

U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service



Communi*que*

INS

Volume 21, Number 7

July 1998

HONORING
Fallen Officers



Commissioner, Service Honor INS Agents

LOST IN THE LINE OF DUTY

During a special Headquarters ceremony held May 14 to remember INS agents killed in the line of duty in 1997, Commissioner Meissner spoke of the loss that the entire agency felt following the deaths of these fine officers. Her remarks from the ceremony are reprinted below in their entirety:

Good afternoon. On behalf of the more than 26,000 employees of the Immigration and Naturalization Service nationwide, I would like to thank you for joining us for this special ceremony to remember INS agents who have given their lives in the line of duty.

Each year I hope that there will be no need to hold such a ceremony the next year. But I know that the work of INS Border Patrol Agents, Special Agents, Immigration Agents, and other law enforcement officers often entails risk. While I am saddened that the risks at times lead to making the ultimate sacrifice for their country, I am heartened that these officers perform their duties so admirably while facing that risk each day.

In fact, while it is still early in the year, one INS officer has already been lost in the line of duty. **Special Agent John Gilberto Orellana** was a 23-year INS veteran, and worked most recently out of El Centro, CA, to help fight the scourge of alien smuggling along the border. Beginning his career as a Border Patrol Agent in San Diego, CA, he also worked as an Immigration Inspector, Immigration Examiner, and Criminal Investigator.

Remembered by Los Angeles District Director Richard Rodgers as "a highly professional, dedicated officer who spent his entire life serving his country," Agent Orellana was killed in a traffic accident in January while in pursuit of a suspected alien smuggler. He left a wife and three children, and his tragic death touched the hearts of INS employees nationwide.

This year we remember four other Service officers who made the ultimate sacrifice while working to uphold our nation's immigration laws—Supervisory Border Patrol Agent Michael Barnes, Senior Border Patrol Agent Miguel Maldonado, Border Patrol Agent Stephen Starch, and Immigration Agent Anthony Minetto.

I would like to take a moment to personally thank the families of these agents for joining us in this very special ceremony.

Joyce and Clay Barnes; Ricarda and Michael Maldonado; Charlie and Darla Dunn; Gary and Susan Gunther...your presence here means so very much to us.

Supervisory Border Patrol Agent Michael Barnes, Patrol Agent-in-Charge of the Service's Carrizo Springs, Texas, Station was a 20-year INS veteran. Raised in Pearsall, Texas, he attended Texas Tech University and graduated from the U.S. Border Patrol Academy in 1976.

His first posting was in Del Rio, Texas, where he was stationed for four years, before transferring to Carrizo Springs in 1980. He quickly rose



Commissioner Meissner stands with the families of INS officers killed in the line of duty in 1997 following the Headquarters memorial ceremony.

through the ranks, becoming a Supervisory Agent in 1988 and the station's Assistant Patrol Agent-in-Charge in 1990. He was promoted to PAIC in 1996, and had received several outstanding performance awards over the course of his career.

His fellow Agents describe him as a man whose first love was his wife and family. Remembered by his peers as "a man of strong ethics and honor who will be missed by the lives of all those he touched," Agent Barnes lost his life while in the pursuit of a group of illegal immigrants...in the field with his fellow agents...working the terrain as he did each day.

Senior Border Patrol Agent Miguel J. Maldonado was killed in a tragic traffic accident

Continued on page 3

Communi**que**

INS

Volume 21, Number 7

July 1998



Buffalo District Application Support Center (ASC) Manager Linda Figueroa and Fingerprint Technician Leo Ferrante stand in front of a mobile ASC vehicle.

Fallen Officers

Continued from page 2

in March of last year. A 17-year Border Patrol veteran, Agent Maldonado entered on duty at Laredo, Texas, and was promoted to the position of Senior Border Patrol Agent in 1987.

He joined the McAllen Sector in 1988, and was instrumental in establishing the newly formed Port Isabel Station, adeptly assisting in the acquisition of space, Patrol vehicles, and other essential equipment. Through his efforts, he established close ties with the local U.S. Coast Guard station, and acted as liaison with other Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies in the area, greatly enhancing interagency law enforcement cooperation.

For Agent Maldonado, INS was a family affair. He had four nephews in the Patrol, including Rudy Maldonado in the Laredo Sector, Rey Diaz and Danny

Maldonado in the McAllen Sector, and Joe Maldonado in the El Paso Sector.

An active member of American Legion Post 632 in Los Fresnos, Texas, he helped in many membership and building expansion projects while at the Port Isabel Station. He was also active in supporting other local civic organizations, including the Boys and Girls Clubs of Los Fresnos, the local Boy Scout troop, and the Future Farmers of America.

Agent Maldonado is remembered in perhaps his most compassionate role, either sharing his own lunch or purchasing food for the illegal aliens he apprehended if he found them to be hungry.

The loss of **Border Patrol Agent Stephen C. Starch** was particularly tragic because of his young age. Just 25 years old, Agent Starch represented the best and the brightest of the U.S. Border

Patrol. Joining INS in 1995 as a member of Academy Class 295, he was assigned to the El Cajon Station in the San Diego Sector. Extremely well-liked and respected by his fellow Agents, he was known for his upbeat and contagious good mood, which often lifted the spirits of those around him.

Agent Starch's courage and professionalism were perhaps demonstrated best when he came upon an accident scene while working the rough terrain surrounding Alpine, California. A vehicle was overturned and had caught fire. Disregarding his own safety, Agent Starch organized help from bystanders to lift the truck, freeing the two people who were trapped inside. He then used his radio to call for assistance. As a result, both accident victims escaped serious injury.

Continued on page 17

What's Inside

Headquarters News

- Ceremony for Fallen Officers* 2
- FY98 Six-month Removals* 4
- New NACARA Regulations* 4
- H1-B Visa Procedures* 5
- Ellis Island...New Jersey?* 5

Headquarters News Briefs

- Visa Waiver Pilot Program* 6
- New INS Technology Contract* 6
- HQ Customer Service Training* 6

Recruiting Update

- Advertising at the INS* 7

INS News From the Field

- Denver Enforcement Operation* 8
- San Antonio Anti-Smuggling* 8
- Detroit Partnership Agreement* 9
- B.P. Benevolent Association* 9
- El Paso Sector Propane Trucks* 9
- Guilty Pleas in Smuggling Case* 10
- McAllen \$60 Million Drug Seizure* 10
- Buffalo District Detention Center* 10
- First Mobile ASC in New York State* 11
- "New Beginnings" Natz. Ceremony* 11
- EOSH Safety and Health Conference* 12
- Arizona Police Games Medalists* 12

Records Management Update

- Preparing for Natl. File Audit* 13

Public Service Recognition Week

- INS Awards News* 14

INS Awards News

- CLAIMS in 'Innovation Collection'* 16
- Vermont Border Patrol Agent* 16
- INS Historian Award of Merit* 17

