



A MESSAGE FROM USCIS DIRECTOR EMILIO T. GONZÁLEZ

OCTOBER 2007

“Respect, Integrity, Ingenuity, Vigilance”

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At USCIS, we don't have the luxury of waiting for Congress to legislate a fix to the issues we face. Instead, we must take the initiative to transform our operations and improve the way we work to the benefit of our customers, immigrants themselves and the American public.

That's why we've moved forward with programs like E-Verify, that make it easier for us to do our jobs and enforce existing laws. I'd like to congratulate the Verification team here at USCIS for their hard work and cooperation with the Department and the Social Security Administration in standing up the world's first electronic employment verification tool.

This is a milestone for our agency. By implementing E-Verify, along with a new photo-tool application, we are finally working to close the long exploited Form I-9 loophole. The effects of E-Verify are already starting to take effect across the country, and especially in states and municipalities that have made it mandatory for employers to use the system. While it may be several months before we start to see the macro effects of the E-Verify program, initial observations have been encouraging. Ultimately, E-Verify will make it easier for employers to comply with the law and harder for illegal aliens to exploit our systems.

The way I see it, USCIS contributes to our homeland security in tangible ways, like the E-Verify program, and through intangible means, which are more difficult to evaluate, but just as effective and important to our long term security. The recently completed redesign of the Naturalization Test is just one such intangible. By creating a test that encourages immigrants to embrace our national values as their own, we promote assimilation and the patriotic integration of immigrants into our society.

National security and integration efforts run parallel to each other. We have seen how successful integration efforts are also critical to the safety, security and ultimate prosperity of the United States. International examples show that a detached foreign element living within a state's national boundaries, but outside of its civil institutions, are breeding grounds for the types of division and discord that can contribute to anti-state behavior. Citizenship programs and a naturalization test that promote a common civic unity and collective national identity within immigrant populations are just as important as the background checks and identity security screens we employ to keep people out. Congratulations to the Office of Citizenship for completing this multi-year test redesign project, and great job on the final product. It's a great test, and one that will no doubt remain relevant far into the future.

This is a critical moment on our timeline at USCIS. We're standing at the precipice of a great opportunity to shape the immigration debate going forward by providing quality service to our customers and maintaining the public trust. By providing useful products to our customers and stakeholders, such as E-Verify and the new Naturalization Exam, USCIS can shape a favorable environment in which future reforms to our immigration laws are implemented with minimal disruption to our daily operations.

USCIS INTRODUCES NEW NATURALIZATION TEST

At USCIS, we don't create new Americans; instead we empower individual immigrants with the information and tools necessary to become a part of our American community and identify with our common civic values and shared history. This principle, and the promotion of a common civic bond that exists between all Americans, both native-born and naturalized, is at the core of agency efforts to help immigrants become committed and loyal Americans who voluntarily accept the life-long obligations and responsibilities of citizenship.

In the interest of creating a more standardized, fair, and meaningful citizenship process, USCIS recently completed a redesign of the naturalization test administered to prospective Americans. The revised 100 questions and answers emphasize the fundamental concepts of American democracy, focusing on the rights and responsibilities of citizenship and the basic values we share as Americans.

The goal of the new naturalization test is to inspire immigrants to learn about the civic values of this great Nation so that after they take the Oath of Allegiance, they will be fully prepared to participate in the democratic process. With assistance and input from a variety of stakeholders and immigrants themselves, the new test is designed to be an effective tool to encourage civic learning and patriotism. By studying for the test, applicants will learn about our shared history and common civic values, but most importantly—learn to identify with them as their own.

Earlier this year, more than 6,000 citizenship applicants volunteered to take a pilot version of the test at 10 USCIS sites across the country during a four-month period. Volunteers who participated in this pilot test achieved a 92.4 percent overall pass rate on the first try. Following the pilot, USCIS refined the questions and answers, dropping several and adjusting others to increase clarity and the range of acceptable answers to questions.

With the new test, naturalization applicants will have uniform, consistent testing experiences nationwide, and USCIS can ensure that every applicant has a meaningful understanding of U.S. government and history. In conjunction with accompanying U.S. history and civics study materials, the redesigned test will serve as an important instrument to encourage civic learning and patriotism among prospective citizens.

Following the public introduction of the redesigned naturalization test on September 27, 2007, there will be one full year before naturalization applicants begin taking the revised test. This period will allow adult educators and immigrants working toward citizenship sufficient time to prepare for the redesigned test.

