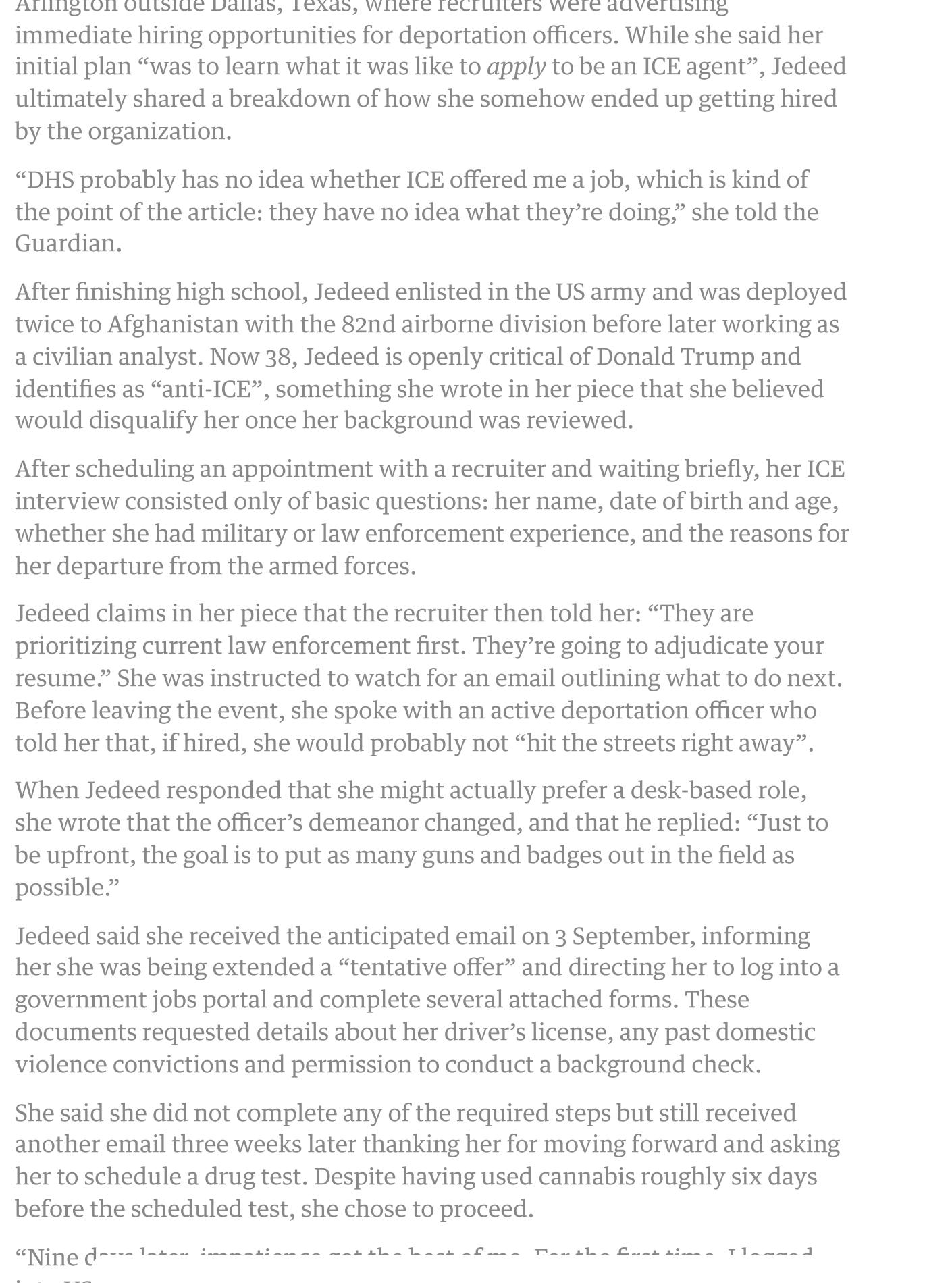


### ICE (US Immigration and Customs Enforcement)

## Anti-Trump US reporter says she was offered job at ICE after 'minimal vetting'

Slate journalist Laura Jedeed documented hiring process and said she got offer despite not completing paperwork



An ICE agent stands next to a car with a broken window after its driver was dragged away from the car by federal agents in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on 13 January 2026. Photograph: Ryan Murphy/Reuters

Marina Dunbar

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A reporter has become embroiled in a public dispute with [Immigration and Customs Enforcement \(ICE\)](#) after penning an article on how she was in effect offered a position with the organization following an interview that took less than six minutes and did not require her to complete "a single signature on agency paperwork".

Her hiring, and latter claim about the hiring process, have both been challenged by the Department of Homeland Security and called a "lie".

In [an article](#) published this week, the Slate journalist Laura Jedeed described how she attended an ICE Career Expo in August 2025 at the Esports Stadium Arlington outside Dallas, Texas, where recruiters were advertising immediate hiring opportunities for deportation officers. While she said her initial plan "was to learn what it was like to *apply* to be an ICE agent", Jedeed ultimately shared a breakdown of how she somehow ended up getting hired by the organization.

"DHS probably has no idea whether ICE offered me a job, which is kind of the point of the article: they have no idea what they're doing," she told the Guardian.

After finishing high school, Jedeed enlisted in the US army and was deployed twice to Afghanistan with the 82nd airborne division before later working as a civilian analyst. Now 38, Jedeed is openly critical of Donald Trump and identifies as "anti-ICE", something she wrote in her piece that she believed would disqualify her once her background was reviewed.

After scheduling an appointment with a recruiter and waiting briefly, her ICE interview consisted only of basic questions: her name, date of birth and age, whether she had military or law enforcement experience, and the reasons for her departure from the armed forces.

Jedeed claims in her piece that the recruiter then told her: "They are prioritizing current law enforcement first. They're going to adjudicate your resume." She was instructed to watch for an email outlining what to do next. Before leaving the event, she spoke with an active deportation officer who told her that, if hired, she would probably not "hit the streets right away".

When Jedeed responded that she might actually prefer a desk-based role, she wrote that the officer's demeanor changed, and that he replied: "Just to be upfront, the goal is to put as many guns and badges out in the field as possible."

Jedeed said she received the anticipated email on 3 September, informing her she was being extended a "tentative offer" and directing her to log into a government jobs portal and complete several attached forms. These documents requested details about her driver's license, any past domestic violence convictions and permission to conduct a background check.

She said she did not complete any of the required steps but still received another email three weeks later thanking her for moving forward and asking her to schedule a drug test. Despite having used cannabis roughly six days before the scheduled test, she chose to proceed.

"Nine days later, I got another email from the [ICE] office, saying, 'You have been selected for the position of deportation officer'."

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"The onboarding date, which I interpreted to mean a final offer and onboarding date. Maybe it has some other secret meaning, but I haven't learned what it might be - ICE did not respond to a request for comment," Jedeed said.

Slate's spokesperson Katie Rayford told the Guardian that the publication responded to DHS by saying: "We stand by our reporting, which reveals minimal vetting in ICE's hiring process. Evidence, including video documentation, shows the journalists who reported this story advanced through multiple hiring stages beyond the 'tentative selection letter', including receiving a final offer letter and being given a start date."

The incident has brought renewed attention to concerns about ICE's questionable [recruitment tactics](#) and changes made under the Trump administration to hiring and training standards.

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