties training program for state, local, and tribal fusion centers. [\(link\)](#)
- The Domestic Nuclear Detection Office directly trained more than 3,600 federal, state and local officers and first responders in radiological and nuclear detection, and began demonstrating the first-of-its-kind Cargo Advanced Automated Radiography System, which aims to detect special nuclear materials and shielding material in cargo at ports of entry. [\(link\)](#)
- DHS opened the new National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center—a 24-hour, DHS-led coordinated watch and warning center that will improve national efforts to address threats and incidents affecting the nation's critical information technology and cyber infrastructure. [\(link\)](#)
- DHS worked with the Office of Personnel Management to attain new authority to recruit and hire up to 1,000 cybersecurity professionals across the Department over the next three years to help fulfill DHS' broad mission to protect the nation's cyber infrastructure, systems and networks. [\(link\)](#)
- The U.S. Coast Guard deployed six patrol boats and 400 personnel to train Iraqi naval forces, protect Iraqi critical maritime oil infrastructure, and enforce United Nations sanctions in the Arabian Gulf, leading to increased security and cooperation. [\(link\)](#)
- Secretary Napolitano and Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm launched a first-of-its-kind federal-state cybersecurity partnership, deploying the federally-developed cybersecurity technology EINSTEIN 1 to Michigan's cyber networks. [\(link\)](#)
- The DHS Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) partnered with the U.S. Secret Service, industry and academia to digitize more than 9,000 ink samples to expedite the investigation of criminal and terrorist activities by reducing matching times from days to minutes. [\(link\)](#)
- DHS held the five-day National Level Exercise 2009—the first national level exercise to focus on terrorism prevention—in conjunction with federal, state, local, tribal, private sector and international partners. [\(link\)](#)
- Secretary Napolitano and Deputy Secretary Lute signed agreements to prevent and combat crime with Italy, Greece, Portugal and Spain. These agreements allow for the exchange of biometric and

biographic data to bolster counterterrorism and law enforcement efforts while emphasizing privacy protections. ([link 1](#), [2](#), [3](#))

- Secretary Napolitano and Spanish Interior Minister Perez Rubalcaba signed a Declaration of Principles formalizing the Immigration Advisory Program—which identifies high-risk travelers at foreign airports before they board aircraft bound for the United States. ([link](#))
- Secretary Napolitano forged partnerships with Germany and Spain to facilitate scientific research and collaboration to combat transnational threats. ([link](#))
- The U.S. Secret Service launched the first ever international Electronic Crimes Task Force in Italy, designed to prevent, detect, and investigate electronic crimes, including potential terrorist attacks against critical infrastructure and financial payment systems. ([link](#))
- Secretary Napolitano and Canadian Public Safety Minister Peter Van Loan announced a series of cooperative initiatives between the United States and Canada to address terrorism and organized crime while expediting the lawful flow of travel and trade—including a biometric data sharing initiative also involving Australia, the United Kingdom and, eventually, New Zealand. ([link](#))

Securing our Borders while Facilitating Lawful Travel and Trade

In 2009, DHS continued to strengthen security on the Southwest border through additional manpower and new technology to disrupt the flow of illegal drug, cash and weapon smuggling that fuels cartel violence in Mexico. The Department also reinforced security on the northern border while facilitating lawful travel and trade.

- The Obama administration announced the Southwest Border Security Initiative, a joint effort of the Departments of Homeland Security, Justice and State to crack down on Mexican drug cartels by enhancing border security through additional personnel, increased intelligence capability and better coordination with state, local, and Mexican law enforcement authorities. As of Dec. 8, 2009, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has seized more than \$38.3 million in southbound currency—an increase of more than 29.3 million compared to the same period in 2008. In total thus far in 2009, CBP and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) have seized more than \$101.7 million and nearly 1.59 million kilograms of drugs—an increase of more than \$48.2 million and more than 423,167 kilograms of drugs compared to the same period in 2008. ([link](#))
- DHS implemented the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative for land and sea travel to the United States, increasing border security while facilitating lawful travel and trade by requiring U.S. and Canadian citizens to present a passport or other approved secure document that denotes identity and citizenship when crossing the border. ([link](#))
- DHS and the Department of Justice joined with the Office of National Drug Control Policy to release the *National Southwest Border Counternarcotics Strategy*, the Obama administration's strategy to stem the flow of illegal drugs and their illicit proceeds across the Southwest border and reduce associated crime and violence. ([link](#))

