



U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services

**CARRP for ROTC VIII  
Aug - Oct 2011**

**(Controlled Application Review and Resolution Process)**

Revised September 2011

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ROTC VIII Aug-Oct 2011



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# NATIONAL SECURITY BRANCH

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services *Objective*



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U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services *NS Case Process Flowchart*

- USCIS leadership has identified national security protection as the agency's primary mission
- CARRP
  - Agency-wide standards
  - Authority to vet/adjudicate non-KST cases with the field
  - Supervisory concurrence before final adjudication of cases involving NS concerns
  - Senior-level concurrence required before a NS case may be approved
  - Standard recording of actions and findings of NS concerns
  - Collection of statistics for data and trend analysis

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## Four-Step Process

- Identification of National Security (NS) Concern
- Internal Vetting/Eligibility Assessment
- External Vetting
- Final Adjudication

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## STEP 1: IDENTIFICATION

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- NS Concern exists when an individual or organization has been determined to have an *articulable link* to prior, current, or planned involvement in, or association with an activity, individual, or organization described in sections 212(a)(3)(A), (B), or (F), or 237(a)(4)(A) or (B) of the INA.
  - Terrorist Activity
  - Espionage
  - Sabotage
  - Illegal Transfer of Goods, Technology, or Sensitive Information

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**Known or Suspected Terrorist (KST) hit**

- A category of individuals who have been nominated and accepted for placement in the Terrorist Screening Database (TSDB), are on the Terrorist Watch List, and have a specially coded lookout posted in the TECS/ IBIS and/or CLASS

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**Non-Known or Suspected Terrorist (Non-KST) NS Concern**

- A category of cases with NS concerns, regardless of source, including but not limited to associates of KST(s), unindicted co-conspirators, terrorist organization members, persons involved with providing material support to terrorists or terrorist organizations.

**Ex. Arrest by DOD as Suspected Insurgent: KST or Non-KST?**

- Individuals and organizations who fall into the Non-KST grouping may also pose a serious threat to national security.


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- Interview Testimony of Applicant
- Interview Testimony of X-ref Family Member
- Review of Case File (Application, Supporting Documents)
- Security Check Results
- Leads from other US Government Agencies or Foreign Governments
- Other Sources (internet, newspapers, other media...)


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## Does an NS Indicator = NS Concern?

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- An NS indicator is any activity, characteristic, or association which might lead to a concern.
  
- An NS concern requires an articulable link to an activity, individual, or organization described in §212(a)(3)(A),(B) or (F) or §237(A)(4)(A)(B).

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- **Articulate link:** An articulate link exists when two things are connected in a way that can be explained
- **Articulate** is defined as **capable of being expressed, explained or justified**
- Information may be from the application, interview, system checks, or other sources
- Must consider **totality of the circumstances**
- Does the information allow a reasonable inference to be drawn as to the connection?

**ARTICULABLE LINK ≠ INADMISSIBLE**

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**PRACTICAL EXERCISES**

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**EXAMPLES REQUIRING CARRP HOLD**

Why is CARRP appropriate?

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**Non-CARRP Examples**

Why is CARRP NOT appropriate here?

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### Practical Exercises

- For the following scenarios, assess whether a CARRP referral would be appropriate, considering:
  - Are there any NS indicators? If so, what are they and why should they be considered NS indicators?
  - Is there is an articulable link to an INA 212 or 237 ground? Be prepared to explain why there is or is not such a link.
- Is there any other information you would want before deciding whether CARRP is appropriate?

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IS THIS CASE A HQ CARRP REFERRAL?

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**DOES THIS CASE EXAMPLE REQUIRE HQ CARRP REFERRAL/HOLD?**


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**STEP 2: INTERNAL VETTING/ELIGIBILITY**

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**When NS Concern Identified –**

- Internal Vetting
  - Security Checks
  - File Review
  - Interview/Re-interview
  - Country Conditions Research
  - May lead to resolution of NS concern or additional information regarding eligibility.
- Eligibility Assessment
  - Precludes lengthy vetting if statutory grounds for denial exist

