



**U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement**

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Media Advisory

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ICE to open its first designed-and-built civil detention center

KARNES CITY, Texas — U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) is scheduled to open its first-ever designed-and-built civil detention facility on Tuesday, March 13. The event will be hosted by ICE ERO Executive Associate Director Gary Mead. After the news conference, a tour of the facility will be available for media representatives to include recording devices.

This 608-bed detention center is the first facility designed and constructed with ICE's new civil detention reforms in mind. It will allow ICE detainees greater unescorted movement, enhanced recreational opportunities and contact visitation, while also maintaining a safe and secure atmosphere for detainees and staff.

- WHO:** Gary Mead, Executive Associate Director (EAD)
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)
Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO)
- WHAT:** News conference to announce the opening of the **Karnes County Civil Detention Center**, the first-ever designed-and-built civil detention facility in the country.
- WHEN:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 at 12 p.m. (CDT)
- WHERE:** Karnes County Civil Detention Center, (about 60 miles southeast of San Antonio)
409 FM 1144
Karnes City, TX 78118

Background: On Aug. 6, 2009, ICE first announced our detention reform plan, which included establishing civil detention facilities for low-risk detainees, such as Karnes:

<http://www.ice.gov/news/releases/0908/090806washington.htm>

Important note for visiting media representatives: The news conference will begin at 12 p.m. Be sure to allow time for security screening.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities. For more information, visit: www.ICE.gov. To report suspicious activity, call 1-866-347-2423.