

USCIS AND FBI RELEASE JOINT PLAN TO ELIMINATE BACKLOG OF FBI NAME CHECKS

Partnership Establishes Series of Milestones To Complete Checks

Office of Communications

News Release

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WASHINGTON – U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and the Federal Bureau of

Investigation (FBI) today announced a joint plan to eliminate the backlog of name checks pending with

the FBI.

USCIS and the FBI established a series of milestones prioritizing work based on the age of the pending

name check. The FBI has already eliminated all name check cases pending more than four years.

“This plan of action is the product of a strong partnership between USCIS and the FBI to eliminate the

backlogs and to strengthen national security,” said USCIS Director Emilio Gonzalez.

By increasing staff, expanding resources, and applying new business processes, the goal is to complete 98

percent of all name checks within 30 days. USCIS and the FBI intend to resolve the remaining two

percent, which represent the most difficult name checks and require additional time to complete, within

90 days or less. The goal is to achieve and sustain these processing times by June 2009.

The joint plan will focus on resolving the oldest pending FBI name checks first. USCIS has also

requested that the FBI prioritize resolution of approximately 29,800 pending name checks from

naturalization applicants submitted to the FBI before May 2006 where the naturalization applicant was

already interviewed.

The target milestones for processing name checks are:

Completion Goal Category

May 2008 Process all name checks pending more than three years

July 2008 Process all name checks pending more than two years

Nov. 2008 Process all name checks pending more than one year

Feb. 2009 Process all name checks pending more than 180 days

June 2009 Process 98 percent of all name checks within 30 days and process the remaining two percent within 90 days.

– USCIS –