

FY07

Accomplishments

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the largest investigative agency in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), has achieved extraordinary results in its mission to ensure a safer, more secure America. Fiscal year 2007 (FY07) marked a break-out year for the agency as ICE set new enforcement records and launched several new initiatives to better fulfill its law enforcement mission. As a result, ICE can point to an unparalleled record of success in the last fiscal year.

The following is a selection of law enforcement and homeland security milestones ICE achieved in FY07.

Streamlining and Enhancing Immigration Enforcement

- ICE implemented a comprehensive interior enforcement strategy focused on more efficiently processing apprehended illegal aliens and reducing the numbers of criminal and fugitive aliens in the United States. In FY07, ICE removed a record 276,912 illegal aliens, including voluntary removals, from the United States.
- Under the Secure Border Initiative, ICE decreased processing time for aliens in expedited removal cases—from apprehension to removal—to approximately 19 days. This was accomplished by bringing greater efficiency to the immigration removal process through expanded detention capacity, greater use of expedited removal authority and increased use of the Justice Prisoner and Alien Transportation System (JPATS) for repatriating illegal aliens to their countries of origin.
- For the first time, ICE's Detention Enforcement and Processing Offenders by Remote Technology (DEPORT) Center made it possible to identify and screen criminal aliens incarcerated in federal prisons nationwide to ensure they are processed for removal from the United States upon the completion of their sentences. Launched in fiscal year 2006, the DEPORT Center was screening criminal aliens at all 114 federal prison facilities by the end of FY07, with 11,292 charging documents issued in FY07 to criminal aliens housed in federal prisons.
- ICE's Criminal Alien Program, which screens aliens in prison to ensure that they are removed from the United States upon the completion of their sentences, initiated removal proceedings against 164,296 criminal aliens.
- ICE targeted the infrastructure that supports the business of illegal immigration, including document and immigration benefit fraud, launching six new Document and Benefit Fraud Task Forces in cities nationwide. In FY07, ICE initiated a total of 1,309 document and benefit fraud investigations leading to a record 1,531 arrests and 1,178 convictions.



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Targeting Fugitive Aliens

- In the last two years, ICE quadrupled the number of Fugitive Operations Teams (FOTs): special teams dedicated to identifying, locating and arresting fugitive aliens. These teams have increased from 18 in FY05 to 50 in FY06 and 75 in FY07. As a result, ICE eliminated more than 100,000 fugitive alien cases in FY07 and reduced the backlog of fugitive cases for the first time in history.
- ICE's Fugitive Operations Support Center (FOSC), a nationwide clearinghouse for information on fugitive cases, continued to make the processing of data on fugitive cases more effective. In FY07, the FOSC resolved more than 73,000 open fugitive cases, allowing ICE to target those fugitives who are still at large.

Strengthening Worksite Enforcement

- ICE's more aggressive worksite enforcement strategy targeted the "jobs magnet" that attracts illegal aliens seeking employment in the U.S. In FY07, ICE dramatically increased penalties against employers whose hiring processes violate the law, securing fines and judgments of more than \$30 million while making 863 criminal arrests and 4,077 administrative arrests.
- The ICE Mutual Agreement between Government and Employers (IMAGE) program, announced in FY06 as a voluntary initiative to help employers ensure they are complying with hiring laws, welcomed nine charter members in FY07. For the future, ICE will be working to expand the program by recruiting business leaders from a wide range of industries that are typically susceptible to high levels of unauthorized employment.

Tracking and Arresting Visa Violators

- ICE investigators worked to ensure compliance with the nation's immigration laws among student and exchange visitors and other non-immigrant visitors to the United States. Thanks to data obtained from the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS), the electronic system for managing student and exchange student visas, ICE arrested 1,558 high-risk non-immigrant status violators in FY07.
- The SEVIS program continued to ensure integrity in the system for administering student and exchange student visas, with more than 917,647 non-immigrant students and visitors from nations

around the world registered, along with 126,837 of their dependents.

Targeting Financial Crime and Export Violations

- ICE investigated and dismantled the schemes that criminal and terrorist organizations use to earn, move and store illicit funding for their operations. In FY07, ICE launched 3,069 financial investigations, resulting in significant increases in arrests.
- ICE's Cornerstone initiative developed working partnerships and information-sharing strategies with private industry to target exploitation of U.S. financial systems by criminal organizations. In FY07, Cornerstone liaisons conducted more than 1,250 outreach presentations to over 20,500 industry representatives.
- ICE's Shield America program continues to achieve new successes in intercepting illegal exports of weapons, military equipment and sensitive technology, significantly increasing results over the previous fiscal year. In FY07, ICE made 188 arrests and secured 127 convictions in these national security investigations.
- ICE worked with international partners in law enforcement to target money laundering, bulk cash smuggling and cross-border trade fraud. In FY07, ICE Trade Transparency Units (TTUs) provided case support and coordination in transnational investigations and ICE agents provided training in combating cash smuggling schemes to more than 700 international partners. A new TTU was established in Paraguay, the fourth South American nation to host an TTU.
- ICE's Operation Firewall, targeting criminal organizations involved in bulk cash smuggling over international borders, led to the seizure of more than \$49.5 million in U.S. currency and financial instruments along with 142 arrests. Since its launch in 2005, Operation Firewall has realized seizures of more than \$100 million and 260 arrests.
- ICE's intellectual property rights investigations continued to combat the flow of counterfeit goods and products. In FY07, ICE made 235 arrests and secured 117 convictions in intellectual property rights fraud cases.
- ICE targeted the flow of precious cultural and historical artifacts across international borders

and repatriated seized artifacts to their countries of origin. In FY07, ICE launched 51 cultural property investigations and made 15 seizures of high-value items.

