

THIRD ANNUAL SECRETARY'S AWARDS - LIST OF HONOREES



Secretary's Silver Medal

This is the second highest award granted by the Secretary. The Silver Medal recognizes exceptional leadership or service that is distinguished by achievements of marked significance to the Department. This award recognizes a body of work characterized by superior performance related to significant accomplishments, business improvements or notable resourcefulness, diligence, and integrity that significantly improved the efficiency, effectiveness, or image of the Department in one or more program areas.

Mary Ann Woodson

Deputy Chief Financial Officer
Management
Washington, DC

For exceptional individual leadership and achievement in financial management.

Tommy Brown

Security Specialist
National Protection and Programs Directorate
Arlington, Virginia

For exceptional leadership in the development and publication of national documents reporting on the status of and progress in protecting our critical infrastructure.

Dr. John Vitko

Division Head, Chemical & Biological Division
Science and Technology
Washington, DC

In recognition of visionary leadership in biodefense and national security.

Gerri Ratliff

Deputy Associate Director, National Security and Records Verification
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Washington, DC

For outstanding work on the E-Verify program.

Jammie Fisher

Environmental Compliance Manager
U.S. Coast Guard
Corpus Christi, Texas

For demonstrating unparalleled dedication and unlimited initiative as Sector Environmental Compliance Officer developing the model Safety and Environmental program for the Sector.

Cathy Saucedo

Director, Commercial Enforcement and Policy, Office of International Trade
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Washington, DC

For outstanding service/achievements contributing significantly to the safety of imports into the U.S.A.

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David Garratt

Deputy Assistant Administrator, Disaster Assistance
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Washington, DC

For epitomizing superior professional performance and exceptional leadership in emergency management and homeland security.

Marcy Forman

Director, Office of Investigations
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Washington, DC

For exemplary leadership and dedication leading ICE enforcement efforts.

William Benner

Branch Chief, Preparedness, Emergency Preparedness Division
Transportation Security Administration
Arlington, Virginia

For establishing the Rapid Deployment Plan and program for the Federal Air Marshal Service.

Hobart Henson

Director, International Law Enforcement Academy
Federal Law Enforcement Training Center
Glynco, Georgia

For advancing the interests of the U.S.A. and DHS on an international level by establishing the International Law Enforcement Academy in El Salvador.

Lorraine Mottola

Senior Intelligence Analyst
Office of Intelligence and Analysis
Washington, DC

For significantly enhancing the implementation and security of the Iraqi Refugee Screening Program.

Edward Roberts

Desk Watch Operator, National Operations Center, Federal Protective Service
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Washington, DC

For exceptional service and leadership to the Nation as the National Operations Center team lead, law enforcement desks.

Alan Cohn

Director, Emergency Preparedness and Response
Office of Policy
Washington, DC

For steadfast dedication and exceptionally wise council on emergency preparedness and response issues.

Toby Levin

Senior Advisor
Office of the Chief Privacy Officer
Rosslyn, Virginia

For outstanding leadership and exemplary commitment to DHS and the Privacy Office.

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Secretary's Award for Valor

This award is the Department's highest recognition for extraordinary acts of courage or heroism.

AST3 Robert D. Emley

U.S. Coast Guard

Warrenton, Oregon

For heroic life saving actions performed during the rescue of four persons from the fishing vessel STARRIGAVIN.

BM2 Steven M. Ruh

U.S. Coast Guard

Oswego, New York

For courage and selflessness during the daring water rescue of a critically injured woman in heavy seas.

OS1 Michael P. Damren and BM1 John N. Peters

U.S. Coast Guard

Marie, Michigan

For extraordinary heroism rescuing two women from a burning building on May 8, 2007.

BMCM Michael P. Leavitt and BM3 John E. Duncan

U.S. Coast Guard

Samoa, California

For extraordinary heroism while engaged in a perilous rescue of a man swept off a jetty in Humboldt Bay.

