

## Federal/Local 287(g) Partnerships Work

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Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania state legislators attending the annual Quad State Legislative conference learned about why the 287(g) program, which trains local law enforcement officers to engage in immigration enforcement activities and enables them to initiate deportation proceedings for illegal aliens, is a fast-growing success.



Andrew Kondisko, the ICE resident Agent-in-Charge for Harrisonburg, Virginia, discussed some of the cooperative activities that are occurring in all four states with respect to criminal illegal aliens, the *Northern Virginia Daily* reports. He noted that the 287(g) program has already worked out well for local governments that have signed on, and that some initial concerns have proven to be unfounded, e.g., that 287(g) would make Hispanic and immigrant communities less likely to cooperate with police. The *Daily* reports Kondisko as saying, "I think these are people that anyone would want to get off the street, particularly the community where they're at."

Jeremiah Zook, the Assistant District Attorney for Franklin County, Virginia, told attendees that ICE has become more active recently in detaining criminal defendants whose immigration status is in question. ICE is detaining more than three percent of the population at the Franklin County Jail, and deporting about 20 illegal aliens per month, he said.

Nationwide, over 60 local law enforcement agencies have signed 287(g) agreements with ICE. Another eight are actively negotiating agreements, and 85 others have put in requests but haven't started negotiations. The program has helped deport more than 35,000 criminal illegal aliens nationwide since Oct. 1, 2007, up from 6,000 during all of fiscal year 2006.

[287\(g\)](#) [local enforcement](#) [ICE](#)

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