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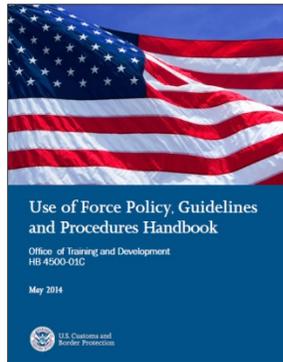
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CBP Releases Use of Force Policy Handbook and Consultant Report



During his first 100 days, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Commissioner R. Gil Kerlikowske has established transparency as a top priority. On May 30, 2014, he released a revised use of force policy handbook and a consultant study from the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF).

“We initiated both internal and external use of force reviews to improve ourselves and our responsibility to the public and to use force only when necessary,” said Commissioner R. Gil Kerlikowske. “This release and, most importantly, the policy and training changes they represent are the beginning of a continuous review of our responsibility to only use force when it is necessary to protect people.”

The use of force policy handbook incorporates most of the recommendations found in the reviews by third parties – PERF and Department of Homeland Security’s Office of Inspector General. It incorporates law enforcement best practices and reflects CBP’s commitment to ensuring the safety of the public and its law enforcement personnel. In addition to updating the handbook, CBP is undertaking a comprehensive review and redesign of its basic training curriculum.

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“Before my confirmation, I told Congress that transparency, responsiveness and communication are my hallmarks. I committed to an open dialogue between CBP and its stakeholders,” said Kerlikowske. “Today’s actions on CBP’s policies address my priorities for the agency and are a significant step in CBP’s continuing progress.”

The handbook and report are available on the [CBP Website](#). For additional information, please contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.

Port Security and Pay Reform: CBP Testifies at Two Senate Hearings



On June 4, 2014, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Acting Deputy Commissioner Kevin K. McAleenan testified at a Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Committee hearing titled, “Evaluating Port Security: Progress Made and Challenges Ahead.” Witnesses from the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Coast Guard, Transportation Security Administration, and Federal Emergency Management Agency also testified.

In a joint written statement, the witnesses described how port security is a challenging, dynamic mission.

“Our objective is to protect our ports through making sure that U.S.-bound vessels are secure before they depart and during their voyage, that they are carrying safe, secure cargo and people, into secure ports,” said the witnesses. “Working with our federal partners and our domestic and international stakeholders in the public and private sector, CBP’s cargo security programs help to safeguard the Nation’s economic strength and competitiveness.”

The full written statement is available on the [CBP Website](#).



On June 9, 2014, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Office of Border Patrol Deputy Chief Ronald Vitiello and Office of Internal Affairs Deputy Assistant Commissioner Paul Hamrick testified at a Senate Committee on

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, Committee hearing titled, “Border Security: Examining the Implications of S. 1691, the Border Patrol Agent Pay Reform Act of 2013.”

In a joint written statement, Vitiello and Hamrick thanked the Committee for its commitment to improving the overtime pay system for Border Patrol agents and for providing the opportunity to address CBP’s use of Administratively Uncontrollable Overtime (AUO), a payment mechanism established by Congress more than forty years ago.

The witnesses stated, “[T]he Department has sought legislative changes for several years that would enable U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to reform and rationalize its compensation structure. Existing AUO authorities no longer meet the needs of a 21st century law enforcement environment.”

The full written statement is available on the [CBP Website](#).

CBP Intercepts Over \$1 Million in Counterfeit Guitars



U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers working at the International and Bulk Mail Center in Jersey City, NJ, discovered more than 185 counterfeit guitars with an estimated

retail value of more than \$1 million.

While examining oversized parcels, CBP officers discovered five guitars bearing the Gibson, Les Paul, Paul Reed Smith, and Martin trademarks, as well as the marking "Made in USA." The officers immediately suspected the guitars of being counterfeit based on the country of origin, poor craftsmanship, and packaging. CBP has since identified more than 180 counterfeit guitars bearing additional trademarks of Epiphone, Fender, Taylor, and Ernie Ball—all being shipped through the same facility. Officers discovered business cards within the packaging, all referring to the same website. The website indicated these guitars could be purchased from China for about \$200 to \$500; but the manufacturer's suggested retail price for authentic guitars range anywhere from \$2,000 for basic models to \$54,000 for signature models. The guitars were seized by officers and are scheduled for destruction.

