

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

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FACT SHEET

Over the last decade, we have become a stronger, safer, and more secure nation. The Department of Homeland Security continues to make the United States more resilient, not only to terrorist and violent extremist attacks, but also to threats and disasters of all kinds, while safeguarding the fundamental rights of all Americans.

Below are some of the Department's significant achievements under the leadership of President Obama:

**Counterterrorism**

- *NTAS improvements*
  - In order to enable DHS to more effectively and quickly communicate information to the public and other partners regarding threats to the homeland in the evolving threat environment, and following discussions with homeland security stakeholders, on December 16, 2015, Secretary Jeh Johnson directed an update to the National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) to add a new form of advisory – the NTAS “Bulletin” – to the existing NTAS “Alerts.”
- *Strengthen the Visa Waiver Program*
  - In 2014, Secretary Johnson took steps to enhance the security of the Visa Waiver Program (VWP), by requiring additional personal information for the ESTA application. In 2015, Secretary Johnson announced additional security measures. Under the VWP, we are now seeking from participating countries the implementation of information sharing agreements, mandatory use of E-Passports, and a request for use of more Federal Air Marshals.
  - This year, we are implementing the Visa Waiver Improvement and Terrorist Travel Prevention Act of 2015, which was signed into law by President Obama on December 18, 2015 as part of the Omnibus bill. This bill places new restrictions on eligibility for travel under the Visa Waiver Program.

**Aviation Security**

- *Trusted traveler programs, including TSA Pre✓<sup>®</sup> and Global Entry*
  - The TSA Pre✓<sup>®</sup> application program has enrolled over 2 million travelers since its inception in December 2013, including more than 1 million in 2015 alone. In addition to these enrollments, CBP trusted travelers — those enrolled in other trusted traveler programs such as Global Entry, NEXUS and SENTRI — are also automatically eligible for TSA Pre✓<sup>®</sup>.
- *Preclearance*

- Preclearance allows CBP to screen passengers bound for the U.S. before they arrive on U.S. soil. So far, we've established preclearance capability at 15 airports worldwide, and it has proven very effective. In 2015, Secretary Johnson announced 10 additional preclearance candidate airports in nine countries, and DHS's goal is to expand to several of them by the end of the Administration.
- *Enhanced security at foreign airports with flights directed to the U.S.*
  - In 2014, TSA directed additional security measures at airports overseas with direct flights to the United States. Those enhancements have been adopted as their own by many of the countries in which these airports exist. In response to the crash of Metrojet Flight 9268 on the Sinai Peninsula, and to enhance aviation security, TSA instituted a series of additional, precautionary security enhancements with respect to commercial passenger and cargo flights bound for the United States from foreign airports in the region.

## **Cybersecurity**

- *Tangible Improvements to Cybersecurity*
  - DHS provides a common baseline of cybersecurity across the civilian Federal Government primarily through two programs. The first of these programs, called EINSTEIN, detects and blocks known cybersecurity threats attempting to compromise federal agencies. Deployment of the EINSTEIN phase that actively blocks cyber attacks, known as EINSTEIN 3A, increased by over 30% across the civilian Federal Government in 2015. EINSTEIN 3A now protects nearly half of the federal workforce. In the recent omnibus, Congress included the Cybersecurity Act of 2015, which requires all civilian agencies to participate in EINSTEIN 3A by the end of FY16. The second program, Continuous Diagnostics and Mitigation (CDM), detects cybersecurity risks inside agency networks. The first phase of CDM, which detects vulnerabilities on agency computers, is available to 97 percent of the civilian Federal Government.
  - Under the Cybersecurity Act of 2015, DHS will now operate the Federal Government's portal for information sharing with the private sector. This means DHS will receive cyber threat indicators on a voluntary basis directly from the private sector and will share those indicators, as appropriate, with federal agencies and private sector participants to improve our collective resilience. The bill provides liability protections to the private sector when sharing this information with DHS, as well as requires DHS to implement extensive and robust privacy and civil liberties protections for the American people and to safeguard sensitive information.

## **Immigration**

- *DACA*
  - In 2012, DHS implemented the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy, which has provided an opportunity for undocumented immigrants who came here as children and are not enforcement priorities to seek temporary relief on a case-by-case basis. Since then, more than 700,000 people have received this

relief under the DACA policy.

- *Executive Actions on Immigration*
  - On November 20, 2014, DHS announced a series of executive actions to address as much of our broken immigration system as the agency could. These actions prioritize for apprehension, detention and removal threats to national security, public safety, and border security, and streamline legal immigration and promote citizenship for high-skilled immigrants, entrepreneurs, and families. The Administration continues to fight to implement policies that would enable up to 4 million parents of American citizens and lawful permanent residents, as well as additional DACA recipients, to be held accountable, work on the books, and pay their fair share of taxes.
  - The President created the White House Task Force for New Americans, which is co-chaired by the Domestic Policy Council and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. The Task Force has launched the Building Welcoming Communities Campaign to help local communities strengthen integration efforts and the Stand Stronger Citizenship Awareness Campaign to spread awareness about the rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizenship.
- *Prioritized the removals of national security and public safety threats and recent border crossers*
  - DHS, through the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, has refined its priorities to improve the quality of its removals by focusing on the most serious threats to national security, public safety, and border security.
- *Priority Enforcement Program*
  - DHS continues to make significant strides in building partnerships with local law enforcement and community leaders through the Priority Enforcement Program. This outreach is part of a nation-wide effort to promote collaboration with local law enforcement in order to implement the Priority Enforcement Program's common-sense approach that focuses enforcement resources on convicted criminals and individuals who threaten national security or public safety, while ensuring that law enforcement agencies maintain community trust. Of note, 15 of the top 25 jurisdictions with the largest number of previously declined detainees are now participating in PEP, representing 47 percent of previously declined detainees. Most law enforcement agencies are now cooperating via PEP.
- *Increased U.S. capacity to accept refugees*
  - DHS, along with the State Department, supports a diverse, worldwide refugee admissions program, representing the United States' proud heritage of offering a safe haven, freedom, and opportunity to those fleeing persecution. Each year, following rigorous background and security checks, thousands are admitted to this country as part of the overseas refugee program, and under this Administration we are increasing our capacity to accept refugees while ensuring national security.