"We are very proud of this new test, and the open manner that we worked with our stakeholders throughout this entire process," said USCIS Director Emilio Gonzalez. "Together, we developed a test that will encourage citizenship applicants to learn and identify with the basic civic values that unite us as Americans."



[Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\):
Redesigned Naturalization Test](#)

[Redesigned Naturalization Test
Informational Brochure](#)

A brochure outlining the content and guidelines for the redesigned naturalization test.

[Redesigned Naturalization Test:
Civics \(History and Government\)](#)

List of 100 history and government items for the redesigned naturalization test.

[Redesigned Naturalization Test:
Vocabulary List for the Reading Test](#)
Vocabulary list for the reading portion of the redesigned naturalization test.

[Redesigned Naturalization Test:
Vocabulary List for the Writing Test](#)
Vocabulary list for the writing portion of the redesigned naturalization test.

[Content Comparison: Current vs.
Redesigned Naturalization Test](#)
Side-by-side comparison of the current questions and the redesigned questions.

[Transcript: Press Conference with
USCIS Director Gonzalez on New
Naturalization Test](#)

www.uscis.gov/newtest

USCIS: EMPOWERING IMMIGRANTS WITH INFORMATION

NEWS YOU CAN USE...

FROM USCIS COMMUNICATIONS

[USCIS Issues Interim Rule Establishing New Procedures for Adopted Children Under the Hague Convention](#) - 10/04/2007

[Questions and Answers: USCIS Issues Interim Rule Establishing New Procedures for Adopted Children Under the Hague Convention](#) - 10/04/2007

[Update: USCIS Reaches H-2B Cap for First Half of FY 2008](#) -10/01/2007

[USCIS Announces A New Filing Address for Humanitarian Parole Applications](#) - 09/26/2007

[Fact Sheet: USCIS Implements Authority to Exempt Certain Persons Who Provided Material Support Under Duress to the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia \(FARC\)](#) - 09/26/2007

[Questions and Answers: Deferred Enforced Departure \(DED\) for Certain Liberians](#) - 09/19/2007

[Fact Sheet: Liberians Provided Deferred Enforced Departure \(DED\)](#) - 09/19/2007



ANNOUNCEMENT ON RECEIPT DELAYS

USCIS advises customers that, due to a large increase in the number of applications filed, processing of fee payments and entry of cases into our tracking system is behind schedule. As a result, applicants can expect notices of receipt to be delayed. USCIS is working hard to deal with the increased volume and has published the following frequently asked questions in order to provide additional information to applicants. See the [Receipt Delay FAQ](#) for more information.

[What is the cause of the receipt delay?](#)

The receipt delay was caused by a significant workload increase, in part based upon filings by individuals attempting to beat a planned fee increase and a significant influx of applications associated with visa availability in the Department of State's July 2007 Visa bulletin. This resulted in an influx of applications and fees that exceeded USCIS' capacity to timely issue receipts and deposit application fees.

[How does a receipt delay affect my case?](#)

If your case is subject to a receipt delay, this means that USCIS has received your case in its mailroom, but has not yet processed your case. This means that your case information has not been entered into the USCIS case management system and the fee you sent with your application has not yet been deposited. These delays affect USCIS' ability to issue a receipt notice to you. It may also affect the overall time it will take us to make a decision on your application.

[Is this why I haven't received my receipt notice?](#)

Yes, it could be. Typically, customers should receive receipt notices within 2 weeks of USCIS receiving their applications. The receipt delay may cause this to take up to 15 weeks for customers to receive receipt notices. USCIS continues to monitor the current intake of applications and will identify application processing dates on its website. To find the latest information, please see the USCIS Application and Receipting Update at <http://www.uscis.gov/receiptingtimes>.

[How is USCIS planning to address this receipting delay?](#)

USCIS is realigning its resources to eliminate the receipt delay as quickly as possible. This effort includes increasing the number of contract employees, as well as requiring significant mandatory overtime and shift work. USCIS also has temporarily detailed Government staff to centers that have been affected the most by the large influx of cases.

USCIS: ENHANCING NATIONAL SECURITY

OUTSTANDING AMERICANS BY CHOICE

The [Outstanding American by Choice](#) initiative recognizes the achievements of naturalized U.S. citizens. Through civic participation, professional achievement, and responsible citizenship, recipients of this honor have demonstrated their commitment to the country and to the common civic values that unite us as Americans. Throughout the year, USCIS Director González will continue to recognize naturalized citizens who have made significant contributions to both their communities and adopted country.



