



Pegasus Report

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Pegasus Support Center

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Pegasus Program Named in Senate C-J-S Bill

This month, the Senate passed the FY2008 Senate Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations bill which, among other things, provides enhanced funding for the COPS, RISS and Pegasus programs which support local law enforcement in fighting crime. Thanks to bi-partisan leadership provided by **Sen. Barbara Mikulski** (D-MD), **Sen. Richard Shelby** (R-AL), **Sen. Thad Cochran** (R-MS), and **Sen. Patrick Leahy** (D-VT), the Senate bill included FY2008 funding for expansion of the Pegasus Program.

Commenting on the Bill, **Senator Mikulski** said, "While we are protecting the homeland, we also have to protect the hometown. This legislation gets us closer to these goals by standing up for our first responders and local programs to protect our children, our families and our local communities." And, in response, **Sheriff David Goad, Allegany County, MD and NSA 2nd Vice President** commended Sen. Mikulski for her longstanding strong support for law enforcement.

Senator Shelby, discussing nationwide programs funded by the bill, noted: "Pegasus allows local law enforcement and first responders across the country to integrate criminal information databases [and] efficiently provide criminal information, particularly helpful to rural law enforcement with limited ... resources. It is my hope that this expedient sharing of information will help local law enforcement agencies solve crimes and keep criminals off our streets."

After a House-Senate Conference Committee resolves differences between bills approved by the two Chambers, a final bill will go to the President for his signature.

Supreme Court Hears Consular Notification Case

On Oct. 10, the U.S. Supreme Court engaged in a robust debate over the death sentence of Mexican national Jose Medellin, who appealed because he was not given access to his country's consulate after his arrest, as required by U.S. treaty. The **Medellin** case goes to the core of the President's powers to require States to honor Federal treaty obligations, and tests whether the President can order state courts in Texas to obey a ruling of the International Court of Justice. The Supreme Court's ruling could require that Texas courts hold further hearings regarding the defendant's capital conviction.

Reminder: Pegasus Consular Notification

The Pegasus Consular Notification Function was implemented to help local law enforcement agencies avoid the consular notification problems raised in the **Medellin** case, and to enable them to provide DHS ICE with information about arrested or detained aliens, exactly

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as proposed by the **CLEAR Act** (see next article), and exactly as many local agencies wish to do. Please call the Pegasus Support Center if you have any questions or comments about this Function.

Rep. Marsha Blackburn Introduces CLEAR Act

Rep. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) recently introduced “**The Charlie Norwood CLEAR Act**”, H.R. 3494, to incentivize local law enforcement and corrections personnel to provide information about arrested or detained illegal aliens to DHS ICE. Rep. Blackburn’s legislation, which has 134 co-sponsors, essentially mirrors legislation previously championed by the late Rep. Charlie Norwood (R-NC). Among other things, it authorizes Federal funding to State and local agencies which provide such information to DHS ICE.

Pegasus Identity Credential Launched

At its meeting in Salt Lake in June, the **Pegasus Advisory Board** authorized the Pegasus Technology Consortium to proceed with a pilot project to issue Pegasus Identity Credentials and meet the needs of Metro New Orleans residents for disaster reentry credentials. Now, in cooperation with private sector leaders of the Metro New Orleans maritime and business communities, a private sector-funded initiative to provide Pegasus Identity Credentials has been launched.

Pegasus Identity Credentials use FIPS 201 “smart card” and biometric technologies to better identify private sector infrastructure worker emergency responders to law enforcement gatekeepers. Pegasus Identity Credentials, a type of First Responder Authentication Credential (FRAC), will aid law enforcement and other first responders in incident management and other homeland security responsibilities, such as responding to Katrina-type disasters. **Sheriff Craig Webre, Lafourche Parish, LA, NSA President, and Sheriff Larry Amerson, Calhoun County, AL, Chairman of the NSA Standards & Ethics, Education & Training Committee**, have urged adoption of a national standard for FRACs to assure nationwide acceptance and interoperability.

Pegasus System Update

More than 750 agencies and offices in 34 states currently participate in the Pegasus Program, either by contributing data, accessing data, or both. Currently, **268 agencies have access** to Pegasus data, **544 agencies contribute data**, and the system now has **19.6 million records** not available through Federal systems, **an increase of 8.5 million records** since 2006.

Reminder: Update Agency Directory Info

The Pegasus Agency Directory is a listing of contact information for 25,000+ law enforcement and emergency responder agencies across the Nation. In addition to agency contact information, the Agency Directory contains more detailed information about every Pegasus Authorized User, showing the permissions assigned to every Authorized User. **Please review your Agency Directory listing to assure that its information is current, and notify the Pegasus Support Center of any information that is incorrect.**

Comments? Questions?

Please contact the Pegasus Support Center at 800-392-4312.