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CBP Launches Series of Spanish Language Migrant Testimonials



U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) recently released the first in a series of 60-second Spanish language [video testimonials](#) of Central American migrants who voluntarily share their horrifying 1,600-mile journey north in the hands of human smugglers.

Historically, the summer months are the deadliest. More than 6,100 migrants have tragically lost their lives in recent years from exposure to the unforgiving elements, suffering heat stroke, dehydration, hyperthermia, and drowning in canals, ditches, and the Rio Grande.

The migrant testimonials are a continuation of Spanish language messaging campaigns CBP has launched in recent years in Central America, Mexico and in key Central American communities in the United States. Through these efforts, CBP hopes to prevent the loss of human lives and to raise awareness of the real dangers and hazards Central American migrants and their families face in the hands of unscrupulous human smugglers.

In conjunction with the launching of the testimonials series, CBP announced the expansion of the [Border Safety Initiative](#) (BSI) messaging outreach to key Central American communities in California, Texas, Florida, New York and Washington, D.C. metropolitan areas regarding the dangers of attempting to illegally cross the Southwest border. The BSI focuses on the deployment of lifesaving technology, emergency response personnel, as well as binational information campaigns aimed at reducing the numbers of migrant deaths. BSI also strives to rescue migrants who fall prey to unscrupulous human smugglers who have no regard for their life and safety.



The combined efforts of CBP's [Air and Marine Operations](#) (AMO) and the [U.S. Border Patrol](#) (USBP) [Border Search, Trauma and Rescue](#) team (BORSTAR) have resulted in the rescue of more than 29,000 people along the Southwest border. CBP's deployment of specialized personnel, area-specific technology, and public awareness campaigns are all key elements in the effort to prevent the unfortunate loss of life. USBP currently has more than 4,150 first responders, 730 Emergency Medical Technicians and 70 paramedics, all of whom are Border Patrol agents who also have the capability to treat aliens and fellow agents with immediate medical needs in the field.

For additional information, please contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.



CBP Laboratories and the Power of Pollen

Although pollen analysis has been used for forensic purposes for several decades, it is a new technique for U.S. law enforcement. As the only U.S. federal agency with a forensic palynologist on staff, U.S. Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) [Laboratories and Scientific Services Directorate](#) is leading the U.S. law enforcement community in using this new forensic tool for investigations and intelligence.

For example, pollen analysis has helped CBP trace the routes of intercepted marijuana and cocaine. It has also assisted with criminal investigations. In June 2015, when the partially decomposed body of an unidentified little girl was found in a trash bag on a beach on Deer Island in Boston Harbor, the

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children contacted CBP's forensic pollen expert, Andrew Laurence, for help. The center wanted to know if Laurence, one of the world's foremost forensic palynologists and one of only two forensic palynology experts in the United States, could do pollen analysis to determine where the body was from.

Please read the full article in the June 2016 issue of *Frontline* on the [CBP Website](#). *WCO News*, the official magazine of the World Customs Organization is also featuring the article in both its [English](#) and [French](#) editions. For additional information, please contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.



Commissioner Kerlikowski discusses recent CBP trade enforcement initiatives at a May 11 hearing before the Senate Finance Committee.

CBP Establishes Trade Enforcement Task Force

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) recently established a Trade Enforcement Task Force within CBP's [Office of Trade](#) to further protect the American economy and domestic industry. The task force enables CBP to leverage new enforcement authorities of the *Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015*, which strengthens CBP's enforcement capabilities and methods to better enforce U.S. trade laws, including [antidumping and countervailing duty](#) (AD/CVD) laws. The Act also enhances CBP's efforts to combat the import of counterfeit goods and protect [intellectual property rights](#) holders, and eliminates obstacles to preventing imports made with forced or child labor into the United States.

"This task force strengthens CBP's ability to detect high-risk activity, target illicit trade networks, and work with industry to disrupt evasion of U.S. trade laws," said CBP Commissioner R. Gil Kerlikowski. "It focuses expertise and resources to safeguard the U.S. market and ensure a fair and competitive trade environment."

