

## Bill Hocking

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**From:** Mac <arthur\_mclean@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 14, 2021 12:08 PM  
**Subject:** Fw: U.S. Department of Homeland Security Weekly Digest Bulletin

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** U.S. Department of Homeland Security <departmentofhomelandsecurity@messages.dhs.gov>  
**To:** "arthur\_mclean@yahoo.com" <arthur\_mclean@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 14, 2021, 12:43:15 AM EST  
**Subject:** U.S. Department of Homeland Security Weekly Digest Bulletin



**Homeland  
Security**

# Starting Today Fully Vaccinated Travelers Permitted to Enter U.S. via Land and Ferry Border Crossings

11/08/2021

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Office of Public Affairs

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## **Starting Today Fully Vaccinated Travelers Permitted to Enter U.S. via Land and Ferry Border Crossings**

WASHINGTON – Starting today, foreign nationals who have been fully vaccinated for COVID-19 and have appropriate documentation will be permitted to enter the United States via land ports of entry (POEs) and ferry terminals for non-essential reasons such as tourism. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) reminds these travelers to be prepared to (1) provide proof of their COVID-19 vaccination, as outlined on the [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#) website; and (2) verbally attest to their reason for travel and COVID-19 vaccination status during a border inspection.

“Today, after more than 18 months of pandemic-related travel restrictions, DHS is taking a critical step toward resuming normal travel,” said Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro N. Mayorkas. “Travelers who are fully vaccinated for COVID-19 and have appropriate documentation are now permitted to enter the United States via our land and ferry border crossings for non-essential reasons such as visiting friends and family and engaging in tourism. DHS continues to work closely with our international partners and domestic public health

experts to sustainably resume travel while protecting our communities and economic security.”

DHS’s U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is working to prevent long lines at land POEs and ferry terminals as normal travel resumes. However, long lines are expected in the initial days following pent-up demand, and CBP will adjust resources as needed, while continuing to facilitate lawful trade and travel and protect our national security. Travelers are advised to expect longer-than-normal wait times, familiarize themselves with the [new guidelines](#), and have appropriate documentation ready during a border inspection.

U.S. citizens are reminded to bring a [Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative](#) (WHTI)-compliant document, such as a valid U.S. passport, Trusted Traveler Program card, Enhanced Driver’s License, or Enhanced Tribal Card, when re-entering the United States and should be prepared to present a WHTI-compliant document if requested by a CBP Officer during a border inspection. Any non-citizen attempting to enter the United States through illegal means or without appropriate documentation may be subject to expulsion or removal.

To help reduce wait times and long lines, travelers can take advantage of [facial biometrics](#) and the [CBP One™](#), which is a single portal for CBP mobile applications and services.

To learn more about the updated requirements for travelers, review the [DHS fact sheet](#).

# # #

## DHS Announces Fee Exemptions, Streamlined Processing for Afghan Nationals as They Resettle in the U.S.

11/08/2021

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Office of Public Affairs

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### **DHS Announces Fee Exemptions, Streamlined Processing for Afghan Nationals as They Resettle in the U.S.**

WASHINGTON — Today, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced that it will exempt filing fees and streamline application processing for Afghan nationals who were paroled into the United States for humanitarian reasons on or after July 30, 2021. These actions will help facilitate their resettlement in the U.S. by streamlining the processing of requests for work authorization, Green Cards, and associated services. DHS is the lead federal agency coordinating Operation Allies Welcome, the

ongoing all-of-government effort to resettle vulnerable Afghans, including those who worked on behalf of the United States.

“By providing these evacuees with access to streamlined processing and fee exemptions, we will open doors of opportunity for our Afghan allies and help them begin to rebuild their lives in communities across our country more quickly,” **said Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro N.**

**Mayorkas.** “These actions demonstrate our ongoing commitment to Afghan nationals who provided valuable assistance to the United States over the past two decades as well as other Afghans at risk.”

Approximately 70,000 Afghans have arrived in the United States as part of Operation Allies Welcome. Following the biggest airlift in U.S. history, DHS exercised its discretion to parole many Afghan nationals, on a case-by-case basis, into the United States for urgent humanitarian reasons. Parolees may apply for work authorization using Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization, on the basis of their parole. Afghan nationals will also have the opportunity to apply for immigration benefits such as Afghan special immigrant status, lawful permanent residence, and asylum.

Additional information for Afghans can be found on [USCIS's website](#).

