



ICE

Secure Communities



Talking Points
Police Executive Research Forum
January 12, 2010

Overview

- Secure Communities is ICE's strategy to modernize current processes by better identifying criminal aliens through the use of biometric technology, prioritizing our enforcement efforts in order to focus on those posing the greatest threat to our communities, and transforming enforcement operations to become more efficient and effective through the long-term.
- Secure Communities' strategy is built on three pillars:
 - *Identify criminal aliens* through modernized technology, continual data analysis, and timely information sharing with a broad range of law enforcement partners
 - *Prioritize enforcement actions* to apprehend and remove criminal aliens who pose the greatest threat to public safety
 - *Transform criminal alien enforcement* to efficiently identify, process, and remove criminal aliens from the United States

Identifying Criminal Aliens

- Secure Communities enables ICE to identify criminal aliens more quickly and accurately using biometric identification technology and modernized information sharing among federal, state, tribal and local agencies.
- Secure Communities brings together the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Department of Justice (DOJ), and state, tribal and local law enforcement agencies to integrate biometric technology currently used during the booking process and increase the speed with which ICE identifies criminal aliens in law enforcement custody.
- This improved process enables fingerprint-based biometric records, taken by local law enforcement at the time an individual is booked into custody, to be cross-referenced with interoperable databases containing DOJ's criminal history records and DHS' immigration records.

- This applies to *everyone* arrested and booked, not just those suspected of being foreign nationals.
- Biometrics, in this case fingerprints, are accurate, reliable and virtually impossible to forge, enabling ICE agents to quickly and precisely determine an individual's identity.
- When fingerprint submissions match immigration records, local ICE officers are automatically notified and can promptly determine if enforcement action is required.
 - Importantly, the LEA is *not* being asked nor authorized to enforce federal immigration laws, ICE agents will do that. It also requires little to no change to your current procedures. This enhancement and interoperability process takes place behind the scenes and does not impact your daily operations.

Prioritize Enforcement Actions

- The Secure Communities strategy prioritizes enforcement action based on the level of threat an individual poses. The level of threat is divided into three levels with Level 1 offenses being the top priority.
 - Level 1 offenses include crimes against persons, such as homicide, kidnapping, robbery, major drug offenses with sentences greater than one year, and threats to national security.
 - Level 2 offenses are primarily crimes involving property, such as larceny, fraud, arson, and smuggling.
 - Level 3 offenses are all other crimes.
- Secure Communities strengthens public safety by initiating enforcement action against the most dangerous criminal aliens first – those charged with or convicted of level 1 crimes.
- While Level 1 offenses are our top priority, the ICE field office may take action on removable aliens charged with or convicted of lesser offenses. The ICE field office maintains the discretion to take action and often considers the availability of resources at the time.

Risk-Based Deployment Strategy

- The Secure Communities strategy is deploying this new capability where it is needed most. To achieve the most immediate impact, Secure Communities uses modeling analysis to prioritize the deployment of locations based upon the risk to local communities where the highest population of criminal aliens is projected to reside.
- Our current focus is on major metropolitan areas and other jurisdictions deemed high-risk.

- This strategy also takes into consideration the availability of local ICE field office resources (personnel, transportation, proximity to local agencies, etc.) in order to ensure 24/7 coverage for all activated counties.
- The deployment strategy is flexible enough to account for changing priorities such as activating jurisdictions along the SW border last year to account for the increased violence between the US and Mexico.
- Our goal is to make the biometric information-sharing capability available to all jurisdictions nationwide by 2013.

Deployment in Your State

- At this time, Secure Communities is deployed in the following North Carolina counties:

County	Deployment Date	% of North Carolina Criminal Alien Population*
Wake	November 12, 2008	10.2 %
Buncombe	November 17, 2008	3.0 %
Gaston	November 17, 2009	3.1 %
Henderson	November 17, 2008	1.1 %
Duplin	January 6, 2009	0.8 %
New Hanover	January 6, 2009	2.9 %
Orange	January 13, 2009	1.1 %
Harnett	January 21, 2009	1.0 %
Cabarrus	January 28, 2009	2.1 %
Catawba	January 28, 2009	1.3 %
Cumberland	February 3, 2009	2.5 %
Durham	February 10, 2009	2.3 %
Mecklenburg	October 27, 2009	6.5%

** estimated*

- ICE is planning to deploy to the following counties in FY 2010: Brunswick, Columbus, Dare, Halifax, Jackson, Lee, Transylvania, Union, Forsyth and Guilford.
- Already we are seeing results. As of December 31, 2009, 12,851 fingerprint submissions from North Carolina resulted in a match to DHS immigration records.
- Of those matches, 367 records matched as individuals charged with or convicted of a Level 1 offense and 64 of those individuals have been removed from the U.S.
 - What about the others? Most of those not already removed are currently awaiting removal after completing their time in jail for their convictions.

- As we work to bring this modernized approach throughout your state, we are committed to working with you at the state and local level.

Transforming Criminal Alien Enforcement

- Let me also take a minute to address what ICE is doing to ensure the entire criminal alien enforcement model is performing at its best.
- Current approaches to criminal alien enforcement are not sufficient. ICE must modernize its approach, to include: new processes and technologies to deal with the anticipated increase in identified criminal aliens, smart distribution and balance of ICE's workforce and detention capacity, and prioritization of resources to support criminal alien processing.
- ICE is investing more than \$1 billion in criminal alien enforcement efforts, including the deployment of the biometric identification process nationwide.
- Through Secure Communities, ICE's intent is to maximize the use of detention and removal resources through improved tracking systems and better management of bed space, transportation, and personnel. The point being - it is important that we make the appropriate investment and ensure the *entire* criminal alien enforcement process performs in an efficient and effective manner so that we are able to accommodate the increased the number of criminal aliens being identified.