Gary L. Ortega

Border Patrol Agent

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Indio, California

For displaying tremendous courage and selflessness in saving the lives of numerous people from a burning vehicle.

Juan D. Garcia and Scott Fondren

Border Patrol Agents

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Laredo, Texas

For acting quickly and without hesitation, risking their lives to rescue a victim from inside a burning vehicle.

Harold Ortega

BORSTAR Team Leader

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Del Rio, Texas

For exceptional valor shown during an extremely difficult swift water rescue.

Eric M. Lopez

Border Patrol Agent

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Willcox, Arizona

For extracting a motorist trapped in a burning vehicle.

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Joshua B. Willey

Senior Patrol Agent

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

San Diego, California

For, while off duty, demonstrating extraordinary courage and acting to preserve life during an emergency.

Paul A. Buta

Special Agent

U.S. Secret Service

Washington, DC

For risking his life to save a stranger who was being savagely beaten.

Michael Ryan

Assistant Federal Security Director, Law Enforcement

Transportation Security Administration

East Boston, Massachusetts

For extraordinary courage and valor while responding to a motor vehicle collision and fire on June 25, 2006.

1st Lt. David J. Tiedeman

Assistant to the Special Agent in Charge, FAMS

Transportation Security Administration

Denver, Colorado

For repeatedly exposing himself to enemy fire in order to provide cover and aid to his wounded soldiers.

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Secretary's Award for Exemplary Service

Critical to meeting the Department's goals, are the employees in administrative, technical, clerical, and general support positions throughout the agency. This award provides an opportunity to honor these employees, whose deeds often go unrecognized.

Guadalupe Riojas

CIS Assistant
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Irving, Texas
For setting the standard of professionalism with enthusiasm and dedication.

Mary Chevis

Supervisory CIS Assistant
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Houston, Texas
For consistently providing and setting the example for exemplary service through action and commitment to District Adjudication Officers and management.

Jade Lin-Wong

Supervisory Applications Clerk
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Boston, Massachusetts
For outstanding work ethic, dedication and aggressively pursuing leadership education within USCIS with an eye towards future contributions to the agency.

Larry D. Griffin

Aircraft Maintenance Assistant
U.S. Coast Guard
Corpus Christi, Texas
For demonstrating superior dedication, performance and technical expertise.

Isidro Linares

Aviation Enforcement Assistant
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Washington, DC
For consistently distinguishing himself through his world-class efforts to accomplish CBP's goals.

Georgia Washington

Program Services Assistant
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Bothell, Washington
For her passion to customer service and can-do attitude that enables the employees of FEMA Region X to serve the public in a timely and cost-efficient manner.

Bonnie Bieth

Mission Support Specialist
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Detroit, Michigan
For exemplary professionalism and dedication to duty as sole administrative support for the Detroit Field Office.

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Alvin T. Hills

Seized Property Specialist
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Miami, Florida
For outstanding performance in managing, storing and tracking all evidence and seized property held within SAC Miami.

Joseph Sessa

Budget Analyst, Office of Budget and Performance, Office of the Chief Financial Officer
Transportation Security Administration
Arlington, Virginia
For exceptional service in restructuring the TSO workforce to create additional security capabilities and institute career progression.

Ann Marie Dooley

Writer/Editor
Executive Secretariat
Washington, DC
For professionalism and dedication in preparing Secretary Chertoff's daily briefing book.

Juliana Totaro

Component Liaison Officer
Executive Secretariat
Washington, DC
For leadership and professionalism in her work in the Executive Secretariat's Component Liaison Section.

Carl Tate

Correspondence Liaison Officer
Executive Secretariat
Washington, DC
For leadership and professionalism in his work in the Executive Secretariat's Component Liaison Section.

Mike Carswell

Contract Compliance Specialist
Federal Law Enforcement Training Center
Glynco, Georgia
For world-class support to students, instructors, partner organizations and staff to sustain the DHS mission.