INS Special Events

- Asian-Pacific Heritage Month* 18

People on the Move

- Luis E. Barker* 19
- Warren A. Lewis* 19
- William J. Carroll* 19
- Harry A. Thomas* 19
- Lynne M. Underdown* 20
- Mariela Melero-Chami* 20

In Memoriam

- Eugene M. Fitzpatrick* 20
- Gerald R. Riso* 20

Illegal Alien Removals Up 78 Percent

OVER FIRST HALF OF LAST YEAR

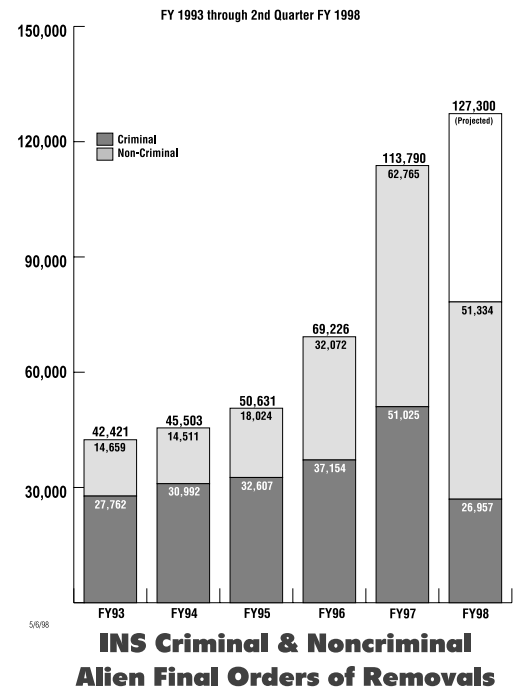
Total Includes 32,620 Expedited Removals Nationwide

The Service removed more than 78,000 criminal and non-criminal illegal aliens in the first six months of FY98, up 78 percent compared to the same time last year, and already surpassing the total number of removals in FY96 by nearly 10,000.

Specifically, through March INS removed 78,281 illegal aliens, 26,957 of whom were criminals—a 12 percent increase over 1997 figures for the first six months of the fiscal year. Of the criminal alien removals, nearly half came as a result of convictions for the possession and/or sale of narcotics, with another 15 percent based on convictions for criminal violations of immigration law.

“[We’re] now removing more than 1,000 criminals every week, and the number continues to grow,” INS General Counsel Paul Virtue said when the figures were announced. “This increase is a reflection of our focus on removing aliens who commit serious crimes in our communities.” Noncriminal alien removals were also up nearly 160 percent compared to the same period last year, he said, with expedited removals for the first six months of FY98 totaling 32,620.

INS has set an overall removals goal of 127,300 for FY98, and the six-month total represents more than 60 percent of that projected total.



Procedures Announced for Those Seeking NACARA Benefits

At a Headquarters press briefing on May 20 held simultaneously with a similar event in Miami, INS announced procedures by which certain individuals covered under the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act (NACARA) can file for immigration-related benefits.

Signed into law by President Clinton on November 19, 1997, the Act provides for benefits including relief from deportation for qualified Central Americans, Cubans, and nationals of former Soviet bloc countries. The procedures announced at the May event, however, affect only those NACARA provisions applicable to Nicaraguans and Cubans, and will allow nationals from those countries to become lawful permanent residents (LPRs) without applying for an immigrant visa at a consular office overseas. INS expects to publish a separate rule in the coming months that will affect other NACARA-eligible beneficiaries.

Saying the new procedures will “ease the transition for those who have put down deep roots in the United States,” Commissioner Meissner noted that while they were published in the *Federal Register* as an interim rule on May 21, they actually took effect on June 22, following a one-month public comment period.

“This is an historic day for Nicaraguans and Cubans,” said Rep. Lincoln Diaz-Balart (R-FL) at the press conference. His district includes a large number of Cuban-Americans in the Miami area, and he presented his remarks in both English and Spanish.

Rep. Ileana Ros Lehtinen (R-FL), whose district also includes a significant number of Cuban-Americans, went even further, saying the new procedures marked “a day of independence for thousands of Nicaraguans and Cubans” throughout the United States. “This is a dream come true,” she concluded. “This bill is like a godsend...like manna from heaven.”

To be eligible for benefits under NACARA, Nicaraguan and Cubans must have been physically present in the United States continuously since December 1, 1995 (allowing for up to 180 days of travel), and must be admissible to the country under section 212(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, with the exception of those provisions specified under NACARA. To ensure they receive the NACARA benefit, eligible candidates must file their application on or before March 31, 2000.

New H-1B Visa Procedures Implemented as Service Reaches FY98 Cap

Having reached the 65,000 FY98 cap on H-1B skilled worker visas, the Service announced on May 8 that as of May 11 it would stop accepting such visa petitions for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Based on new procedures now in place (and detailed in the *Federal Register*), all initial employment petitions for H-1B workers for FY98 that are received on or after May 11, 1998, will be returned, along with the accompanying fees, directly to the petitioner. These individuals may then resubmit their petitions, requesting employment beginning on or after October 1, 1998, when FY99 visas become available.

For initial FY98 employment petitions for H-1B workers received before May 11, but not decided before the cap was reached, INS will allow individuals either to withdraw their petitions and forfeit the fees, or delay employment until October 1, 1998.

Beginning on October 1, requests for employment in FY99 will be processed as they are received and counted

against that year's 65,000 cap. Prior to October 1, the Service will continue to process applications filed by current H-1B workers, as they are not affected by the visa cap. Such applications include petitions to either extend the stay or amend the terms of employment for current workers, or to work concurrently in a second H-1B position.

Comprising a temporary visa category, H-1Bs allow nonimmigrant workers skilled in specialty occupations to work legally in the United States. While applicants are typically required to have a bachelor's degree, certain exceptions are available. Typical occupations covered under the H-1B classification include: architects, engineers, computer programmers, accountants, doctors, and college professors. The maximum initial period of employment on each visa is three years, with the potential for a three-year extension. Since FY92, the number of H-1B visas approved by the Service has increased steadily from 48,645 to the current capped level.

Ellis Island...New Jersey?

High Court Rules State Has Partial Sovereignty Over Immigration Landmark

By a 6-3 margin, the Supreme Court ruled May 26 that much of Ellis Island—a symbol of immigration known worldwide—does, in fact, fall under the sovereignty of the state of New Jersey, and not New York as the Empire State had claimed. Despite rigorous assertions by lawyers and politicians from both states, the court's opinion brought to an end, at least temporarily, the dispute that has been brewing for years over the historic site.

The entire island is actually located on the New Jersey side of the Hudson River, but according to a 1934 compact the original acreage above the waterline belongs to New York. The problem is that over the

years, through the use of fill dirt, the island itself grew—from about three acres in size to more than 27. The part that was filled in, the Garden State contended, was actually on top of the submerged lands to which it has the rights. The court agreed, ruling that all the land—fill included—surrounding the original island is officially under the sovereignty of New Jersey.

