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CBP Core Values

Vigilance



Integrity



Service to Country

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CBP Hosts Annual East Coast Trade Symposium



On November 27 and 28, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) held its 12th annual East Coast Trade Symposium. The theme for this year's symposium was Expanding 21st Century Global Partnerships. The symposium featured panel discussions with agency personnel, members of the trade community and other government agencies on CBP's role in international trade initiatives and programs. Panels covered several trade topics including global supply chain security, the Beyond the Border Action Plan, the Centers of Excellence and Expertise, the role of the broker, Automated Commercial Environment and trusted trader programs.

Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano opened the Symposium by stressing the critical role trade plays in supporting the nation's economic health and by highlighting that "this year, CBP will facilitate about \$2 trillion in trade while enforcing U.S. trade laws that protect the American people." Secretary Napolitano also emphasized that homeland security is not just about protection from those who would do harm or break U.S. laws, but also must support trade that is "inextricably linked with the ability to have jobs and help with the economy."



During the symposium, CBP Deputy Commissioner David V. Aguilar introduced Mitsuaki Inagaki, the director-general, Customs and Tariff Bureau, Japan Ministry of Finance, who spoke via a video message. The two men described the full realization of a trusted-trader partnership between the two nations and mutual recognition of each nation's supply chain security measures. This relationship, Deputy Commissioner Aguilar said, not only promises to provide immediate benefits for streamlining trade between the two countries, but also allows CBP's trusted trader program, the Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism, to expand member benefits to the export realm.

For more information on the symposium, including symposium presentation slides, visit the CBP website.

CBP Announces Six New Centers of Excellence and Expertise



On November 28, 2012, CBP Deputy Commissioner David V. Aguilar announced that CBP will establish six additional Centers of Excellence and Expertise (CEE) in 2013.

"This expansion," said Deputy Commissioner Aguilar, "will empower CBP to more effectively partner with industry to facilitate international trade through U.S. ports of entry."

These virtual centers will provide one-stop processing to lower the trade's cost of business, provide greater consistency and predictability and enhance CBP enforcement efforts. The Centers represent CBP's expanded

focus on "Trade in the 21st Century," transforming customs procedures to align with modern business. The CEEs will also serve as resources to the broader trade community and to CBP's U.S. government partners.

The six new Centers of Excellence and Expertise and their locations will be:

- ★ Agriculture & Prepared Products – Miami, FL
- ★ Apparel, Footwear & Textiles – San Francisco, CA
- ★ Base Metals – Chicago, IL
- ★ Consumer Products & Mass Merchandising – Atlanta, GA
- ★ Industrial & Manufacturing Materials – Buffalo, NY
- ★ Machinery – Laredo, TX

CBP currently operates Centers for Electronics in Long Beach; Pharmaceuticals, Health & Chemicals in New York City, NY; Automotive & Aerospace in Detroit, MI; and Petroleum, Natural Gas & Minerals in Houston, TX. For more information on CBP's CEEs, please contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.

The Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA) serves as the single point of contact within CBP for all 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:

Phone: (202) 344-1760; Fax: (202) 344-2152; E-mail: OCAInquiry@cbp.dhs.gov.

Please visit CBP's Congressional Resources webpage for Frequently Asked Questions, News and Events, and other CBP Resources.

CBP Enforcement News: CBP and CPSC Join Forces to Protect Consumers This Holiday Season



U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and CBP are working together at ports across the United States to help protect families and keep unsafe products off the shelves this holiday season. So far this year, CBP and CPSC personnel have seized more than 2 million units of dangerous toys and children's products. Additional information about this joint effort can be found on the CBP website.

CBP Officers Seize Shipment of Lead-Contaminated Toys in Florida

Jacksonville, FL — On November 14, CBP officers and CPSC investigators seized multiple shipments containing nearly 24,000 toys for exceeded the legal limits for lead. In addition to the safety violations, various counterfeit toys were also discovered. The total domestic value for the shipments was estimated to be nearly \$220,000.

— Visit the CBP Newsroom for the full story.

CBP Officers Seize Container of Unsafe Toy Guns in Michigan

Detroit, MI — On November 14, CBP officers and CPSC investigators seized a container of Chinese-origin plastic toy guns for containing unsafe levels of lead. "There has been a very concentrated, concerted effort by both CBP and CPSC to work cooperatively to examine, sample and test shipments of good to prevent any consumer product that presents a substantial hazard from entering the commerce of the United States," said CBP Detroit Port Director Roderick Blanchard.

— Visit the CBP Newsroom for the full story.



CBP Opens New Ajo Border Patrol Station Facility



Ajo, AZ — On November 27, CBP and the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of a new Ajo Border Patrol Station. The new LEED facility covers more than 30 acres and contains more than 54,000 sq. feet of working space. Buildings at the new station include an administrative and training facility, a detention area, a fueling station and a helipad. Agents assigned to the Ajo Station, are responsible for 64 miles along the international border and nearly 7,000 square miles of total operational area.

— Visit the CBP Newsroom for the full story.

International Holiday Travel: Know Before You Go...



As the winter holiday season approaches and international travel increases, CBP offers U.S. citizens, residents and international travelers the following travel tips:

Traveling By Land or By Sea

All travelers are reminded that the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) requires persons age 16 and older to present a valid document that denotes both identity and citizenship. WHTI compliant documents include a passport, U. S. passport card, enhanced driver's licenses (EDLs), or a Trusted Traveler Program card (Global Entry, NEXUS, SENTRI and FAST).

Traveling By Air

All travelers must have a valid passport book for international air travel. At U.S. airports, the fastest and easiest way to securely speed through CBP processing is to become a member of Global Entry. This Trusted Traveler program, now available in 31 U.S. airports and 10 preclearance locations, allows pre-approved travelers to get out of line, bypassing traditional CBP processing and to use a self-service kiosks upon arrival. More information can be found on GlobalEntry.gov.

Visa Waiver Program

All nationals or citizens of the 37 Visa Waiver Program (VWP) countries are required to have an approved Electronic System for Travel Authorization, or ESTA, prior to boarding when traveling by air or sea to the U.S. under the VWP. If you enter the U.S. by land from Mexico or Canada, you are only required to complete the paper I-94W form at the land border crossing.

Please visit the CBP Website for additional travel resources such as: Prohibited and Restricted Items; Border Wait Times; and guidance on I-94 and 6059b forms.

CBP and Taiwan Agree to Cargo Security Program Standards

On November 26, CBP Deputy Commissioner David V. Aguilar and Taiwan Ministry of Finance Deputy Minister Ding-Fang Huang agreed to mutual standards in Taiwan's Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) program and the U.S.'s Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT) program. The arrangement recognizes the compatibility between Taiwan and U.S. cargo security programs and acknowledges that Directorate General of Customs, Taiwan Ministry of Finance and CBP will accept the security status of members of the other program. Additionally, the mutual recognition arrangement will allow for closer collaboration between agencies and greater benefits and common standards for the trade community.

CBP's international relationships are essential to securing the global supply chain," said Deputy Commissioner Aguilar. "Today's mutual recognition arrangement with our partners in Taiwan Customs marks an important step toward realizing our 21st Century border management vision."

The United States has signed previously mutual recognition arrangements with New Zealand, Canada, Jordan, Japan, Korea and The European Union. For more information please visit the CBP website or contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.

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