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Illicit Finance and Proceeds of Crime Unit
Homeland Security Investigations

Homeland Security Investigations (HSI)

HSI Unique Authorities

- Border Search / Export Enforcement – ICE/HSI agents are authorized by Title 19 of the United States Code (USC) to conduct warrantless searches without probable cause at the actual border, the extended border, and the functional equivalent of the border. This authority only exists within DHS.
- Financial – ICE/HSI has the authorities codified under the USC to conduct complex financial investigations and is considered the lead agency responsible for investigating bulk cash smuggling violations.
- Title 8 – Immigration Authority – ICE/HSI agents have the authority to make arrests without warrants for immigration violations.

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Homeland Security Investigations investigative authorities and responsibilities to include:

- Money Laundering / Bulk Cash Smuggling / MSB's
- Narcotics Smuggling / Trafficking
- Commercial Trade and Fraud
- Human Smuggling / Trafficking
- Transnational and Anti-Gang Enforcement
- Weapons Smuggling
- Export Enforcement
- Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)
- Cyber Crimes / Child Sexual Exploitation
- Immigration Document / Benefit Fraud
- Human Rights Violations
- Worksite Enforcement / Critical Infrastructure Protection



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3

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- HSI believes collaboration is essential to identify, disrupt, and dismantle Transnational Criminal Organizations (TCOs)
- TCOs are increasingly using non-traditional methods to move their illicit funds across the borders, throughout the U.S and the world
- The emergence of transnational organized crime (TOC) as a national security priority has highlighted other perils related to illicit finance and money laundering



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4

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Domestic Interagency Cooperation (Formal)

- Border Enforcement Security Task Force (BEST)
- Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) / Fusion Center
- High Intensity Financial Crimes Area (HIFCA)
- SAR Review Teams
- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)
- El Dorado Task Force



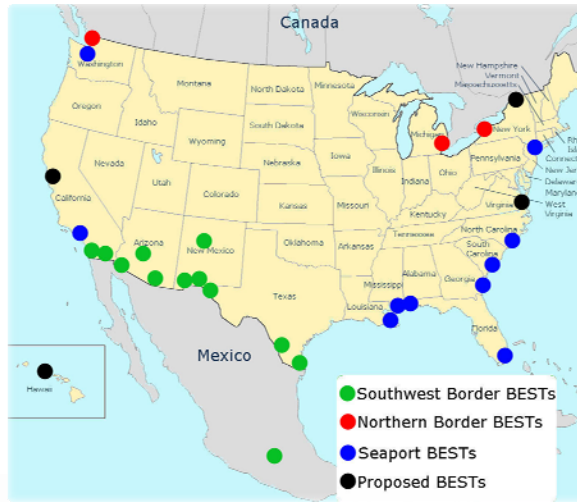
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National BEST Unit Border Enforcement Security Task Force



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National BEST Unit



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National BEST Unit

- Cross-border violence
- Cross-border contraband smuggling
- Cross-border human smuggling and trafficking
- Cross-border money laundering/bulk cash smuggling
- Transnational gangs
- Cross-border weapons smuggling and trafficking
- Cross-border tunnel detection and investigation



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Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF)

- Created in 1982 to formally establish cooperation and coordination among federal, state, and local law enforcement engaged in joint drug enforcement investigations/initiatives.
- The OCDETF program is funded through the “Interagency Crime Drug Enforcement (ICDE)” Appropriation.
- Program provides funding to support investigative costs related to OCDETF initiatives.
- HSI is an active participant in the program and continues to nominate multi-district and multi-national investigations for OCDETF approval.



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9

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OCDETF Program Goals

- Foster improved *interagency* cooperation in the investigation and prosecution of major drug trafficking and related cases.
- Supplement Federal resources for the investigation and prosecution of major drug trafficking and money laundering organizations.
- Target, investigate, and prosecute individuals who organize, direct, finance, or are otherwise engaged in high-level illegal drug trafficking and related enterprises, including large-scale money laundering.
- Promote a coordinated drug enforcement effort in each OCDETF region, and encourage maximum cooperation among all drug enforcement agencies.



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OCDETF Fusion Center

Mission Statement:

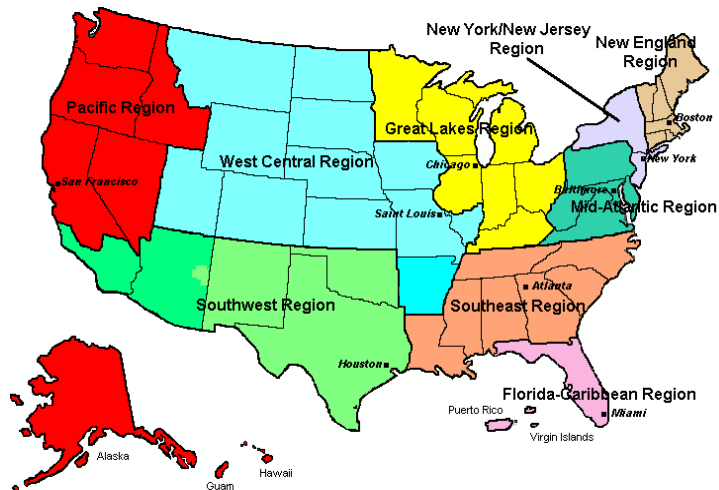
To be a responsive enforcement partner that conducts analysis of real time enforcement intelligence to produce actionable investigative leads, develop target profiles, and exploit links between drug organizations and other criminal activity world wide.

