
From: Don Crocetti [mailto:notification+zj4oozay664c@facebookmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2016 5:17 PM
To: U.S. Immigration Issues
Subject: [U.S. Immigration Issues] RE: More inaccurate, misleading, and...

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Don Crocetti posted in [U.S. Immigration Issues](#).



RE: More inaccurate, misleading, and misinformation from immigrant right groups. This time it pertains to the longstanding policy and procedures that govern the way national security cases are to be processed by USCIS personnel upon the adjudication of naturalization (“citizenship”) applications.

Immigrant right groups/activists allege USCIS' policy, known as the Controlled Application Review & Resolution Program (CARRP) policy and procedure, discriminates against Muslims in that most terrorist activities involve Muslims, and that most of these particular Muslims have lived in Middle Eastern countries. In an attempt to further support their ridiculous allegation, they cite the fact that USCIS typically denies citizenship cases within six months, yet applications filed by Muslims are not adjudicated for many more months, if not years. They further argue that litigation is often necessary to get USCIS to focus on the case, and that such usually results in approval of the application.

As someone who was involved in the initial development of USCIS' allegedly fishy policy {couldn't resist} and several subsequent modifications, I can assure you the objective of CARRP, which has been in place since 2008, was to provide hundreds of USCIS personnel located throughout the country the guidance needed to ensure proper, consistent, and responsive decisions on applications containing national security issues and concerns. This policy applied to all applications, not just naturalization (citizenship). It also applied to all applicants,

regardless of nationality, gender, age, religion, or country of residence. The policy was also intended to help applicants as a clear policy and process promotes a more effective, qualitative, and efficient process.

While it is true that most national security-based records of concern pertain to Muslims, USCIS is alerted of the existence of the information by other government agencies (OGA's). This is because USCIS' background check process includes bouncing applicant biometric and biographic data against other agency criminal, intelligence, terrorists, and other databases/datasets. USCIS' primary objective is to ensure it does not grant immigration benefits to persons who pose a threat to national security and/or public safety {like legacy INS allegedly did with the 9/11/01 terrorists}. This process is the only mechanism USCIS has to screen such a significant volume of applicants, so if it goes, so does

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It's unfortunate that the existence of national security hits (records) and other concerns prolong the adjudication process, but this is understandable and unavoidable given the fact USCIS must retrieve the information {often classified} from {often numerous} external sources, and thoroughly review it internally {with numerous officials} prior to adjudication. Further, the more substantive {concerning} the information (threat) is, the more level of involvement—causing further delay. In the past, there has also been an occasional post-retrieval and vetting issue, it being reticence in the field to approve cases that have completed the CARRP process, but continue to contain national security concerns. While this problem likely continues, I doubt the volume is significant--assuming senior management continues to monitor the caseload in a responsible manner. [We held senior leadership level national security case briefings on a biweekly to monthly basis prior to my retirement in 2011.]

In closing, let me point out that I believe USCIS' policy provides adjudicators the guidance needed to ensure they get the information needed to render an appropriate decision. This policy also helps applicants as it ensures a correct decision, consistency, and to a great degree, a responsive decision for most applicants, i.e., those without national security-based records and those with records that turn out to be insignificant or impertinent. Let's only hope the Court agrees.



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The 13 plaintiffs are among thousands whose immigration applications have been flagged for "national...



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