

DHS TODAY

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

March 5, 2004

Vol. 2, No. 7

DHS TODAY is a weekly employee e-newsletter produced by the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Public Affairs.

This week's headlines:

- I. President Bush Gives DHS Employees "Gold Star"
- II. Valor Memorial Dedicated to Fallen Heroes
- III. Secretary Ridge Approves National Incident Management System
- IV. Secretary Ridge Defines Priorities for Increased Homeland Security Funding
- V. USCG, FBI Investigate Possible Terrorist Use of Mariner Credentials
- VI. DHS Announces Opening of Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program Application Period
- VII. Leading Business Group Honors Commissioner Bonner
- VIII. Interagency Agreement Brings CBP Officials to FEMA's Emergency Training Institute
- IX. U.S. Secret Service Hosts Criminal Research Specialist Conference
- X. Fruit Flies Found in Texas, Quarantine
- XI. HR Design News Corner: Proposed Changes to Adverse Actions, Appeals, and Labor Relations
- XII. Pressing Releases
- XIII. Upcoming Events

I. President Bush Gives DHS Employees "Gold Star"

Speaking to over 500 DHS employees on March 2 at the Ronald Reagan Building in Washington, D.C., President Bush thanked employees for securing the American homeland and protecting the American people. "There is no duty more important," said the President. "We're meeting that duty together, and on behalf of a grateful nation, I thank you all for what you do to defend our country."

Secretary Ridge introduced the President who in turn expressed his gratitude to Ridge and other DHS leaders. Said Bush, "I plucked [Ridge] out of the ranks of the governors because I knew he knew how to manage and to set an agenda. He has not let me down. Along with the other leaders here, he and the team are doing a fantastic job of leading this Department."

The President spoke on some of the Department's major accomplishments in securing our nation's borders and airports, emergency response, and work with state and local governments and the private sector. He drew enthusiastic applause when he assessed the performance of the Department, saying, "In just 12 months . . . you have made air travel safer, you've strengthened the security of our borders and infrastructure, you've taken steps to protect the American people from dangerous weapons, and you helped prepare our first responders for any emergency. You

faced the challenges standing up this new Department and you get a gold star for a job well done.”

A videostream of the President’s speech, along with a transcript, are available on the DHS website at: <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=3280>.

Earlier that day, President Bush and Secretary Ridge met the family of Border Patrol Agent Jimmy Epling, who was the first DHS employee to be killed in the line of duty. (*See related story below.*)

II. Valor Memorial Dedicated to Fallen Heroes

On March 2, 2004, U.S. Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Robert C. Bonner dedicated the new U.S. Customs and Border Protection Valor Memorial in the lobby of CBP headquarters in Washington, D.C. The CBP Valor Memorial pays tribute to those officers and agents who lost their lives in the line of duty, who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country.

“As we pause on this day to reflect upon the heroic services of these fallen men and women, whose names are imprinted upon the Valor Memorial, we understand that they are all reminders to us,” said Commissioner Bonner. “They are reminders of how important it is for us to carry on their work, the work of protecting the American people from harm. With the increased threat of terrorism facing our nation, we will not fail to meet the high standards set by these men and women.”

Reaching back two centuries, the Valor Memorial honors 188 officers and agents of the legacy agencies that have come together to form CBP, that is, the U.S. Customs Service, the Border Patrol, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, who gave their lives to secure and protect our borders. The Memorial also honors the first officer of CBP to join these heroes, Border Patrol Agent James Epling, who died in the line of duty on December 16, 2003.

The Memorial consists of a granite base and four laminated glass panes of various sizes that rise up from the base. The front panel displays the seal of the Department of Homeland Security. On two of the glass panels, the name and year of death for the fallen officers and agents are permanently etched into the glass and grouped underneath the seal of their legacy agency. The final panel is reserved for fallen officers of the unified CBP.

III. Secretary Ridge Approves National Incident Management System

Secretary Ridge announced on March 1 approval of the National Incident Management System (NIMS), the Nation’s first standardized management plan that creates a unified structure for federal, state, and local lines of government for incident response.