The fate of the original island and main immigration building was never contested. Both remain part of New York. During the course of the five-year court battle, of course, most participants neglected to mention that the island itself actually belongs

to the Federal government, which manages it as a national park.

"The majority opinion of the Supreme Court was concerned with evidence—not with people's assumptions or feelings, now or in the past," INS Historian Marian Smith noted after the ruling was handed down. "Most of us will always associate Ellis Island with New York City, but the evidence proved that as a property question, most of modern Ellis Island is...within the state of New Jersey."

Perhaps the decision in this case will cause people to reconsider many popular assumptions made today about U.S. immigration policy and the history of immigrants, she said.

CORRECTION

An item in the "People on the Move" section of the June INS *Communique* misstated where and when Jean M. Christiansen began her career with the Service. She joined INS in 1976 as a secretary in the Dallas suboffice in what was then the Houston district.

Visa Waiver Pilot Program

EXTENDED TO APRIL 30, 2000

On April 27, President Clinton signed into law the Visa Waiver Pilot Reauthorization Act, extending the Service's Visa Waiver Pilot Program (VWPP) until April 30 of the year 2000.

The addition of Slovenia to the VWPP list brings the number of countries participating in the program to 26, including: Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brunei, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein,

Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, San Marino, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

Ireland's status was changed from probationary to permanent by the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (IIRIRA), and this change was incorporated into the interim regulation adding Slovenia to the list of participating countries.

Begun in 1988, the program permits nationals from designated countries who are not otherwise inadmissible to the United States and who arrive on a participating carrier to visit America for business or pleasure for up to 90 days without obtaining a nonimmigrant visitors visa. More than half of the nonimmigrant visitors who enter the United States at air or sea ports-of-entry each year apply for admission under the program.

Service Awards \$400 Million Technology Contract to SAIC

Will Be Cornerstone of New "STARS" Integration Initiative

The Service announced on May 1 that it has signed an innovative support services contact with Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) to provide management and systems integration functions for a series of contractors responsible for developing, implementing, operating, and maintaining all INS technology systems worldwide.

The \$400 million contract with SAIC is the cornerstone of the planned series of contracts known collectively as STARS, the Service Technology Alliance Resources Program. The five contracts that constitute STARS will have a total value of \$1.2 billion and will span a five-year period, covering nearly all INS functions from law enforcement to naturalization to customer service. The overall STARS

framework will be the technological backbone for the "shared support" function of the agency, providing essential tools to facilitate both enforcement and customer service operations.

"The STARS program is a unique approach to handling INS' demanding technology needs," Deputy Commissioner Mary Ann Wyrsh said when the contract was announced, noting that with the rapid improvements in automation, 90 percent of all Service employees now have access to computers, compared to 35 percent five years ago. "This program," she concluded, "which includes elements that will ensure contractor performance and cooperation, will play a vital role in moving us into the 21st century."

Service Holds First-Ever Customer Service Training Class at HQ

The Headquarters Benefits Division held INS' first-ever customer service training classes in Washington, DC, in March and April, with employees from the Miami district leading the instruction of a wide range of HQ staffers including Adjudicators, Inspectors, and Information Officers. Other participants

included employees from the Office of the Commissioner.

The classes were facilitated by Miami District Supervisory Adjudications Officer Iris Garcia, Michael Silva of the Service's Key West, FL, Office of Inspections, and Carolyn Lopicola, a training officer from the Office of Inspections at Miami International Airport.

According to Lourdes M. Garcia, customer service project training manager within the Benefits Division, the South Florida facilitators were invited to participate in the training both by her division and Associate Commissioner for Adjudications Kathy Redman.

Advertising at the INS

Bulging at the seams, INS continues to grow. As an agency with more than 2,000 Border Patrol agent (BPA) positions to fill this year alone, INS has had to completely restructure its hiring process for the Patrol. This has meant shifting its practice from hiring BPAs during specified periods of time to accepting applications on a continuous basis, with no application deadline.

From open periods to open-continuous, the recruiting process has changed significantly—and so has the Service's advertising. We have had to discover creative ways to reach more qualified men and women in more cost-effective ways. Accordingly, our Border Patrol ads have blossomed from black-and-white text to a full-scale campaign including four-color display ads, classified ads with visuals, and four separate brochures.

Two Types of Ads. The two types of ads we place serve distinct purposes, yet they go hand-in-hand. The first is designed to support expedited hiring events, and the second to build brand or "image" awareness among prospects and "influencers" who may not be familiar with the Patrol and its mission.

Each month, research is done to develop a media plan that includes the most effective newspapers for cities, key schools, and military bases surrounding the site of the upcoming expedited hiring event. Papers are selected

based on their circulation, ad prices, closing dates, and historical data, which is researched to determine how many qualified leads they have generated in the past, the cost-per-lead, how many minorities and women they reached, and any other information that will help us make a reasonable determination of their effectiveness.

Unique numerical extension codes placed in the advertising copy make trend analysis possible. The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) also provides the Recruiting Office with an extension report each month that breaks out the number of leads by extension code, gender and ethnicity for calls made in the previous month—information that helps to determine what works and what does not over time.

Other Advertising Outreach. This monthly classified advertising is supplemented by faxes, press releases, and internal advertising via E-mail. A flyer with application information is also faxed to more than 500 schools, military transition centers, and INS offices nationwide each month. Additionally, press releases are distributed to various sources. E-mails are also periodically sent announcing the expedited hiring event to all Department of Justice E-mail users, and advertising may be placed on the INS pay stub. INS tries to use as many internal resources as possible

because we have learned that employee referrals generate a large percentage of our qualified leads.

Throughout the year, the Service also places four-color display ads in magazines. While such ads are generally much more expensive than other types, they provide a means for brand building. For example, many people throughout the United States who are not located near the border are unaware of the Border Patrol and its mission. Display ads help build an image of the Patrol and, seen over and over again, enhance response rates.

Getting More for Less.

The Service is continually researching new and different ways of reaching our target market through direct advertising and brand awareness. Recruiting Border Patrol agents has become a challenging job. By analyzing data, reading trade journals, and attending conferences, we are becoming smarter at what we do. We are continuously changing the advertising program by incorporating more cost- and time-effective initiatives so that we get "more for less."

Just as the Border Patrol slogan reads, "A Career with Borders, But no Boundaries," it is our goal to fill Border Patrol agent openings with qualified candidates using new and creative methods.

Denver Enforcement Operation

SUCCESSFULLY TARGETS "TOP 50" FUGITIVES

The Detention and Deportation sections in the Denver, CO, district participated in a very successful joint agency enforcement operation on March 29-30, resulting in the apprehension of 13 of the city's "Top 50" Most Wanted fugitives.

Coordinated by the city's Metro Fugitive Task Force and Crime Stoppers, the operation involved the placement of the fugitives' photos and biographical information in local Denver papers, encouraging anyone with information to provide information exchange for monetary awards.

