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#### CBP Core Values

Vigilance



Integrity



Service to Country

[WWW.CBP.GOV](http://www.cbp.gov)

## 2013 C-TPAT Conference: Unified Global Security and the Challenge Ahead



CBP Acting Chief Operating Officer Thomas J. Winkowski speaks during the 2013 C-TPAT Conference at the National Harbor.

More than 1,200 members of the trade community gathered at the National Harbor in Maryland for the Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT), conference January 8-10, 2013. The event, "Unified Global Security: The Challenge Ahead," hosted by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), drew participants representing all aspects of the supply chain including manufacturers, importers, transportation carriers, retailers, brokers and freight forwarders.

C-TPAT, a voluntary trusted trader program that has been emulated worldwide, was launched shortly after the September 11, 2001 attacks through collaboration with seven original charter member companies.

Today, the program has nearly 10,500 members. "More than 55 percent of the goods entering the United States are C-TPAT certified and validated imports," said Acting Chief Operating Officer Thomas Winkowski. "That's a big accomplishment, but we have to continue to drive that number up to our goal of 100 percent."

Acting Assistant Commissioner of Field Operations Kevin McAleenan discussed the future of the C-TPAT program from an operational perspective. "The international trade volume continues to grow, said McAleenan, "We're seeing a very robust recovery in terms of cross-border international trade for imports and exports." However, McAleenan explained, "We know pretty clearly that our resources are going to be constrained into the future. To me, that really highlights the importance of a program like this. It's critical to our security, critical to the flow of trade, and critical to meeting these challenges of increased traffic and constrained resources."

For more information on the conference, please visit the [CBP Newsroom](#). For more information on C-TPAT, please visit the [CBP Website](#) or contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.



## United States Harmonizes Value Thresholds with Canada

CBP announced through the publication of a final rule in the Federal Register titled "Informal Entry Limit and Removal of a Formal Entry Requirement," that it has increased the value threshold for expedited customs clearance from \$2,000 to \$2,500. This change harmonizes the value threshold for both the United States and Canada.

The value threshold was increased to mitigate the effects of inflation and to meet a commitment of the Beyond the Border Initiative between the United States and Canada. The final rule, effective January 7, 2013, will facilitate trade for low value shipments and provide importers an annual estimated savings of \$13 million. For a copy of the final rule, please visit [GPO.gov](http://GPO.gov).

## Upcoming CBP Events Exclusively for Congress

**CBP 101 – A Briefing for Congressional Staff.** CBP will provide an overview of CBP operations for congressional staff on February 1st. For additional details, please send an email to the Office of Congressional Affairs: [OCAInquiry@cbp.dhs.gov](mailto:OCAInquiry@cbp.dhs.gov).

**Congressional Staff:** Receive updates on CBP Events. Subscribe today by sending an email to [OCAInquiry@cbp.dhs.gov](mailto:OCAInquiry@cbp.dhs.gov) to receive CBP news, agency information, and upcoming CBP events on the hill, including Global Entry mobile enrollment events exclusively for Congress.

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](mailto: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 Border Patrol Agents Seize 900 Pounds of Marijuana

Del Rio, TX – On Thursday, January 10, 2013, agents assigned to the Eagle Pass South Border Patrol Station encountered foot sign of three separate groups of subjects on a local ranch. While following the three trails, agents encountered a total of 15 military-style duffel bags, containing 65 bundles of marijuana. An extensive search of the area for subjects associated with the marijuana was conducted with negative results. The duffel bags contained a combined total of 902 pounds of marijuana with an estimated street value of \$596,312.

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



### CBP Agriculture Specialists Intercept Destructive Leafhopper in Air Cargo Shipment

Sterling, VA – On January 9, 2013 a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) entomologist confirmed that CBP agriculture specialists at Washington Dulles International Airport discovered a new pest in the Washington area when they intercepted, *Agallia constricta cubana*, a leafhopper, while inspecting an air cargo shipment of basil from Mexico on December 17. Leafhoppers are known to transmit viruses and bacteria to other plants that can affect plant growth, fruit production, and can make the plant susceptible to infections by other pathogens.

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



### CBP Officers Seize Counterfeit Guitars at International Mail Facility

Chicago, IL – During the past few months, CBP officers at the O'Hare International Mail Facility have seized more than 50 electric and acoustic guitars bearing counterfeit trademarks and trade names such as Fender, Gibson, Martin and Taylor. The guitars were single shipments coming to the U.S. from China and valued from \$300 - \$700 per guitar. CBP officers work with trade systems and trademark holders to determine merchandise legality. The counterfeit guitars were found to have a different feel, look and sound in addition to being of substandard quality.

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



### CBP Officers Seize \$1 Million Worth of Heroin

Laredo, TX – On January 5, 2013, CBP officers at the Laredo Port of Entry seized a combined total of 32 pounds of heroin as a result of two separate enforcement actions. The seizures occurred when the drivers and vehicle were referred to CBP secondary for further examination. While in secondary, CBP officers discovered 19 packages of alleged heroin weighing 24 pounds, within the first vehicle. The inspection of the second vehicle resulted in the discovery of six packages containing eight pounds of alleged heroin. The estimated value of the heroin is \$1,024,000.

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

## New Recovery Act-Funded Land Port of Entry



On January 9, 2013, CBP announced the opening of a new land border port of entry at Boundary, Washington. This new border facility, funded as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, replaces the outdated facility, strengthens security and facilitates the flow of legal travel and international trade across the border. The facility supports current inspection requirements and will be adaptable for CBP's future border security and trade facilitation needs. For more information, please visit the [CBP Website](#).

## National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month

On December 31, 2012, President Barack Obama proclaimed January as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month to recognize the vital role we can play in eliminating all forms of human trafficking. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is responsible for investigating human trafficking, arresting traffickers and protecting victims. DHS initiates hundreds of investigations and makes numerous arrests every year, using a victim-centered approach. DHS also processes immigration relief through Continued Presence (CP), T visas, and U visas to victims of human trafficking and other designated crimes. In 2010, DHS launched the Blue Campaign, unifying the DHS components to more effectively combat human trafficking through enhanced public awareness, training, victim assistance, and law enforcement investigations. By expanding our collaboration within the department, as well as among domestic and international governments, law enforcement, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector, DHS is helping to protect victims from being trafficked both within the United States and around the world. For more information, please visit the [DHS Website](#).

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