



# CommuniQUÉ

D E C E M B E R 2 0 0 1

## BOLSTERING A COMMON DEFENSE



Border Patrol agents and Royal Canadian Mounted Police coordinate patrols on the St. Lawrence River near Cornwall, Ont., as part of an Integrated Border Enforcement Team

*Far-reaching agreement with Canada brings expanded cooperation on visas, asylum applicants and sharing information on travelers.*

*See page 7*

## FOR SAFETY'S SAKE



*Trainees with the Border Patrol's Search Trauma and Rescue Team (BORSTAR) demonstrate rappelling techniques used to reach fall victims in rugged terrain.*

*See page 9*

## ANSWERING THE CALL



*Two Miami District trial attorneys are practicing law in uniform after their Army Reserve unit was called to active duty to support the war on terrorism.*

*See page 11*



## PHOTOGRAPH MAKES ENCORE APPEARANCE AFTER NEARLY 40 YEARS OUT-OF-PRINT

A visit by a top-ranked official of the U.S. Immigration Service to an outlying station or office was a notable event in 1928, during a slower age of train travel. It was likely the reason why 21 members of the “Gulf Coast Border Patrol Headquarters” gathered for this formal portrait in Gulfport, Miss.

The honored guest, Assistant Commissioner of Immigration Joseph Wallace, is wearing a bow tie and clutching a boater hat at center. His “young son” stands in the back row, the only other person in civilian attire.

This photograph, one of about 2,500 images catalogued by the INS Historical Reference Library at Headquarters, is unusual among most others in the collection from the era in that an attached list names nearly everyone pictured.

That is because the photo made its published debut in the June 1963 edition of the *Information Bulletin*, the predecessor publication to *Communiqué*. Under a headline, “Down Memory Lane,” a caption described how retired Patrol Inspector Gordon G. Pugh brought a copy of the photo to the officer-in-charge of the Mobile, Ala., office in hopes that it would be published in the *Bulletin*.

“Thanks to Mr. Pugh’s remarkable memory (he reeled off the names without benefit of notes), we are able to identify every officer,” the *Bulletin* reported. It doesn’t mention if Pugh’s memory reached so far as to recall the officers’ middle initials, or if the editors consulted another source for that information.

Still, with thanks to Inspector Pugh’s now long-ago recollection, *Communiqué*, too, can name the officers.

First row: Senior Patrol Inspectors Clarence B. Nelson, Thomas A. Jones, Thomas E. Martin and William Raymond. Second row: Patrol Inspectors Wallace J. Mangum and DeWitt T. Cain; Chief Patrol Inspector Miller S. Baker; Assistant Commissioner Wallace; Patrol Inspectors George Averill and Warren Field.

Third row: Patrol Inspectors Rex J. Davis, John H. Majeau, Gordon G. Pugh, John R. Ivey, Percy L. Jacobs, Tom Campbell and Walter Schaus. Fourth row: Patrol Inspectors Cecil P. Joiner, Harry DeKay, Jones K. Kneece; “young son” Wallace; Patrol Inspectors Louie B. Stanaland and Henry Gilreath.

The photo archive can be viewed at the Historical Reference Library on the first floor of Headquarters. It is open to INS staff during normal library hours, weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. All visitors should call ahead at (202) 514-2837.

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## In his own words

### COMMISSIONER PRAISES STAFF'S RESPONSE TO EVENTS OF SEPT. 11

INS Commissioner James W. Ziglar, speaking to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Treasury and General Government on Oct. 3:



“Mr. Chairman, I would like to take this opportunity to send a message to the men and women of the INS and to the public for whom they work: I have never been so proud of a group of people with whom I have been associated as I am of our special agents, detention and deportation officers, inspectors, intelligence officers, Border Patrol agents, attorneys and numerous other individuals, both at Headquarters and, in the field in response to the events of September 11.

“Within hours of these attacks, the INS was working closely with the FBI to help determine who perpetrated these crimes and to bring those people to justice. Within 24 hours, under ‘Operation Safe Passage,’ the INS deployed several hundred Border Patrol agents to eight major U.S. airports to increase security, prevent further terrorist incidents and restore a sense of trust to the traveling public.

“At America’s ports-of-entry, INS inspectors continue to work tirelessly to screen arriving visitors, while encouraging the flow of legitimate commerce and tourism. Meanwhile, despite the tragedies and the disruptions, our service operations have managed to complete over 35,000 naturalizations nationwide and process thousands of other applications since September 11.

“America should be proud of these men and women.”

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# HEADQUARTERS News

## Q&A

### GETTING YOUR STORY IN PRINT IN *COMMUNIQUE*

**Q What is *Communique*?**

**A** *Communique* is a monthly newsletter written for and by INS employees. Its mission is to both inform employees about Agency policies and activities as well as acknowledge employees for making a difference—both professionally and in their personal lives.

**Q How do I get an article published in *Communique*?**

**A** *Communique* is always looking for interesting articles about Agency activities and employees. The newsletter encourages employees like you, who are most familiar with your district or office's operations and people, to submit both news and

the entire article (that they get to look at before publication).

**Q Does submitting an article guarantee publication?**

**A** No. The editor, in consultation with the Headquarters Public Affairs Office, determines which submissions will be published.

**Q Will the article I write be edited?**

**A** *Communique* editors are responsible for ensuring articles are acceptable for publication. In all cases, we will at a minimum proof an article submitted for punctuation and style. If articles need to be rewritten, we will either advise the authors on ways to rewrite them themselves or will rewrite them ourselves. In all cases, we will return the rewritten article to the author and/or contact for approval prior to publication.

**Q What kinds of articles are appropriate?**

**A** Articles can range from brief feature stories about people within the agency making a difference—both professionally and in their personal lives—to short writeups about specific events of general interest. In general, the newsletter does not publish editorials, endorsements of commercial products or services, or articles contrary to agency policy.