As part of the operation, the Denver district's Deportation office provided photos and other information on two of the fugitives listed on the "Top 50" Most Wanted Bulletin. As a result, both were apprehended on the first day of the operation, with three additional fugitives apprehended soonafter. In all, seven district officers participated in the operation, also manning a command post on alternate shifts to handle incoming tips and officer dispatch based on the public response. A two-person patrol unit was also provided to work tips and perform interagency backup when necessary.

Overall, according to Acting Assistant District Director for Detention and Deportation John J. Good, a total of 13 fugitives on the "Top 50" list were apprehended through the operation, with 21 other fugitives captured during the two-day program. In addition, it is expected that tips and leads obtained through the operation may help facilitate the location and arrest of additional fugitives.

According to Acting District Director Michael M. Comfort, agencies cooperating with INS in the operation represented a wide range of Federal, State, and local offices, including the: Adams, CO, County Sheriff; Arapahoe, CO, County Sheriff; Aurora, CO, Police Department; Boulder, CO, County Sheriff; Denver Police Department; Douglas, CO, County Sheriff; Colorado Department of Corrections; Colorado Department of Parole; Federal Bureau of Investigation; Gilpin, CO, County Sheriff; Jefferson County, CO, Sheriff; Lakewood, CO, Police Department; and U.S. Marshals Service.

News of Note:

CLAIMS 4 Up and Running at Texas Service Center

According to Fernanda Young of the Headquarters Office of Information Resources Management's (HQIRM) Systems Integration Division, the CLAIMS 4 benefits processing system became operational at the Texas Service Center on March 30. In just the first three days of operation, she says, the Service was able to successfully enter more than 525 applications for naturalization into the system.

Forty-Eight Illegal Aliens Found in Downtown San Antonio House

An investigation based on a tip by a local San Antonio, TX, resident resulted in the apprehension of 48 illegal aliens, including two children, on March 30, all of whom were living in a single two-story home just south of the city's downtown area.

According to Ray Dudley, the Service's public affairs officer in San Antonio, conditions at the house indicated that the aliens had been forced to sleep on the floor, and had to eat without a table, chairs, or utensils. Instead of internal plumbing, water was piped into the house through a garden hose from an adjoining home, and electricity provided by a single extension cord. In addition, neighbors reported

seeing children playing in sewage behind the house. The group had apparently been living in the house for several weeks.

INS sought charges against five individuals in the case for harboring aliens and endangering the lives of others. All the aliens apprehended were in relatively good physical condition according to Supervisory Agent Marceleno Alaniz, and most were voluntarily returned to Mexico after they were discovered.

The successful conclusion of the case brought the number of alien smuggling arrests in the district this year to nearly 900 as of the end of March.

Labor-Management Partnership Signed in Detroit, MI, Sector

Detroit, MI, Border Patrol Sector Chief Carl L. McClafferty III and representatives of the National Border Patrol Council Local 2449 signed a labor-management partnership agreement on April 24, pledging to work together to resolve issue of common concern to the two groups.

“We understand and recognize the importance of continuing to work together to improve mutual trust, respect, communication, and cooperation,” a sector spokesperson said when the agreement was signed. “There is no doubt that with this agreement, the Detroit sector’s man-

agement and agents are improving the quality of life for everyone [involved].”

At the signing ceremony, the Council was represented by Senior Border Patrol Agents Mark P. Hall and Mark Holloway.

United States Border Patrol Benevolent Association Formed

In late May the formation of a national Border Patrol Benevolent Association was announced, with the goal of “allowing [participating agents] to make an investment at the most critical stages of children’s lives.”

The objectives of the association, according to a Border Patrol spokesperson, include promoting “academic excellent and good citizenship in our youth through the granting of scholarships and/or awards for achievements in those areas.” Accordingly, it will sponsor local youth groups—such as the Border Patrol Explorers—which are dedicated to enhancing children’s futures. In addition, it will sponsor a wide variety of community-oriented events, specifically those intended to enhance the lives of children. Finally, the association will provide assistance to the families of fallen and severely injured

officers through both direct financial grants and scholarships for school-age children.

“Our children hold so very much of what is promised for the future...we must see to it that that promise is fulfilled,” the Patrol statement announcing the formation of the Association said. “...Now, as we look towards the coming year and the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United States Border Patrol, let us also look to join our hands and give our support to fulfilling the mission of the Border Patrol Benevolent Association.”

For more information on the association, please contact SPA Michael H. Bolus or BPA Anna Rodriguez in the Imperial Beach, CA, Border Patrol station at (619) 662-7057.

El Paso Sector Steps on the Gas, Acquires 25 Propane Vehicles

In a move that has been lauded by the region’s environmental organizations and other groups, the Service’s El Paso Border Patrol sector has purchased 25 propane-powered vehicles as part of its “alternative fuels” program.

According to the sector’s public information officer Doug Mosier, the propane-equipped vehicles include four-wheel-drive trucks used in the field, a garage wrecker, vehicles used by the Horse Patrol Unit, and a shop forklift. Based on the efficiency of propane compared to gasoline, the sector anticipates that it will save approximately \$12,000 per month on fuel expenses alone.

Propane was chosen over electricity as the alternative fuel of choice, Mosier said, because while the electric vehicles the sector tested had “extremely good acceleration and a top speed of 75 miles per hour,” they also needed to be recharged after just 60 miles of field use. The other drawback was the long-term cost of purchasing electric vehicles. While they are virtually maintenance-free, the initial cost of the plug-in models begins at \$35,000 apiece.



One of 25 propane-fueled vehicles currently being used by the El Paso Border Patrol sector. (Photo courtesy of INS El Paso Border Patrol sector)

Guilty Pleas and Fines Stem From Two Illegal

SMUGGLING, HIRING CASES

For the first time ever, a U.S.-based company and its president have pleaded guilty to involvement in an interstate alien smuggling ring. As the result of a two-year investigation by the U.S. Border Patrol office in Las Cruces, NM, in collaboration with the Service's Atlanta, GA, district office, 11 defendants entered guilty pleas April 6, including Atlantic Finishing, Inc., a domestic apparel maker, and its president, Fred Parrish. A guilty verdict was also returned against a twelfth defendant for harboring illegal aliens.

"[This] case is an excellent example of our efforts to coordinate enforcement across our district offices and Border Patrol sectors to counteract the growing sophistication of alien smuggling rings," Commissioner Meissner said in a statement when the pleas were announced. "I'm proud that our investigators and Border Patrol agents have worked together to crack this landmark case."

Over the course of the investigation, Atlantic Finishing was found to have not only hired illegal immigrants under false names, but concealed their

unlawful status through the use of false immigration documents. The company's president could be sentenced to a maximum of 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine, while the corporation could be fined a half-million dollars.

In a separate settlement agreement reached on April 16, Michael Troop, U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, and Roy Schremp, acting officer-in-charge of the INS office in Louisville, KY, announced that the ConAgra Poultry Company has agreed to pay \$123,000 in administrative fines for knowingly hiring unauthorized workers and accepting false employment documents. ConAgra also agreed to pay \$100,000 to cover the prosecution and investigation costs involved with the case, bringing to a close a four-year INS investigation.

