

"There seems to be some mayors and financial institutions that are accepting [the matricula consular]. For the time being, they do at their peril."

SEPTEMBER 3, 2003
INTERVIEW WITH TOM RIDGE
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY SECRETARY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

"...we have very little confidence in the security of the matricula consular card."

JANUARY 6, 2004
INTERVIEW WITH ASA HUTCHINSON
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY UNDER SECRETARY
NEWS HOUR ON PBS

"In today's post-9/11 world, ..., in order to protect the American people, we must be able to determine whether an individual is who he purports to be. This is essential in our mission to identify potential terrorists, locate their means of financial support, and prevent acts of terrorism from occurring."

"The Department of Justice and the FBI have concluded that the Matricula Consular is not a reliable form of identification, due to the non-existence of any means of verifying the true identity of the card holder."

"...the Government of Mexico issues the card to anyone who can produce a Mexican birth certificate and one other form of identity, including documents of very low reliability. Mexican birth certificates are easy to forge and they are a major item on the product list of the fraudulent document trade currently flourishing across the country and around the world."

"In addition to being vulnerable to fraud, the Matricula Consular is also vulnerable to forgery."

"The first criminal threat stems from the fact that the Matricula Consular can be a perfect breeder document for establishing a false identity. It is our understanding that as many as 13 states currently accept the Matricula Consular for the purpose of obtaining a drivers' license. Once in possession of a drivers' license, a criminal is well on his way to using the false identity to facilitate a variety of crimes...And of course, the false identity serves to conceal a criminal who is already being sought by law enforcement."

"...false identities are particularly useful to facilitate the crime of money laundering, as the criminal is able to establish one or more bank accounts under completely fictitious names. Accounts based upon such fraudulent premises greatly hamper money-laundering investigations once the criminal activity is discovered."

“...it is the terrorist threat presented by the Matrícula Consular that is most worrisome.”

“The ability of foreign nationals to use the Matrícula Consular to create a well-documented, but fictitious, identity in the United States provides an opportunity for terrorists to move freely within the United States without triggering name-based watch lists that are disseminated to local police officers. It also allows them to board planes without revealing their true identity.”

“The events of 9/11 forever changed our world...This requires continual vigilance...being able to detect and deter those who might abuse the system to directly cause harm, or those who might aid and abet the financing of terrorist operations.”

JUNE 26, 2003

TESTIMONY OF STEVE McCRAW

OFFICE OF INTELLIGENCE, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
HOUSE JUDICIARY SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION,
BORDER SECURITY, AND CLAIMS

“...individuals have been able to obtain multiple [matrícula consular] cards under multiple names, an occurrence which poses a significant security issue and impacts their reliability as valid forms of identification.”

JUNE 26, 2003

TESTIMONY OF C. STEWART VERDERY

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR
POLICY AND PLANNING
HOUSE JUDICIARY SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION,
BORDER SECURITY, AND CLAIMS