

Date: 24 Oct 2025

OPSEC and Safety

Good afternoon,

District Heartland Coastal Shipmates,

Please see the following report for your situational awareness:
<https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/10/14/bounties-originating-mexico-offered-shoot-ice-and-cbp-officers-chicago>

Recent intelligence indicates an elevated threat environment for personnel working in LE, including ICE and CBP.

While we in the USCG Auxiliary are not in LE, the goal is to ensure everyone is aware, prepared and safe.

The key takeaway is a heightened need for strong OPSEC practices, especially for members that may be working in conjunction with other federal agencies or in high-visibility locations. Understanding your surroundings and consistently practicing good OPSEC is crucial to mitigating potential risks.

Please review some possible key mitigating strategies:

- **Uniform Awareness:** Exercise caution regarding when and where you wear your USCG uniform, especially off-duty or while commuting. Consider changing into civilian attire before/after your shift, particularly if your commute involves potentially high-risk areas. When possible, keep uniforms out of sight in your vehicle.
- **Situational Awareness:** Be acutely aware of your surroundings, both on and off base. Notice anything out of the ordinary. Trust your instincts. If something feels wrong, remove yourself from the situation and report your concerns.
- **Transportation Security:** Vary your routes and times when commuting to and from work. Consider carpooling with trusted colleagues when feasible. Be vigilant about suspicious vehicles or individuals near your home or workplace.

- **Social Media & Information Sharing:** Be mindful of what you post online, including details about your job, location, or activities. Avoid discussing sensitive information in public places or over unsecured communication channels. Remind family members of the importance of OPSEC as well.
- **Reporting Suspicious Activity:** If you observe anything suspicious, no matter how small it may seem, report it immediately to your Flotilla and Division COLM and local law enforcement.

Thank you,

COMO Doug Ritchie

CGD-H-CR District Heartland Coastal