Praising the Service employees involved in the investigation, Troop also said, "The convictions and this agreement should convey to employers how serious their responsibility to hire only legal workers is."

McAllen Border Patrol Assists in \$60 Million Cocaine Seizure

In one of the largest drug interdictions made in the McAllen, TX, sector this year, Border Patrol Agents Barry Songer and Arthur Robenseifer worked with members of the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) to seize more than \$60 million worth of cocaine being smuggled into the United States from Mexico.

While performing linewatch duties in the early evening of April 21, Agents Songer and Robenseifer saw a late-model pickup truck speeding southbound in the area of La Joya, TX. They notified the supervisory Border Patrol agent on duty, who in turn notified local DPS units. The truck doubled back to the north and the DPS

began a pursuit. While the truck driver initially refused to pull over, he eventually stopped the vehicle on the side of the highway. A search of the truck revealed several bundles that were later determined to contain cocaine. The driver, vehicle, and contraband were then transported to the DPS station in McAllen for processing.

Service Opens New Detention Facility in Buffalo, NY, District

Completed just 18 months after the initial groundbreaking, the Service celebrated the grand opening of its newest detention facility in the Buffalo district on March 11.

Located in Batavia, NY, the Buffalo Federal Detention Facility will house a total of 450 INS and U.S. Marshals Service detainees. The

150,000-square-foot facility, which cost \$25 million to design, plan, and build, began accepting detainees on March 18.

It was the first "design and build" project undertaken completely by the Service, and was finished on time and within budget.

Buffalo District Application Support Center Goes Mobile

by *Jeff Belling,*
Buffalo, NY, District Office

Buffalo, NY, District Application Support Center (ASC) Manager Linda Figueroa and Fingerprint Technician Leo Ferrante took their services on the road on April 22, with their mobile unit visiting the St. Francis Nursing Home in Williamsville, NY. The trip marked the first time that such an outreach effort had taken place within the district, with many more visits planned as the mobile program becomes a fully functioning component of the district's ASC.

For the past few months, as the ASC has been gearing up, equipment has been allocated for a mobile component to assist those who are unable to travel to a Center to have their fingerprints taken. It is anticipated that the mobile units will greatly expand the opportunities for people in remote areas, as well, to apply for INS benefits such as naturalization.

While at St. Francis, Figueroa and Ferrante took the fingerprints of Wolfgang Broetzman, a 68-year-old permanent resident who recently petitioned to become a U.S. citizen. Broetzman, who lives at the nursing home and would have had difficulty traveling to an ASC, has lived in the United States since 1952, serving in the U.S. Army and working as a machinist over that time. He's now looking forward to becoming a U.S. citizen, as will the many other people reached by this new INS customer service initiative.



Leo Ferrante fingerprints naturalization applicant Wolfgang Broetzmann. (Photo courtesy of INS Office of Naturalization Operations)

Commissioner Attends NY "New Beginnings" Citizenship Ceremony

By *Dawn Di Angelo*
New York District Public Affairs

"Welcome" was the word of the day as Commissioner Meissner administered the Oath of Citizenship to 128 candidates from 20 countries during a special naturalization ceremony held at New York City's Police Plaza on April 3. A cooperative effort between the New York district and city officials, the ceremony was part of a special program designed to help eligible candidates successfully negotiate the naturalization process.

Saying that "today is a day to be remembered," District Director Edward McElroy introduced the

guests and welcomed those becoming U.S. citizens. Addressing the newest citizens after the oath was recited, the Commissioner said that the ceremony represented, "the willingness of the United States to accept you as new Americans...to embrace you and all the good things that you bring to our communities." Proving that it's never too late to be naturalized, 94-year-old Mercira Michelle, a native of Haiti, was the oldest candidate among many seniors to be sworn in.

Before concluding the ceremony, the Commissioner presented a special plaque to the New York City

Police Department as an expression of gratitude for the fingerprint services they have provided for this and other ceremonies. The event came to a close with District Adjudications Officer Stacy Brooks singing her rendition of "America the Beautiful," while the INS Color Guard retired the colors.

For the nearly 130 new Americans leaving the auditorium clutching their certificates, it was truly more than a just a day of citizenship and celebration...it was a new beginning.

EOSH Sponsors Second Annual

SAFETY AND HEALTH MANAGERS CONFERENCE

The Headquarters Environmental Occupational Safety and Health (EOSH) Division sponsored INS' second annual Safety and Occupational Health



EOSH Division conference participants stand together during a break in the proceedings.

Managers Conference April 21-23 in Fairfax, VA. Featured presentations during the three-day confer-

ence included speakers from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Public Health Service, U.S. Fire Administration, the Federal Aviation Administration, and U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Also making presentations were two private industry groups, Star Mountain Inc. and Achieve Global.

This year's conference theme, "Working Together Towards a Common Goal," was especially appropriate. The conference provided an excellent networking opportunity for safety and occupational health personnel and representatives from other agencies, allowing them to focus on collective issues of mutual concern and to attend an exhibition featuring interactive demonstrations by a variety of private vendors and industry consultants.

The conference was led by Glenn Pritchard, director, HQ EOSH, along with Industrial Hygiene Program Managers Charmayne M. Kirkland and Steve Tzikas, and Administrative Support Specialist

Continued on page 13

INS Officers Win Medal Medley at Arizona Police Games

Two career Federal law enforcement officers recently competed in the Arizona Police Games in Phoenix in early April, bringing back gold and other precious medals to the Immigration Officer Academy and Border Patrol facility in Artesia, NM.



Supervisory Immigration Officer
Jim Vaughan

Jim Vaughan, a supervisory Immigration Officer/instructor at the Immigration Academy, and Loncie Tucker, a supervisory Border Patrol agent, both competed in swimming events. Vaughan

captured a total of eight medals, winning gold in the 50-meter freestyle, 50-meter backstroke, 100-meter freestyle, 100-meter backstroke, and 100-meter individual medley; silver in the 100-meter backstroke relay; and bronze in the 100-meter freestyle relay and 200-meter freestyle relay. Tucker won silver in the 50-meter freestyle, 100-meter freestyle relay, 100-meter freestyle, and 200-meter freestyle relay; and bronze in the 100-meter medley relay.

A former U.S. Marine from the Vietnam War era, Vaughan has competed in swimming events since 1981 and plans to test his skills next at the 1998 International Police Games in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, in November. His winning times in

several events have been better than those at both the 1994 and 1996 Games, held in Birmingham, AL, and Salt Lake City, UT, respectively.

Tucker has competed in track and field events at police Olympic competitions since 1992, but only recently began training for swimming competitions. A career Border Patrol officer, he served in the Navy before joining the Service, and has been assigned to the Artesia Academy since 1997.



