

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: December 20, 2007

SHERIFF'S OFFICE CELEBRATES DIVERSITY AS DETENTION OFFICERS GRADUATE

FOREIGNERS FILL DETENTION POSITIONS

Sheriff's program of hiring Non-U.S. citizens a great success

(Phoenix, AZ) For the past two years, Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio has held open his doors to the international community by hiring non-U.S. citizens from 30+ foreign countries. After reviewing the results, the Sheriff is pleased with the results of hiring these men and women foreigners to work in his jails.

Arpaio is encouraged by their willingness to remain on the job and their work ethic and says that because of their diversity, communication and cultural understanding is increased in the jails between officers and inmates.

"Their insight and the direct information concerning inmate activity in the jails provided by these registered alien detention officers is invaluable," says the Sheriff.

The Sheriff refers to his jail system is an 'international city' since many of his jailed inmates, both past and present, are foreigners including at least five suspected international terrorists.

Most of those non-U.S. citizens now working in the jail system are from Mexico, but are also from other countries. Today, Sheriff Arpaio will preside over the last 2007 detention graduation where the countries of Bosnia, Columbia, India, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Sudan, and Mexico will be represented.

Sheriff Arpaio opened recruitment to 18-year-olds as well as to people around the world. This graduating class of 37 officers represents his success in those efforts. In this class there are 18-year-olds, a 50-year-old, and 12 people from eight foreign countries.

Graduation begins today, Thursday, December 20, 2007, at 4PM. The ceremony will be held at the Sheriff's training academy located at 2627 South 35th Avenue. The public and media are welcome to attend.

For more information contact SheriffsMediaRequests@MCSO.Maricopa.Gov .

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News Release

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