



EMAIL BULLETIN

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY ANNOUNCES "OPERATION LIBERTY SHIELD": MOVE INCREASES SECURITY MEASURES AT U.S. BORDERS, TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES, CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE, AND FIRST RESPONDERS

21 March 2003

On March 18, 2003, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge announced the implementation of a new, comprehensive, nationwide security and readiness plan designed to increase security for American infrastructure. Operation Liberty Shield calls upon the expertise and resources of multiple federal agencies coordinating efforts to increase our nation's security, preparedness, responsiveness.

The White House published a Fact Sheet to inform the American public of what to expect from Operation Liberty Shield. Travelers to the United States should expect increased border surveillance, increased border screening, and increased airport security. Other, less visible measures include increased maritime patrols, additional FAA flight restrictions, increased HAZMAT monitoring, increased food safety monitoring, increased security at vital infrastructure facilities, and increased monitoring of the Internet for potential cyber-attacks.

An additional measure being implemented will require the detention of asylum applicants from nations where al-Qaida and other terrorist organizations operate for the duration of time their asylum applications are pending.

Iraqi Nationals Sought By FBI And Bureau Of Immigration & Customs Enforcement (BICE) For Interviews

On March 20, 2003, the Department of Homeland Security announced a joint initiative to be carried out by the FBI and BICE in an effort to identify and detain Iraqi nationals who might pose a threat to the safety or security of the United States. Simultaneously, both agencies seek to interview Iraqi nationals who can provide useful information which may be used to protect U.S. interests and prevent attacks against Americans at home and abroad.