Supervisory Border Patrol Agent
Loncie Tucker

UPDATE: RECORDS MANAGEMENT

Preparing for the National File Audit

As we move forward with our goal to improve the handling of alien files (A-Files), the Office of Files and Forms Management (HQFFM) and the Office of Records (HQREC) have jointly decided to conduct a National File Audit this year. As we conduct this project, we will also be working with field locations to review Records standard operating procedures, secure file holding areas, and address the backlog identified in some of our management reports. These efforts will allow us to improve service to our operational customers.

What are some of the things you can do to prepare for the National Audit? We will soon be asking field offices to begin doing the necessary things that support a major audit and that will allow us to maintain our investment over a long period of time. We need to:

Emphasize Proper Use of RAFACS and CIS. Field office directors should remind all units that when files are moved, they need to be wanded in and out of RAFACS at each step. The Central Index System (CIS) must also be kept current with file transfer requests status and other file location information.

Secure the Records Room.

Experience has shown that those offices that secure access to the central records room and control file movement in and out of that area are more successful in maintaining accountability.

Get the Files Into the File Room. Current statistics show that field offices have between 25 and 50 percent of their file holdings in the operational units. Please move all files not in active use back to the central file shelves. Also, pull all temporary files (T-Files) from the shelves if you can, and place them in a central location.

Retire What You Can. If you retire eligible files, we can alleviate some of our workload during the National File Audit.

Work Your Reports. The following are reports you can review and work to simplify an audit:

- Potential Federal Records Center (FRC) Retirement Report: identifies files that are ready for retirement and can be removed from the file room.
- Multiple File (A&T) Folder Report: listing of A-Files for which the corresponding T-Files, subfiles, and/or work folder(s) exist within the same office.

- Master File Listing by Status Code Report: lists the empty file jackets that are charged to your office and the in-transit files that are charged out to other sections and have not been received.

- CIS File Pending Transfer FCO Report: lists the outstanding file requests in the CIS that have not been transferred out.

- Duplicate Files in FRC and Masterfile: lists files that are shown as being both active and retired in RAFACS.

- Automated Lost A-File Circular: lists the files that are currently "Not Found" in the CIS, but are located on your RAFACS database.

The Headquarters Offices of Files and Forms Management and Records will be working with the offices of Field Operations and Naturalization, the regions, and the districts to ensure that adequate resources are provided to help in conducting the audit. However, the success of the project and the long-term maintenance of the resulting file accountability will depend on local managers' commitment to emphasizing the use of sound practices related to the proper storage, movement, and use of our records.

EOSH Conference

Continued from page 12

Amanda L. Creekmore. Other attendees (see photo) included: Roy Chicoine and Patrick Donley, Burlington, VT; Lee York, Miami, FL; Nancy Diaz and Robin Roper, New York, NY; James E. Haley and Gary Sasin, Dallas, TX; John Sciascia, McAllen, TX; Saul Olivas, El Paso, TX; Clarence James, Del Rio, TX; Gregory Stouffer, Laredo, TX; Jerry Wold, Twin Cities, MN; William Dana

and Alan Belauskas, San Diego, CA; Richard West, Seattle, WA; Robert Branchfield, Tucson, AZ; Andrew Ramirez, Florence, AZ; and Richard Wait, Los Angeles, CA. Also pictured are Cynthia Allen, HQS, Procurement; Gregory Burnett and Rick Taylor, U.S. Marshal's Service, and Randy Hill, National Firearms Unit.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK, 1998

This week we salute the millions of Americans who devote their talents to public service and the country who are privileged to know and appreciate their contributions. Through their responsible actions, they have recognized both the opportunities it offers to all and the challenges it presents to our nation.

Day in and day out, in a variety of every level of government, these public employees provide the tools and opportunities that help fellow citizens live better lives. Through their services, they provide vital family, health, and safety services, improving transportation and water services, and preserving our environment. They have succeeded in making government work better for all, less costly, and in forging effective partnerships with the private sector and other government agencies.

On behalf of a grateful nation, I salute America's public employees for the hope and help you bring to individuals, families, and communities every day. You have dedicated your skills and energy to fulfill America's bright promise for all our people, and you have rightly earned the respect and lasting appreciation of all those you have served.

Best wishes for a memorable observance.

Bill Clinton

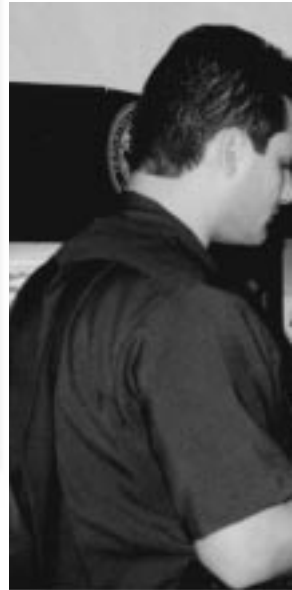
1998 Public Service Recognition Week



San Diego Sector Canine Coordinator William M. Kocak with a group of students in front of the U.S. Capitol during Public Service Recognition Week.



Laredo, TX, Sector Border Patrol Officer Butler pass out INS recruitment materials and discuss career opportunities with visitors during Public Service Recognition Week.



Recognition Week



...n and his dog stand with a ...y's Public Service



...der Patrol Agents Ruben Garcia Jr. and Mark ...aiting information and discuss Service career ...during Public Service Recognition Week on the ...ll in Washington, DC.



INS and dozens of other Federal agencies 'showed their stuff' on the National Mall from May 4-10 during Public Service Recognition Week 1998. With the theme of "Public Service... Working for You, Working for America," this year's event also allowed the Service to do some on-site recruiting—something necessary to help fill all of the available positions in the rapidly growing Border Patrol. Photos from the week's events, along with a letter to all Federal employees from President Clinton are included here.

CLAIMS Program Included in

SMITHSONIAN'S 'INNOVATION COLLECTION'

INS' CLAIMS 4 benefits processing system has been included in the 1998 Computerworld Smithsonian Innovation Collection, with the official presentation to the National Museum of American History taking place on the Mall in Washington, DC, on April 6.

Represented by laureate Fernanda Young, assistant commissioner of the Service's Data Systems Section, the CLAIMS program will be formally included in the Smithsonian's Permanent Research Collection of Information Technology. It was specifically recognized for its direct-mail component, as well as advances made through the use of the Integrated Card Production System (ICPS).

"Members of this year's collection are using information technology to make great strides towards remarkable social achievement," said Dr. David Allison, Chairman of the National Museum of American History's Division of Information Technology and Society, echoing the idea present-

ed during the ceremony that the developments comprise "a key part of the historical base of the last decade of the twentieth century."

In all, more than 442 products or programs from 40 states and 20 countries were recognized for inclusion in the permanent collection, with organizations represented ranging from Federal agencies such as the Department of Defense and Internal Revenue Service to private-sector companies such as IBM and Lucent Technologies.