"CBP is on the forefront of protecting the American economy and trademark holders. Counterfeit goods pose a serious threat to the consumer and economic loss to American business," said Robert E. Perez, director of CBP's New York Field Operations. "Enforcing intellectual property rights remains a priority for U.S. Customs and Border Protection."

For additional information about [internet purchases](#) and CBP's [Intellectual Property Rights enforcement efforts](#), please visit the CBP Website or contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.

CBP International Training Program in Panama Conducts First Search and Rescue Academy



On February 7, 2014, CBP's Panama Regional Border Protection Training Program (PRBPTP) graduated 19 students through the first ever CBP Search and Rescue (SAR) course for Panama Border Police, Servicio Nacional de Fronteras (SNF), marking an important step in the evolution of CBP's international capacity-building efforts.

The goal of PRBPTP, which took three years to develop, was to create a border enforcement course containing some of CBP's best practices and tactics that SNF could fully administer. The resultant course covered topics such as tactical combat casualty care, fraudulent documents, officer survival, checkpoint operations, and tactical decision-making. SNF conducted the entire course independently for the first time in September 2013.

Building on the initial PRBPTP course and responding to SNF's need for more advanced training to effectively manage their threat environment, CBP's Border Patrol Search, Trauma and Rescue (BORSTAR) followed the same train-the-trainer model that proved so successful for the first course and deployed a team to conduct the first ever SNF SAR course. The three-week course provided the students with the knowledge and skills necessary to conduct a SAR operation, package a patient for transport, and effectively utilize technical rope/swift water rescue skills. Additional enhanced training was provided to instructor candidates so they could eventually continue the training without the assistance of CBP.

During the training, a U.S. citizen tourist approached BORSTAR and SNF personnel and reported that her companion, who had been hiking in an area ravine, had not returned. The SNF instructor trainees conducted a search under BORSTAR guidance and the tourist was quickly located in good health but stranded at the bottom of a waterfall. SNF instructors performed a technical rope/swift water rescue, under BORSTAR supervision, and extracted the tourist from the bottom of the waterfall. Once extracted, he was evaluated by SNF and BORSTAR medics and reunited with his companion.

After the training was completed, SNF indicated that the impromptu rescue further supported their belief that SNF needs search and rescue capacity. They, much like CBP, are often the only government entity in Panama's rural regions, often making them the de facto first responders to various types of incidents. SNF indicated that they planned to institutionalize the training and create their own rural rescue unit.

SNF is incredibly grateful for the PRBPTP and considers it the first step in creating a 'Center of Excellence' that would provide border enforcement tactics, training (including CBP-endorsed training), and doctrine for all Central American border enforcement agencies. These investments also provide CBP with significant security benefits as we develop trusted and reliable partners that can intercept drugs and other dangerous items long before they become a threat to the United States.

For additional information on CBP's international training and assistance, please visit the [CBP Website](#) or contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.

CBP Enforcement News



Border Patrol Stops Man with Narcotics Hidden in Convertible Car Top

Temecula, CA – On June 18, 2014, Border Patrol agents arrested a Los Angeles man after they discovered cocaine and heroin hidden inside his car's convertible top during a vehicle stop on Interstate 15. After a Border Patrol K-9 team alerted to the man's convertible, agents conducted a search and detected several packages stuffed inside the folded convertible top. Agents then transported the vehicle to the Newton-Azrak Border Patrol Station, where agents removed twelve cellophane-wrapped bundles from the convertible top compartment. Eight of the packages were filled with cocaine and four were filled with heroin.

– Visit the [CBP Newsroom](#) for the full story.



CBP Seizes Cocaine in Cookies

Newark, NJ – On June 5, 2014, a Guatemalan citizen arrived at Newark International Airport and presented himself for inspection. During the examination of the man's luggage, CBP officers discovered cookies in his checked bags. The passenger was escorted to a private search room where upon further inspection of the cookies, CBP officer discovered small oval-shaped pellets containing a white powdery substance that tested positive for cocaine. In total, 118 pellets of cocaine were seized with an approximate street value of \$52,000.

– Visit the [CBP Newsroom](#) for the full story.

The Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA) serves as the single point of contact within CBP for communications between CBP and Congress.

OCA is committed to addressing any question or concern you may have related to CBP's complex mission. Please contact us:

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Please visit CBP's [Congressional Resources](#) webpage for Frequently Asked Questions, News and Events, and other CBP Resources.