Patricia Blatt

Contract Compliance Specialist
Federal Law Enforcement Training Center
Glynco, Georgia
For world-class support to students, instructors, partner organizations and staff to sustain the DHS mission.

Marineka Penland

Administrative Specialist
Office of Policy
Washington, DC
In recognition of her enthusiasm, dedication, professionalism and outstanding support to the Office of Policy.

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Secretary's Award for Excellence

This award recognizes outstanding achievement or innovation by a distinguished employee(s) engaged in work to further the mission of the Department.

Richard R. Espinoza

Assistant Director, Real Property
Management
Washington, DC

For individual leadership to ensure that the DHS commitments made to support the President's Real Property Management Agenda were achieved.

Shila Ressler

Executive Secretary
Management
Washington, DC

For providing substantial improvement in the timeliness and accuracy of Secretarial, Presidential and Congressional documents.

Kathy Strauss

Senior Procurement Analyst, Acquisition Policy & Legislations
Office of the Chief Procurement Officer
Management
Washington, DC

For major contributions advancing DHS mission accomplishment through acquisition policy.

Douglas Bauer

Explosives Division Research Lead/Air Cargo Explosives Detection Pilot Program Manager
Science and Technology
Washington, DC

For exemplary efforts in developing and managing the Air Cargo Explosives Detection Pilot Program.

Michael R. Jones

Senior Advisor on Immigrant Education and Testing
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Washington, DC

For successfully leading the USCIS effort to develop a standardized, fair and meaningful naturalization test.

Richard Caterisano

District Director in Residence
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Washington, DC

For creating technical systems that significantly enhance USCIS' ability to advance its mission.

Greg Johnson

Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Examiner
U.S. Coast Guard
Charleston, South Carolina

For saving lives and improving mission performance through enhancements in reliability and detection of distress beacons.

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Claudio Polselli

Civil Engineer

U.S. Coast Guard

Warwick, Rhode Island

For superior performance and innovative facility asset management techniques advancing the missions of DHS.

Douglas C. Halvorson

Director, Minneapolis Hiring Center

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Snelling, Minnesota

For unprecedented staffing achievements in support of DHS' mission to secure the Nation's borders.

Kevin L. Stevens

Deputy Chief, Office of Border Patrol

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Washington, DC

For exemplary service and innovation advancing the border security mission of CBP.

Nancy Ward

Regional Administrator

Federal Emergency Management Agency

Oakland, California

For demonstrating leadership and dedication during the unprecedented California wildfires.

Lisa A. Lewis

Acting Assistant Administrator

Federal Emergency Management Agency

Washington, DC

For successfully spearheading FEMA's grants management transformation efforts.

Michelle McQueeney

Chief of Staff, Gulf Coast Recovery

Federal Emergency Management Agency

Washington, DC

For outstanding leadership and commitment to the recovery of the United States Gulf Coast.

Derrick J. Taylor

Supervisory Detention and Deportation Officer

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Los Angeles, California

For outstanding leadership and achievement in the LAFO's Violent Criminal Alien Section.

Paul Durette

Special Assistant

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Washington, DC

For being an outstanding leader who effectively led the Federal Protective Service (FPS) staff while serving as Acting Director of FPS.

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Maurine Fanguy

Program Director, Transportation Worker Identification Credential
Transportation Security Administration

Arlington, Virginia

For outstanding leadership in the development and implementation of the Transportation Worker Identification Credential Program.

William W. Gaches

Assistant Administrator Office of Global Strategies
Transportation Security Administration

Arlington, Virginia

For exceptional leadership in the intelligence community to enhance the security and operations of transportation systems.

John Sammon

Assistant Administrator Transportation Sector Network Management
Transportation Security Administration

Arlington, Virginia

For exceptional leadership and innovation in changing the way transportation security grants are awarded.