ANTONIO TAGUBA

Antonio M. Taguba was born in Manila, Republic of the Philippines. His father was a soldier in the 45th Infantry Regiment, Philippine Division (Philippine Scouts), U.S. Army, who fought in the Battle of Bataan, and later survived the Bataan Death March during World War II. His father, who served in the Army for twenty years, set a strong example for the young Antonio, his two other brothers, and five sisters. At the age of 11, his family moved to Hawaii where Antonio attended high school. He later graduated from Idaho State University in 1972 and joined the U.S. Army. He assumed increasingly responsible positions with commensurate rank and studied at prestigious military schools, including the U.S. Command and General Staff College, U.S. Naval Command and Staff College, and the U.S. Army War College. He has received three master's degrees; for public administration at Webster University, for international relations from Salve Regina College, and for national security and strategic studies from the Naval War College.

During his distinguished career, Taguba served a three-year tour of duty in Germany as the Commander of Tank Company B, 4th Battalion, 69th Armor Division at Mainz. During a two year deployment to Korea he commanded the 1st Battalion, 72d Armor, 2d Infantry Division at Camp Casey; and was the executive officer of the Republic of Korea-U.S. Combined Forces Command in [Yongsan](#). From 2004 to 2006, he served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs (Readiness, Training and Mobilization) at the Pentagon.

Major General Taguba has received various decorations including the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, and the Meritorious Service medal. Taguba is the second and latest Filipino American to attain General Officer rank in the U.S. Army.

"The diversity [of America] gave me a wide range to seek opportunities and to relate to other people. I take it with great pride that we are able to assimilate ourselves into the American society," Taguba said. "We have shown we can contribute to society, at the same time preserve our Filipino American heritage and culture."

Today, Taguba is retired from the military and spends time with his wife and two children. He also heads a U.S. Army mentoring program, pro bono, to train Asian Pacific American officers and enlisted men to succeed in their military career. Major General Taguba is a member of the Japanese American Veterans Association, the Asian American Veterans Association, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.



(From L to R) Secretary of Veterans Affairs James Nicholson, Major General Antonio Taguba (Ret.) and Director Gonzalez



ADOPTED VALOR: IMMIGRANT HEROES

FOREIGN BORN MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

STAFF SERGEANT ISADORE JACHMAN - WWII

Isadore "Izzy" Jachman was born in Berlin, Germany, on December 14, 1922, the first son of Leo and Lotte Jachmann. The family moved to the United States when Isadore was two years old. He was raised in Baltimore, Maryland and attended high school at the Baltimore City College, graduating in 1939. Isadore's father was a newspaper distributor who could depend on his young son's help. Izzy, as he came to be known by his friends, taught his younger sister to jitterbug and would take her to the movies, even occasionally when he had a date.

Jachman, who was Jewish, had relatives who were killed by the Nazis in the Holocaust, including six aunts and uncles. Despite being German born, there was no question of his loyalty to his adopted nation when Jachman enlisted in the U.S. Army.

Initially, due to his gymnastic experience, he was made a calisthenics instructor at a port of embarkation. Jachman was not happy with his posting. With this assignment he would probably be stuck at this post. He wanted to fight the Nazis. He was told that the only way he could get out of his stateside job was to volunteer for the paratroopers, and that he immediately did. He finished paratroop training with Company B of 513th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 17th Airborne Division and was deployed to Europe.

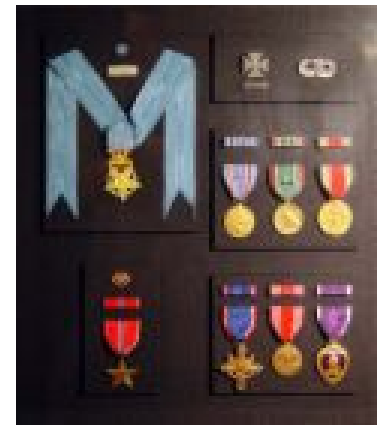
On January 4, 1945, just outside the village of Flamierge, Belgium, in a wet, cold, muddy field, Sergeant Jachman and his company were pinned down by enemy artillery, mortar, small arms fire and two tanks that attacked the unit, inflicting heavy casualties. Sergeant Jachman left his place of cover, dashed across open ground, through a hail of fire and grabbed a bazooka from a fallen comrade.

He then advanced on the tanks, which concentrated their fire on him. Firing his weapon, he damaged one and forced both of them to retire. During this maneuver, Jachman was mortally wounded.