NIMS strengthens America’s response capabilities by identifying and integrating core elements and best practices for all responders and incident managers. Through a balance between flexibility and standardization, and use of common doctrine, terminology, concepts, principles, and processes, execution during a real incident will be consistent and seamless. Responders will

be able to focus more on response, instead of organizing the response, and teamwork and assignments among all authorities will be clearly enhanced.

“NIMS gives all of our Nation’s responders the same framework for incident management and fully puts into practice the concept of one mission, one team, one fight,” said Ridge. “This unique system provides all of our Nation’s first-responders and authorities with the same foundation for incident management, in terrorist attacks, natural disasters, and other emergencies. From our Nation to our neighborhoods, America is safer.”

The completion of NIMS follows the October 2003 nationwide deployment of the Initial National Response Plan (INRP) which represented the first step in aligning incident management response and actions between all federal, state, tribal, local, and private communities. A final National Response Plan is under development and will eventually replace the INRP, while NIMS will continue to provide the Nation’s doctrinal guidance for incident management for acts of terrorism, natural disasters, and other emergencies.

Key elements and features of NIMS are available on the DHS website at:
<http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=3259>.

IV. Secretary Ridge Defines Priorities for Increased Homeland Security Funding

Secretary Ridge testified before the House Appropriations Homeland Security Subcommittee on March 4, highlighting the Department’s vital role in securing the homeland and reinforcing the need to increase funding to “expand and improve existing projects and programs as well as build new barriers to terrorists who wish us harm.”

The President’s Department of Homeland Security FY’05 budget request of \$40.2 billion represents a ten percent increase above current year budget. The Secretary outlined a few of the budget priority areas, including the US-VISIT program, border and port monitoring efforts, Container Security Initiative, Integrated Deepwater System, aviation security, bio-surveillance, intelligence gathering and sharing, and first responder funding program.

“These are just some of our budget priorities over the coming year, priorities that reflect the vast nature of our mission,” said Ridge. “Whether safeguarding America from terrorist attack or providing aid in the face of natural disaster, our charge never changes, our course never alters.”

A transcript of the Secretary’s remarks are on the DHS website at:
<http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=3282>.

V. USCG, FBI Investigate Possible Terrorist Use of Mariner Credentials

The U.S. Coast Guard and the Federal Bureau of Investigation announced March 3 that they have completed a 14-month investigation into national security threats and document fraud associated with U.S. merchant mariner credentials. The investigation, known as Operation Drydock, revealed nine individuals that held credentials have suspected associations with terrorist groups.

“Through extensive and detailed investigative efforts, we have reduced vulnerabilities to terrorism by preventing the fraudulent use of credentials by those who seek to harm our nation and its citizens,” said Admiral Thomas H. Collins, Commandant of the Coast Guard.

“This is a great example of interagency cooperation in the war on terror,” he said. “Using our combined resources and expertise, we will continue to make America safer and more secure.”

Merchant mariner credentials certify that an individual is qualified to work aboard a ship, and are required for all people who work aboard most commercial ships, including passenger vessels, and are often used as an identification document that allows mariners to come and go from the ship while it is docked in a foreign port.

The Coast Guard, working with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and other interagency partners, examined the records of over 200,000 individuals who hold a U.S. merchant mariner credential to identify potential terrorist links and detect document fraud.

In addition to the nine individuals possibly associated with terrorism, the Coast Guard identified thousands of cases of possible fraud or other problems, including mariners with active arrest warrants. Activities include:

- Coast Guard is suspending and revoking unauthorized credentials.
- U.S. Attorneys are pursuing criminal charges where warranted.
- About a dozen people have been arrested because of active arrest warrants that were uncovered as a result of Operation Drydock.
- The Coast Guard, FBI, and the U.S. Navy worked together to screen mariners serving on Military Sealift Command ships carrying troops and material during the war in Iraq. More than a dozen mariners were removed from service aboard those vessels.

In addition to the Operation Drydock investigation of those holding current credentials, the Coast Guard strengthened the process for conducting criminal background checks for applicants seeking new mariner credentials, and began issuing the credentials on more tamper-resistant cards in February 2003. The new credentials incorporate improvements for increased security including features to deter counterfeiting, such as micro-printing and serial numbers directly connected to a single mariner.

