

Refugee, Asylum, and International Operations Directorate

International Operations Division

Alanna Ow is the Acting Chief of the International Operations Division within the Refugee, Asylum, and International Operations Directorate. With 30 offices located around the world, covering a geographic jurisdiction that includes nearly 200 countries and foreign states, the International Operations Division is the face of USCIS overseas. USCIS international offices play a critical role in extending citizenship and immigration benefits to eligible individuals, exercising vigilance in matters involving fraud detection and national security, sustaining effective intergovernmental liaisons and advancing USCIS strategic priorities in the international arena.



The International Operations Division supports the USCIS mission by:

- o naturalizing men and women of the U.S. military stationed throughout the world
- o uniting prospective adoptive parents with disadvantaged children
- o granting parole to individuals who require humanitarian intervention
- o providing resettlement services to certain Cubans and Haitians
- o augmenting efforts to welcome refugees to the U.S.
- o reuniting refugees and asylees with their eligible family members
- o enabling U.S. citizens residing abroad to petition for their immediate family members to become lawful permanent residents of the U.S.
- o engaging in substantive discussions with foreign officials and representatives of international organizations from countries around the world in furtherance of U.S. government interests

The International Operations Division is comprised of three districts located in Mexico City, Mexico; Rome, Italy; Bangkok, Thailand and a headquarters component located in Washington, DC. The Mexico City District oversees operations covering a geographic jurisdiction of approximately sixty-three countries and foreign states throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. The Rome District oversees operations covering a geographic jurisdiction of approximately seventy-eight countries and foreign states throughout Europe, Africa, the Middle East and the former Soviet Union.

The Bangkok District oversees operations covering a geographic jurisdiction of approximately forty-nine countries, foreign states and provinces throughout Asia, the Subcontinent and the Pacific Rim. In addition to a Desk Unit Branch and a Programs Branch, which monitors and refines USCIS operations overseas, the headquarters component is also comprised of a Children's Issues Branch and a Humanitarian Assistance Branch, which were established to manage complex and sensitive programs.

In 2008 and beyond, the International Operations Division plans to:

- o realign and expand its existing presence overseas to best achieve the USCIS mission
- o deploy biometrics capture capability overseas to ensure consistent vetting of individuals seeking immigration benefits
- o implement an effective document verification process, which will assess questionable information originating overseas that is submitted in support of immigration benefits claims
- o expand its liaison role by piloting an exchange program and increasing its participation in international forums and events



Panama Canal

USCIS Organizational Chart



International Operations Division

