



Homeland
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***DHS Today* will not be published on Dec. 26 owing to the holiday week. The next edition will be published on Tuesday, Jan. 3. Happy holidays to all!**

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OPERATIONAL NEWS

1. Senate Confirms Foresman as First Under Secretary for Preparedness

Secretary Chertoff today praised the U.S. Senate's confirmation last week of George W. Foresman as the department's first Under Secretary for Preparedness.

"I am pleased that the Senate has confirmed George Foresman to be Under Secretary for Preparedness at the Department of Homeland Security," the secretary said in a

prepared statement. “In July, I introduced a new structure to revamp and bolster our preparedness work. Among our priorities was establishing a new Directorate for Preparedness to ensure that our work has a focused direction. George’s confirmation is a critical step in standing up this new directorate and consolidating the department’s existing preparedness efforts.”

Foresman brings more than 20 years of emergency preparedness experience at various levels of government, the secretary noted. Most recently, he served as an assistant to the governor of Virginia for preparedness and was responsible for the state’s emergency and disaster preparedness activities, including coordination with the private sector. More information about the secretary’s statement and Preparedness Directorate is available at www.dhs.gov.

2. 2SR Update: Office of Intelligence and Analysis

After the Second Stage Review (2SR) identified strengthening intelligence as a critical need and key element for the department, the Office of Intelligence and Analysis (I&A) was created from the former Office of Information Analysis and realigned to report directly to the secretary. The assistant secretary for I&A, also designated the “chief intelligence officer,” is responsible for integrating the department’s intelligence activities and serving as Secretary Chertoff’s intelligence advisor. Charles E. Allen was appointed to serve in this role in September.

One of Allen’s primary goals is to establish a departmental Intelligence Enterprise, through the integration of the component intelligence agencies. To accomplish this, he has established the Homeland Security Intelligence Council (HSIC), composed of the chiefs of intelligence from the DHS component intelligence agencies. Additionally, I&A has a number of initiatives under way to improve information sharing with state, local, tribal, and private sector partners.

I&A is one of the 15 formal members of the Intelligence Community (IC). I&A provides analysis and guidance on homeland security intelligence issues. Allen has brought several highly experienced intelligence officers into leadership positions within I&A to strengthen integration with the IC and to improve DHS intelligence capabilities.

3. DHS Ready Campaign Features New Orleans Saints

The DHS Ready campaign last week announced the release of a Public Service Advertisement featuring the New Orleans Saints football team who spoke to Americans about the recent disaster that struck their hometown and the importance of being prepared for such emergencies. The advertising firm BBDO New York worked pro bono to develop this Ready campaign PSA, which began airing nationally on Dec. 12.

“I commend the Saints for helping raise awareness about the important steps families can take to prepare for emergencies,” said Secretary Chertoff. “We hope that these new ads will encourage all Americans to get emergency supply kits, make family emergency plans, and be informed about the potential threats in their hometowns.”

More information about the Ready campaign is available at www.ready.gov.

4. TSA Deploys Resources in Security Tests

TSA last week partnered with Amtrak, Greyhound, and local mass transit systems in six cities to test the agency's ability to assist state and local authorities in quickly deploying federal assets in response to a specific threat. The three-day pilot was held from Dec. 14–16 and involved federal air marshals, surface transportation inspectors, and TSA canine teams.

TSA conducted the tests in the following locations: the Washington State Ferry system in Seattle, Greyhound bus lines in Houston, and rail and mass transit systems in Atlanta, Los Angeles, Baltimore, and Philadelphia.

In announcing its test, TSA said there is no specific intelligence involving threats to the transportation domain at this time, but that it is working to build upon its capabilities to meet evolving threats and more effectively manage risk. As a result of this and other tests, TSA said it expects to find new ways to quickly deploy resources in the event of an actual threat that add complexity to security measures outside of the aviation domain.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

5. FEMA Donates Toys to Help Children in Need this Holiday Season

In the year when the lives of so many children have been devastated by the effects of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, FEMA and the state of Louisiana along with the Baton Rouge Joint Field Office (JFO) employees played an active role in giving 12 giant-sized boxes of toys to the Marine Corps for its annual Toys for Tots drive.

The toys were presented to Marine Corps Sgt. Geberth by Federal Coordinating Officer Scott Wells and FEMA Deputy Logistics Chief Richard Pierce in the main entrance of the JFO on Dec. 10.

Richard Pierce said the toy drive is a way to give back to the community. "I thought the toy drive would be a good opportunity for the employees to give to the community as well as a good morale booster for the whole operation," Pierce said. To read more about this, go to <http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=21300>

6. CBP Air, Border Patrol Canine Team Win U.S. Interdiction Committee Awards

The U.S. Interdiction Committee (USIC) announced its 2005 awards last month, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) earned top honors in two categories. USIC recognizes top-performing units and organizations that have shown exceptional innovation, tactics, aggressiveness, and results in the war against the illegal drug trade.

CBP's P-3 Program took a first in the "Aviation: Fixed-wing Operations" category, and Border Patrol Canine Handler Daniel Testa won the top spot in the "Land Interdiction" category. CBP P-3s based in Jacksonville, Fla., and Corpus Christi, Texas, contributed to the seizure of over 210,779 pounds (105 tons) of illegal drugs—38,600 more pounds (19 tons) than last year—with an estimated value of more than \$1.7 billion. CBP P-3 aircraft crews flew nearly 11,000 hours last year, often sight unseen, providing constant aerial surveillance and coordinating reports to marine assets on the water, which are critical to the tracking, interdiction, and confiscation of illegal drugs, drug traffickers, and their assets.

Border Patrol Canine Handler Testa, assigned to the Tucson Border Patrol Sector with his dog "Boro," recorded over 100 seizures, yielding more than 17,000 pounds of illicit narcotics and 700 illegal aliens. More information about this announcement is available at: http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/newsroom/press_releases/11302005_2.xml

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec. 19 – FEMA's Acting Director of Mitigation David Maurstad participates in an event with the Multihazard Mitigation Council of the National Institute of Building Sciences, Washington, D.C.

Deputy Secretary Michael Jackson and Admiral Thad Allen participate in a press availability, Baton Rouge, La.

Dec. 20 – Secretary Chertoff delivers remarks on homeland security accomplishments and priorities, Washington, D.C.

U.S. Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Thomas Collins participates in the Rescue 21 Ceremony, Atlantic City, N.J.

Dec. 21 – Secretary Chertoff delivers remarks at the Victims of Pan Am Flight 103 Remembrance, Arlington, Va.

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THREAT LEVEL: YELLOW