Founded in 1989, the goal of the Innovations program is to "recognize individuals who have demonstrated leadership as they strive to use information technology in innovative ways" across categories including business, education, the environment, finance, insurance, government, manufacturing, media, arts and entertainment, medicine, science, and transportation.

The complete 'Innovations Collection' is available for viewing on the world-wide web at: <http://innovate.si.edu>.

Vermont Border Patrol Agent Receives 1997 Award of Valor

Brooks Saved Life of Fellow Agent During New England Shooting Spree

Swanton, VT, sector Border Patrol Agent Stephen Brooks received a 1997 Valor Award in late April for saving the life of a fellow Border Patrol agent during a shooting incident in New



Border Patrol Agent Stephen Brooks stands with his Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association 1997 Valor Award.

England last August. Presented by the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA)

at their national conference in Oklahoma City, the award was presented to "recognize Agent Brooks's heroism" on behalf of the FLEOA's 14,000 members.

The shooting incident began when a New Hampshire State Trooper made a traffic stop in Colbrook, NH. After pulling to the side of the road, the driver, a local construction worker, leapt out of his car brandishing a semi-automatic rifle. He opened fire on the Trooper, killing him instantly. The man then shot and killed another State Trooper who was responding to the first officer's call for backup.

The man drove away from the scene in the Trooper's patrol car, subsequently killing two civilians and wounding two more State Troopers and Border Patrol Agent John Pfeifer. Involved in the shootout that

eventually ended the incident, Agent Brooks shot and killed the gunman while attempting to rescue Agent Pfeifer.

"In addition to formulating the daring plan," Richard Gallo, National President of the FLEOA wrote of Agent Brooks, "you placed yourself in a totally exposed position to rescue the wounded officer."

A 16-year Federal enforcement veteran, Brooks began his career as an agent in Rio Grande City, TX. In 1993 he transferred to Norton, VT, where he worked as a U.S. Customs Service Inspector until 1998, when he returned to the Patrol. He is currently stationed at the Service's Beecher Falls, VT, station.

Border Patrol Agent Manny Garcia contributed to the development of this article.

INS Historian Receives Genealogical Society Award of Merit

Smith Recognized for "Insight and Understanding of INS History"

Marian L. Smith, the historian of the Immigration and Naturalization Service and a 10-year Service veteran, has been recognized by the National Genealogical Service (NGS) with an Award of Merit for her "distinguished work in American genealogy." Presented at the NGS's annual conference in Denver, CO, on May 6, the award was given in recognition of Smith's work to not only develop family based information on immigration, but to implement new and better ways to share that information and facilitate access to it by both internal and external users.

According to the text of the award, the Society chose to recognize

Smith because she has "worked to create an atmosphere of mutual cooperation between and among agencies holding INS records...Her insight and understanding of the history of the INS gives genealogists new ways to look at existing records, as well as new records to research...She has also worked to create inventories and finding aids to INS records in the possession of the National Archives."

In addition, Smith's contributions to *Prologue*, the Journal of the National Archives and Records Administration, were cited, along with lectures she has presented in a variety of venues designed to explain the

rules that have historically regulated immigration into the United States.



INS Historian Marian L. Smith receives the National Genealogical Service's (NGS) Award of Merit at its annual conference in Denver, CO.

Fallen Officers

Continued from page 3

I am proud to say that for these heroic acts, U.S. Border Patrol Agent Stephen Starch posthumously received the 1997 INS Commissioner's Newton-Azrak Award for courage and bravery in the line of duty.

Agent Starch was also an avid outdoorsman, complementing his choice of the Border Patrol as a career, and enjoyed hunting and fishing immensely, according to his best friend and coworker Derek Newbern.

Immigration Agent Anthony Minetto joined the Service in 1988 and began his career as an Investigative Assistant in Reno, Nevada. Completing basic training in 1996 after being promoted to the position of Immigration Agent, he was elected president of his officer class at the Academy.

He also served as the union representative for the employees of the Reno Office, becoming well-known and respected throughout the region. He received several performance awards over the course of his career, including an outstanding rating in 1996.

Active in his local community, Agent Minetto helped to provide shelter space for Reno's home-

less population during the winter. Having served in both the U.S. Army and Navy during the Vietnam War, he was also the past president and treasurer of the Vietnam Veterans of America chapter in Reno, as well as past president of the Reno chapter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Asked how Agent Minetto will be remembered, Reno Officer-in-Charge J.T. Watson said simply, "This was a good-hearted person" who would always be the first to reach out and help others, including the man who tragically took his life following a minor traffic accident.

No words can adequately express the loss our agency has felt with the passing of these fine agents. They will remain in our hearts forever as true and courageous members of our INS family.

It is therefore with sincere respect and appreciation for the sacrifice made by these agents that I present each of their families with a memorial plaque and, more importantly, with the eternal gratitude of not only INS, but all citizens of the United States whose safety and freedoms they were committed to uphold.

Asian-Pacific Heritage Month 1998

CELEBRATED AT HEADQUARTERS

Guest Speaker Nash Encourages Sensitivity to Cultural Differences

The struggles and successes of Asian-Pacific Americans were recognized in mid-May during a special ceremony held at INS Headquarters and attended by Commissioner Meissner, Acting Director of the Office of Equal Employment Opportunity D. Diane Weaver, and more than a hundred Service employees.

"Asian-Pacific Americans have made, and continue to make, contributions both to INS and to the nation," the Commissioner said in her remarks during the ceremony. "We remain committed to working together as a team to reduce discrimination and continue to recruit a culturally diverse workforce." To accomplish this, she said, the Service is conducting targeted recruiting efforts in significant Asian-Pacific demographic markets, as well as continuing to support and use initiatives such as the Outstanding Scholar Program. In 1997 alone, 60 percent of the hires from within the program were people of Asian-Pacific descent, she said.

"Many of the customers we deal with come from Asian-Pacific countries," the Commissioner concluded, "so we have a responsibility to make sure that our workforce represents that population." She also said that the Service is ensuring that Asian-Pacific employees are considered for promotions through the use of programs such as the INS Executive Resources Board.

Following the Commissioner, the ceremony's guest speaker, City University of New York Law School Professor Phil Tajitsu Nash, discussed "Asian-Pacific Americans: Shaping America's Destiny." Using five specific dates, including two that were particularly relevant to immigration flows, Nash provided a brief overview of a wide range of Asian-Pacific history, saying that the first Asian-Pacific Americans actually arrived in United States in the 1600s, much earlier than most people realize.

Stressing the need for an increased understanding of stereotyping as it applies not only to Asian-Pacific Americans but to all cultural groups, Nash relayed a story that will no doubt stick in the minds of those in attendance.

As a college professor in New York, he said, he once believed that a Hispanic student in his class was cheating on an exam because she was continually looking at the floor. Trying to be culturally sensitive, he reconsidered, thinking that she might have averted her eyes in deference to a male professor. When he approached her and suggested this, he was surprised to hear her say, "Actually, I'm just looking for the contact lens that I dropped on the floor."