**Q What writing style should I use?**

**A** Conversational style works best. Try to write like you would talk. In addition, articles should be free of acronyms and jargon unlikely to be understood by most readers.

**Q How long should articles be?**

**A** Articles usually run from 500 to 600 words, although some items may require just one or two paragraphs and more in-depth pieces may run as long as 800 words. The editors will cut articles, when necessary, to meet space limitations.

**Q Am I required to clear articles before they are submitted?**

**A** Articles about district and office activities and policy issues should be cleared by the author

through the appropriate director(s) before submission. Before each issue goes to press, it is also cleared through the Headquarters Public Affairs Office. Although the newsletter's main audience is INS employees, remember that it is posted on the World Wide Web, so it does have a worldwide external audience as well.

**Q How should I send my article?**

**A** The editors of *Communique* prefer articles to be e-mailed. We are equipped to handle most word-processing programs but prefer Microsoft Word or WordPerfect. Alternatively, articles can be e-mailed as plain text through your e-mail software or sent through the mail. Our e-mail address is [ins@casals.com](mailto:ins@casals.com) and our mailing address is 1199 North Fairfax Drive, Third Floor, Alexandria, Virginia 22314.

**Q Should I send photos?**

**A** The old adage about a picture being worth a thousand words rings especially true in publications. While authors are not required to submit photos with their articles, they are strongly encouraged to do so.

**Q What kind of photos should I take?**

**A** Candid shots of people doing things are preferred. Ideally, photos should show people involved in the activity discussed in the text—not shaking hands or lined up and smiling at the camera.

**Q How should I send photos and caption information?**

**A** *Communique* prefers digital images provided they are high resolution (300 dpi) and several inches wide and/or prints, both black and white and color. We will also consider on a case-by-case basis slides and negatives. Photos should include typed captions identifying people from left to right, including job titles.

**Q How can I get more information about submitting an article?**

**A** The *Communique* editors are available to discuss story ideas and ways for you to generate coverage that work for you. They can be reached at 703-920-1234 or by e-mail at [ins@casals.com](mailto:ins@casals.com).

**Q Where do I send articles and photos?**

**A** *Communique*'s e-mail address is [ins@casals.com](mailto:ins@casals.com) and our mailing address is 1199 North Fairfax Drive, Third Floor, Alexandria, Virginia 22314.



feature articles for publication. We, of course, reserve discretion when to publish and to edit for publication. If a submission does not meet the newsletter's editorial standards, we will make every effort to work with the author to make the article acceptable for publication. Deadlines are the last day of that month (e.g., Dec. 31 for the December edition).

**Q What if I don't have time or don't feel comfortable writing an article but still would like to get coverage?**

**A** The *Communique* editors can work with you to get coverage in a way that works for you. Some people write fact sheets or first-person narratives that we rewrite into stories and then return to them for approval prior to publication. Other people prefer to be interviewed and have us write

# INS NEWS FROM *the Field*

## DOUBLE-DUTY IDENTITY-VISA CARD DEBUTS FOR WINTER OLYMPICS

A magical card will perform double-duty for athletes arriving in the United States for the 2002 Winter Olympics.

The Olympic identification and accreditation card serves both as an Olympic athlete's visa for entering the United States and – once it is activated by officials at the site of the Winter Games in Salt Lake City – an identity card for gaining admission to the Olympic Village and competitive venues.

The card is one of several innovations developed by Department of State and INS planners during three years of preparations for the 2002 Games. Another result of their efforts is that for the first time, athletes were able to obtain their visas to enter the United States – via the accreditation card – without setting foot in a U.S. embassy overseas.

Besides athletes, the Olympic accreditation card is also issued to coaches and trainers, event judges and officials of the International Olympic Committee. It applies to everyone who is considered a member of “the Olympic Family,” about 29,000 individuals for the upcoming Winter Games.

For immigration inspectors encountering cardholders at ports-of-entry, the card's best feature might be that it can be instantly checked against biographical data that has been stored in the Olympic Visa Issuance Database, or OVID.

The tri-fold Olympic card carries a digitized photograph of the approved cardholder and a unique bar code identifier. It contains a number of embedded security features to thwart misuse, such as micro-lettering, printing with gradual color changes

and watermarks. Some features are visible when inspected under ultraviolet light or angled viewing.

To verify cards and to answer any questions that might arise at the ports-of-entry when official Olympic visitors enter the United States, an inspections entry response team will be assembled at the Salt Lake City International Airport. The response team's center will be open around the clock and staffed by representatives of the INS; the Department of State; and the Salt Lake Organizing Committee (SLOC), the host of the 2002 Winter Games.

In a training video prepared for, among others, INS and Customs Service inspectors, Secretary of State Colin Powell said, “I'm very proud of OVID's innovative approach and believe it will make your jobs easier, our borders more secure and the games safe and successful.”

Intensive planning among INS, State Department and SLOC representatives started about 18 months before the scheduled opening of the games, according to Patrice A. Ward, the assistant chief inspector with the Office of Inspections who has been working with Field Operations on Olympics preparations.

Planners drew upon the experiences of staff who had worked on the last Olympics held in the United States, the 1996 Summer Games in Atlanta that resulted in few problems with the entry of accredited Olympic visitors.



National identification card

## CARRYING THE TORCH

Harrison Barkley was chosen to handle one leg of the relay bringing the Olympic torch from Atlanta to Salt Lake City – a stretch near Yuma, Ariz.

He is the teenage son of John B. Barkley, an attorney with the Phoenix District, and earned his spot on the relay team by winning a national writing contest on the theme of the

2002 Olympic torch run: “Light the Fire Within.”

Harrison's young life offers a personal tribute to perseverance. Critically injured in an automobile accident when he was two years old, doctors doubted if Harrison would ever walk normally. His participation in the torch run proved them wrong.



Olympic torch bearer Harrison Barkley, right, with Yuma Sector Chief Michael Nicely, who presented Harrison with a Border Patrol hat.