- ICE and DOJ signed two Memoranda of Understanding on Aug. 6, 2009, to foster increased communication and interagency cooperation and coordination between participating agencies at the OFC and the International Organized Crime Intelligence and Operations Center (IOC-2), which is a separate section at the OFC.
- OFC is a JOINT ENFORCEMENT SUPPORT CENTER for all of the participation agencies, serving as a de-confliction active drug related investigations.



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OCDETF Regions



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High Intensity Financial Crimes Area (HIFCA)

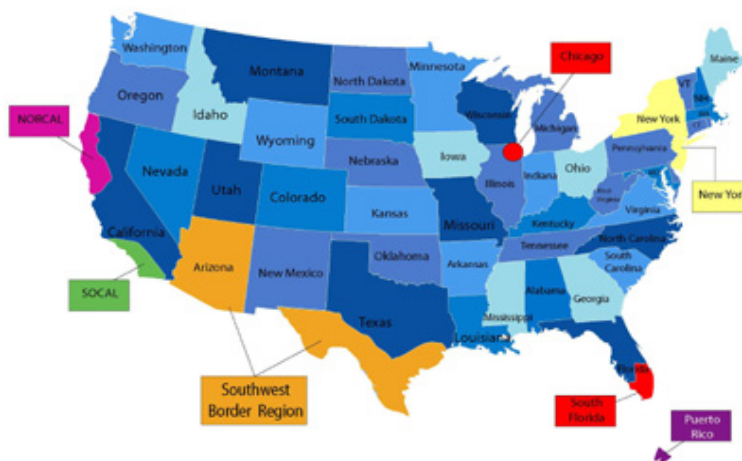
Title 31 USC 5342, passed in 1999 by Congress, provides the authority and the mechanism to designate an area where money laundering or related financial crimes appear to be occurring at a higher than average rate. Legislation did not provide money, people or mission.



13

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Seven HIFCA Regions



14

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HIFCA Core Missions

- **STRATEGIC:** accurate intelligence information regarding money laundering trends, patterns, and methodologies
- **CASE SUPPORT:** to provide law enforcement with the analytical tools to prosecute money laundering case
- **OUTREACH:** to host and participate in information sharing opportunities with the financial community and law enforcement
- **SAR REVIEW**



15

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Suspicious Activity Report (SAR) Review Team

- Organized by the Department of Justice
- Over 100 active teams located throughout the US
- Comprised of Special Agents, Intelligence Analysts, and State and Local task force officers with special training in conducting complex financial criminal investigations
- The primary purpose of a SAR Review Team is to systematically review all SARs that affect a specific geographic jurisdiction, identify individuals who may be engaged in criminal activities, and coordinate and disseminate leads to appropriate agencies for follow-up
- In FY 2011, these teams reviewed 1,446,273 SARs/STRs were filed in the US



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High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)

- The High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Program was initiated in 1990 by the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONCDP). The concept was to designate certain geographical areas as having high concentrations of drug trafficking activities such as distribution, transportation, and smuggling.
- The HIDTA Program targets drug trafficking, money laundering, and related offenses within a specific geographic area.



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HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREAS Office of National Drug Control Policy



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EL DORADO TASK FORCE

Mission

To disrupt, dismantle, or render ineffective organizations involved in laundering the proceeds of narcotics trafficking and other financial crimes in the New York /New Jersey HIDTA region



19

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El Dorado Task Force Programmatic Groups

- Narco Money Laundering/Bulk Cash Operations
- Complex Non-traditional Financial Crime
- Undercover Operations
- Money Remittance Businesses (MSBs)
- Trade Based Money Laundering (TBML/BMPE)
- Asset Identification and Removal
- New York City Police Department Focus
- Drug Enforcement Agency Focus
- Intellectual Property Rights/Cultural Artifacts
- Airport Operations



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In Fiscal Year 2011 ICE-HSI Special Agents initiated over 4,760 financial investigations which resulted in:

The arrest of > 1,790 individuals

Criminal indictment of > 1,140 individuals

Criminal conviction of > 1,130 individuals

Over 6,000 seizures with a combined value of:

Approx. \$360.1 million of which

Approx. \$332.3 million was in currency or monetary instruments



21



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