



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

FDNS Overview



**Fraud Detection and National Security
Directorate**

May 2019

Mission Statement



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USCIS Mission Statement

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services administers the nation's lawful immigration system, safeguarding its integrity and promise by efficiently and fairly adjudicating requests for immigration benefits while protecting Americans, securing the homeland, and honoring our values.



FDNS Mission Statement

FDNS will safeguard the integrity of the nation's lawful immigration system by leading agency efforts to combat fraud, detect national security and public safety threats, and maximize law enforcement and Intelligence Community partnerships.

Mission Essential Functions



- Detect, deter, and administratively investigate immigration-related fraud.
- Establish guidance and oversee process for identifying, reviewing, vetting, and adjudicating cases involving national security concerns.
- Develop and implement efficient and effective security screening policies, programs, and procedures.
- Serve as primary conduit for information sharing and collaboration with law enforcement and the Intelligence Community.

History of USCIS/FDNS



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- As a result of the September 11, 2001 terror attacks, Congress realigned multiple agencies into the Department of Homeland Security.
 - INS was abolished and immigration portfolio split.
 - CBP and ICE took over intelligence and enforcement.
 - USCIS was in charge of immigration benefit adjudications.
- USCIS was initially dependent on other agencies for fraud detection and deterrence.
 - 2004 Congressional Appropriations Act and creation of FDNS.
 - 2010 FDNS elevated to a Directorate.

Office Locations



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Domestically FDNS Immigration Officers are posted in:

- USCIS Service Centers
- Regional Offices
- District Offices
- Field Offices
- Asylum and Refugee Offices

Liaisons/Detailees



- CBP National Targeting Center for Passengers
- Department of State's Kentucky Consular Center and National Visa Center
- FBI National Name Check Program
- FBI Terrorist Screening Center
- ICE Document and Benefit Fraud Task Forces
- ICE-HSI Forensic Laboratory
- INTERPOL's U.S. National Central Bureau
- National Counterterrorism Center
- FBI National Joint Terrorism Task Force and FBI Joint Terrorism Task Forces around the country

Resources



FDNS onboard staffing includes 1347 federal employees:

FDNS Employees as of 5/1/19	
HQFDNS	247
RAIO	34
Asylum	98
FOD	736
SCOPS	232
Total	1347
Total Authorized	1553

Fraud



- FDNS conducts for cause site visits, going to the homes and businesses of people suspected of fraudulently filing for benefits.
- Pursuant to the April 18, 2017, *Buy American and Hire American* Executive Order, FDNS started the Targeted Site Visit and Verification Program (TSVVP) to combat H-1B fraud and abuse.
- Since 2009, the Administrative Site Visit and Verification Program (ASVWP) has conducted over 100,000 Compliance Reviews of businesses and other organizations.
- The External Source Site Visit Program coordinates with the Department of State to detect and deter fraud during consular processing.
- FDNS established email addresses dedicated to receiving information about suspected H-1B and H-2B fraud or abuse. Anyone (including American workers and workers who suspect they or others may be the victim of H-1B or H-2B fraud or abuse) can email ReportH1BAbuse@uscis.dhs.gov or ReportH2BAbuse@uscis.dhs.gov to submit tips, alleged violations, and other relevant information about potential fraud or abuse.

National Security and Public Safety



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- FDNS leads the USCIS response to national security incidents, serving as a critical link to intelligence and law enforcement.
- As part of our thorough review of every case, USCIS conducts national security and criminal background clearance checks on petitioners and applicants who seek immigrant benefits and services.
- USCIS assesses information it receives through these checks to ensure that only those individuals that are eligible receive the immigration benefits sought.
- These checks, along with national security case review guidance, are critical tools that ensure USCIS is able to make well-founded, quality decisions.
- In some cases, the national security and criminal background clearance checks produce information that USCIS must review with its partners in the law enforcement and Intelligence Communities. This process allows USCIS to discover information relevant to adjudication of the immigration benefit request.

Social Media



- In July 2016 USCIS/FDNS established the Social Media Division to conduct social media screening on certain applicants.
- Social media checks are conducted on only publically available social media.
- USCIS may conduct social media account checks within certain populations who have applied for an immigration benefit. The agency checks the account holders' publicly posted information, simply as another information source to inform an adjudication determination.

FY18 Workload



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In FY18, USCIS completed the below workload:

- 7,398 National security concerns
- 10,698 Public safety cases
- 20,312 Fraud leads and 32,260 fraud cases
- 57,396 Requests for assistance
- 1,393 Requests for overseas verification
- 9,717 Administrative Site Visit and Verification Program (ASVVP) compliance reviews
- 427 Targeted Site Visit and Verification Program (TSVVP) site visits
- 11,740 Social Media Screenings

Data pulled on February 7, 2019



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