The Coast Guard and FBI were assisted in this counterterrorism and criminal investigation by other components of the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, Department of Defense, and U.S. Intelligence Community.

VI. DHS Announces Opening of Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program Application Period

The Department of Homeland Security opened on March 1 the application period for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. It will be open through Friday, April 2, 2004. The Department invites fire departments throughout the United States to apply for assistance under this program.

The Assistance for Firefighters Grant Program (AFGP) is administered by the Department of Homeland Security's Office for Domestic Preparedness. The program assists rural, urban, and

suburban fire departments throughout the United States. These funds are used by the Nation's firefighters to increase the effectiveness of firefighting operations, to improve firefighter health and safety programs, and to establish or expand fire prevention and safety programs. Through the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act of 2004, Congress provided \$745.6 million for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program and transferred administration of the program from FEMA to ODP.

As in past years, the Application and Program Guidance are automated and will be available online on March 1, 2004. They will both be accessible from the [ODP Website](#) and [USFA Website](#). Additionally, the websites contain other useful background information on the AFGP, including a tutorial on applying for the program, a list of Frequently Asked Questions and the currently scheduled AFGP workshops.

The Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-296) designated ODP as the principal federal agency responsible for the preparedness of the United States for acts of terrorism, including coordinating preparedness efforts at the federal level, and working with all state, local, tribal, parish, and private sector emergency response providers on all matters pertaining to combating terrorism, including training, exercises, and equipment support.

VII. Leading Business Group Honors Commissioner Bonner

Award Acknowledges Leadership Role in Anti-Terrorism Campaign

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Commissioner Robert C. Bonner received the Excellence in Government Award for 2004 from the Joint Industry Group (JIG), a coalition of prominent companies and professionals involved in global trade.

Since the 9/11 attacks in New York City and Washington, D.C., Commissioner Bonner has led CBP in the development and implementation of several anti-terrorism programs that have an impact on global commerce. This process has been characterized by extraordinary cooperation between CBP and the private sector, especially groups like JIG.

“Commissioner Bonner showed great foresight in recognizing the need to keep trade moving in the wake of the September 11 attacks,” said Ronald Schoof, Chairman of the JIG. “His prompt actions in enlisting the trade community to help develop and implement programs averted a meltdown of the U.S. economy and, thus, a victory for our terrorist enemy.”

Said Commissioner Bonner, “It is always a thrill to have good work recognized, especially when recognition comes from people who are as knowledgeable about the effort as is the Joint Industry Group. But the truth is that hundreds of individuals, both at CBP and in the private sector, have played an important part in coming to terms with the terrorist threat to global trade. I accept this award and acknowledge my own gratitude for all those individuals who have contributed to our success.”

One of the new programs, Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT), gained the support of the various industry segments in international trade by offering companies expedited Customs processing and fewer inspections if they would devise policies and programs to prevent their part of the supply chain from being infiltrated by terrorists. To date, over 5,700 businesses have requested membership in C-TPAT. Of this number, about 2,900 are certified members.

Businesses involved in C-TPAT include importers, carriers, brokers, freight forwarders, consolidators, U.S. port authorities, marine terminal operators, and some foreign manufacturers.

Another key program is the Container Security Initiative (CSI). CSI deploys CBP inspectors to large foreign ports. In conjunction with their foreign counterparts in host countries, CBP inspectors screen cargo destined for the United States before that cargo is loaded in sea containers.

“Our goal is not only to bolster border security but to do so in a way that does no harm to the flow of commercial goods,” said Commissioner Bonner.

VIII. Interagency Agreement Brings CBP Officials to FEMA’s Emergency Training Institute

Thanks to an interagency agreement between FEMA and Customs and Border Protection (CBP), 56 CBP officials now hold the title of Master Exercise Practitioner after completing a three-week series of courses conducted by FEMA’s Emergency Management Institute. The CBP participants ranged from Border Patrol agents to port officials and came from locales ranging from North Dakota to Puerto Rico. Another 48 officials will complete the training on March 19.

In order to receive the title, participants had to complete both the three courses and eight exercise proficiency demonstrations, which included such challenges as developing, coordinating, and evaluating a tabletop exercise and serving as a controller, simulator, or evaluator in a functional exercise.