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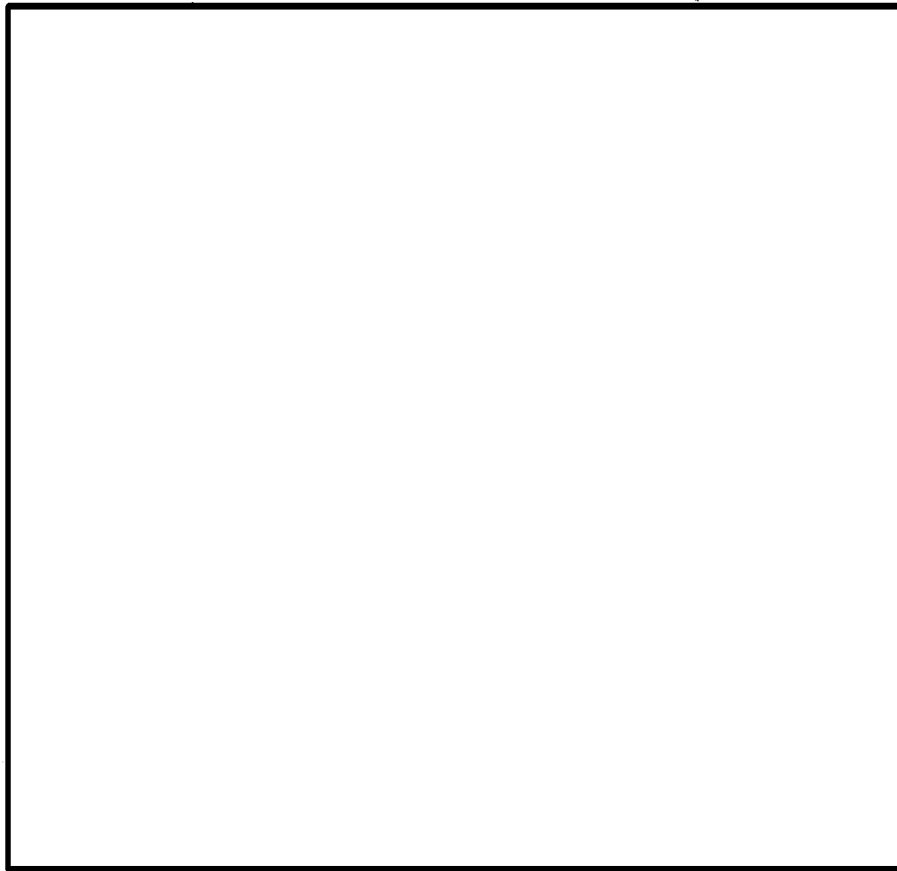
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- NS Concern Resolved, Routine Adjudication
- NS Concern Remains:
  1. Case Ineligible – Deny
  2. Case Otherwise Eligible – Refer to RAD/SVPI for External Vetting/Guidance

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**STEP III & IV: EXTERNAL VETTING  
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- Used as last resort
- Conducted by HQRAD/SVPI if non-KST
- Conducted by HQFDNS if KST
- Consists of high-side checks, additional research, assistance from the Intelligence Community.

