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DHS Announces Intent to Expand Preclearance to 10 New Airports



On May 29, 2015, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Jeh Johnson [announced](#) the United States intends to enter into negotiations to expand air preclearance operations, the process by which U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers stationed abroad screen and make admissibility decisions about U.S.-bound passengers and their accompanying baggage before they leave a foreign port. Expanding the preclearance program is both a security imperative – enabling CBP to stop potential threats before they arrive on U.S. soil – as well as a strong economic opportunity.

In collaboration with stakeholders from across the government and the aviation industry, DHS and the Department of State evaluated more than two dozen foreign airports that expressed an interest in preclearance, and prioritized them based on the greatest potential to support security and travel facilitation.

The 10 airports identified for possible preclearance locations include Brussels Airport, Belgium; Punta Cana Airport, Dominican Republic; Narita International Airport, Japan; Amsterdam Airport Schipol, Netherlands; Oslo Airport, Norway; Madrid-Barajas Airport, Spain; Stockholm Arlanda Airport, Sweden; Istanbul Ataturk Airport, Turkey; and London Heathrow Airport and Manchester Airport, United Kingdom. These countries represent some of the busiest last points of departure to the United States – in 2014, nearly 20 million passengers traveled from these ten airports to the United States.

Today, CBP has more than 600 law enforcement officers and agriculture specialists stationed at 15 air preclearance locations in 6 countries: Dublin and Shannon in Ireland; Aruba; Freeport and Nassau in The Bahamas; Bermuda; Calgary, Toronto, Edmonton, Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Vancouver, and Winnipeg in Canada; and Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates. Last year, CBP cleared over 16 million passengers through these preclearance locations.

CBP is transforming the international arrivals experience for travelers—creating a faster and more traveler-friendly process. Trusted Traveler Programs like [Global Entry](#), [NEXUS](#), and [SENTRI](#), along with [Automated Passport Control](#) and [Mobile Passport Control](#), are streamlining and expediting travelers' entry into the United States, while maintaining the highest standards of security. With the expansion of these programs, average wait times were down 13 percent at the top 10 airports last year.

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



CBP Commissioner's Blog: Police Week 2015

In his inaugural blog posting, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Commissioner R. Gil Kerlikowske shared his thoughts during Police Week as CBP gathered to mourn those we have lost and honor their memory, their service, and their selfless sacrifice.

“During this week, I have reflected on the many years I have spent in law enforcement,” wrote the Commissioner, “There is no getting used to losing an officer or agent. It does not get easier with time. But what strikes me is the community. I am always proud of our community. This community made up of law enforcement, their families, and the people they serve. This community that embraces the families of the fallen holds them close and doesn't let them go.”

Please visit the [CBP Website](#) to read the Commissioner's Blog.



CBP On the Hill: International Security Programs

On June 2, 2015, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Office of Field Operations Deputy Assistant Commissioner John Wagner testified before the House Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security, on, “The Outer Ring: The Department of Homeland Security's International Security Programs.”

“Focused on identifying and addressing potential risks long before they reach our borders, CBP's pre-departure security efforts integrate multiple key capabilities and programs that together form a layered strategy for applying security capabilities at multiple points along the travel cycle,” stated Wagner in his written testimony.

The full written testimony is available on the [CBP Website](#). For additional information, please contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.

CBP-Trained Canines and Handlers Support Efforts to Counter Drug Trafficking in Mexico



Two Mexican Federal Police narcotics detection canines recently detected nearly 42 pounds of cocaine, valued at approximately \$120,000, in Mexico City's International Airport. One canine, trained by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), alerted to 26.5 pounds of cocaine hidden in a suitcase in the international baggage claim area. The other canine, whose handler was trained

by CBP, detected cocaine on a female passenger who was attempting to leave the airport. Both the luggage and the passenger entered Mexico on a flight from Lima, Peru. These seizures are just two of the many successes achieved by the Mexican Federal Police with the assistance of detection canines trained by CBP.