## LEWIS ROCHESTER, JR., SEES EACH WORKDAY AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ON-THE-JOB LEARNING

“ I come to work because I love to and that’s because I learn something new everyday. ”

— Lewis Rochester, Jr.

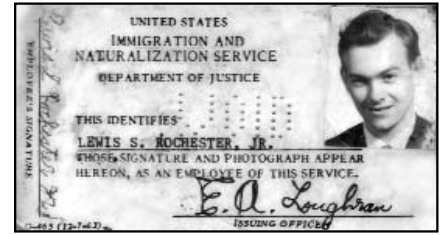
LEWIS S. Rochester, Jr., quickly dismisses a suggestion that he might be among the INS’ longest-serving employees. Precise with facts and careful to give others credit they deserve, he says that the distinction goes to Erma Paliani, a secretary in investigations who joined the INS in the early 1940s.

Rochester joined the INS nearly a quarter-century later, on July 8, 1964, to be exact. However, after nearly 38 years of delivering the mail at Headquarters, Rochester is one of the agency’s best-known employees, and among the best at being able to put a name to many of the faces he sees in the hallways. He’s unquestionably among the most enthusiastic about going to work each morning.

“Some people come to work because they have to; I come to work because I love to and that’s because I learn something new everyday.” Work is so enjoyable that Rochester is routinely in the mailroom well ahead of his official



Lewis Rochester can be found counting his blessings most weekday mornings in the mailroom.



Rochester's INS identification from 1964

start time. He uses this time to read his Bible, meditate, reflect on a difficult life that’s produced some hard-won victories and to count his blessings.

Moreover, as he frequently says, he has much for which to be thankful. Surviving a life-threatening childhood illness and contending as an adult with a learning disability, Rochester had already experienced a rough life before he arrived at INS, after which he says his life was transformed.

A steady job at INS helped. The first few months sorting mail at INS Headquarters, then located at D Street, were difficult, he recalled. However, Rochester gives the lion’s share of credit to the religious conversion he experienced in August 1966.

Rochester was swept away at an evening service in southwest Washington. “God changed me 1 million percent,” Rochester said. Through the church, he would meet Gail, whom he married in 1972, leading to the births of three daughters-and now, two grandchildren.

Away from the INS, he devotes much of his time to a prison ministry group in which he has been active for 20 years. He also reads books - especially about history and nature, in addition to the Bible that he carries almost everywhere.

A self-taught singer who for many years performed for patients in hospitals and nursing homes, Rochester expanded his repertoire last year by joining a barbershop quartet near his home in St. Marys County, Maryland.

His proudest accomplishment? “That I might have helped someone else who had problems find courage and self-confidence.”

# HEADQUARTERS *News*

## NEW AGREEMENT WITH CANADA SPELLS OUT WIDE COOPERATION ON IMMIGRATION ISSUES

Taking the campaign against terrorism to the northern border, Attorney General John Ashcroft and other officials on Dec. 3 signed a far-reaching agreement calling for more uniform visa policies with Canada and increased information-sharing on travelers.

The attorney general and INS Commissioner James W. Ziglar were joined by their Canadian counterparts during meetings in Ottawa and Detroit.

A memorandum of cooperation, signed by the attorney general, Canadian Solicitor General Lawrence MacAulay, and Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Elinor Caplan calls for the development of common permanent-resident cards that include an individual's biometric information, such as a digitally recorded thumbprint or eye scan. Canada and the United States will also increase the exchange of information on passengers aboard airline flights between the two countries.

The agreement spells out greater cooperation on asylum claims, aimed at ending the practice of "asylum shopping" between Canada and the United States. Claimants turned away from one country would not be allowed to immediately seek residence in the other. Would-be refugees would be required to apply for asylum in the first country they enter.

"This document is testimony to the ongoing cooperation and collaboration between the United States and Canada that was in place long before September 11, 2001," Ashcroft said. "We hope to build on our past successes as we move forward on developing responses and strategies to ensure the continued prosperity of our independent economies."

A subsequent agreement with Canada, signed in mid-December by U.S. Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge, included the points in the Dec. 3 agreement and extended cooperation to various customs, intelligence, and infrastructure issues. The memorandum of cooperation signed on Dec. 3 focused on the deterrence, detection and prosecution of security threats and the disruption of illegal immigration. It specifically called for:



Photograph is courtesy of the Department of Justice

- Expanding the Integrated Border Enforcement Teams (IBET) to include up to eight additional sites along the northern border. The six-year-old IBET program, in which the Border Patrol has been a key player, has been cited as a model for cross-border cooperation among law enforcement agencies.
- Establishing joint passenger analysis units to assess passenger information at key international airports in the United States and Canada.
- Increasing the number of immigration control officers from both the United States and Canada serving in third-country locations in an effort to intercept inadmissible passengers before they reach North America.
- Developing a Safe Third Country agreement that will support the free exchange of asylum information, which will help in determining the identity and background of individual asylum seekers.
- Integrating Canadian officials into the U.S. Foreign Terrorist Tracking Task Force, which was formed in October as one of the first actions taken by the Homeland Security Council.
- Enhancing the sharing of intelligence data between law enforcement agencies under the direction of Project North Star.

Commissioner James Ziglar, right, greets Canada's Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Elinor Caplan.

### ***On the Cover...***

At the helm of the Border Patrol boat pictured at left in the front-page photograph is Patrol Agent In Charge Dick Ashlaw, assisted by Senior Patrol Agent Steve Brockway, both of the Massena, N.Y., Border Patrol Station. Operating the RCMP boat at right is RCMP Constable Daniel LaBerge, as Constable Yves Cuillierier peers through binoculars.

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## **ENVELOPE CONTAINING POWDER TRIGGERS SHUTDOWN OF VERMONT PROCESSING CENTER**

On a typical day, about 10,000 pieces of mail are opened at the Vermont Service Center (VSC) in Saint Alban's. But a single envelope containing a mysterious white powder made Saturday, Oct. 13, anything but typical for the facility, which employs 1,100 INS and contract personnel.

