This message is sent on behalf of Tae D. Johnson, Assistant Director for Custody Management, with the concurrence of Nathalie R. Asher, Assistant Director for Field Operations:

To: Field Office Directors and Deputy Field Office Directors

Subject: Alternatives to Detention (ATD) Program’s SmartLink Deployment

ATD Program:

The ATD program is a flight-mitigation tool that uses technology and case management to increase compliance with release conditions and facilitate alien compliance with court hearings and final orders of removal while allowing aliens to remain in their community – contributing to their families and community organizations and, if necessary, wrapping-up their affairs in the U.S. – as they move through immigration proceedings. The program currently operates under the Intensive Supervision Appearance Program (ISAP III) contract, supported through monitoring services provided by BI Incorporated.

Significant growth in the program requires innovation through the use of new technologies. BI has developed a new technology option SmartLink app. This new enrollment option was developed so that ATD participants can report in by using smartphones. The SmartLink option will be utilized to monitor participants in lieu of telephonic and GPS monitoring when it’s a suitable option for the participant’s monitoring. The new monitoring option has been designed to limit in-person interactions of routine check-ins, allowing more time to be allocated to non-compliant participants, complex removal proceedings cases and docket management.

SmartLink’s unique features are as follows:

- Facial recognition check-ins
- Client-initiated check-ins
- EOIR reminders/push notifications - (Advising the ATD participant of upcoming hearing dates or date changes)
- Resource database - (Providing information for community based resources in the cities where they reside)
- Phone number and address changes - (Allows for the ATD participant to advise of changes)

The ATD program will not issue phones to ATD participants. The SmartLink option is only for those participants who own a smartphone.

Deployment and Training Methodology:

SmartLink has been piloted in the Newark and Denver Field Offices for a period of six months. Functionality and benefits were successfully demonstrated during the pilot, deployment dates for
the following field offices are as outlined below. Deployment and training will be conducted by BI in their office space, enrolling participants accordingly. Training will be conducted at the BI contractor C-Site and government G-Site locations for their staff and limited ERO attendance is welcomed. National training of ERO will be conducted through the Total Access system via video training aids. A training video for the participants regarding use of the SmartLink app is accessible through Chrome at the following URL.

While several field offices have already received training on SmartLink, the remaining offices will receive training by March 26th. ERO T-Site locations will be trained and deployed in April 2018. Please coordinate with your field office ATD Monitoring Officers for further guidance.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact Unit Chief at or .

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