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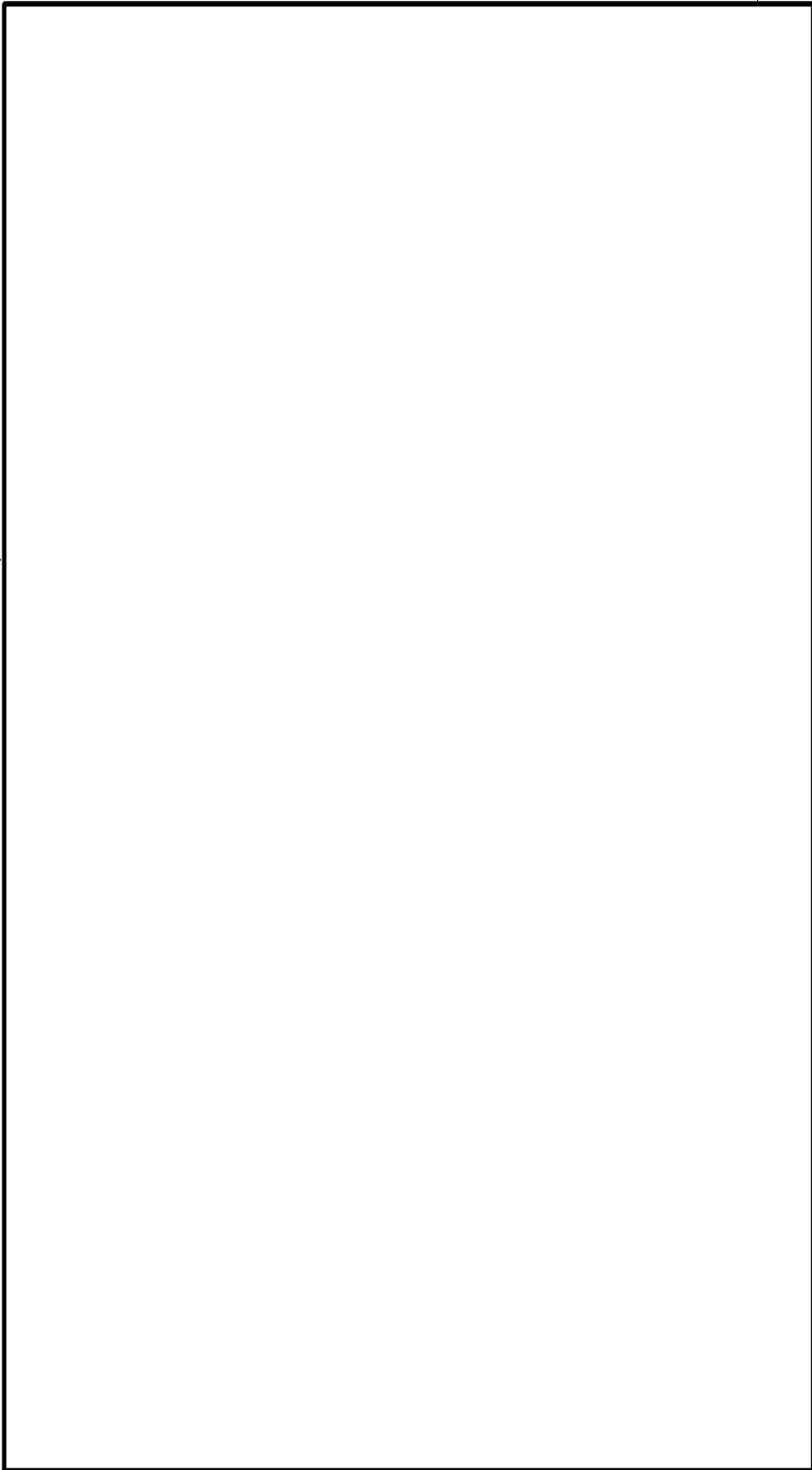
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- Possible Vetting Outcomes
  - NS Concerns Resolved
    - Routine Adjudication
  - NS Concern Remains, External Vetting Reveals Ineligibility
    - Case Denied
  - NS Concern Remains, More Information Needed
    - Reinterview
  - NS Concern Remains and Case Otherwise Approvable
    - Likely will remain on Hold
    - Non-KST: Approval only with HQ approval and concurrence
    - KST: May not approve. Seek HQFDNS assistance

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**Documenting NS Concerns**

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For the following examples, consider:

- Are there any national security indicators?
  - What are they and why are they indicators?
- Is there an articulable link to a 212 or 237 ground?
  - If so, what is it?
  - If not, why do the indicators *not* give rise to a NS concern?
- Given the above analysis, would this be an HQ CARRP referral?
- If it is a HQ CARRP referral, where would you document this on the assessment?


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**CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING: Would these be HQ CARRP Referrals?**

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**Consider: Why do the NS indicators give rise to a NS concern here?**

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Why are the following NOT NS concerns?

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Though not every case will result in a CARRP referral/hold, CARRP *analysis* is part of EVERY refugee adjudication, just like the persecutor bar or inadmissibility analysis is a required in every adjudication.

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We can get a firm grasp of CARRP



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1. FOUR STEPS?
2. HOW ARE KST AND NON-KST PROCESS DIFFERENT?
3. ARE ALL CASES FOUND TO HAVE NS CONCERNS INAMDISSILBE?
4. WHICH CATEGORIES OF NS CASES REQUIRE HQRAD NOTIFICATION?
5. WHO CAN APPROVE A CASE WITH AN UNRESOLVED NS CONCERN?

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