

APPENDIX B

**ABOUT U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER
PROTECTION: MISSION AND CORE VALUES**

CBP MISSION

“We are the guardians of our Nation’s borders. We are America’s frontline. We safeguard the American homeland at and beyond our borders. We protect the American public against terrorists and the instruments of terror. We steadfastly enforce the laws of the United States while fostering our Nation’s economic security through lawful international trade and travel. We serve the American public with vigilance, integrity, and professionalism.” (USDHS, 2009)

CBP CORE VALUES

Vigilance is how U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) ensures the safety of all Americans. CBP is continuously watchful and alert to deter, detect, and prevent threats to our Nation. CBP demonstrates courage and valor in the protection of our Nation.

Service to Country is embodied in the work CBP does. CBP is dedicated to defending and upholding the Constitution of the United States. The American people have entrusted CBP to protect the homeland and defend liberty.

Integrity is CBP’s cornerstone. CBP is guided by the highest ethical and moral principles.

CBP PURPOSES AND GOALS

EFFECTIVE TARGETING

Each year, more than 11 million maritime containers arrive at U.S. seaports. At land borders, another 11 million arrive by truck and 2.7 million by rail. CBP is responsible for knowing what is inside and whether it poses a risk to the American people, as well as for ensuring that all proper revenues are collected.

CBP assesses all people and cargo entering the United States from abroad for terrorist risk. People who may pose a risk can now be better identified through initiatives such as the Advance Passenger Information System, United States Visitor and Immigrant Status Indication Technology (known as US-VISIT), and the Student and Exchange Visitor System. CBP regularly refuses entry to people who may pose a threat to U.S. security.

In addition, CBP uses advance information from the Automated Targeting System, the Automated Export System, and the Trade Act of 2002 Advance Electronic Information Regulations to identify cargo that may pose a threat. The National Targeting Centers of CBP’s Office of Intelligence and Operations Coordination enhance these initiatives by synthesizing information to provide tactical targeting. Using risk management techniques, the centers identify suspicious individuals and containers before arrival.

The Automated Commercial Environment has made electronic risk management far more effective. The ACE Secure Data Portal provides a single, centralized online access point to connect CBP and the trade community. CBP’s modernization efforts enhance border security while optimizing the ever-increasing flow of legitimate trade.

CBP also screens high-risk imported food shipments in order to prevent bioterrorism/agro-terrorism. U. S. Food and Drug Administration and CBP personnel are working side by side at

the National Targeting Center (NTC) to protect the U.S. food supply by taking action and implementing provisions of the Bioterrorism Act of 2002. CBP and FDA are able to react quickly to threats of bioterrorist attacks on the U.S. food supply and to other food-related emergencies (USDHS, 2010).

FOSTERING LEGITIMATE AND SAFE TRAVEL

Fostering legitimate and safe travel is a key goal of CBP, which increases passenger security through effective risk assessment. The Secure Electronic Network for Travelers Rapid Inspection (SENTRI) and NEXUS U.S.–Canada are trusted traveler programs that expedite entry into the United States. Advance Passenger Information System and the Rice–Chertoff Initiative have aided in accomplishing CBP’s travel goals. The Electronic System for Travel Authorization is an automated system to pre-approve visitors from Visa Waiver Program countries. Global Entry is a trusted traveler program for U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals, U.S. lawful permanent residents and citizens of other participating countries (USDHS, 2010).

PARTNERING WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

CBP has created smarter borders by extending our zone of security beyond our physical borders. The Container Security Initiative (CSI) was announced in January 2002 as a strategy to secure and protect the United States against terrorism and acts of terror involving the international maritime supply chain. CBP stations teams of U.S. officers in 58 operational foreign seaports to work together with host country counterparts to identify and inspect potentially high-risk shipments before they reach the United States. More than 80 percent of maritime containerized cargo destined to the United States originates in or transits through a CSI port and is screened prior to being laden aboard a U.S.-bound vessel.

CBP has implemented joint initiatives with our bordering countries, Canada and Mexico: the Smart Border Declaration and associated 30-Point Action Plan with Canada and the Smart Border Accord with Mexico. The Secure Electronic Network for Travelers Rapid Inspection allows prescreened, low-risk travelers from Mexico to be expeditiously processed through dedicated lanes. Similarly, on the northern border with Canada, CBP is using NEXUS to identify and facilitate low-risk travelers. Along both borders, CBP has implemented the Free and Secure Trade (FAST) program. The FAST program utilizes transponder technology and pre-arrival shipment information to process participating trucks as they arrive at the border, expediting trade while better securing our borders.