For VSC Director Paul Novak, the envelope carrying the mystery substance underscored the importance of continually updating a facility's emergency evacuation plan in light of each emerging hazard.

Just one week before the incident, the American public was awakened to a new threat in the terrorists' arsenal – letters laced with potentially fatal anthrax spores were sent to key officials. The first of these bacteriological missive attacks targeted the news media and congressional offices, including those of NBC news anchor Tom Brokaw and U.S. Senator Tom Daschle of South Dakota. More than 2,000 congressional, postal workers and media employees were believed to have been exposed to anthrax spores contained in the letters, resulting in a few deaths.

So, when a contract employee at the VSC discovered white powder in a freshly

opened envelope, she placed the envelope down and called a supervisor. Within 15 minutes the Saint Alban's fire department and an emergency medical team were on the scene. The fire chief ordered that the building be evacuated.

A small weekend staff of about 60 persons, who had been trying to work down a backlog of applications, stood vigil in the parking lot for four hours, awaiting word to return to their jobs, Novak said.

Inside the building, emergency crews were eventually joined by Vermont's hazardous materials response team, an all-volunteer organization with headquarters in Burlington, Vt., south of Saint Alban's. The suspect envelope was placed inside a plastic bag, which was then sealed and taken to a state laboratory for testing.

The powder tested negative, containing neither dreaded anthrax spores, nor another hazardous substance. However, the VSC was closed for five days.

The facility's evacuation plan provided a response to the discovery of hazardous substances at the facility, Novak said. However, the October incident prompted the VSC to add three pages to its

evacuation plan, providing a more detailed response for dealing with potentially tainted mail.

Advice for personnel who encounter mail containing a mysterious substance: quickly and gently put the envelope down; notify a supervisor; and, above all, don't panic.

Novak urges all INS facilities to include in their evacuation plans a response to suspicious mail. "Don't wait for an incident like the one we had to modify your evacuation plans." He urged managers seek out the best available advice ahead of time from local and state agencies, including the police, fire, emergency medical teams, plus hazardous materials and public health officials.

On the Thursday following the incident – the same day that the VPC reopened – INS supervisors met at a nearby hospital with the full spectrum of local and Vermont emergency officials to review the incident and discuss procedures regarding suspicious mail.

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## **AGREEMENT WITH CANADA**

*Continued from page 7*

"The events of September 11, 2001, have cast a new importance on our relationship with the United States, particularly with respect to border security and the legitimate flow of people across our shared border," Canadian Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Eleanor Caplan said. The agreement "reaffirms our longstanding commitment to make the U.S.-Canada border a model of cooperation."

Since Sept. 11, Canada has begun work on a \$280 million anti-terrorism plan to protect U.S. citizens, Canadian Solicitor

General MacAulay said. "We are both committed to pulling together on security issues that affect the safety of all our citizens."

Testifying before a Senate subcommittee in October, INS Commissioner Ziglar said, "The United States and Canadian tradition of cooperation and coordination has been longstanding, and is critical to the security of the northern border."

An underlying objective of the joint anti-terrorism campaign is to preserve the free flow of commerce across the border.

The United States and Canada enjoy the world's largest bilateral trade relationship, amounting to an exchange per day of \$1.3 billion in goods and services.

In the days following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, increased security surveillance led to long traffic back-ups and lengthy delays at ports-of-entry along the borders with both Canada and Mexico.



# INS NEWS FROM the Field



## REQUEST FOR EXPANDED JOINT TRAINING UNDERScores BORSTAR'S CONTRIBUTIONS

The newest members of the Border Patrol's Search Trauma and Rescue Team (BORSTAR) graduated in October after a grueling, six-week, hands-on training regimen that covered a range of survival skills from rappelling steep slopes to performing water rescues. Fifty-five agents from throughout the Southwest border sectors graduated from BORSTAR academies in San Diego, Calif., and Artesia, N.M.

Recognition of BORSTAR's contributions to safety on the border was reflected in a request by U.S. and Mexican officials in mid-2001 for an expansion of the BORSTAR program as part of a broader binational effort to promote border safety.

"The Border Patrol has always recognized that protecting the borders includes an obligation to protect lives," Border Patrol Chief Gustavo De La Viña said. "BORSTAR builds on our longstanding practice of aiding those in distress. Through BORSTAR, we are better prepared to make the border safer."

BORSTAR training includes instruction in search and rescue techniques, land navigation, technical rescue skills, communication and first aid. In the rugged terrain and remote locations where many BORSTAR agents are assigned, they are often the most readily available source of emergency help and rescue. They are trained to provide medical assistance with the aim of stabilizing patients for transport to hospitals or other providers of acute medical care.

BORSTAR agents have assisted in rescue operations that lasted for as many as three days and involved more than 300 victims. In some cases, the agents were airlifted into remote canyons where they rappelled rock surfaces to reach victims who had fallen.

In recent years, BORSTAR teams have shared their knowledge with Mexican law enforcement and rescue personnel. In Fiscal Year 2000, more than 400 Mexican officers participated in joint-training exercises.

"Joint training is vital," De La Viña explained. "In addition to producing better-trained agents, it also fosters more collaborative working relationships on both sides of the border."



BORSTAR trainees practice a rescue in rugged terrain.

The steps taken to enhance public safety at the border have already produced dramatic results. BORSTAR agents have performed a number of rescues and are quickly becoming the premier rescue entity along the Southwest border.

BORSTAR is a part of the binational Border Safety Initiative (BSI) launched in 1998. Under BSI, the Border Patrol has institutionalized its long-standing safety practices in an effort to make the border safer for agents, migrants, and border residents.

Since the BSI started and through last September, Border Patrol agents have rescued more than 4,400 migrants from dangerous situations.

Instructors at the top of a cliff coach two rappellers during BORSTAR training.



