October 16, 2017

Quote of the week: "Surely not everybody was Kung Fu fighting." Unknown.

Good Stuff You Want to Know

ICE continues to respond to the hurricanes and now the California wildfires

Over 155 ICE volunteers are now serving in the Surge Capacity Force (SCF), including several who are undergoing training at the DHS Center for Domestic Preparedness in Anniston, Alabama, to respond to the wildfires burning in California. The remaining SCF members from ICE are in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico, St. Thomas and St. Croix, still responding to hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria. They deployed in increments of up to 15 people. Increments one and two are back home, except for those who extended for an additional 45 days. New increments are replacing them. More volunteers are still needed. For information, go here.

There are currently 94 HSI Rapid Response Team (RRT) members from around the country deployed to San Juan, along with 40 ERO Special Response Team (SRT) members. This is in addition to the San Juan RRT and SRT. Among other things, they are assisting the SAC office and ICE families, as well as providing humanitarian relief. Three ERO SRTs are returning home today. They were providing force protection for FEMA Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMATs) and direct federal assistance to local law enforcement. The HQ Crisis Action Team (CAT) stood down yesterday. (See below for more on CATs.)

(Pictured is SCF volunteer (b)(6);(b)(7) in Port Arthur, Texas providing information about FEMA benefits to a passing motorist.)

Attention service members: join the
Wall of Veterans

The Office of Public Affairs (OPA) is developing a display at HQ called The Wall of Veterans. It will highlight employees of ICE who are military veterans. The wall will be unveiled next month in time for Veterans Day. If you would like to be featured on the wall, please forward your photo to ICEOPAoutreach@ice.dhs.gov by Oct. 31. Note: images need to be high resolution (large file size). Images that are sized at least 1MB should be high enough resolution to display properly on the wall.

It's still Energy Action Month

The focus for the third week of Energy Action Month is renewable energy. Recent advancements in technology mean that purchasing renewable energy is more competitive than ever with conventional energy -- even for your home. Interested in installing solar panels? Check out the DoE guide to assist you in the process. Be sure to also review state and federal incentives available in your area at the Database of State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency® to help with the costs. Questions? Contact ICESustainability@ice.dhs.gov.

Out in the Field

ERO San Diego partners with the Marine Corps for Miramar Air Show

ERO San Diego’s Special Response Team (SRT) and its Joint Effort-designated Fug Ops team (they work with the Escondido, California police department; see below) recently partnered up with the Marine Corps for the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Air Show in San Diego, California. They provided an additional level of security at the entry points to the air show, watched over the attendees from the rooftops of airplane hangars, and vetted foreign nationals encountered and referred by other law enforcement agencies. ERO San Diego's assistance produced improved security at the event, solidified cooperation with other agencies, and resulted in the vetting of 34 foreign nationals. The collaborative efforts between ICE ERO and local law enforcement resulted in the arrest of six foreign nationals by ERO and one foreign national by the local police.

(Pictured are two ERO San Diego deportation officers surveying the crowd at the
Miramar Air Show from the top of an aircraft hangar.)

Speaking of ERO San Diego’s Joint Effort initiative . . .

The Joint Effort collaborative initiative between the Escondido, California Police Department and ERO San Diego dates back to 2010. It involves information sharing between the two law enforcement agencies. For example, ERO officers use the EDDIE application to help the Escondido PD definitively identify subjects during stops.

The collaboration produces results. In fiscal year 2017, the Joint Effort resulted in more than 333 illegal alien arrests. In addition, 15 re-entry after removal cases were accepted for prosecution by the United States Attorney in San Diego. These prosecutions made up 17 percent of the total prosecution cases in the San Diego field office and included serious crimes like assault with a deadly weapon, grand theft, infliction of corporal injury on spouse, battery, and possession of prohibited ammunition.

(Pictured are SDDO and DO (left) and DO (center) of the Joint Effort taking an illegal alien into custody in Escondido, California.)

What the Heck Do They Do?

When a crisis hits, ICE stands up a Crisis Action Team

In times of crisis like the recent hurricanes, ICE gathers all of its critical HQ players together in one place to form a Crisis Action Team (CAT). The purpose of a CAT is to short-cut the normal bureaucracy, make rapid communications and decisions possible, and streamline the process of getting assistance to wherever it is needed. Critical players include operational people like ERO, HSI and OPLA, along with support staff like the Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO) and the Office of Human Capital (OHC). So, for example, when it became necessary to organize charter flights out of Puerto Rico for ICE employees and their families because of Hurricane Maria, OPLA was present to declare such flights legal, OCFO was present to pay for them, and operational personnel were present to make it happen.

Coincidentally, when the hurricanes started hitting in August, ICE already had a CAT