Some years after the war, the Belgian village of Flamierge erected a statue where an unknown brave American soldier had stood fighting to save the village. Army records later established that this indeed was Staff Sgt. Jachman, and his name was added to the statue. Today, the Staff Sgt. Isadore Jachman Armory in Owings Mills, Maryland houses the 326th Army Maintenance Battalion.



Staff Sergeant Isadore Jachman
U.S. Army
Country of Birth: Germany



A display of service commendations received by Jachman, including the Medal of Honor, Bronze Star and Purple Heart

715 OF THE 3,410 CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS IN AMERICA'S HISTORY - MORE THAN 20 PERCENT - HAVE BEEN IMMIGRANTS TO THIS NATION.

E-VERIFY ADDS PHOTO TOOL APPLICATION

USCIS launched a new photo-screening tool that will help employers comply with immigration law while also strengthening worksite enforcement. The photo tool will be the first step in giving employers the tools they need to help detect some forms of identity fraud in the employment eligibility process.



The photo tool is the first enhancement in E-Verify, the agency's Web-based system that allows participating employers to electronically verify the employment eligibility of newly hired employees. More than 23,000 employers are currently enrolled in the program – with more than 2,000 more joining each month – and will now be able to access the new photo screening tool to more accurately verify a new non-citizen employee's identity.

“Our current E-Verify system is not fraud-proof and was not designed to detect identity fraud,” said USCIS Director Emilio Gonzalez. “The photo tool enhancement will give employers an additional resource to help verify identity and employment authorization status and is just one more valuable enhancement to an effective, fair and viable program.”

First piloted in March, the photo tool will be available when a new employee presents an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) or Permanent Resident Card (“green card”) to complete the Employment Eligibility Verification Form (I-9). It allows the employer to compare identical photos – the individual's photograph on the EAD or green card against the image stored in USCIS' databases, which contains nearly 15 million images of individual documents. The tool is designed to help an employer determine whether the document presented reasonably relates to the individual presenting it and contains a valid photo.

Employers currently participating in E-Verify will be trained on the system enhancement through a mandatory refresher tutorial. New employer who register after that date will learn how to use the photo tool through an updated E-Verify manual, tutorial, and memorandum of understanding.

E-Verify, formerly known as the Basic Pilot employment eligibility verification program, is a free Web-based system that works by electronically comparing new employee information taken from the Form I-9 against more than 425 million records in the Social Security Administration's database and more than 60 million records in the Department of Homeland Security's immigration database.

For more information on the E-Verify Photo Tool announcement:

[Transcript: Press Conference on E-Verify Program – 09/25/2007.](#)

- USCIS began testing a photo screening tool enhancement to EEV and formally launched it on Sept. 17, 2007. The tool allows a participating employer to check the photos on Employment Authorization Documents (EAD) or Permanent Resident Cards (green card) against images stored in USCIS databases. The goal of the photo tool is to help employers determine whether the document presented reasonably relates to the individual and contains a valid photo. The former program did not include this identity fraud component.
- More than 23,000 employers are currently using the E-Verify program to verify that their new hires are authorized to work in the United States. There is no charge to participate. The President's FY08 budget request includes \$30 million to expand and improve E-Verify.
- Employers can register for E-Verify on-line at www.dhs.gov/E-Verify. The site provides instructions for completing the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) needed to officially register for the program.
- Once registered, employers use E-Verify by entering information captured on the Employment Eligibility Verification form (I-9). E-Verify compares employee information against more than 425 million records in the SSA database and more than 60 million records stored in the DHS database. Currently, 93 percent of an employer's queries are instantly verified as work authorized.



“HOW DO I...USE E-VERIFY?”

ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AT USCIS

Formerly referred to as the Basic Pilot Program, E-Verify is an Internet-based system operated by USCIS, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Social Security Administration (SSA). E-Verify is currently free to employers. E-Verify provides an automated link to Federal databases to help employers determine employment eligibility of new hires and the validity of their Social Security numbers.

Why should I consider participating in E-Verify?

E-Verify is currently the best means available for employers to verify electronically the employment eligibility of their newly hired employees. E-Verify virtually eliminates Social Security mismatch letters, improves the accuracy of wage and tax reporting, protects jobs for authorized U.S. workers, and helps U.S. employers maintain a legal workforce.

Am I required to participate?

No. E-Verify is voluntary for all employers with very limited exceptions. (Some Federal Government employers and violators of certain immigration laws may be ordered to participate.)

How do I register for participation in E-Verify?

