



Homeland
Security
Investigations

SEP 23 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR: All Assistant Directors
All Deputy Assistant Directors
All Special Agents in Charge
All Attaches

FROM: James A. Dinkins *for Michael A. Helt*
Executive Associate Director
Homeland Security Investigations

SUBJECT: Creation of the Counterterrorism and Criminal Exploitation Unit

This memorandum serves to detail the expanded responsibilities and mission of the Counterterrorism and Criminal Exploitation Unit (CTCEU), as well as outline its structure.

Purpose:

The CTCEU was forged in order to combat security vulnerabilities that are criminal in nature or potentially pose a threat to the United States, and based upon the transfer of routine nonimmigrant compliance enforcement responsibilities to the Office of Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO). The mission of the CTCEU is to prevent terrorists and other criminals from exploiting the nation's immigration system and to expand the resource equities within the various intelligence community and federal agencies. The CTCEU will accomplish its mission by reviewing the immigration status of known and suspected terrorists, by combating criminal exploitations of the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP), and by leveraging Homeland Security Investigations' (HSI) expertise with partnering agencies in identifying national security threats.

Background:

In June 2003, the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Office of Investigations established the Compliance Enforcement Unit (CEU); the first national program dedicated to the enforcement of nonimmigrant visa violations. The CEU proactively developed nonimmigrant status violator cases for investigation from the various immigration registration systems that potentially pose a threat to national security.

The Director of ICE has recently expressed an intention to expand programs related to the enforcement of nonimmigrant overstay violations. In particular, the Director intends to shift the civil immigration enforcement responsibilities relating to these violations from HSI to ERO.

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This restructuring will allow HSI to better focus its resources on scrutinizing the activities of known or suspected terrorists and their associates, and on combating criminal exploitation and national security concerns within SEVP.

CTCEU Programmatic Areas

The CTCEU will be composed of three sections - The National Security Threat Task Force (NSTTF), Student Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) Exploitation Section (SES), and the Terrorist Tracking Pursuit Group (TTPG) - (b) (7)(E)

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The TTPG will ensure ICE's expertise is leveraged across partnering agencies with a national security mission. This section will accomplish its' mission through multiagency initiatives such

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Please address any questions regarding the CTCEU to Unit Chief (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) at (703) 235-
(b)(6), (b)(7)(A) or via email at (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)@dhs.gov.