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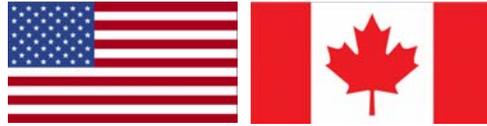
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CBP Core Values
 Vigilance
 ★
 Integrity
 ★
 Service to Country

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United States and Canada Release Report on Phase I of Entry/Exit Project



On May 14, 2013, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) released a joint report on Phase I of the Entry/Exit proof of concept, a commitment of the Beyond the Border Action Plan, which outlines progress made to establish a coordinated Entry/Exit Information System and further enhance security along our shared border.

“The results of Phase I demonstrate the capacity of the United States and Canada to increase information sharing capabilities and further improve the security and efficiency for both countries,” said CBP Acting Commissioner Thomas S. Winkowski. “This kind of cooperation epitomizes the Beyond the Border Action Plan.”

A coordinated Entry/Exit Information System will help the United States and Canada identify persons who potentially overstay their lawful period of admission, better monitor the departure of persons subject to removal orders, and verify that residency requirements are being met by applicants for continued eligibility in immigration programs.

During Phase I of the system implementation, which concluded in January 2013, the countries exchanged biographic entry data on third-country nationals and permanent residents (not United States or Canadian citizens), who crossed the common land border at four locations. The program tested the concept of an Entry/Exit system for both countries, such that an entry into one country becomes an exit from the other. On June 30, 2013, both countries will begin Phase II and continue the exchange of biographic information collected on third-country nationals and permanent residents of the United States and Canada at all automated common land border ports of entry.

For more information about Beyond the Border, the Entry/Exit Program, as well as Privacy Principles and Information Sharing, please visit the [CBP Website](#) or contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.

CBP On the Hill — Visa Security and Overstays: How Secure is America?



On Tuesday, May 21, 2013, Acting Deputy Assistant Commissioner John Wagner testified before the House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security for a hearing titled, “Visa Security and Overstays: How Secure is America?”

In a joint written statement, the witnesses said, “CBP uses advance information and a select overseas footprint to address concerns long before they reach the physical border of the United States. Using the Automated Targeting System (ATS), CBP leverages all available advance passenger data, including the Passenger Name Record (PNR) and Advance Passenger Information System (APIS) data, United States-bound travel reservations, Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) applications, visa applications, passenger manifests, previous crossing information, intelligence, and law enforcement information, as well as open source information in its anti-fraud and anti-terrorism efforts at the National Targeting Center (NTC). Immigration Advisory Program (IAP) officers work in partnership with foreign law enforcement officials, to evaluate potential risks, including possible overstays and then work in coordination with commercial air carriers to issue no-board recommendations to the airline to keep suspected high-risk or inadmissible passengers from traveling to the United States. In FY 2012, CBP made more than 9,500 no board recommendations to carriers.”

Other witnesses on the panel were DHS National Protection and Programs Directorate Office of Biometric Identify Management Acting Director Shonnie Lyon; Immigration and Customs Enforcement Executive Associate Director James Dinkins; and Government and Accountability Office Director of Homeland Security and Justice Rebecca Gambler. The full written testimony can be found on the [CBP Website](#) and a recorded webcast of the hearing can be found on the Subcommittee’s [Website](#).

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.

CBP Seizes Banned African Elephant Ivory Jewelry



On April 25, 2013, during a baggage examination, a U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agriculture canine alerted to a Nigerian man's checked bag at Baltimore Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI). In the bag, CBP agriculture specialists discovered several pieces of prohibited African tusk ivory, a carved elephant tusk, two ornately carved bracelets, and a necklace made of a mix of bone and ivory. After an inspector from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) determined that the pieces were made of banned ivory, CBP seized the jewelry and turned it over to the USFWS.

Poaching of endangered African elephants for their ivory tusks remains a serious international conservation concern. As such, the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) continues to ban international commerce in African tusk ivory among its member nations. According to a CITES report in 2012, elephant poaching levels are the worst in a decade and recorded ivory seizures across the globe are at their highest levels since 1989. CBP, in collaboration with USFWS, enforces CITES regulations as well as the Endangered Species Act (ESA) at our nation's borders.

"Enforcing laws that protect endangered animal life by aggressively preventing the illegal introduction of these products into the U.S. is one of the many aspects of Customs and Border Protection's border security mission," said Ricardo Scheller, Port Director for the Port of Baltimore. "CBP enforces hundreds of U.S. regulations for many other agencies in addition to enforcing our traditional international trade and immigration laws."

For more information on CITES and ESA regulations, please visit the [CBP Website](#) or contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.

VIDEO: A Decade of Progressive Excellence in Border Security



March 1, 2013, marked the tenth anniversary of the creation of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the 2012-2016 Border Patrol Strategic Plan marks an important point in the growth and development of the U.S. Border Patrol. The Strategic Plan establishes an approach for the Border Patrol that is tailored to meet the challenges of securing a 21st century border against a variety of different threats and adversaries.

The resource base built and the operations conducted over the past two decades have enabled the Border Patrol to focus on developing and implementing a Strategic Plan based on risk: identifying high risk areas and flows and targeting our response to meet those threats. This risk-based approach is reflected in the core pillars of the Strategic Plan – Information, Integration and Rapid Response.

To learn more about the 2012-2016 Border Patrol Strategic, please visit the [CBP Website](#) or click on the image above for a short video.

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CBP Enforcement News



CBP Intercepts First in Port Gall Wasp

Baltimore, MD – On May 15, 2013, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agriculture specialists recorded the first local interception of a *Callirhytis*, sp., gall wasp, in a shipment of Italian ceramic tiles. These tiny wasps reportedly lay their eggs on the limbs of oak trees and their larvae cause galls that eventually may cause the stem to die from the gall outward. Though widespread infestations are uncommon, severe gall wasp infestations have been observed in several Florida counties. These infestations are known to have affected young to mature trees in woodlands and residential areas.

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



El Centro Sector Arrests Felon Gang Member

Calexico, CA – On May 16, 2013, U.S. Border Patrol agents assigned to the Calexico Station apprehended a dangerous gang member, identified as Luis A. Salas-Prado, attempting to cross into the United States illegally from Mexico. Agents arrested Salas without incident and subsequently transported him to the Calexico Border Patrol Station where agents discovered he was a gang member and aggravated felon out of Merced, CA. Records indicated he had served one year in jail for participating in a criminal street gang, and four years in prison after being convicted of inflicting injury to another. Salas is in Border Patrol custody and will be prosecuted for re-entry after being previously removed from the United States.

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



CBP Officers Stop Three Tractor-Trailers with Marijuana

Otay Mesa, CA – On May 17, 2013, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers at the Otay Mesa cargo processing facility stopped three tractor-trailers hiding a total of more than one ton of marijuana. In the first encounter, CBP officers referred the driver of a tractor-trailer, that was supposed to be empty, for a more intensive inspection. A CBP officer with a human/narcotic detector dog swept the vehicle, and the canine alerted to the tires on the trailer where the marijuana was hidden. A CBP officer and canine also discovered the hidden marijuana in the second incident, this time in a shipment of clay pots. In the third event, CBP officers referred a driver and tractor-trailer carrying a shipment of peppers for additional inspection after an imaging system showed anomalies. In total, the three seizures yielded an estimated street value of more than \$1.1 million.

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

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