An agreement with Canada allows CBP to target, screen, and examine rail shipments headed to the United States. CBP agents in Mexico and Canada coordinate border security issues. CBP Border Patrol agents, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and the Drug Enforcement Administration, as well as state and local law enforcement agencies from Canada and the United States, have joined together to form 14 Integrated Border Enforcement Teams. Covering the entire northern border, these teams focus on criminal activity such as cross-border smuggling of drugs, humans, and contraband as well as cross-border terrorist movements (USDHS, 2010).

PARTNERING WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Processing the sheer volume of trade entering the United States each year requires help from the private sector. The Customs–Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT) is a joint

government-business initiative designed to strengthen overall supply chain and border security while facilitating legitimate, compliant trade. To date, more than 9,800 companies are partnering with CBP. C-TPAT is the largest, most successful government-private sector partnership to arise in response to the attacks of September 11, 2001.

In addition, CBP is piloting the Advanced Trade Data Initiative, which works with the trade community to obtain information on U.S.-bound goods at the earliest possible point in the supply chain. Partnering with carriers, importers, shippers, and terminal operators, CBP is gathering supply chain data and feeding it into its systems to validate container shipments during the supply process. This information increases CBP's existing ability to zero in on suspect movements and perform any necessary security inspections at the earliest point possible in the supply chain (USDHS, 2010).

INSPECTION TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT

Given the magnitude of CBP's responsibility, the development and deployment of sophisticated detection technology is essential. Deployment of nonintrusive inspection technology is increasing and is viewed as "force multipliers" that enable CBP officers to screen or examine a larger portion of the stream of commercial traffic.

CBP does not rely on any single technology or inspection process. Instead, officers and agents use various technologies in different combinations to substantially increase the likelihood that terrorist weapons, including a nuclear or radiological weapon, will be detected and interdicted.

Technologies deployed to our Nation's land, sea, and air ports of entry include large-scale x-ray and gamma-imaging systems. CBP has deployed radiation-detection technology, including personal radiation detectors, radiation isotope identifiers, and radiation portal monitors. CBP uses trained explosive detector dogs. CBP's Laboratories and Scientific Services Fast Response Team reacts to calls on suspicious containers. Laboratories and Scientific Services also operate a 24 hour a day, 7-day a week, 365 day a year hotline at its Chemical, Biological, Radiation, and Nuclear Technical Data Assessment and Teleforensic Center (USDHS, 2010).

OUTBOUND INSPECTIONS: KEEPING WEAPONS AND MONEY OUT OF TERRORIST HANDS

CBP has the authority to search outbound as well as inbound shipments and uses targeting to carry out its mission in this area. Targeting of outbound shipments and people is a multi-dimensional effort that is enhanced by interagency cooperation.

CBP in union with the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Census Bureau has put in place regulations that require electronic export information to be submitted to the U.S. Munitions List and technology information to be submitted to the Commerce Control List. This information flows via the Automated Export System. CBP is also working with the U.S. Departments of State and Defense to improve procedures on exported shipments of foreign military sales commodities. CBP also works with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to seize outbound illicit cash/monetary instruments and illegal exports of firearms and ammunition (USDHS, 2010).

PROTECTING BORDER AREAS BETWEEN OFFICIAL PORTS OF ENTRY

Border Patrol agents and Office of Air and Marine personnel are better securing areas between the ports of entry by implementing a comprehensive border enforcement strategy, expanding, integrating, and coordinating the use of technology and communications through the following.

- The Integrated Surveillance Intelligence System uses remotely monitored a night-day camera and sensing systems to better detect, monitor, and respond to illegal crossings.
- Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)—CBP’s remotely piloted surveillance aircraft—are equipped with sophisticated on-board sensors. UASs provide long-range surveillance and are useful for monitoring remote land border areas where patrols cannot easily travel and infrastructure is difficult or impossible to build.
- Remote Video Surveillance Systems provide coverage 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to detect illegal crossings on both the northern and southern borders.
- Geographic Information System, a CBP Border Patrol southwest border initiative, tracks illegal migration patterns.

REFERENCES:

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