A BORSTAR trainee, strapped into a rope-fastened seat, learns the basics as his instructor demonstrates.

# INS NEWS *of Note*

## CHICAGO SPECIAL AGENT HELPS MAKE DYING MAN'S LAST WISH COME TRUE

By *Marilyn Cabrera*

The last wish in life came true last summer for a dying man who wanted to become a citizen of the country he had lived in for the past 66 years.

Thanks to Special Agent Grant Lucas of the Chicago District office, who usually works investigating immigration fraud, Hilario Perez Salazar is now an American citizen.

In a letter sent to District Director Brian Perryman last August, Lucas was praised for having gone "out of his way professionally to make this dying man's dream come true." The letter was sent by Sgt. Debra Dewey of the Rochelle Police Department, located south of the city of Chicago.

Sgt. Dewey had adopted Salazar, whose days left on earth are few due to his failing health.

"Lucas was fantastic," she said. "As soon as he heard of this case, he was on the phone immediately with his co-workers, so he could help Mr. Salazar fulfill his wish of becoming a United States' citizen."

Salazar, now 78, came to the United States from Mexico as an orphan when he was 12 years old. At first, he worked in farm fields to make a decent living for himself, and he later

found other avenues for employment outside of the arduous work of tending fields.

According to Sgt. Dewey, Salazar is a hard-working man who is extremely talented and resourceful and who has always been involved in a variety of businesses and hobbies. Salazar owned his own landscaping business, and he even taught ballroom dancing.

"He was a tailor for a while and used to make his own clothes. He also loves to paint people and animals. His whole house is decorated with paintings, his most treasured one - the American Eagle," said Dewey as she spoke of this man whom she affectionately calls "papa." "He did not want to die as an orphan to our country."

Salazar suffers from Parkinson's Disease and is confined to a wheelchair. Yet, his mental capabilities are intact and his spirit seems to be as well.

His dream of becoming a U.S. citizen finally did become true on June 22. With his American flag waving in his hand, and a smile from ear to ear, Salazar arrived at the federal building in Rockford, Ill., to proudly recite the oath of allegiance to the United States of America, the country that he feels so much a part of.

Despite his ill health that day - his heart rate was at 23 beats per minute - Salazar posed for photographs and enjoyed the important ceremony, which Lucas was able to help make a reality.

"I was glad to see both enforcement and benefits work efficiently toward a successful outcome," Lucas said.

When asked how it feels to have helped an elderly man realize his final wish in life, Lucas modestly replied that he did what anyone in his place would have done. Lucas quickly added that without all the assistance from his co-workers in the Examinations branch, he

“ The Chicago INS office can truly be proud of such a humanitarian endeavor. ”

—District Director Perryman



Hilario Perez Salazar, who normally is confined to a wheelchair, stands proudly with the American flag. Thanks to the Chicago District's special effort, he is now an American citizen.

Continued on page 12

**TWO MIAMI DISTRICT TRIAL ATTORNEYS  
 REPORT FOR DUTY IN THE WAR ON TERRORISM**

For two of the Miami District's trial attorneys, the nation's war on terrorism brought a change of venue. Instead of juggling busy schedules for immigration court appearances in Florida, the two have been working out of the Office of the Judge Staff Advocate at the U.S. Army's Fort Stewart in Georgia.

After their Army Reserve unit was called to active duty in mid-October, attorney Kathy Giraitis quickly adjusted to being addressed as "Major Giraitis" as she went about her duties as the deputy chief of legal assistance at the fort. The assignment involves helping soldiers and their families deal with a myriad of legal problems. Back in civilian life, Giraitis works out of the Miami District's Orlando sub-office.

Her counterpart from Miami, attorney Stuart Siegel, better known in the Army as Capt. Siegel, was assigned to the criminal law section of Fort Stewart's judge advocate's office, where he has assisted courts-martial and administrative separation boards.

Both Giraitis and Siegel have worked on "soldier readiness preparations" (SRPs) for troops about to depart for overseas duty. SRPs typically involve preparing and executing wills and powers of attorney, "serious business when soldiers are heading into harm's way," Giraitis said.

The attorneys' assignments brought subtle lifestyle changes. Faced with an on-base housing shortage, they have joined other officers and many senior enlisted staff in staking out temporary living quarters near the base. Instead of shaking off the morning cobwebs with a second cup of coffee, their workdays start with a 6:30 a.m. parade formation and flag-raising, followed by a bugle call and an

invigorating hour of running and calisthenics.

Giraitis noted that the motto of the Judge Advocate General (JAG) is: "Think like a lawyer; act like a soldier." That helps to explain, she said, the regimen of "soldier activities," including a 12-mile rucksack road march, field exercises and a 9mm pistol range qualification.

Fort Stewart, the home of the Army's Third Division, is near Hinesville, Ga., population 26,500. It is located about an hour's drive from Savannah, Ga., or about 550 miles from Miami and 250 miles from Orlando.

Siegel, Giraitis and about 50 other members of the 3220th U.S. Army Reserve Garrison Support Unit were ordered Oct. 15 to report to the unit's headquarters in West Palm Beach, Fla., on a six-hour notice. A few days later, they traveled north to their assignments at Fort Stewart.

Giraitis described as "quite hectic" the short span of time that she and Siegel had to hand off their pending caseloads to INS colleagues, put financial and household affairs in order, and say goodbye to family and friends.

However, both INS attorneys say they are glad to have been called upon.

"I am proud to serve my country in this time of need," Siegel said. "I am especially proud of the sacrifices made by my wife and two children during my military service." He has dedicated his current service to the memory of his wife's cousin,



Army Maj. Kathy Giraitis and Capt. Stuart Siegel, Miami District staff attorneys, stand next to an M-1 tank and a Cobra helicopter that are on display at Fort Stewart, their temporary workplace.

who was killed when the first airliner crashed into the World Trade Center.