Shaarik Zafar

Policy Advisor
Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
Washington, DC

For his role in establishing strategic partnerships between DHS and America's Arab and Muslim communities.

Kathleen J. Ferté

Deputy Chief of Staff for Administration
Domestic Nuclear Detection Office
Washington, DC

For designing the organization, developing her staff and superbly leading DNDO's Human Resource and Administrative Divisions.

George R. Martin

Appellate Counsel
Office of the General Counsel
Falls Church, Virginia

For successfully advancing the Department's position concerning "material support" of terrorism before the Board of Immigration Appeals.

Christina McDonald

Attorney Advisor
Office of the General Counsel
Washington, DC

For exemplary dedication and service to the Department in the drafting, vetting, negotiation and rollout of the Appendix A to the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards.

Trevor B. Wilson

Senior Intelligence Analyst
Office of Intelligence and Analysis
Washington, DC

For significantly advancing DHS's understanding of radicalization dynamics and processes in the homeland.

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Jeffery LaSov

Senior Intelligence Analyst
Office of Intelligence and Analysis
Washington, DC

For outstanding contributions to DHS component analytical integration on major terrorist threats to the homeland.

Brad A. Gutierrez

Senior Advisor for International Affairs
Office of Operations Coordination
Washington, DC

For exemplary performance and innovation in creating an interagency concept of operations to detect and mitigate threats to citizens and infrastructure.

Charlie Grayburn

Secretary's Briefer
Office of Operations Coordination
Washington, DC

For outstanding dedication and excellence in service to the Secretary and the Department.

LCDR Patrick Hilbert, USCG

Office of Policy
Washington, DC

For his technical innovation and contributions to the Office of Strategic Plans.

Tiffany Ann Kebodeaux

Associate Director
Office of Legislative Affairs
Washington, DC

For outstanding service to the Secretary during the Congressional immigration reform debate.

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Secretary's Award for TEAM DHS Excellence

This is one of the Department's most prestigious awards as it recognizes outstanding team achievements by employees working in a group to advance the mission of the Department of Homeland Security. Cross-component teams are especially important in enabling the Department to meet and sustain its mission.

EAGLE Acquisition Program/Acquisition Workforce Division

Management

Washington, DC

For excellence and commitment to the DHS mission through recruitment and development of the acquisition workforce and development of an innovative information technology acquisition program (includes representatives from many components).

Workforce Professional Development Initiative

Management

Transportation Security Administration

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Washington, DC

For outstanding teamwork in the development of the new DHS Career Paths Program and the Employee Learning and Development Strategy that establishes the DHS University System.

Chemical Security Task Force

National Protection and Programs Directorate

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement/Federal Protective Service

Office of the General Counsel

Arlington, Virginia

For outstanding achievement in developing and implementing a new regulatory authority in the first year of the Chemical Security Program.

National Infrastructure Protection Plan

National Protection and Programs Directorate

Arlington, Virginia

For extraordinary excellence and contributions to the protection of our critical infrastructure and key resources.

SAFETY Act Team

Science and Technology

Washington, DC

For exceptional improvements to the program performance of the Office of SAFETY Act Implementation.

USCIS Military Naturalization Team

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Washington, DC

In recognition of contributions of USCIS civilian employees who conduct naturalization interviews and ceremonies overseas.

Tampa Field Office

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Tampa, Florida

In recognition of the team's (including FBI, DRO and ICE) collaborative efforts to deter marriage fraud.

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Coast Guard Middle East Training Team

U.S. Coast Guard
Kingdom of Bahrain
For promoting regional security and stability within Operation IRAQI FREEDOM.

M/V GATUN Cocaine Seizure Team

U.S. Coast Guard
Drug Enforcement Administration
Panama Country Office
For demonstrating flexibility and persistence, enabling interagency and international collaboration that resulted in historic cocaine seizure and mission success.

Operation Jump Start Team

U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Washington, DC
For leadership, direction, inter-departmental cooperation and coordination in making our southern border safer and more secure.