Afghan nationals who were paroled into the United States on or after July 30, 2021 are eligible for the following fee exemptions and streamlined processing:

#### *Fee Exemptions*

- An initial [Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization](#);
- [Form I-485, Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status](#) (if filing Form I-485 as an Afghan special immigrant) or an associated [Form I-601, Application for Waiver of Grounds of Inadmissibility](#);
- Associated biometric services.

#### *Streamlined Processing*

- An initial [Form I-765](#) for those applying for work authorization on the basis of parole (eligibility category (c)(11));
- [Form I-485](#), for applicants seeking to adjust status as an Afghan special immigrant, and any associated [Form I-601](#); or
- [Form I-589](#), filed by certain Afghan parolees as described in Section 2502(a) of the [Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act](#).

# # #

## DHS Announces Six New Countries Eligible for the H-2A and H-2B Visa Programs

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Office of Public Affairs

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**DHS Announces Six New Countries Eligible for the H-2A and H-2B Visa Programs**

WASHINGTON – The Department of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Department of State, has announced six new countries whose nationals are eligible to participate in the H-2A and H-2B visa programs in the coming year. The notice listing the eligible countries will be published in the Federal Register on Nov. 10, 2021.

“The Department of Homeland Security is committed to working with our interagency partners to ensure that companies in the United States can fill temporary or seasonal jobs for which U.S. workers are not available,” said **Secretary Alejandro N. Mayorkas**. “Adding these six new countries will enable their nationals to apply for temporary work in the United States.”

With this Notice, the Secretary of Homeland Security, with concurrence of the Secretary of State, has decided to:

- Add Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Cyprus, the Dominican Republic (currently only eligible for H-2A), Haiti, Mauritius, and Saint Lucia to the list of countries eligible to participate in the H-2A and H-2B programs; and
- Remove Moldova as an eligible country for the H-2A visa program because it no longer meets the regulatory standards for that program. However, Moldova’s eligibility for the H-2A program remains effective until Jan. 18, 2022, a full year from the last designation.

In total, nationals from 85 countries will be eligible to participate in the H-2A program and nationals from 86 countries will be eligible to participate in the H-2B program in the coming year.

USCIS may, in its discretion, approve H-2A and H-2B petitions (including those that were pending as of the date of the Federal Register notice), for nationals of countries **not** on the list of approved countries on a case-by-case basis if doing so would be in the interest of the United States, in accordance with DHS regulations. Eligibility determinations will be made according to all the relevant factors and evidence presented in the case.

For more information on these programs, see the [H-2A Temporary Agricultural Workers](#) and [H-2B Temporary Non-Agricultural Workers](#) webpages.

# # #

# DHS Secretary Alejandro N. Mayorkas, USCIS Director Ur M. Jaddou to Welcome 17 New Americans in Honor of Veterans Day

11/09/2021

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Office of Public Affairs

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## **DHS Secretary Alejandro N. Mayorkas, USCIS Director Ur M. Jaddou to Welcome 17 New Americans in Honor of Veterans Day**

*USCIS Director Ur M. Jaddou and National Park Service Deputy Director of Operations Shawn Benge to sign Memorandum of Understanding*

**BALTIMORE** - On Wednesday, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro N. Mayorkas will administer the [Oath of Allegiance](#) and provide congratulatory remarks to America's newest citizens during a special naturalization ceremony in celebration of Veterans Day at the Star-Spangled Banner Flag House, a U.S. historic landmark. All 17 people naturalizing are veterans or active-duty members of the military representing all services. They originate from the following eight countries: Cameroon, China, El Salvador, Germany, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal and South Korea.

During the ceremony, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Director Ur M. Jaddou will sign a memorandum of understanding with Shawn Benge, National Park Service Deputy Director of Operations Exercising the Delegated Authority of the NPS Director. This agreement advances the meaning and stature of citizenship by building connections between new citizens and America's parks. USCIS and NPS first signed an agreement in 2006 to connect America's newest citizens to national parks, which provide an ideal backdrop for naturalization ceremonies. Since then, USCIS has coordinated special naturalization ceremonies at dozens of NPS sites, including Ellis Island, Yosemite, Mount Rushmore and the Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine.

Secretary Mayorkas will also recognize an [Outstanding Americans by Choice](#). The Outstanding Americans by Choice recognition is bestowed upon naturalized citizens who have made significant contributions to their community and their adopted country through civic participation, professional achievement, and responsible citizenship.

USCIS naturalized approximately 625,000 people in fiscal year 2020.