A native of the New York City area, Giraitis stated: "This is my way to pay my respects to the World Trade Center victims and their families. They are in my thoughts during this mission." Her husband, Dave, a civilian contractor for the Defense Department, was working in a wing of the Pentagon adjacent to the crash site on Sept. 11. "He was unharmed, though shaken up," she said.

Their Army orders are for one-year assignments, with one-year extensions possible. "The actual duration of the mission depends upon what the Third ID (infantry division) is called upon to do in the war on terrorism," Giraitis said.

Both officers look forward to returning to their families, Florida homes, and INS duties. "After all," Giraitis said, "we in the INS are important warriors in the war against terrorism in our own way."

*Do you know of an INS employee who has been called to active duty with their National Guard or Reserve unit to help in the war on terrorism? Ask them to write to Communiqué about their experiences at [ins@casals.com](mailto:ins@casals.com).*

## FOREIGN-STUDENT TRACKING SYSTEM GETS A GREEN LIGHT IN THE AFTERMATH OF SEPT. 11 TERRORIST ATTACKS

Keeping track of the more than half million foreign students who at any given time are thought to be enrolled in U.S. universities and technical schools is a tall order, one that the INS is about to undertake with help from schools and other agencies.

The Student Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) is expected to be up and running by January 2003. The program took on a new urgency following the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11.

The costs of maintaining the database are to be covered in large part by a \$95 fee charged each incoming student, starting in early 2002. The charge is in addition to any applicable visa-processing fee.

The shift to SEVIS is needed because an existing system to track foreign students keeps only limited records on visiting students, is based on old technology and cannot meet the need for immediate access to information, Acting Deputy Commissioner Michael Becraft told a congressional subcommittee in October.

Objections to the new \$95 fee from groups representing academic and technical training institutions had delayed implementation of SEVIS, Becraft told a subcommittee of the House Education Committee. "With the events of September 11, that objection has nearly disappeared and the INS, with your help, will meet and intends to beat, Congress' deadline of January 2003 to start implementation of SEVIS."

The student database fee was first proposed in the mid-1990s after a 1993 truck-bomb explosion in the parking garage beneath New York City's World Trade Center. A man allegedly linked to that bombing was found to have remained in the United States on an expired student visa.

Congress in 1996 mandated the creation of a database to track all international students who arrived on any of the three types of student visas. (The F-1 is for individuals pursuing academic or language studies; the J-1 is issued to participants in exchange visitor programs approved by the Department of State; and the M-1 is for students attending vocational or other nonacademic programs at INS-approved institutions.)

The database system was developed by the INS and the Department of State's consular affairs office in cooperation with the State Department's exchange visitor program, the Department of Education, and representatives of school and exchange visitor programs.

A pilot program, started in 1997 and involving 21 institutions, tested some of the concepts associated with new data-collection and reporting methods, many of which are now components of SEVIS.

SEVIS will operate from a central database on a server maintained by the INS. It will be accessible by schools and exchange programs, via a web site, allowing the institutions to request and provide information. For example, a university will be able to report when an expected foreign student fails to register for classes, setting into motion a process to cancel the individual's student visa. Institutions also will be able to update a student's academic status, degree program, field of study and address changes.

The system is expected to help modernize the collection and processing of information, thereby reducing fraud and data-entry errors and aid in the sharing of information between the INS, Department of State, and educational and visitor programs.

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### WISH

*Continued from page 10*

would not have been as successful as he was.

"Please make sure you give credit to everyone who helped me; I certainly didn't do it alone," Lucas said. "I was only a small part of this."

Supervisory District Adjudications Officer Jeannette Schoonmaker assigned District Adjudications Officer Darren Carson to take fingerprints of Mr. Salazar at his home as part of the requirements for naturalization.

Schoonmaker kept in continual contact with Sgt. Dewey to ensure that the entire process was running smoothly.

Dewey thanks Lucas for being behind the Chicago District's extra effort: "Grant continued to stress the urgency to all parties involved. Due to Lucas' persistence and the cooperation of all involved, Hilario Perez Salazar was able to fulfill his life-long dream."

After reading the thank-you note sent from Sgt. Dewey, Chicago District Director Brian Perryman acknowledged Lucas for making such a difference in this person's life.

"The Chicago INS office can truly be proud of such a humanitarian endeavor," he said. "We have many employees going out of their way to help others, and it is so satisfying to know that their efforts are being recognized."

## TUCSON SECTOR'S WARNING TO WOULD-BE MIGRANTS GETS A SPECIAL DELIVERY FROM A STAR OF TELENOVELAS

For Olga Breeskin, a veteran actress accustomed to the demanding production schedules of Mexican *telenovelas*, volunteering to appear in several public service announcements (PSAs) on border safety might have seemed like a breeze.

Breeskin is featured in a four-part series of PSAs developed by the Tucson Sector's public information office. The spots, which are being broadcast on television channels in both Latin America and the United States, warn prospective migrants of the risks posed by unscrupulous smugglers and other dangers along the border.

The messages are directed at both potential border crossers in Latin America and their family members in the United States who sometimes initiate contacts with migrant smugglers in hopes of bringing relatives into the United States. Breeskin's unpaid appearances in the Border Patrol PSAs reflected her personal concern for the safety of migrants.

"My hope is that people will recognize the risks they face attempting to cross the border with the help of smugglers," Breeskin said during a Tucson news conference that introduced the PSAs. "If I can save one life by putting out these announcements, then I want to do my part."

CASTING Breeskin for the PSAs was suggested by Karen Dorman, the officer-in-charge of the Phoenix District's Las Vegas sub-office. The Mexican-born actress and solo classical violinist has appeared in numerous *telenovelas* and variety shows. Breeskin now resides in Las Vegas, where the PSAs were filmed last summer. Joyce Silva, the Tucson Sector's videographer, handled the post-production and final editing on the project.

