



The Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties supports the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) as it secures the nation while preserving individual liberty, fairness, and equality under the law.

CRCL Releases FY 2012 Second Quarter Report to Congress

CRCL recently submitted its [FY 2012 Second Quarter Report to Congress](#) as required by section 803 of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007, 42 U.S.C. § 2000ee-1(f). The Report provides statistical data analysis of civil rights and civil liberties investigations during the second quarter of FY 2012, and also includes information regarding impact assessments.

September 11 National Day of Service and Remembrance

This month, President Obama signed a [proclamation](#) making Friday, September 7 through Sunday, September 9, 2012, National Days of Prayer and Remembrance, a time to honor and remember the victims of September 11, 2001, and their loved ones through remembrance activities. Commemoration activities occurred in all 50 states in which volunteers served in wide-ranging ways from participating in food drives and cleaning schools, to supporting and honoring veterans, soldiers, military families, and first responders. Read more about the [September 11th National Day of Service and Remembrance](#).

Here at DHS, employees across the Department recognized the 11th anniversary of the September 11th attacks through a series of tributes, ceremonies, broadcast messages, and photo displays. Secretary Napolitano attended the 9/11 commemoration ceremony at Ground Zero and issued a message to DHS employees remembering the attacks and noting the progress that has been made in securing the country since those attacks. The Secretary thanked employees for their service, “helping to make America safer, more resilient, and stronger than ever before.”

CRCL Launches New Community Engagement Roundtable in New York City

This month, CRCL broadened its community engagement efforts by launching the first quarterly roundtable in New York City. Following the expanded demographic model, this new series of quarterly roundtables will include diverse ethnic groups and communities that CRCL regularly engages, along with various local grassroots organizations, interfaith coalitions, and ethnic advocacy groups.

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Manhattan office hosted the first roundtable, where CRCL senior leadership discussed immigration concerns and other relevant issues. As the roundtable continues to develop, CRCL will bring other DHS and Federal partners to the table in efforts to further build relationships with local communities. To cover New York City’s geographic expanse, CRCL will hold two roundtables each quarter in different locations across the city’s five boroughs, an element that will be unique to NYC.

CRCL leads quarterly roundtables in 15 cities and metropolitan areas across the country with community leaders and Federal, state and local government officials. These roundtables bring together American Arab, Muslim, South Asian, Middle Eastern, Somali, Sikh, Latino, and Asian/Asian Pacific Islander communities to address concerns related to homeland security and civil rights and civil liberties.

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CRCL Responds to Hurricane Isaac

Hurricane Isaac struck the Gulf Coast in late August. The slow-moving storm caused severe damage with high winds, heavy rain, storm surges and flooding, and power outages. At the direction of President Obama, DHS and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are continuing to work closely with state and local partners to identify and address the response and recovery needs of affected communities.

Several DHS Components participated in storm response and recovery activities, including CRCL. Staff members met daily during and after the storm made landfall to address potential civil rights and civil liberties concerns involving Isaac.



Secretary Napolitano visits Mississippi and Louisiana

CRCL worked with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to address the potential evacuation of detainees/detention facilities in the wake of the storm. Soon after Isaac made landfall along the Gulf Coast, ICE and CBP released a joint message affirming that there will be no immigration enforcement initiatives associated with evacuations or sheltering related to the storm. CRCL staff worked diligently to translate the message into Spanish, Haitian Creole, and Vietnamese. CRCL also [posted the message on its web site](#), and it was widely disseminated to Federal, state, and local governments, as well as nongovernment organizations (NGO) and communities throughout the Gulf Coast.

CRCL also identified a number of best practices and challenges related to storm response and recovery activities and will continue to work with government partners and NGOs to ensure civil rights and civil liberties considerations are incorporated into all aspects of response and recovery efforts.

Constitution Day

On September 17, we observe Constitution Day and Citizenship Day, a day to remember and honor the signing of the U.S. Constitution by our country's thirty-nine founding fathers in 1787.