**WHO** DHS Secretary Alejandro N. Mayorkas  
USCIS Director Ur M. Jaddou  
NPS Deputy Director of Operations Shawn Benge  
Star-Spangled Banner Flag House and Museum Executive Director Amanda Shores Davis  
17 citizenship candidates from eight countries

**WHEN** Wednesday, Nov. 10, 10:30 a.m.  
**WHERE** Star-Spangled Banner Flag House, courtyard  
844 East Pratt St.  
Baltimore, MD 21202  
**CONTACT** USCIS Public Affairs Officer Sharon Scheidhauer  
[Sharon.e.scheidhauer@uscis.dhs.gov](mailto:Sharon.e.scheidhauer@uscis.dhs.gov), cell: (202) 215-1227  
  
Day of contact on site:  
USCIS Acting Media Affairs Chief Matt Bourke  
[Matthew.d.bourke@uscis.dhs.gov](mailto:Matthew.d.bourke@uscis.dhs.gov), cell: (202) 913-0325  
  
National Park Service Public Affairs Officer Kathy Kupper  
[Kathy\\_Kupper@nps.gov](mailto:Kathy_Kupper@nps.gov); cell: (202) 230-2085  
**NOTES** For planning purposes, media attending the ceremony are requested to RSVP by close of business Nov. 9.

For more information on USCIS and its programs, please visit [uscis.gov](http://uscis.gov) or follow us on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/uscis), [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/uscis), [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/uscis), [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/uscis), and [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/uscis).

# # #

## DHS Issues National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) Bulletin

11/10/2021

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Office of Public Affairs

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### DHS Issues National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) Bulletin

WASHINGTON – Today, Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro N. Mayorkas issued a [National Terrorism Advisory System \(NTAS\) Bulletin](#) regarding the current heightened threat environment across the United States. This NTAS Bulletin replaces the current Bulletin, which was set to expire tomorrow at 2:00 pm.

As of November 10, 2021, DHS is not aware of an imminent and credible threat to a specific location in the United States. The United States continues to face a diverse and challenging threat environment as we approach several religious holidays and associated mass gatherings that in the past have served as potential targets for acts of violence. Through the remainder of 2021 and into

2022, domestic violent extremists (DVEs), including racially or ethnically motivated violent extremists and anti-government/anti-authority violent extremists, will continue to pose a significant threat to our homeland. Of note, DVEs and those inspired or motivated by foreign terrorists and other malign foreign influences will continue to exploit online forums to influence and spread violent extremist narratives and promote violent activity. The ongoing global pandemic continues to exacerbate these threats. Further, foreign terrorist organizations and DVEs continue to attempt to inspire potential followers to conduct attacks in the United States, including by exploiting recent events in Afghanistan.

“DHS has renewed its commitment to work with our partners across every level of government, the private sector, and local communities to combat all forms of terrorism and targeted violence. We have also renewed our commitment to communicate with the American public often about the evolving threat landscape,” said **Secretary Alejandro N. Mayorkas**. “Today, we are issuing the fourth NTAS Bulletin since January 2021. The threat stream has not changed significantly; however this is an important product that keeps the public updated about threats facing the United States and underscores the importance of the public to staying vigilant and reporting suspicious activity to law enforcement.”

Individuals can report suspicious activity and threats of violence, including online threats, to local law enforcement, [FBI Field Offices](#), or a local [Fusion Center](#). DHS and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) will continue to provide guidance to state, local, tribal, territorial, and campus law enforcement and public safety partners about the current threat environment. DHS is also engaging industry partners to help identify and respond to the spread of disinformation, conspiracy theories, and false narratives on social media and other online platforms, while protecting privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties.

Under the Biden-Harris Administration, DHS is prioritizing combating all forms of terrorism and targeted violence and increased information sharing as part of the National Strategy for Countering Domestic Terrorism. To this end, the Department has taken several steps to include increasing efforts to share timely and actionable information and intelligence to the broadest audience at the lowest classification possible, establishing a [dedicated domestic terrorism branch](#) within its Office of Intelligence & Analysis, [forming the Center for Prevention Programs and Partnerships \(CP3\)](#) to provide communities with the tools to help individuals before they radicalize to violence, and [increasing investments in grant programs](#) to strengthen nationwide capabilities to detect and protect against these threats.

This is the fourth NTAS Bulletin issued by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) since January 2021, and it will expire on February 8, 2022. The NTAS Bulletin provides the public with information about the threat landscape facing the United States, as well as information about how to report suspicious activity. Read the NTAS Bulletin [here](#).