While EMI has been offering exercise design courses since the 1980s, the emphasis on exercises has grown since 9/11. The ability to design, develop, evaluate, and manage exercises ranging from tabletop to full-scale exercises complete with mock victims and deployed equipment is considered important by CBP officials and throughout emergency management and homeland security communities.

“Exercises are the end of the planning-training-exercises loop,” said Lowell Ezersky, the Master Exercise Practitioner Program manager. “Exercises validate policy, planning, procedures, and essential functions. It also validates people and performance, testing to see if people can perform the way they have been trained to perform.”

In addition to the special courses for the CBP, local and state officials are taking advantage of the program through several offerings in 2004.

IX. U.S. Secret Service Hosts Criminal Research Specialist Conference

The United States Secret Service hosted analysts from local, state, and federal law enforcement, as well as private industry, at the 2004 Criminal Research Specialist Conference "Building Partnerships in Analysis," held March 3 and 4.

In an era that demands partnerships among law enforcement and private industry, the conference focused on opening the lines of communication between criminal and intelligence analysts working on the prevention and detection of criminal activity and counter-terrorism investigations.

"This forum is important because it highlights the significance of the relationship forged between the public and private sectors to combat crime through analysis and research," said U.S. Secret Service Director W. Ralph Basham. "We're fortunate to have law enforcement and representatives from the private sector here together: to learn from the experts and to chart a course for the future of criminal information analysis."

Representatives from a wide range of government agencies, U.S Attorney's offices, and financial sector companies had the opportunity at the conference to both reinforce and establish partnerships within the analytical community. Featured speakers included Secret Service Director Basham and Bill Kurtis, host of A&E Television Network's "Investigative Reports."

Well known for protecting the nation's leaders, the U.S. Secret Service is also responsible for protecting America's financial infrastructure. Secret Service criminal research specialists serve as the agency's resident analytical experts, performing complex research relating to investigative and protective intelligence cases. Using the latest technology, as well as time-proven techniques, to track and analyze cases, these specialists develop comprehensive portfolios on targets of ongoing investigations and spot emerging crime trends by using relational databases to analyze clusters of information.

"The law enforcement community as a whole finds great value in the analysis that criminal researchers bring," Director Basham said. "Criminal research specialists work largely behind the scenes to provide the critical forensic links, intelligence analysis, and the investigative expertise to coordinate ongoing investigations."

X. Fruit Flies Found in Texas, Quarantine

In February 2004, the Sapote Fruit Fly and the Mexican Fruit Fly were found in Rio Grande Valley in Texas. Because of the proximity of the finds in each area, quarantine protocols have been implemented by the state of Texas over a 225 square mile area. This is a serious event, given an estimated 5,000 acres of citrus in the quarantine area.

Most fruit flies can infest a large number of different kinds of fruits. The Sapote Fruit Fly is an especially important pest of sapotaceous fruits, such as star apple, sapotes, and nispero.

The Mexican fruit fly is also a very serious pest of various fruits, particularly citrus and mango, in Mexico and Central America. Its natural distribution includes the Rio Grande Valley in Texas, where populations routinely attain pest status if control measures are not practiced. It is a frequent invader in southern California and Arizona.

The presence of any kind of fruit fly in the United States is of great concern to agricultural stakeholders and a grave threat to the American citrus industry. CBP officers must be vigilant in all inspections along the Southern border and in citrus growing states for host materials of these pests.

XI. HR Design News Corner: Proposed Changes to Adverse Actions, Appeals, and Labor Relations

This article is the second in a series summarizing key features of the proposed regulations for the Department's new HR system. Last week's article addressed proposed changes in the areas of performance management, pay, and classification. This week's article highlights major changes proposed in the areas of adverse actions, appeals, and labor relations.

We would like to remind employees that these are only proposed regulations and are subject to change when final regulations are issued, based on careful consideration of the input received during the public comment period.

ADVERSE ACTIONS

Under the proposed system, adverse actions will continue to be defined as they are in the United States Code as removals, suspensions from duty, demotions, and reductions in pay. The proposed system would include a streamlined discipline process that better supports the DHS mission while maintaining fairness for employees. Unlike the current system, there would be a single process for taking either a performance-based or a conduct-based action. Performance Improvement Plans (PIP) are no longer required but are optional. For both performance and conduct issues, we are proposing a uniform notice period of 15 days, with a response period that runs concurrently.