## **Border Security**

- *Decrease in attempted unlawful migration*
  - DHS has dedicated historical levels of resources to securing the Southern border. The number of apprehensions, an indicator of total attempts to cross the Southern

border, has dramatically declined. In Fiscal Year 2014, total apprehensions along the Southern border were 479,000. For FY2015, apprehensions along the Southern border were down to 331,333—only one time since 1972 has that number been lower.

- *Established a Southern Border and Approaches Campaign*
  - On November 20, 2014, DHS initiated the creation of the Southern Border and Approaches Campaign, a unified approach to improve how the Department protects the homeland across our borders. The campaign more effectively coordinates the assets and personnel of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE), U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), and other resources of the Department. The Plan achieved full operational capability in 2015.

## **Management**

- *Unity of Effort*
  - In April 2014, DHS began implementation of the Unity of Effort initiative to build, sustain, and unify the Department's efforts to address the diverse challenges we face in ensuring the safety and security of the United States. This has brought about a more centralized process for making decisions concerning budget requests, acquisition, strategy, and other Departmental functions.
  - Since then, DHS has achieved efficiencies in acquisition management, and fostered greater collaboration and transparency with the private sector to strengthen program execution. Specifically, DHS instituted the Joint Requirements Council to provide an informed connection between its strategic guidance and the budget and acquisition process.

## **Community Engagement and Countering Violent Extremism**

- *Meeting with communities to hear their concerns*
  - Since the White House Summit on Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) last February, the United States Government has focused on strengthening our effort to prevent extremists from radicalizing and mobilizing recruits, especially here at home.
  - DHS senior officials have conducted over 200 meetings with community leaders as part of the U.S. government's countering violent extremism efforts.
- *Established Office of Community Partnerships*
  - In September, DHS announced the creation of the Office for Community Partnerships. This Office will lead the inter-agency CVE effort.
  - Just last Friday, the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Justice announced the Countering Violent Extremism Task Force. The interagency CVE Task Force will be hosted by the Department of Homeland Security and will bring together the best resources and personnel from across the executive branch to ensure that we face the challenge of violent extremism in the White House in a unified and coordinated way.

## **U.S. Secret Service**

- *2015 Papal Visit and 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary United Nations General Assembly*
  - In September, 2015 the U.S. Secret Service and other components of DHS successfully protected over 160 world leaders at the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, and coordinated security preparations for the Pope's visit to Washington, DC, New York, and Philadelphia, PA.

## **U.S. Coast Guard**

- *Major drug interdictions*
  - Between May and August of 2015, the USCG STRATTON seized more than 66,500 pounds of cocaine worth more than \$1 billion. This included seizures of cocaine from two drug-running submarines – one of which amounted to 12,000 pounds of cocaine worth about \$181 million.
  - Between August and November of 2015, the BERTHOLF seized nearly 29,000 pounds of cocaine worth over \$432 million during 11 different interdictions. The BERTHOLF also took possession of an additional 20,000 pounds seized by Coast Guard and Canadian forces over a four-month period in the Eastern Pacific. BERTHOLF's total offload of more than 49,000 pounds of cocaine worth \$748 million represents a significant portion of the remarkable interagency and partner nation interdiction efforts for FY 2015, which totaled more than 110 interdictions, 700 suspected smugglers taken into custody, and the seizure of nearly 709,888 pounds of cocaine worth roughly \$9.4 billion.

## **Federal Emergency Management Agency**

- *Disaster Resilience and Response*
  - The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has enhanced its disaster response capabilities, including through the creation of FEMA Corps and the DHS Surge Capacity Force and prepositioning resources before disasters hit.
  - FEMA has effectively led the response to major national disasters, including superstorm Sandy in 2012.

## **Academic Research**

- *Stimulating Research and Development and Academic Engagement*
  - DHS has established Research and Development teams in the areas of border security, aviation, biological threats, cyber security, and counter-terrorism to ensure that future investments are directly linked to strategic priorities and operational needs.
  - DHS has strengthened its outreach efforts to academic institutions through the establishment of the Office of Academic Engagement, which supports the Department's mission by building and improving relationships with the academic community.
  - DHS also created the Homeland Security Academic Advisory Council, comprised of leadership from more than twenty universities and colleges around the country,

to provide recommendations on matters related to homeland security, including student and recent graduate recruitment, international students, academic research and faculty exchanges, campus resilience, homeland security academic programs, and cybersecurity.

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