

**Report to Congress on  
Process to Examine Admissibility and Arrival of Refugees  
Page 70 of Senate Report 116-126 accompanying Division G  
from the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020,  
PL 116-94 (Refers to pages 57-58 of Senate Report 115-282)**

*Reports.—Not later than 90 days after enactment of the act, and every 90 days thereafter until September 30, 2020, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that describes the process used to examine the admissibility and arrival of refugees in the United States, including: (1) any changes made to the operating procedures of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program since January 1, 2017, including staffing, security, and other vetting requirements; (2) the number of refugees vetted each day by relevant agencies; (3) the locations, dates, and number of refugee officers in each U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services [USCIS] circuit ride completed in fiscal year 2020; the locations, dates, and number of refugee officers for each circuit ride planned for the remainder of fiscal year 2020; and the number of refugees interviewed on circuit rides in fiscal year 2020 and approved for further action; (4) the current staffing levels for the Refugee Corps and the Asylum Corps at USCIS; the number of vacant positions in the Refugee, Asylum and International Operations Directorate, USCIS; and the number of Refugee Corps officers reassigned from the Refugee Corps per month; and (5) the number of refugees resettled in the United States per month.*

**1. Changes Made to the Operating Procedures of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program since January 1, 2017, Including Staffing, Security, and Other Vetting Requirements**

The top priority of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) is the safety and security of the American people. The December 2017 National Security Strategy states that the United States “will enhance vetting of prospective immigrants, refugees, and other foreign visitors to identify individuals who might pose a risk to national security or public safety” and “will set higher security standards to ensure that we keep dangerous people out of the United States.”

As part of continued efforts to improve the efficiency and integrity of the program, the U.S. government implemented the following changes to USRAP operating procedures between October 1 and December 31, 2019:

- USCIS International and Refugee Affairs Division provided updated guidance to Resettlement Support Centers (RSCs) on jurisdiction over adjudication of Requests for Review (RFR) of Form I-590, Registration for Classification as Refugee, and Form I-602, Application by Refugee for Waiver of Grounds of Excludability (I-602) filed in I-590 cases by applicants and their derivatives.
- The Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) announced the transfer of certain case processing steps for Special Immigrant Visas (SIVs) from the Refugee Processing Center in Rosslyn, Virginia, to RSCs in Amman and Istanbul.

- PRM provided updated guidance on case closure procedures for RSCs.
- PRM provided updated guidance to standardize RSC deferral practices for UNHCR referrals.
- PRM provided updated guidance to RSCs on the treatment and processing for refugee cases that include an informal marriage (aka “camp marriage”).
- PRM provided updated guidance to resettlement agencies regarding applications for refugee benefits for I-730 petitions approved when the beneficiary is already present in the United States.
- USCIS issued a draft lesson plan on credibility as a training tool and as a resource for adjudicating officers in the field.
- USCIS issued interim updated procedural guidance on supervisory review of refugee cases.

**2. Number of Refugees Vetted Each Day by Relevant Agencies**

See Attachment A.

**3. Locations, Dates, and Number of Refugee Officers in Each USCIS Circuit Ride Completed in FY 2020**

No USCIS circuit rides took place during Quarter 1 of FY 2020.

**4. Current Staffing Levels for the Refugee Corps and the Asylum Corps at USCIS; Number of Vacant Positions in the Refugee, Asylum and International Operations Directorate, USCIS; and the number of Refugee Corps Officers Reassigned from the Refugee Corps Per Month**

As of January 18, 2020:

- The Refugee Corps had 155 refugee officers and supervisory refugee officers onboard. This figure does not include Refugee Affairs Division headquarters staff.
- The Asylum Corps had 877 asylum officers and supervisory asylum officers. This figure likewise does not include Asylum Division headquarters staff.
- Within the Refugee, Asylum, and International Operations Directorate, there were 277 total vacancies, including headquarters and administrative staff.
- USCIS had assigned Refugee Corps Officers to the Asylum Division as follows:

<b>Month</b>	<b>Number of Refugee Corps Officers Assigned to the Asylum Division</b>
October 2019	135
November 2019	110
December 2019	111

The totals for October through December 2019 represent the number of refugee and supervisory officers assigned to details at asylum offices and detention centers ranging from two to 12 weeks, as well as credible fear processing from the Refugee Corps home office in Washington, DC. Thus, the number of staff assigned on any given day varied.

**5. Number of Refugees Resettled in the United States Per Month**

As of December 31, 2019, theUSRAP had resettled 3,219 refugees in the United States in FY 2020 as follows:

<b>Month</b>	<b>Number of Refugees Resettled</b>
October 2019	0
November 2019	1,488
December 2019	1,731

**Attachment A**  
**Security Check Results, October 1, 2019, to December 31, 2019**  
**Including Interagency Checks (IAC), Security Advisory Opinions (SAO),**  
**and Consular Lookout and Support System Namechecks (CNC)**

All IAC responses received between 10/1/2019 and 12/31/2019, by FY, Quarter and Month of the response:

Year of IAC Adjudicated	Q1			Grand Total
	Oct	Nov	Dec	
FY 2020	5,576	3,049	8,658	17,283

Notes: Chart shows all completed IACs where a returned result was posted to WRAPS. There may be more than one response received for an IAC request and all responses are shown above.

All SAO responses received between 10/1/2019 and 12/31/2019 by FY, Quarter and Month of the response:

Year of SAO Adjudicated	Q1			Grand Total
	Oct	Nov	Dec	
FY 2020	816	1,209	1,042	3,067

All CLASS responses received between 10/1/2019 and 12/31/2019 by FY, Quarter and Month of the response:

Year of CLASS Adjudicated	Q1			Grand Total
	Oct	Nov	Dec	
FY 2020	20,455	16,629	22,436	59,520