Recognizing that some offenses have a direct and substantial impact on the ability of the Department to protect homeland security, the proposed regulations authorize the Secretary to identify specific offenses for which removal is mandatory. These offenses have not yet been identified, but could potentially include accepting or soliciting bribes which would compromise border security or willfully disclosing classified information. DHS does not intend to use this authority lightly or frequently, and employees would know in advance the list of offenses that would warrant mandatory removal.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO ADVERSE ACTIONS

What's New

- Single process for performance and conduct
- Eliminates requirement for PIP
- Uniform 15-day notice period
- Mandatory removal offenses

What's Not New

- Written notice of proposed action required
- Opportunity to reply required
- Definition of what constitutes an adverse action

APPEALS

The proposed changes to the appeals process will create a simpler and faster appeals process that should lead to a quicker resolution of issues, while maintaining an avenue to independent review and due process.

DHS proposes to retain an independent review of cases by continuing to allow employees to appeal to the Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB), except in cases of mandatory removal offenses. Appeals of mandatory removal offenses would be reviewed by an independent panel within DHS, specifically established for this purpose. In the interest of creating a simpler and faster appeals process, the proposed system would streamline MSPB appeals by shortening processing, filing, and decision time frames. The authority of the MSPB to mitigate agency-selected penalties would be eliminated except in cases where discrimination or other prohibited personnel practices are found. These changes to MSPB procedures are designed to further the DHS mission without impairing fair treatment and due process protections. Discrimination complaint processes and EEOC processes would remain unchanged, as would protections for whistleblowers.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO APPEALS

What's New

- Streamlined MSPB procedures
- Independent DHS panel to review appeals of mandatory removal offenses

What's Not New

- Employees appeal to MSPB
- EEO complaint processes and whistleblower protections remain

LABOR RELATIONS

The proposed labor relations changes would meet the Department's operational needs while providing for collective bargaining and encouraging consultation with employee representatives.

The proposed system maintains the right to organize and bargain collectively subject to any exclusion from coverage or limitation on negotiability established by law and DHS regulations. Specifically, the system would expand core management rights to include determining the numbers, types, and grades of employees and the use of technology, deployment of personnel, and assignment of work. The Department can take action on these and some other management rights without providing advance notice, and bargaining over the exercise of these rights is at the option of the Department. At the union's request, management will bargain, prior to implementation, over such areas as lay-offs and retention of employees, disciplinary actions, and promotions.

Regardless of bargaining obligations, consultation and collaboration with unions, either before or after implementation (depending on circumstances), will be strongly encouraged under the proposed system.

The proposed system includes provisions to streamline the collective bargaining process and establish a DHS Labor Relations Board. DHS proposes to set a 30-day time limit on mid-term bargaining and a 60-day deadline on contract term agreements. Also, a DHS Labor Relations Board, focused on the DHS mission but completely independent of DHS supervision, would be established to resolve all bargaining matters and disputes. The three-member Board would be appointed to fixed terms by the Secretary, but would not report to the Secretary, and would include one member from the Federal Labor Relations Authority (FLRA) to enhance objectivity.

The FLRA would be retained to resolve issues involving employee Unfair Labor Practices (ULPs) and to conduct representational elections.

Deleted: union

PROPOSED CHANGES TO LABOR RELATIONS

What's New

- Independent DHS Labor Relations Board
- Bargaining not required over the impact and implementation of "core" management rights
- Time limits on midterm and term bargaining

What's Not New

- The right to organize and bargain collectively subject to statutory and other legal exclusions
- Continued consultation and collaboration with unions
- Use of FLRA for employee ULPs and representational elections

Tell Us What You Think

We continue to encourage a dialogue as we proceed through the regulatory process. We hope you will take some time to review the proposed system and submit your recommendations, thoughts, and concerns for public record. All comments submitted for public record will be reviewed. There are two methods for submitting public comment:

- ***Via the Internet***

Proposed regulations and background information on the HR Design process can be found online at www.epa.gov/edocket. This site includes a link to the proposed DHS regulations and instructions for submitting public comment electronically.