Breeskin's celebrity in Mexico made her an ideal spokesperson, a point that wasn't lost on Tucson Sector Chief David Aguilar. "This has been our message from the beginning, but coming from someone like Ms. Breeskin, it's bound to have even more impact," he said at the news conference.

The Tucson Sector completed work in early 2001 on its first border safety PSA that targeted Latin American audiences and featured Hollywood actor Ricardo Montalban. With its second foray into PSAs, the sector wanted to fashion a message that would connect with the emotional bonds of families.

PSAs are part of the Border Safety Initiative (BSI). More than three dozen PSAs have been developed to educate and alert the would-be migrant population about border-related dangers.



Former Mexican telenovela star Olga Breeskin talks about her appearances in the Border Patrol's public service announcements during a news conference. Tucson Sector Chief David Aguilar looks on at right.

"We wanted to deal more specifically with the dangers facing women and children, as well as the whole family unit," said Rob Daniels, the sector's public information officer. That concern was underscored by the deaths of 17 women during illegal border-crossing attempts during the 2001 fiscal year in the Tucson Sector.

While in Tucson, Breeskin met with agents from the sector's BORSTAR program to learn about some of the Border Patrol's efforts to save lives. Her work on the border safety PSAs was recognized by the Greater Las Vegas Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, which in November presented her with an engraved clock.

Each of the four PSAs captures a different theme drawn from the larger message about the dangers of illegal border crossings. The series includes:

- "The Desert," featuring aerial views of the west desert, the name given to the desolate expanse of terrain that straddles the border southwest of Tucson.
- "Smugglers," warning migrants that the deceptions and false promises of smugglers can lead to death in the desert.
- "Families," explaining to aliens in the United States that they may jeopardize the safety of relatives by putting them in touch with smugglers.
- "Names," listing the names of some migrants who have died in crossing attempts and showing dramatic film footage taken of a funeral in Mexico.

Photo by David Derrick, Tucson Sector

## Traffic stop

### **TUCSON SECTOR'S PROBE HALTS BUS LINE THAT CATERED TO ALIEN SMUGGLERS**

An investigation carried out by the Border Patrol Tucson Sector's anti-smuggling unit; the Los Angeles, Phoenix, and San Francisco districts; and the El Paso Sector resulted in the disruption of one of the largest illegal alien-smuggling rings involving a commercial bus company and indictments of 20 bus company employees.

The actions taken against Golden State Transportation of Los Angeles were announced by Attorney General John Ashcroft on Dec. 10 at a news conference in Washington, D.C. Operation Great Basin could result in one of the largest asset forfeitures involving alien smuggling.

"I have seen firsthand the life-threatening and oppressive conditions that confront people trying to cross the border illegally," the attorney general said. "Today's indictment underscores our commitment to prosecute migrant smugglers, seek forfeiture of their illegal profits, and put them out of business."

"This case reaffirms our commitment to disrupt migrant smuggling on all fronts, from the border to the boardroom," INS Commissioner James W. Ziglar said.

Senior managers of Golden State, including the company's president, its founder and several terminal managers, were among the employees charged with transporting and harboring illegal aliens for profit. Twelve alleged smugglers were also indicted, each of them alleged associates of either the "Pineda" or "Castillo" alien-

smuggling operations. The arrests were the result of a two-year, joint investigation conducted by the INS and the FBI.

Golden State allegedly derived a substantial portion of its revenues from servicing the needs of alien smugglers and their customers – undocumented immigrants traveling from the southwest border region to inland cities, such as Los Angeles, Denver, Albuquerque, Phoenix, Las Vegas and as far north as Yakima, Wash.

The indictment filed in U.S. District Court in Phoenix by the U.S. Attorney for Arizona estimated that the bus line transported between 50 to 300 illegal immigrants a day during 2000. A typical bus fare for transporting an illegal immigrant from Tucson to Los Angeles was \$80 with tickets typically purchased in bulk by smugglers. Golden State employees allegedly worked in conjunction with smugglers, who in many cases provided "stash houses" to temporarily house migrants between legs of their journeys, according to the indictment.

To reduce the likelihood of detection, Golden State frequently scheduled bus departures after midnight, altered routes to avoid Border Patrol traffic checkpoints and discouraged some individual fare-paying travelers from boarding buses carrying large



Operation Great Basin received intensive media coverage.

From KVOA-TV, Tucson

numbers of illegal immigrants. Passengers who were illegal immigrants were often asked to wait in fields or alleys near Golden State bus terminals, boarding just before departure. The company also knowingly hired illegal immigrants because they "were less likely to contact law enforcement" and could inspire confidence among passengers, the indictment states.

Golden State, which was incorporated in 1989, is 51 percent owned by Sistema Internacional de Transporte de Autobuses Inc., which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Greyhound Lines Inc. Greyhound is owned by Laidlaw Inc. of Burlington, Ont., Canada. Greyhound bus lines was not implicated in the charges against Golden State.

### **AN UNDERCOVER INVESTIGATION PUTS MEAT PACKER ON THE HOOK**

INS investigators posing as Mexican labor recruiters helped build an alien-smuggling case against one of the nation's largest meat processors, resulting in grand jury indictments of the company and six of its executives and managers.

The undercover investigation resulted in charges of conspiracy to transport illegal aliens across the southwest border to work in the company's meat processing plants. The 30-month probe was initiated by investigators of the New Orleans District's Memphis sub-office and the anti-smuggling unit in San Angelo, Tex.

A 36-count indictment announced Dec. 19, issued by a federal grand jury sitting in Chattanooga, Tenn., alleges that Tysons hired more than 2,000 illegal immigrants through the undercover INS agents. It also states that the company assisted the immigrants in obtaining false documents so that they could work "under the false pretense of being legally employable." The indictment alleges hiring improprieties at 15 Tysons' facilities in Alabama, Texas, Indiana, Mississippi, Kentucky, North Carolina and Missouri.