This year, DHS commemorated the 225th anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution by welcoming more than 32,000 new American citizens during 158 naturalization ceremonies throughout the holiday week. Secretary Napolitano participated in a special naturalization ceremony at the National Archives, and USCIS Director Alejandro Mayorkas officiated at a children's citizenship ceremony in Los Angeles.



In 2005, Congress required that all Federal agencies make Constitution Day training available to their employees. To mark the 225th anniversary, CRCL has revamped the Constitution Day training course for the DHS workforce, with the purpose of presenting more interactive content that will keep users engaged and impart both an understanding of constitutional principles and an appreciation for the continued relevance of the Constitution in our everyday lives. In the new course, users will self-select one of the first ten Amendments to the U.S. Constitution and will explore its history, meaning, and recent interpretation by the U.S. Supreme Court. Users can also act in the role of a sitting Supreme Court Justice and decide a case, and then learn how the real Court ruled.

National Preparedness Month – Pledge to Prepare!

(Editor's note: The following is the text of Secretary Napolitano's [blog post](#) on September 5, 2012)

If a disaster strikes, how will you and your family be ready? During the month of September, the DHS and the Ready.gov teams are focusing on planning and preparing for disasters during National Preparedness Month. This month, DHS is asking you to “[Pledge to Prepare](#).” Visit ready.gov/prepare to see simple steps you can take, such as keeping an emergency kit in your office and at home and keeping copies of important family documents in a safe place.



Being prepared means having a plan. Whether you are at home, at work or on-the-go, it's important to create a plan in case of an emergency. Planning ahead will ensure that you and your family will know what to do and have the supplies you need to be safe wherever you are. In your home? Think ahead with your [Family Emergency Plan](#). At work or school? Ensure you and your family are informed about hazards in your surrounding area and know the best ways to contact one another if you are separated during a disaster.

We have already seen a number of disasters this year, including floods, wildfires, tornadoes, and most recently, Hurricane Isaac. When an emergency strikes your area, knowing what to do before, during and after may make all the difference when seconds count.

[Watch the video](#) of DHS Secretary Napolitano and FEMA Craig Fugate asking for your help in keeping each other safe, and then [head to Ready.gov to take the pledge today](#).

CRCL on the Road, September

September 12-13 – Minneapolis, Minnesota

CRCL participated in a pilot of a multi-day countering violent extremism (CVE) workshop being developed for state and local law enforcement and partners.

September 13 – Charleston, West Virginia

CRCL delivered Privacy/Civil Rights and Civil Liberties training to the West Virginia Intelligence Fusion Center.

September 17 – Columbus, Ohio

CRCL participated in a Law Enforcement/Somali Advisory Group meeting.

September 18 – Frankfort, Kentucky

CRCL delivered Privacy/Civil Rights and Civil Liberties training to the Kentucky Intelligence Fusion Center.

September 23 – Chicago, Illinois

CRCL will host the second leg of the U.S. State Department's CVE exchange program with a delegation of German stakeholders.

September 26 – Chicago, Illinois

CRCL will convene its quarterly community engagement roundtable with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.

September 26 – Salt Lake City, Utah

CRCL will deliver Privacy/Civil Rights and Civil Liberties training to the Utah Statewide Information and Analysis Center.

September 27 – Boston, Massachusetts

CRCL will coordinate the BRDGES community engagement roundtable with the local U.S. Attorney's Office.

Additional information, and contacting us

The goal of this periodic newsletter is to inform members of the public about the activities of the DHS Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, including: how to make complaints; ongoing and upcoming projects; opportunities to offer comments and feedback; etc. We distribute our newsletters via an email list and make them available to community groups for redistribution. We also post information pulled from the newsletter on a webpage, [CRCL at Work](#). If you would like to receive this newsletter via email, want to request back issues, or have other comments or questions, please let us know by emailing crcloutreach@dhs.gov. If you are on this list, but no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please send an email to the same address asking us to unsubscribe you. For more information, including on how to make a civil rights or civil liberties complaint about DHS activities, see

www.dhs.gov/crcl.

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