DHS Begins Collecting 10 Fingerprints From International Visitors at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport

Release Date: February 1, 2008
US-VISIT Public Affairs

Washington, D.C. - The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced today that it has begun collecting
additional fingerprints from international visitors arriving at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport
(Hartsfield). The change is part of the department's upgrade from two- to 10-fingerprint collection to enhance
security and facilitate legitimate travel by more accurately and efficiently establishing and verifying visitors' identities.
"Biometrics have revolutionized our ability to prevent dangerous people from entering the United States since 2004.
Our upgrade to 10 fingerprint collection builds on our success, enabling us to focus more attention on stopping
potential security risks," US VISIT Director Robert Mocny said.

For more than four years, the U.S. Department of State (DOS) consular officers and U.S. Customs and Border
Protection (CBP) officers have been collecting biometrics - digital fingerprints and a photograph - from all non-U.S.
citizens between the ages of 14 and 79, with some exceptions, when they apply for visas or arrive at U.S. ports of
entry.

"Quite simply, this change gives our officers a more accurate idea of who is in front of them. For legitimate visitors,
the process becomes more efficient and their identities are better protected from theft. For those who may pose a
risk, we will have greater insight into who they are," added Mr. Paul Morris, Executive Director of Admissibility
Requirements and Migration Control, Office of Field Operations, U.S. Customs and Border Protection.
The department's US-VISIT program currently checks a visitor's fingerprints against DHS records of immigration
violators and Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) records of criminals and known or suspected terrorists.
Checking biometrics against the watch list helps officers make visa determinations and admissibility decisions.
Collecting 10 fingerprints also improves fingerprint matching accuracy and the department's ability to compare a
visitor's fingerprints against latent fingerprints collected by Department of Defense (DOD) and the FBI from known

and unknown terrorists all over the world. Additionally, visitors' fingerprints are checked against the FBI's Criminal
Master File.

On an average day at Hartsfield, 4,000 international visitors complete US VISIT biometric procedures. Visitors from
the United Kingdom, Germany and Mexico comprise the largest numbers of international visitors arriving at
Hartsfield.

Hartsfield is the second port of entry to begin the collection of 10 fingerprints from international visitors. Washington
Dulles International Airport began 10-fingerprint collection on November 29, 2007, and eight other ports of entry will
begin collecting additional fingerprints during the next few months. The next ports scheduled are: Boston Logan
International Airport; Chicago O'Hare International Airport; San Francisco International Airport; George Bush
Houston Intercontinental Airport; Miami International Airport; Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport; Orlando
International Airport; and New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport. The remaining air, sea and land ports
will transition to collecting 10 fingerprints by the end of 2008.

Since US VISIT began in 2004, DHS has used biometric identifiers to prevent the use of fraudulent documents,
protect visitors from identity theft, and stop thousands of criminals and immigration violators from entering the
country. US VISIT, in cooperation with CBP, is leading the transition to a 10-fingerprint collection standard. This
upgrade is the result of an interagency partnership among DHS, FBI, DOD and DOS.