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## HEADQUARTERS OFFICE OF INTELLIGENCE CONDUCTS CLASSES ON ORION/LEADS SYSTEM

In a continuing effort to increase intelligence training, the Office of Intelligence with funding from the Border Coordination Initiative conducted three classes on the ORION/Leads system during 2001.

The classes focused on creating complex matrix and link analyses, tying known criminal offenders together from fragmented information. The classes took place from June 4 to 8 in Miami in support of "Operation Riverwalk"; from July 9 to 13 in San Diego for the Western Region; and from August 27 to 31 in Burlington, Vt., for the Eastern Division. A fourth class, for the Central Region, is to be scheduled later.

Participants learned how to fully use the G-392 (INS) Intelligence Report, retrieve that information once stored in the ORION/Leads database, maintain the ORION/Leads system, and conduct field training and intensive intelligence collection and "analytical" procedures. They also received class instruction materials, enabling them to teach other officers/agents upon return to their duty locations.

"This is an incredible tool that will assist all officers and agents in gathering, reporting, and utilizing intelligence information that will better support enforcement efforts within each of their areas of operation," said Jack Garofano, the Miami District's assistant director of inspections.

A highlight of the class was briefings that participants conducted for high-level managers, such as Garofano, from the surrounding areas. The briefings focused on the results of an exercise in which officers and agents worked in teams to create complex link-analysis charts, tying major organizations together. Each team received a real name, telephone number, or company name and spent about three to four hours searching intelligence information on the "live" ORION/Leads system, developing matrixes and link-analysis charts, and conducting a detailed analysis to identify leads on real criminal offenses.

In Miami, immigration inspectors in the class managed to discover a previously unknown smuggling organization that ran one of its base operations from Miami. The case involves the smuggling of aliens and narcotics by land and sea, which impacts both the INS and U.S. Customs Service.

ORION/Leads is the INS' national intelligence application system providing a comprehensive



Swanton Sector Supervisory Special Agent Robert Dubay presents the leads on real criminal offenses his team identified using the ORION/Leads system.

Deputy Assistant Regional Director Cesar Hernandez, Western Region Office of Inspections, and Special Operations Immigration Inspector/Intelligence Officer Veronica Sanchez, Long Beach Port-of-Entry, develop leads.



analytic tool for tracking and analyzing cases based on intelligence collected about events, groups, individuals, vehicles, vessels, lost passports and other sources. From fragmented bits of information, the software – run from a desktop or laptop computer – creates matrix and link analysis information that produces "leads" for identifying and targeting criminal offenders.

The system can be accessed through the INS intelligence Web page, which provides information on concealment techniques and three years of critical intelligence reporting products. These include Forensic Document Lab Alerts, lost/stolen passport numbers, Be On the Look Out (BOLO) reports, Intelligence Collection Analysis Teams (ICAT) reports, officer safety reports, and vehicle and vessel information.

Officers and agents are using the system to target multi-offenders as well as enhance the way they conduct daily intelligence activities against smugglers who use land, sea, and air routes nationwide. INS began development of the ORION/Leads system in 1997, and it currently houses nearly 38,000 G-392 Intelligence reports spanning six years (1996 to present).

During the Eastern Region training in Burlington, Regional Director Scott Blackman said the training reflected his commitment to providing all officers/agents with the necessary training and tools necessary to perform their duties.

"This is the first step in accomplishing that goal," he said, "for the intelligence program not only in Eastern Region but nationwide."

## **MIAMI DISTRICT LAWYERS TAKE A NOVEL APPROACH TO DEVELOP BETTER IMMIGRATION LAW TRAINING**

For its first-ever “Immigration Practice Symposium,” the Miami District Counsel’s Office brought together a panel of attorneys who often face off in court.

The result was an often lively exchange of views during a two-day symposium between the district’s attorneys, who represent the INS in Immigration Court cases, and private practice attorneys, who typically represent plaintiffs on such matters. Also participating were immigration judges from the Office of Executive Review (EOIR).

“It was an interactive education process for everyone there,” said Miami District Counsel Daniel N. Vara, Jr. “In a panel-style setting, the presentations allowed greater interaction and participation.”

The session, held last Aug. 27 and 28 in Miami, was organized as a way to improve litigation skills and open a dialogue on other legal immigration issues. It also established lines of communication among private-practice attorneys, INS attorneys and immigration judges, “who are often at odds on many of these issues,” the counsel’s office noted. The Counsel’s Office is looking forward to repeating the event.

“In an interactive panel-style setting, the presentations called for a greater exchange of ideas and viewpoints,” Vara said. The symposium setting allows “for great insight and understanding of the other’s points of view.”



Taking part in the symposium were Immigration Judges Kevin Bradley, Michael Horn, Elisa Sukkar; District Counsel Daniel Vara, Jr., Immigration Judge Keith Williams; Deputy District Counsels William Gossard, Rebecca Sanchez-Roig, Rene Mateo and Riah Ramlogan-Seuradge.

The seminar was designed to open up discussion on other legal immigration matters and provide training for attorneys to better serve their clientele. It was also successful in establishing a line of communication between the private attorneys and immigration judges and attorneys.

“We exposed them to everything from ethical decision-making to criminal cases and bond hearings, and direct and cross-examining issues,” Vara said. “The point was to give everyone a chance to gain a better understanding of why each side does what they do.”

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## **MEAT PACKER**

*Continued from page 14*

Tyson's, based in Springdale, Ark., said in a statement issued shortly after the indictments were announced that the charges were limited to a few managers who were acting outside of company policy at five of the company's 57 processing plants. Four of the individuals were fired following an internal investigation, and two others were placed on administrative leave, the company said.

The indictment states that “the company had cultivated a corporate culture that condoned hiring illegal immigrants to meet production goals and cut costs.” In its statement, Tyson's dismissed this allegation as “absolutely false.”

The investigation started in mid-1999 when INS investigators received a document concerning the hiring practices at Tyson's plant in Shelbyville, Tenn.