



**Remarks Prepared for delivery by
Director John Morton
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Department of Homeland Security
International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) General Assembly
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10:00 a.m.**

- Good morning everyone. I am indeed John Morton, Director of ICE. Thank you, President Marshall, for that introduction. I am always happy to share the stage with a fellow Virginian and as a life-long resident of Alexandria, I am also happy to live down the street from IACP headquarters.
- I speak for everyone at U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement when I say how proud we are to partner with IACP. Anytime we can stand with a law enforcement organization as proud and steeped in tradition as the IACP, I consider it a good day. This year we have over 190 employees at the conference, the largest number ever, and I look forward to many more good years in the future.
- On behalf of the 20,000 men and women of ICE, let me extend hearty thanks and a fond farewell to Dan Rosenblatt. I won't belabor Dan's many contributions and accomplishments. I'll just acknowledge what everyone here knows: Dan is a good man; has the patience of Job, and



has done more for IACP and good policing than anyone out there. He has been a great friend and supporter of ICE, and I thank him deeply for all of his many years of service. Dan you have done well in life. God speed.

- Fortunately for IACP, Dan is being followed by Bart Johnson. I have worked with Bart these past three years at DHS, and I can tell you he is a man of integrity, good ideas, and great organizational skill.
- Let me also thank our state, local, tribal, and international partners out there. We at ICE take great pride in working with you, and I hope you have come to see us for what we are: a law enforcement agency like you trying to protect the public and get criminals off our streets and behind bars.

ICE Overview

- So why am I here speaking to you here today, particularly since my boss just spoke and it's generally a bad idea to do anything but clap and be quiet in that situation.
- Well, I thought I would give you a sense of what I think ICE really is and how we can help all of you get the job of public safety done.
- Too often the perception of ICE is shaped and skewed by the



immigration articles and editorials that appear in the media. And that’s because part of our work—immigration enforcement—is at the center of an unsettled national debate over illegal immigration. Much of our work, however, deals with other subjects and is very poorly understood in and out of law enforcement.

- So what is ICE really? We are the principal investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security with two distinct missions: criminal investigation of a wide variety of federal crimes and immigration enforcement in coordination with our sister agencies, Customs and Border Protection and US Citizenship and Immigration Services.
- We have about 20,000 employees, a budget of about 5.8 billion dollars, and offices in all 50 states and 47 countries overseas.
- We are aligned so that the men and women of our Enforcement and Removal Operations, or ERO, enforce the nation’s immigration laws, while the special agents of our office of Homeland Security Investigations, or HSI, focus primarily on criminal investigations.
- HSI has more than 7,000 special agents assigned to over 200 cities throughout the United States and 69 offices in 47 countries worldwide.



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- If you take anything from remarks, let it be this: we are a resource to you, both in terms of criminal enforcement and immigration enforcement.

On the criminal side, we have broad jurisdiction that covers much of the federal criminal code, from drug smuggling to child sex tourism and forced labor. A few areas of common interest to highlight:

- **Transnational Gangs.** We spend a lot of time targeting transnational gangs operating in the US. And not only do we have the power to investigate the gangs criminally, we also have the power to detain and remove any gang members here unlawfully. It's a powerful combination and one we will push hard.
- We are the principal investigator of **human trafficking and smuggling crimes, and we run the national human smuggling and trafficking center.** If you need any assistance on this score, call us. We are going to keep the heat on these organizations and will spare no expense to investigate these organizations, whether here or overseas.
- We have also become a central investigator of child exploitation,



bringing about half of all federal cases involving child pornography, child sex trafficking, and child sex tourism. Sadly, there is no shortage of work in this area, and we stand ready to work with any agency that is likeminded.

- We have also placed a major emphasis on intellectual property enforcement. Counterfeiting and piracy are hurting so many American industries, causing workers to lose jobs, companies to lose profits, and state and local governments to lose tax revenue. And it's not just about the entertainment industry or luxury goods: organized foreign counterfeiters are selling everything from illegitimate medicines, to bogus electronics, engine parts, and batteries, to fake airbags.

Immigration Enforcement

- A few words on immigration enforcement. It's a difficult topic—one that generates passion, debate and controversy on both sides of the political spectrum. Despite the differing opinions, we are moving forward with a smart and effective illegal immigration enforcement strategy that is showing results.
- Our approach is simple. Like most of you out there, we don't have the resources to address every immigration violation. In fact, we can



remove about 400,000 people a year—less than 4% of the estimated population of people illegally in the country.

- So the real question facing ICE is who are those 400,000 people going to be? In my view, it can't be the first 400,000 people we encounter in a given year.
- No, we have to set priorities and exercise prosecutorial discretion like any other law enforcement agency. And our priorities are straightforward:
 - Criminals and national security cases
 - Recent illegal entrants at the border or at ports of entry
 - Illegal reentrants who have been deported and come back illegally yet again
 - And fugitives and others who game the system
- In Fiscal Year 2011, we removed at total 396,906 individuals — the largest number in the agency's history. Of that number 216,698 were criminal aliens—also more than any other year in history. Nearly 55 percent of the aliens we removed had been convicted of criminal offenses- an 89 percent increase in the removal of criminals since FY 2008.
- Of those we removed in 2010 who lacked criminal convictions, more than two thirds were either recent border entrants, illegal reentrants, or



immigration fugitives.

Secure Communities

- Let me close with a few words on Secure Communities
 - What is
 - Deployment to date
 - Issues
 - Future—full deployment and why--recidivism
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- We also developed a new policy to protect victims of and witnesses to crimes to ensure that crimes continue to be reported and prosecuted. Additionally, we are working with the DHS Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties to monitor the program.
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- We will continue to expand Secure Communities to additional jurisdictions, and we look forward to nationwide deployment by the end of 2013.
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- But we want to hear from you. Please reach out to us with any concerns or suggestions on how we can continue to improve the effectiveness of this program while maintaining the trust and support of our local communities.



Closing

- I'll close by saying that we want to work with you.
- If you are not working with ICE, I hope some of what I have shared with you here today will help convince that we are willing partners who offer a variety of opportunities to collaborate.
- All of us at ICE appreciate your partnership. The successful results we've had over the years, especially in our anti-gang and criminal alien operations, would not have been possible without the coordination, commitment and dedication of the men and women serving in state and local law enforcement all over the country who work side-by-side with us.
- So thank you and I look forward to many more successes in joint law enforcement operations to safeguard the public and protect our nation.

Thank you.