



Homeland Security

Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL) Newsletter Vol. 3, #5 (April 2013)

The Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties supports the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) as it secures the nation while preserving individual liberty, fairness, and equality under the law.

DHS 10 Year Anniversary

On March 1, 2003, DHS began its operations, unifying 22 legacy agencies within a single department with a common mission: to safeguard America and integrate our Nation’s capabilities to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from threats and disasters of all kinds.

DHS has helped transform the way we secure our Nation over the last ten years, making our efforts more agile, proactive, and coordinated. Today, we are also smarter about how we assess risks, and how we mitigate them.

And a decade after the creation of the Cabinet-level agency bearing that name, homeland security has come to mean much more. It means the coordinated work of hundreds of thousands of dedicated and skilled professionals, and more than ever, of the American public: our businesses and families, communities and faith-based groups. We are safer and more secure than ever before, and DHS stands ready to confront our future challenges.

During the month of March, we recognized the work of DHS employees from across the country and around the world. My [State of Homeland Security address](#) summarizes the past (DHS 1.0), the present (DHS 2.0) and the future of the Department (3.0). I encourage you to learn more about the Department, and stay tuned for additional updates as you share with us in the celebration of our ten year anniversary.



On behalf of the hundreds of thousands of men and women... the Coast Guardsmen who rescues a sailor; the TSO who keeps a loaded gun off a plane; the cyber expert who prevents harm to our banking system; the FEMA worker who comforts a destitute family; the Border Patrol agent who spends days and weeks in 100 degree plus temperature patrolling our border; the scientist who figures out a better way to protect a plane; we commemorate our beginnings, our maturation; and our future. This is not a moment to simply look back and pat ourselves on the back. It’s a moment to re-commit and to move forward.

—Secretary Janet Napolitano

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Civil Rights/Civil Liberties Assessment on the National Network of Fusion Centers

In accordance with CRCL's statutory obligations to oversee compliance with various requirements relating to the civil rights and civil liberties of individuals affected by the program and activities of DHS, CRCL recently released the [Civil Rights/Civil Liberties Impact Assessment on DHS Support to the National Network of Fusion Centers](#). This assessment is an update to the [initial report on the fusion center program](#), which was completed in 2008.

State and major urban area fusion centers serve as focal points within the state and local environment for the receipt, analysis, gathering, and sharing of threat-related information between the federal government and state, local, tribal, territorial and private sector partners.

Read the [Civil Rights/Civil Liberties Impact Assessment on DHS Support to the National Network of Fusion Centers](#).

CRCL Participates in Global Counterterrorism Forum

CRCL recently participated in the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) workshop on countering violent extremism. The GCTF workshop was co-hosted by DHS and the U.S. Department of State, along with the U.S. Institute of Peace. The GCTF is an informal, multilateral counterterrorism (CT) platform that focuses on identifying critical civilian CT needs, mobilizing the necessary expertise and resources to address such needs and enhance global cooperation.

During the workshop, over 115 international and domestic experts on community engagement and community-based policing – from NGOs, think tanks and governments from areas such as the Sahel, East Africa, and Southeast Asia – explored best practices that can be further developed as tools to counter violent extremism. CRCL advisors discussed DHS's role in such diverse topics as protecting civil rights and civil liberties, countering violent extremism, and community engagement, including international cooperation in these areas. Engagement with our international colleagues remains a top priority for DHS as it supports the security mission worldwide, while protecting civil rights and civil liberties of all individuals.



A CRCL representative participates on a GCTF panel

CRCL Hosts German Delegation

CRCL recently hosted a meeting with members of the German Federal Security Administration – a delegation of policy and security professionals from several European countries. The Federal Academy for Security Policy is Germany's highest-ranking inter-ministerial institution for advanced education and training in the field of security policy. The Academy's purpose is to convey the contents of the comprehensive security concept both nationally and internationally.

During the meeting, CRCL advisors discussed DHS's role in diverse topics such as protecting civil rights and civil liberties, countering violent extremism, engaging with communities, and incorporating civil rights and civil liberties into cyber security activities. CRCL staff highlighted the importance of international cooperation in these areas, as engagement with our international colleagues is a top priority for DHS as it supports the security mission worldwide – while protecting civil rights and civil liberties of all individuals.

CBP Announces Automation of Form I-94 Arrival/Departure Record

CBP recently submitted to the Federal Register a rule that will automate the [Form I-94 Arrival/Departure Record](#) to streamline the admissions process for individuals visiting the U.S. Form I-94 provides international visitors with evidence of lawful admission to the U.S. – which is necessary to verify alien registration, immigration status, and employment authorization. The automation eliminates the need for affected visitors to fill out a paper form when arriving to the U.S. by air or sea.

Travelers that want a hard copy or other evidence of admission will be directed to www.cbp.gov/I94, where they will be able to print a hard copy of electronically submitted data. As part of CBP's work to bring technological advances and automation to the passenger processing environment, records of admission will now be generated using traveler information already transmitted through electronic means. This change should decrease paperwork for both the officer and traveler and will allow CBP to better optimize its resources.

CRCL on the Road, March/April

March 6 – Chicago, Illinois

CRCL convened its quarterly community engagement roundtable with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.

April 11 – Denver, Colorado

CRCL convened its quarterly community engagement roundtable with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.

April 25 – Detroit, Michigan

CRCL participated in the BRIDGES roundtable meeting, in coordination with the U.S. Attorney's Office.

April 25 – Columbus, Ohio

CRCL convened its quarterly community engagement roundtable with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.

Additional information, and contacting us

The goal of this periodic newsletter is to inform members of the public about the activities of the DHS Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, including: how to make complaints; ongoing and upcoming projects; opportunities to offer comments and feedback; etc. We distribute our newsletters via an email list and make them available to community groups for redistribution. We also post information pulled from the newsletter on a webpage, [CRCL at Work](#). If you would like to receive this newsletter via email, want to request back issues, or have other comments or questions, please let us know by emailing crcloutreach@dhs.gov. If you are on this list, but no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please send an email to the same address asking us to unsubscribe you. For more information, including on how to make a civil rights or civil liberties complaint about DHS activities, see www.dhs.gov/crcl.

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