Office of Border Patrol Training/Hiring Initiatives

U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Washington, DC
For redesigning recruitment and training initiatives to meet the President's goal of hiring additional Border Patrol Agents.

Secure Freight Initiative/ International Container Security Project Team

U.S. Customs and Border Protection
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Office of Policy
Washington, DC
For working diligently to deploy Secure Freight Initiative technology, improving supply chain security.

Gulf Coast Mass Evacuation Capabilities Enhancement Team

Federal Emergency Management Agency
Various Locations
For exemplary performance coordinating the 2007 Gulf Coast Mass Evacuation Capability Enhancement Initiative.

FEMA Hiring Team

Federal Emergency Management Agency
Washington, DC
For outstanding contributions toward achieving a 95% goal of funded base staffing level positions in June 2007.

Laredo BEST Team

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Laredo, Texas
For exceptional leadership and service in achievement of unique national and international significance (team members also include ATF, DEA, FBI and Laredo PD).

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Operation Wagon Train Team

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Washington, DC

For developing an investigative strategy relating to Swift's hiring practices and aggravated identity theft violations.

National Threat Assessment Center

U.S. Secret Service
Washington, DC

For innovative collaboration with the Department of Education to improve school safety through training, interactive CD, and research.

Secure Flight Program Team

Transportation Security Administration
Office of the General Counsel
Office of Policy
Arlington, Virginia

For implementing significant programmatic changes and successfully publishing the Secure Flight Program Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.

SPOT Program Team

Transportation Security Administration
Arlington, Virginia

For their exceptional vision and contributions to the security mission of the TSA and DHS.

TSA IdeaFactory Innovation Team

Transportation Security Administration
Arlington, Virginia

For exemplary demonstration of innovation, employee empowerment and community development.

Joint Visual Intermodal Protection and Response (VIPR)

Transportation Security Administration
U.S. Coast Guard
Arlington, Virginia

For ground breaking advances in joint multi-modal security operations.

Office of the Executive Secretariat

Executive Secretariat
Washington, DC

For successfully transforming DHS business processes to support the Department's senior leadership.

Special Assistant U.S. Attorneys

Office of the General Counsel
Del Rio, Texas

For serving as Special Assistant United States Attorneys in support of the Del Rio Border Patrol Sector's Operation Streamline.

Los Angeles Chief Counsel's Office Asylum Fraud Team

Office of the General Counsel
Los Angeles, California

For successfully coordinating with the Office of Investigation and the Forensic Document Laboratory in identifying, investigating and prosecuting immigration-related fraud.

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OHA Response Team on Formaldehyde

Office of Health Affairs

Washington, DC

For exemplary leadership in addressing the formaldehyde issues in Louisiana.

Office of Medical Readiness Pandemic Influenza Team

Office of Health Affairs

Washington, DC

For dedication to securing the Nation's health in preparing the Department's response to Pandemic Influenza.

Terrorist Threat Disruption Plan Team

Office of Intelligence and Analysis

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Transportation Security Administration

Washington, DC

For internal and interagency efforts that united DHS and the USG against terrorist threats.

Incident Management Planning Core Team

Office of Operations Coordination

Washington, DC

For outstanding achievements in redefining Federal interagency planning for the Secretary and Homeland Security Council.

Secretary Briefing Staff

Office of Operations Coordination

Washington, DC

For developing and achieving an unparalleled standard in production and presentation support to the Secretary.

Passenger Name Records (PNR) Team

Office of Policy

Washington, DC

For excellence in supporting the successful conclusion of the US-EU PNR Agreement.

Immigration Task Force

Office of Policy

Office of the General Counsel

Washington, DC

For excellence in representing the Department's position related to comprehensive immigration legislation.

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Secretary's Award for Diversity Management

This award recognizes an employee, supervisor or manager who has excelled in efforts to promote diversity through exceptional, effective leadership, innovation, and perseverance, internally and externally, at the personal, interpersonal or operational component level.