- A new ICE initiative targeted unlicensed money services businesses that illegally transfer funds. In FY07, ICE investigations yielded 39 arrests, 30 convictions and seizures of more than \$7.9 million.

Stemming the Flow of Illegal Drugs

- ICE continued efforts to combat drug smuggling organizations, resulting in significant seizures in FY07. ICE investigations led to seizures of 241,967 pounds of cocaine, 4,331 pounds of heroin, 2,731 pounds of methamphetamine and 1.3 million pounds of marijuana. Additionally, ICE drug investigations led to 8,920 arrests and 5,539 convictions of individuals associated with narcotic violations.
- ICE leads the “Tunnel Task Force” for investigations of cross-border tunnels used by criminal organizations to smuggle narcotics and other goods into the United States from Mexico. Since 2003, 26 tunnels have been discovered in the San Diego area alone.

Combating Human Trafficking

- ICE turned its combined legal authorities on the dangerous human traffickers who exploit the vulnerable, implementing a new Trafficking in Persons strategy in FY07 to emphasize investigation and prosecution of traffickers while providing services to assist trafficking victims. In FY07, ICE human trafficking investigations led to 164 arrests and 91 convictions.

Targeting Transnational Gangs and Sexual Predators

- ICE’s Operation Community Shield anti-gang initiative targeted violent transnational gangs, with results bolstered by an enforcement surge in the summer of 2007. In FY07, ICE arrested a record 3,302 gang members and associates in cities nationwide.
- ICE’s Operation Predator targeted sexual predators who prey on children, and arrests in the four-year old program topped 10,000 in June 2007, with more than 5,500 having been removed from the United States.

Securing Federal Facilities

- ICE’s Federal Protective Service (FPS) was given lead responsibility for securing government facilities under the National Infrastructure Protection Plan. In FY07, ICE launched a major mission refinement effort for FPS to focus on enhancing security at government facilities, with a greater emphasis on risk-based security planning.
- ICE’s FPS security and law enforcement officers provided services at approximately 9,000 federal facilities nationwide. In FY07, ICE personnel were responsible for approximately 3,000 citations and arrests and intercepted roughly 760,000 prohibited items, including knives and firearms, from being brought into federal facilities.

Enhancing Intelligence Gathering and Analysis

- ICE completed a reorganization of intelligence functions to better serve the agency’s national security and immigration enforcement mission, including the establishment of an International Intelligence Unit to support foreign operations and a new National Initiatives Support Unit to consolidate intelligence services such as geospatial analysis, document exploitation and visual analysis.

Working with Law Enforcement Partners

- ICE expanded its partnerships with state and local law enforcement agencies in a force multiplier approach to fighting criminal activity. In FY07, the ICE ACCESS program was launched as a collaborative effort to identify key crime-fighting needs and to develop solution action plans.
- ICE expanded the 287(g) program used to train state and local officers in limited immigration enforcement duties. In FY07, ICE trained 426 state and local officers under the program, bringing the total to 597 officers trained in 33 departments nationwide.
- ICE’s Law Enforcement Support Center (LESC) continued to serve as the national point of contact for providing immigration status and identity information on suspects detained by federal, state and local officers in the field. In FY07, the LESC responded to a record 728,243 requests for information from law enforcement officials.

- ICE's Forensic Document Laboratory (FDL) continued to provide analysis and training to a wide variety of agencies in the effort to combat travel and identity document fraud. In FY07, FDL trained 3,810 federal, state and local officials in document analysis techniques and responded to 4,382 requests for analysis from the field.
- ICE increased its commitment to securing the border by boosting the number of Border Enforcement Security Task Forces (BEST). These task forces seek to address cross-border violence through shared intelligence and coordinated law enforcement operations. In FY07, the task forces were responsible for 526 criminal arrests and 1,093 administrative arrests, along with seizures of \$2.5 million in cash and significant amounts of narcotics and weapons.
- ICE launched the Web-based Electronic Travel Document (eTD) program that enables the electronic transfer of travel document and identity information between ICE and participating foreign governments. Since its launch in January 2007 over 27,710 travel documents have been issued, and both costs and time for issuance, transportation, shipping, and detention and removal have been reduced. The program is slated for expansion in fiscal year 2008.

Aggressive Litigation and Prosecution

- ICE's team of attorneys provided legal support and training while representing the agency in administrative and federal courts. In FY07, ICE attorneys participated in the completion of 365,851 cases before immigration courts, including 323,845 removal cases.

Improved Management and Mission Support

- ICE continued to improve management and mission support functions. Among the achievements in these fields, the agency increased its workforce by more than 10 percent, enhanced information technology systems, expanded training and development opportunities, and improved contracting and acquisitions management.
- ICE's improved financial management under a multi-year financial action plan launched in the previous fiscal year led to the agency receiving the DHS Award of Excellence in FY07 as ICE strengthened internal controls, auditability of financial records and oversight.
- The ICE Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Office, facing a significant backlog of FOIA requests, succeeded in reducing the backlog by 97 percent, earning praise from DHS leadership and demonstrating the agency's commitment to openness and transparency.



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