Acting Director of the Office of Equal Employment Opportunity D. Diane Weaver (left) stands with Affirmative Employment Programs Branch Chief Joan Taylor, Equal Employment Opportunity Program Manager Maria Jackson, and guest speaker Phil Tajitsu Nash during the Service's 1998 observance of Asian-Pacific Heritage Month at Headquarters.

The moral according to Nash is that while people need to develop the confidence to face the potential conflicts that come with approaching those who are different from themselves, they should be prepared for their preconceived stereotypes to dissolve in the process.

LA District Breaks Up Major Fraudulent Document Ring

It was an amazing stash. But the 24,000 counterfeit documents seized by INS agents in the Los Angeles district May 21 were just the beginning of what would be found. Also discovered were printing plates and a wide variety of other equipment and materials needed to produce massive quantities of false documents.

The case, which also involved the arrest of two alleged counterfeiters, is believed to be one of the largest rings of fraudulent document production ever broken up by Service agents. The operation was also very complex, with documents sold as sets including counterfeit

Resident Alien Cards, Social Security Cards, and drivers licenses. The distribution network reached as far as Texas, Utah, New York, and North Carolina.

“Given the increased levels of enforcement along our nation’s borders,” Commissioner Meissner said when the documents were discovered, “the demand for counterfeit documents is expanding, and this case is an excellent example of INS efforts to target the producers of fraudulent documents. Today’s seizure...marks a significant step in dismantling a major organized fraudulent document crime ring.”

P e o p l e o n t h e M o v e

At Headquarters:

Luis E. Barker, currently the Chief Patrol Agent in the Service’s Laredo, TX, sector has been detailed to Headquarters for 90-days as the acting associate commissioner within the Office of Field Operations. He replaces Thomas Schiltgen who has returned to his post as district director in San Francisco, CA.

In the Field:

Warren A. Lewis, most recently the deputy district director in Baltimore, MD, has been named by the Commissioner as the new director of the Washington, DC, district, located in Arlington, VA. A 22-year



Warren A. Lewis

INS veteran, Lewis began his career in the Virgin Islands, progressing to the position of supervisory criminal

investigator before moving to Headquarters as a senior special agent in 1985. From 1986 to 1988 he was the deputy assistant commissioner for employer and labor relations at Headquarters, after which he moved to the former Southern Region, becoming the assistant regional commissioner for Investigations in 1988. In 1992 he joined the Federal Aviation Administration as the manager of the Drug Investigations Support Program in Washington, DC, after which he rejoined the Service in 1994 as the district director in Newark, NJ. He became the deputy director in Baltimore in 1996.

Lewis replaces retiring Washington, DC, District Director **William J. Carroll** who spent 26-years with the Service, 10 as the head of the Arlington, VA-based district office.

“I am looking forward to Mr. Lewis’ solid contributions to the INS as the new district director,” the Commissioner said in making the announcement. “I also want to take this occasion to thank Mr. Carroll...for his hard work and many accomplishments over his [INS] career. I wish him well in his future endeavors.”

Harry A. Thomas, formerly the Service’s deputy district director in Bangkok, Thailand, has been selected as the new district director in

Helena, MT. A 17-year INS veteran, Thomas began his Service career as a Border Patrol agent in the San Diego, CA, sector. He then became an Immigration Examiner in the New York, NY, district, prior to temporarily leaving the agency to work as a special agent with the U.S. Department of the Treasury from 1983-88. He returned to INS in 1988 as the deputy associate regional commissioner for anti-smuggling



Lynne M. Underdown

in what was formerly known as the Northern Region, and transferred to Headquarters as a Special Agent in the Office of Investigations in 1990. He had been the deputy director in Bangkok since 1994.

Lynne M. Underdown, most recently the assistant district direc-

P e o p l e o n t h e M o v e

tor (ADD) for Detention and Deportation within the New Orleans, LA, district has been named as the new director of that district. Joining INS as a Border Patrol agent in the former Chula Vista sector in 1980, Underdown worked as a supervisory Border Patrol agent in the Yuma, AZ, sector from 1987 to 1990, when she moved to the El Paso, TX, sector. She was appointed ADD for Detention and Deportation in New Orleans in 1992. Her husband Michael



Mariela Melero-Chami

Underdown is the Chief Patrol Agent (CPA) in the New Orleans sector, and with her appointment,

the two are believed to be the first INS husband-and-wife team to serve as district director and CPA in the same geographic area simultaneously.

Mariela Melero-Chami has been named director of public affairs for the Service's Central Region, based in Dallas, TX. A 10-year INS veteran, she was previously the director of public affairs in the Service's Houston, TX, district, a position she held for three years. Before joining INS, she worked as a journalist in the private sector in Houston.

I n M e m o r i a m :

Eugene M. (Mick) Fitzpatrick, director of the Service's district office in Portland, ME, died after suffering a heart attack in early May. The district director in Portland since 1985, Fitzpatrick entered on duty with INS in 1972 as a Border Patrol agent in Presidio, TX, after serving in the United States Army. During his career, he also served as a Border Patrol agent in Tucson, AZ, and an Immigration Examiner in Providence, RI, as well as at the Eastern Region Office. He also served as



Eugene M. Fitzpatrick and his wife Pam

the deputy district director in Phoenix, AZ, before being appointed as the district director in Portland.

Fitzpatrick was a member of the INS District Directors Association and the Maine Chiefs of Police Association. He was also a founding member and first president of the South Maine Federal Executive Association. He is survived by Pam Fitzpatrick, his wife of 23 years, a son, Chris, two step-children, Debra and David, two brothers, a sister, and five grandchildren.

Former INS Deputy Commissioner **Gerald R. Riso**, who worked as the Service's highest-ranking career employee from 1982-84, died April 21 in Alexandria, VA, following a heart attack. A management specialist by trade, Riso, 68, was partner in the Washington management consulting firm of Riso & Riso and held a variety of other Federal jobs during his career, including working as assistant secretary of Interior for policy, budget, and administration from 1985 to 1987 and as associate director of the Office of Budget and Management after leaving the Department of the Interior. He is survived by his wife Delia, four children from his first marriage to Erna Riso, two stepsons, two sisters, and three grandsons.

Communi^{INS}que

The **INS Communique** is published by the Headquarters Office of Communications to inform employees of the Immigration and Naturalization Service about official and unofficial activities. Readers are invited to submit articles, photographs, and letters to the editor. Write to INS Public Affairs, Washington, DC 20536; or ☎ (202) 514-2648.

This newsletter and other useful information also are available on the Internet through the INS web site at <http://www.ins.usdoj.gov>.

Doris Meissner
Commissioner

Eric Andrus
Director of Communications

Mitch Katz
Editor

Cover: Clay Barnes, the son of fallen INS Supervisory Border Patrol Agent Michael Barnes, stands beside the Patrol's flag and holds the memorial plaque presented to his family at the Service's 1998 ceremony honoring agents lost in the line of duty. (See story on page 2)