



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

ICE & U.S. Army arrest 58 illegal aliens attempting to access critical Army installation

FORT BRAGG, NC – The Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) teamed with Fort Bragg's Directorate of Security and Emergency Services officials today to conduct a worksite enforcement operation targeting illegal aliens attempting to enter Ft. Bragg U.S. Army installation. The operation resulted in the apprehension of 58 persons with allegedly false or fraudulently obtained identification.

"This year, ICE has arrested a record number of employers who hire illegal aliens as well as thousands of illegal alien workers," said ICE Assistant Secretary Julie L. Myers. "Our commitment to protecting the nation's critical infrastructure and enforcing immigration law remains strong. No industry or location is immune from future ICE enforcement actions."

In the past year, Ft. Bragg safety officials have detained more than 150 persons attempting to gain access under false pretenses. The vast majority of the detainees were construction workers detained at gates to the installation.

"Today's operation was part of our on-going force protection measures," said Ft. Bragg spokesman Tom McCollum. "The operation went very smoothly with no incidents or accidents. The gates are our first line of defense against stopping persons with false or fraudulently obtained identification from entering the installation. Since we began scanning identification forms, we have been able to quickly identify false identifications."

Persons with false or fraudulently obtained identification attempting to enter Fort Bragg can be cited for a variety of infractions, including criminal trespassing and presenting a false or fraudulently obtained federal or state identification. If it is shown that employers knowingly hired these people, the employer can be cited with aiding and abetting and or conspiracy charges. The garrison commander can also bar them from holding contracts on Ft. Bragg.

Additionally, four individuals were arrested for drug possession and 14 vehicles were impounded.

Other agencies assisting in this operation included the U.S. Marshals, Defense Criminal Investigation Service, the FBI and the U.S. Attorney's Office in Raleigh.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.