CBP's trade mission is highly complex – the Agency enforces nearly 500 U.S. trade laws and regulations on behalf of 47 federal agencies, facilitates compliant trade, collects revenue, and protects the U.S. economy and consumers from harmful imports and unfair trade practices.

In his [written testimony](#) for a recent hearing before the Senate Finance Committee, Commissioner Kerlikowski discussed how "fraudulent trade activities, including the import of counterfeit and pirated goods, threaten America's innovation, economy, the competitiveness of our businesses, the livelihoods of U.S. workers, and, in some cases, national security and the health and safety of consumers."

The CBP task force will harness the agency's collective trade enforcement expertise as a focal point for coordination with other government agency partners, including the Department of Commerce and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations. By focusing its combined resources through the enforcement task force, CBP will be able to combat illicit traders that illegally exploit American trade and conduct enforcement operations at and beyond the border to ensure U.S. industry can compete on a level playing field.

For additional information, please contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.

United States Signs Customs Mutual Assistance Agreement with Ukraine



The United States recently [signed](#) a Customs Mutual Assistance Agreement (CMAA) with Ukraine, marking a significant milestone in collaboration on security and trade facilitation between the two countries. U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Commissioner R. Gil Kerlikowski signed the agreement on behalf of the United States and the Head of State Fiscal Services, Roman Nasirov, signed on behalf of Ukraine.

"This agreement will enable us to jointly collaborate on investigations, share best practices, expand on our bilateral relationship, and exchange information that is vital to our national and economic security," said CBP Commissioner R. Gil Kerlikowski.

[CMAAs](#) are bilateral agreements between countries that provide the legal framework for the exchange of information and evidence to assist countries in the enforcement of customs laws, including duty evasion, trafficking, proliferation, money laundering, and terrorism-related activities. CMAAs also serve as foundational documents for subsequent information sharing arrangements, including mutual recognition arrangements on authorized economic operator programs.

To date, the United States has signed 77 CMAAs with other customs administrations across the world.

For additional information, please contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.



CBP Marks Strategic Air and Marine Plan Completion

U.S. Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) [Air and Marine Operations](#) (AMO) recently announced the completion of the 2006 CBP Strategic Air and Marine Plan (StAMP). The 10-year plan was created to unify and integrate air and marine assets and people; enhance border security and surveillance; recapitalize aging [aviation and marine assets](#), creating a more flexible and responsive air and marine force; and

continue support for traditional missions specifically for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Homeland Security Investigations and drug Source, Transit, and Arrival missions under the integrated command of Joint Interagency Task Force – South.

While traditional strategic plans typically set priorities, and inform on the direction of the organization and the actions needed to make progress, this plan focused on investment initiatives. As a result of the StAMP, AMO has gained:

Rotary-Wing Aircraft

- 20 EC120 Light Observation
- 46 AS350 A-Star Light Enforcement
- 4 UH-60M Medium Lift
- 6 UH-60L Medium Lift (Recap/Mission Systems)

Fixed-Wing Aircraft

- 7 DHC-8 Maritime Patrol
- 14 P-3 Orion (Service Life Extension Program)
- 12 KA-350 Multi-Role Enforcement
- 10 MQ-9 Unmanned Aircraft Systems Predator B /Guardian
- 3 C-550 Citation Twin-Engine Mission System upgrades

Although the StAMP is officially complete, AMO will continue with four procurements including: additional MEA; UH-60L Medium Lift Helicopters; Coastal Interceptor Vessels and Riverine Shallow Draft Vessels.

For additional information, please visit the [CBP Website](#) or contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.

Marine Vessels

- 26 SAFE Boat Interceptor (33-foot and 38-foot)
- 6 Interim Coastal Interceptor (Service Life Extension Program)
- 1 Prototype Coastal Interceptor
- 9 Riverine Shallow Draft
- 12 Coastal Interceptor
- 12 Coastal Enforcement
- 12 Riverine Airboats