You can register online for E-Verify at <https://www.vis-dhs.com/EmployerRegistration>, which provides instructions for completing the registration process. At the end of the registration process, you will be required to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that provides the terms of agreement between you as the employer, the SSA, and DHS. An employee who has signatory authority for the employer can sign the MOU. Employers can use their discretion in identifying the best method by which to sign up their locations for E-Verify.

What is an E-Verify Designated Agent?

An E-Verify Designated Agent is a liaison between E-Verify and employers wishing to participate, but who choose to outsource submission of employment eligibility verification queries for newly hired employees. E-Verify Designated Agents conduct the verification process for other employers or clients.

How does E-Verify work?

Using an automated system, the program involves verification checks of SSA and DHS databases. The E-Verify MOU, User Manual, and Tutorial contain instructions and other related materials on E-Verify procedures and requirements. Once the

user has completed the tutorial, he or she may begin using the system to verify the employment eligibility of all newly hired employees.

What is required from employees for E-Verify?

After hiring a new employee and completing the Form I-9 required for all new hires (regardless of E-Verify participation), the employer or agent must submit a query that includes information from sections 1 and 2 of the Form I-9, including:

- Employee's name and date of birth,
- Social Security Number (SSN),
- Citizenship status he or she attests to,
- An A number or I-94 number, if applicable,
- Type of document provided on the Form I-9 to establish work authorization status, and
- Proof of identity, and its expiration date, if applicable.

When may an employer initiate an E-Verify query?

The earliest the employer may initiate a query is after an individual accepts an offer of employment and after the employee and employer complete the Form I-9. The employer must initiate the query no later than the end of 3 business days after the new hire's actual start date.

Which employees can be verified through the system?

As a participant in E-Verify, employers are required to verify all newly hired employees, both U.S. citizens and non-citizens. Employers may not verify selectively and must verify all new hires while participating in the program. The program may not be used to prescreen applicants for employment, go back and check employees hired before the company signed the MOU, or re-verify employees who have temporary work authorization.

Can I verify the immigration status of a new hire?

No. E-Verify only verifies a new hire's employment eligibility, not his or her immigration status.

Does participation in E-Verify provide safe harbor from worksite enforcement?

No. Participation in E-Verify does not provide protection from worksite enforcement.

How can I find out more about E-Verify?

To find out more about E-Verify, visit www.dhs.gov/e-verify or contact USCIS at 1-888-464-4218.

FACES OF AMERICA

AYANN HIRSI ALI – SOMALIA



Ayann Hirsi Ali receives her Alien Registration Card from Director Gonzalez

On September 25, during a small, private ceremony held in his Washington D.C. office, Director Gonzalez presented Ms. Ayaan Hirsi Ali with her green card (Alien Registration Card).

An outspoken defender of women's rights in Islamic societies, Ms. Hirsi Ali was born in Mogadishu, Somalia. She escaped an arranged marriage by immigrating to the Netherlands in 1992, and served as a member of the Dutch parliament from 2003 to 2006. While in parliament, she worked on furthering the integration of non-Western immigrants into Dutch society, and on defending the rights of women in Dutch Muslim society. www.uscis.gov

"Ayaan Hirsi Ali is a courageous woman who in exercising her right to free speech from outside of the United States put her very life in jeopardy," said Director Gonzalez. "Today, we welcome her to the United States as a permanent resident. We welcome her to the protection provided by the U.S. Constitution and encourage her to continue speaking out regarding those issues she feels passionate about."

In a brief statement, Ms. Hirsi Ali said she was "overwhelmed with emotions and filled with great pride and gratitude to be counted as one of the many immigrants to the United States from around the world who came before me seeking freedom, refuge and the right to speak out without fear of persecution."

Ms. Hirsi Ali has authored numerous books and essays to include *Infidel*, her autobiography, and *The Caged Virgin; An Emancipation Proclamation for Women and Islam*. She's currently working on another book, *Shortcut to Enlightenment*, an imagined philosophical fantasy about a visit by Muhammad to the New York Public Library in which he examines the ideas of various Enlightenment philosophers and compares them to the state of Islam today.

ARE YOU ONE OF
THE FACES OF
AMERICA?

[SHARE YOUR STORY
WITH USCIS](#)

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USCIS has a variety of positions available including several unique immigration-related core positions.

See the links below to find out if a career at USCIS is right for you!

[USCIS Career Descriptions](#)

[Sample Test for Adjudication Officers](#)

[Special Programs at USCIS](#)

[Federal Employment Benefits at USCIS](#)

[Current job openings at USCIS](#)

OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE NATIONWIDE, APPLY NOW!

USCIS AND DHS: SECURING OUR HOMELAND