Kevin Boshears

Director, Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization
Management
Washington, DC

For furthering the Department's commitment to include diverse small businesses in its procurement program.

University Programs Staff

Science and Technology
Washington, DC

For innovation and dedication to diversifying the scientific and technology workforce of the future.

Captain Susan D. Bibeau

Director of Admissions
U.S. Coast Guard
New London, Connecticut

For excellence in championing gender and racial equity in the workforce and educational arena.

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Secretary's Award for Volunteer Service

This award reflects the Department's high-level interest in recognizing volunteerism.

Jackie Mayi

Executive Assistant to the Chief Human Capital Officer
Management
Washington, DC

For providing much needed job readiness skills and job placement for minority youth.

Christiana L. Knasiak

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Laguna Niguel, California

For facilitating American Red Cross blood drives at the California Service Center.

Lt Patrick Burkett

Investigating Officer
U.S. Coast Guard
New Orleans, Louisiana

For the impact made by 260 hours of volunteer service to the community.

George Kane

Chief, Accounting Branch
U.S. Coast Guard
Boston, Massachusetts

For transforming the collective power of grief into the Jennifer Kane Foundation's scholarships and philanthropy.

Melvin Figueroa

CBP Officer (Canine)
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
San Juan, Puerto Rico

In recognition of 20 years of selfless service on behalf of adolescent youth in Puerto Rico.

Shonta Lamar Arrington

Mission Support Assistant
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Chicago, Illinois

For community involvement and support promoting diversity within public schools via reading, writing and the arts.

James O. Smith

Division Chief, Forensics and Investigative Technologies Division
Federal Law Enforcement Training Center
Glynco, Georgia

For volunteer efforts on behalf of many charitable organizations, including the Combined Federal Campaign and Missing and Exploited Children's Campaigns.

2007 PRESIDENTIAL RANK AWARDS



Each year, the President honors a select group of career members from the Senior Executive Service (SES) with the rank of Distinguished Executive and Meritorious Executive. These executives and senior professionals provided exceptional service to the American people over an extended time period. They consistently demonstrate strength, integrity, and a relentless commitment to public service.

Presidential Rank Award recipient titles correspond with the position of record when the award was presented.

DISTINGUISHED EXECUTIVE

Theresa Bertucci

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Management
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Bruce Bowen (Retired)

Assistant Director, Training Directorate
Federal Law Enforcement Training Center

Paul Irving

Assistant Director, Administration
U.S. Secret Service

Jan Lane

Director, National Pollution Funds Center
U.S. Coast Guard

James Sloan

Assistant Commandant for Intelligence
U.S. Coast Guard

Deborah Spero (Retired)

Deputy Commissioner
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

DISTINGUISHED SENIOR PROFESSIONAL

Susan Elizabeth George

Science Advisor
Science and Technology

MERITORIOUS EXECUTIVE

Patricia Duffy

Executive Director, Field Operations
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

2007 PRESIDENTIAL RANK AWARDS



Elaine Duke

Chief Procurement Officer
Management

Albert Joaquin

Special Agent in Charge (Honolulu)
U.S. Secret Service

Michael Kostelnik

Assistant Commissioner, CBP Air & Marine
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Michael Lee

Special Agent in Charge, Vice Presidential Protective Division
U.S. Secret Service

Gary Mead

Assistant Director for Management, Detention and Removal
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Saul Perla

Associate Chief Counsel (North Central)
Office of the General Counsel/U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Andrea Quarantillo

District Director, Field Services (New York, NY)
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Robert Shea

Assistant Deputy Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency

Nicholas Trotta

Special Agent in Charge, Presidential Protective Division
U.S. Secret Service

MERITORIOUS SENIOR PROFESSIONAL

Mervyn Walter Leavitt (Retired)

Science Advisor
Science and Technology