



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



DHS Deputy Secretary Elaine Duke Visits CRCL

This month DHS Deputy Secretary Elaine Duke visited CRCL staff and credited their work to safeguard civil rights and civil liberties as an asset to the Department. She acknowledged CRCL’s support of the DHS mission by engaging and communicating effectively with diverse communities and striving to ensure equal opportunity and diversity and inclusion within the DHS workforce. She further expounded on her role as the Department’s chief operating officer, and that she would make it a priority to include civil rights and civil liberties considerations in her work to enhance and improve workforce development.

Deputy Secretary Duke was sworn in on April 10, 2017. She has served in the federal government for nearly three decades, most recently as the Department’s Senate-confirmed Under Secretary for Management from 2008-2010.

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Updated National Terrorism Advisory System Bulletin and Translations

On May 16, 2017, Secretary Kelly announced the issuance of an [updated National Terrorism Advisory System \(NTAS\) bulletin](#) pertaining to the homegrown terror threat.

“After careful consideration of the current threat environment and input from intelligence and law enforcement partners, I have made the decision to update and extend the NTAS Bulletin for six months based on the persistent threat from homegrown terrorists,” said Secretary Kelly. “We are in a generational fight against terrorist groups and those they inspire, and for us to protect our homeland we will need constant vigilance and clear focus on staying a step ahead of the enemy.”

This marks the fourth iteration of the Bulletin on the homegrown threat, which has been reissued twice since the initial Bulletin was released in December 2015. The Bulletin is also [available in multiple languages](#), including: English, Arabic, Chinese (Simplified and Traditional), French, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese.

CRCL Leaders Attend Community Engagement Roundtables

This month, CRCL leaders attended community engagement roundtables with diverse stakeholders in Ohio, Colorado, and Florida.

In Ohio, CRCL Acting Deputy Officer Chrystal Young visited Wedgewood Middle School, located in a neighborhood that is home to the largest concentration of Somali Bantu refugees in the United States. CRCL has been working with schools in central Ohio to combat bullying and discrimination. As part of that effort, CRCL has introduced the Kombat with Kindness project in several schools, a social media campaign through which students pledge an act of kindness and share it online. Acting Deputy Officer Young also participated in a local stakeholder meeting and our quarterly roundtable, where the discussion focused on mental health challenges in the Somali American community, refugee resettlement, and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services humanitarian engagement on female genital mutilation/cutting.



In Colorado, CRCL Director of Programs Jennifer Sultan presented at our quarterly roundtable, which was hosted by the Anti-Defamation League. The meeting included local representatives from the U.S. Department of Education and the local U.S. Attorney's Office. The roundtable discussion focused on U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) priorities, including ICE enforcement at courthouses and sensitive location status. There were presentations from the U.S. Department of Education on bullying and harassment in public schools, and from the Anti-Defamation League on hate crimes and hate groups in Colorado.

CRCL Acting Officer Veronica Venture led a series of community and stakeholder meetings throughout central and southern Florida. In Orlando, Officer Venture led a three-hour discussion with local civic organizations, hosted by the Red Cross. She also visited the Pulse nightclub memorial site where the tragic shooting occurred in 2016, as well as the Center Orlando and the Zebra Coalition which were "ground zero" points in coordinating response to the attack. In Tampa, she chaired our quarterly roundtable with diverse communities and local stakeholders, hosted by the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office. Toward the end of her tour, Officer Venture led two interagency community town hall events at the Miami-Dade Community College and the Anti-Defamation League of Palm Beach, where community members shared their heartfelt experiences of how fear of backlash and retaliation continues to impact their lives.

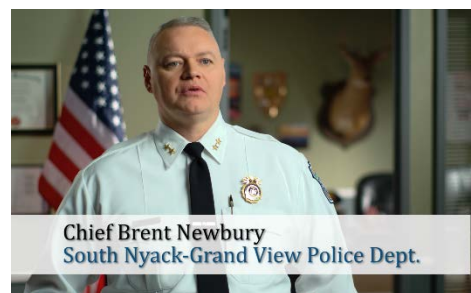


Civil Rights/Civil Liberties Committee Quarterly Meeting

CRCL participates in quarterly meetings with the Civil Rights/Civil Liberties Committee, which is composed of and led by nongovernmental organizations (NGO). The meeting provides a forum to share information on CRCL's activities and respond to NGO questions and concerns on civil rights and civil liberties issues related to DHS policies, programs, and activities. The next Civil Rights/Civil Liberties Committee meeting with CRCL is scheduled for June 20, 2017 from 1:00-2:30 p.m. If your organization is interested in participating, please contact CRCL by June 13, 2017 at CRCL@hq.dhs.gov. Please include "June CR/CL Committee" in the subject line of your email.

CRCL Delivers Pilot Training with FLETC

Last month, representatives of a dozen state and local law enforcement jurisdictions, including two Native American tribes, gathered in Glynco, Georgia with staff from CRCL and the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center to participate in an innovative training-of-trainers pilot program. The new Law Enforcement Awareness Briefing is designed to equip law enforcement officers to train other officers on how to work in partnership with their communities to prevent domestic violent extremism in a manner that protects civil rights and civil liberties. The customizable training, which is based on the most recent academic research in this subject area, is due to be rolled out across the country later this year. The project has been funded by, and developed in collaboration with, the DHS Office for Community Partnerships. For more information, contact CRCLTraining@hq.dhs.gov.



CRCL on the Road, May 2017

May 4 – Seattle, Washington

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

May 5 – Oakland, California

CRCL presented on community engagement practices at a law enforcement workshop.

May 10-11 – New Orleans, Louisiana

CRCL presented at a DHS Protective Security Advisors' training conference.

May 15-16 – San Diego, California

CRCL conducted a series of community engagement meetings with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.

May 17 – Portland, Oregon

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

May 29-30 – Boston, Massachusetts

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

CRCL on the Road Ahead, June 2017

Chicago: Quarterly roundtable, June 6

Buffalo: Homeland Security conference, June 6-7

Houston/El Paso: Quarterly roundtable, June 13-16

Minneapolis: Quarterly roundtable, June 13-17

For more information on engagement events, email: communityengagement@hq.dhs.gov.

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 file complaints; ongoing and upcoming projects; opportunities to offer comments and feedback; etc. We distribute our newsletters via our stakeholder email list and make them available to community groups for redistribution. Issues of the newsletter can be accessed online at: www.dhs.gov/crcl-newsletter.

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. For more information, including how to make a civil rights or civil liberties complaint about DHS activities, visit: www.dhs.gov/crcl.

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