# # #

## The Week Ahead for the Department of Homeland Security: November 15 – 19

11/12/2021

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Office of Public Affairs

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**The Week Ahead for the Department of Homeland Security: November 15 – 19**

**Monday, November 15**

**8:55 AM ET**

Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) Chief of Staff Kiersten E. Todt participates in a panel discussion at the Fortune CEO Initiative Annual Meeting  
*Washington, D.C.*

*Media can register [here](#)*

*OPEN PRESS*

**9:00 AM ET**

DHS Chief Information Security Officer Ken Bible participates virtually in the SCGov 2021 e-conference

*Media can register [here](#)*

*OPEN PRESS*

**Tuesday, November 16**

**10:00 AM ET**

Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro N. Mayorkas testifies in a hearing entitled “Oversight of the Department of Homeland Security” before the Senate Judiciary Committee

*Media can watch [here](#)*

*OPEN PRESS*

**10:00 AM ET**

U.S. Coast Guard Deputy Commandant for Mission Support VADM Paul Thomas testifies in a hearing entitled “Rebuilding Coast Guard Infrastructure to Sustain and Enhance Mission Capability” before the House Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation

*Media can watch [here](#)*

*OPEN PRESS*

**10:00 AM ET**

CISA Director Jen Easterly will testify in a hearing entitled “Cracking Down on Ransomware: Strategies for Disrupting Criminal Hackers and Building Resilience Against Cyber Threats” before the House Committee on Oversight and Reform

*Media can watch [here](#)*

*OPEN PRESS*

**12:00 PM ET**



CISA Director Jen Easterly delivers remarks virtually at the Palo Alto Networks Global Ignite 2021 Conference

*Media can register [here](#)*

*OPEN PRESS*

**1:00 PM ET**

CISA Chief of Staff Kiersten E. Todt delivers a virtual keynote on the cyber threat landscape for at the Women Leadership in Cybersecurity for Government conference

*Media can register [here](#)*

*OPEN PRESS*

**Wednesday, November 17**

**10:00 AM ET**

CISA Executive Director Brandon Wales testifies in a hearing entitled “A Whole-of-Government Approach to Combating Ransomware: Examining DHS’s Role” before the House Committee on Homeland Security’s Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, & Innovation, and Subcommittee on Intelligence & Counterterrorism

*Media can watch [here](#)*

*OPEN PRESS*

**11:45 AM ET**

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Office of Information and Technology Assistant Commissioner Sonny Bhagowalia participates virtually at the 14th Annual Federal Information Technology Governance Summit

*Media can register [here](#)*

*OPEN PRESS*

**2:30 PM ET**

CBP Office of Field Operations Deputy Executive Assistant Commissioner Diane Sabatino, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Transnational Organized Crime Division Deputy Assistant Director Joe Jeronimo, and General Services Administration (GSA) Assistant Commissioner Stuart Burns testify in a hearing entitled “Federal Government Perspective: Improving Security, Trade, and Travel Flows at the Southwest Border Ports of Entry” before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee

*Media can watch [here](#)*

*OPEN PRESS*

**Thursday, November 18**

**7:30 AM ET**

CISA Deputy Director Nitin Natarajan delivers a virtual keynote on cybersecurity at the Ibec Global Conference

*Media can register [here](#)*

*OPEN PRESS*

**9:00 AM ET**

CISA Director Jen Easterly delivers remarks virtually to discuss the standup of the Joint Cyber Defense Collaborative (JCDC) at the Palo Alto Public Sector 2021 Conference

Media can register [here](#)

OPEN PRESS

**11:00 AM ET**

Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro N. Mayorkas participates virtually in a conversation with European Commissioner for Home Affairs Ylva Johansson about confronting the ransomware threat through transatlantic cooperation

Media can register [here](#)

OPEN PRESS

**12:40 PM ET**

DHS Management Directorate Senior Advisor Jacob Braun discusses how technology was used to support Operation Allies Welcome at the 2021 Technology and Transformation Summit hosted by the Association of Government Accountants

Media can register [here](#)

OPEN PRESS

**Friday, November 19**

**10:00 AM ET**

Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro N. Mayorkas and Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Administrator David Pekoske deliver remarks at the TSA 20th Anniversary Ceremony: Remembering Our Past; Securing Our Future.

Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport

Media can watch [here](#)

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# # #

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