- ***Via U.S. Mail***

Written submissions, referencing DHS/OPM and docket number (DHS-2004-001), can be sent to:
DHS/OPM HR System Public Comments
PO BOX 14474
Washington, D.C. 20044-4474

The deadline for submitting public comments is March 22, 2004.

You can also continue to send your questions and comments regarding the new HR system to hrdesign@dhs.gov. However, comments submitted to this address will not be considered part of the official public docket.

XII. Pressing Releases

CBP SETS NEW COMPLIANCE DATES FOR AIR CARGO DATA

WASHINGTON, March 4 -- U.S. Customs and Border Protection announced today in the Federal Register revised implementation dates for the transmission of inbound air cargo data required under its Trade Act of 2002 cargo security rules. The original implementation date is March 4, 2004. "The new schedule will allow CBP to modify certain critical aspects of Air AMS, train all CBP officers that process imported air cargo on those changes, and certify the software of new participants," said CBP Commissioner Robert C. Bonner.

COAST GUARD SEIZES 10, 700 POUNDS OF COCAINE, DETAINS 14 SUSPECTED SMUGGLERS

ALAMEDA, Calif., March 4 – Three Coast Guard cutters worked together off the coast of Mexico to seize 10,700 pounds of cocaine, intercept two go-fast boats, and detain 14 suspected smugglers, Feb. 21. The Coast Guard Cutter Midgett, homeported in Seattle, intercepted the fishing vessel Don Isaac 410 miles South of Acapulco, Mexico. A boarding crew from the cutter found 214 bales of cocaine weighing 50 pounds each in a hidden compartment. The eight people onboard the 60-foot fishing vessel were transferred and detained onboard Midgett. Later, Midgett's embarked helicopter located two go-fast boats approximately 325 miles south of Acapulco at a standstill. As the helicopter approached the go-fast boats, they proceeded north at a high rate of speed. The Coast Guard Cutter Active, from Port Angeles, Wash., was in the area and its embarked Stingray helicopter intercepted both go-fast boats and disabled one. The cutter Active and the Coast Guard Cutter Tybee, homeported in San Diego, Calif., were dispatched to the location of the two go-fast boats. Once on scene, six suspected smugglers were transferred onboard Active and later transferred to Midgett. The cocaine and detainees were transferred to U.S. authorities for prosecution.

XIII. Upcoming Events

March 8 -- The Department of Homeland Security holds the first session of the DHS Industry Forum in Washington, D.C.

Under Secretary for Border and Transportation Security Asa Hutchinson speaks at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va.

Under Secretary for Emergency Preparedness and Response Mike Brown speaks to the American Legion Auxiliary in Washington, D.C.

March 9 -- Secretary Tom Ridge speaks at a luncheon hosted by the Institute of Defense and Strategic Studies in Singapore.

Secretary Ridge holds a DHS employee roundtable in Singapore.

Under Secretary for Science and Technology Dr. Charles McQueary speaks to the Department of Homeland Security's Industry Forum in Washington, D.C.

Under Secretary Hutchinson testifies to the Senate Appropriations Homeland Security subcommittee on the DHS FY 05 budget.

Private Sector Liaison Director Al Martinez-Fonts speaks to the Department of Homeland Security DHS Industry Form in Washington, D.C.

March 10 -- Under Secretary Hutchinson speaks to the Cargo Security Conference Roundtable in New York City.

March 11 -- Secretary Ridge holds a DHS employee roundtable in Bangkok, Thailand.

Under Secretary Hutchinson testifies to the House Select Committee on Homeland Security on the DHS FY 05 budget.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Director Eduardo Aguirre and Assistant Secretary Stewart Verdery testify to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on U.S. and Mexico: Immigration Policy and the bilateral relationship in Washington, D.C.

Acting Commissioner David Stone testifies to the House Appropriations subcommittee on Homeland Security on the TSA FY 05 budget.

March 12 -- Secretary Ridge speaks to the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Thailand in Bangkok, Thailand.

Under Secretary Brown speaks to Committee of 100 in Oklahoma City, Okla.

Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Robert Bonner gives commencement address at DEA Agents Graduation in Quantico, Va.

THREAT LEVEL: YELLOW