The trained canines were provided to Mexico as part of the [Merida Initiative](#), a partnership between the United States and Mexico to fight organized crime and associated violence while furthering respect for human rights and the rule of law. Since 2008, the U.S. Department of State (DoS) International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs office has provided over \$10 million in canine-related assistance to the Federal Police Canine Unit and has allocated \$3.3 million for future support, including agreements with CBP to assist the Mexican Federal Police in meeting international standards for housing and training canines. The canine instructor's course is an extensive two-month training program and the canine handler's course is four weeks in duration. The Mexican Federal Police have already begun training their new handlers and establishing procedures to emulate the detection-canine training they received from CBP.

As part of the Merida Initiative nearly 225 canines were trained by CBP to detect narcotics, weapons, ammunition, currency and human remains, and delivered to Mexican federal agencies, including the Mexican Federal Police, the Mexican Office of the Attorney General, and Mexican Customs. CBP's Canine Center El Paso in Texas and Canine Center Front Royal in Virginia provided the trained canines. As the International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs program continues to support Mexico's canine units, CBP will lend human-remains-detection and search-and-rescue canine expertise to multiple Mexican federal and state agencies.

Additional information on the Merida Initiative is available on the [DoS Website](#). Additional information on CBP's [international training programs](#), and [CBP's Canine Training Program](#) are available on the CBP Website.



CBP Conducts Cash Smuggling Detection Training in Colombia; Contributes to Seizure

U.S. Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) Office of International Affairs (INA) conducts several types of security training programs for foreign law enforcement agencies with the

intent of sharing expertise and experience to improve border operations and enhance capabilities for addressing global challenges and threats.

During the week of April 27 – May 1, 2015, INA conducted a Bulk Cash Smuggling Detection training in Bogota, Colombia, where drug proceeds are often transported via air passengers, who conceal the currency on their persons, or in their luggage. The Bulk Cash Smuggling Detection course was geared toward Colombia National Police and their Customs Department in order to improve their officer's detection skills with regards to currency interdiction.

On Friday, May 1, 2015, Colombian Customs Officials continued their training with live practical applications while processing actual passengers. It was not long before they had a successful currency seizure. Colombian Customs officials questioned a Mexican-born female traveler who arrived at the airport from Mexico stating she was traveling on business. Colombian Custom officials referred the female traveler to a secondary inspection during which they discovered the female traveler had concealed \$30,000 of U.S. currency in her undergarments.

CBP provides a wide array of short- and long-term technical training to host nations' customs and border security agencies. These programs are designed to build the capacity of foreign law enforcement agencies to implement more effective customs operations, border policing, and immigration inspections. These engagements also extend the U.S. zone of security by developing trusted and reliable partners that can identify and intercept dangerous goods or individuals before they become potential threats to the United States.

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

CBP Enforcement News



CBP Intercepts First in Port Stink Bug Species in Pineapple Shipment

A U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) entomologist recently confirmed that U.S. Customs and Border Protection agriculture specialists discovered a new pest in the Philadelphia area when they intercepted *Tibraca limbativentris* (Pentatomidae), common name Rice Stalk Stink Bug, while inspecting a shipment of fresh pineapples at the Philadelphia seaport. The Rice Stalk Stink Bug is native to South American countries and has been recently introduced into the Dominican Republic. It is a serious pest of rice, soybeans, tomatoes and wheat.

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



Border Patrol Seizes More than \$2 Million in Cocaine

On June 6, 2015, Rio Grande Valley Sector Border Patrol agents working at the Sarita Checkpoint on U.S. Highway 77 North seized 67 pounds of cocaine that was hidden in the sleeper compartment of a tractor-trailer. After a canine alerted to the tractor, the driver was sent to the secondary inspection area, where a search revealed a hidden compartment containing 27 bundles of cocaine. The cocaine has an estimated street value of more than \$2 million. The driver, a 46-year-old U.S. citizen, was arrested.

– 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.