



## U. S. Customs and Border Protection

Department of Homeland Security

# Timeline

## Attack on America — September 11, 2001

*Each tragic event in American history has a point where the story begins. For U.S. Customs and Border Protection, that point is positioned in the summer of 1966, with the ground breaking for the New York World Trade Center in Lower Manhattan. This mammoth enterprise will come to shelter the U.S. Customhouse and the offices of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey – the crucial elements supporting the mighty port of New York and international trade.*

### 1962

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey awards a contract to Minoru Yamasaki & Associates to design the World Trade Center in collaboration with the New York architectural firm of Emery Roth & Sons.



Hagstrom's 1960's map showing the proposed 16-acre site of the World Trade Center, bounded by Vesey St. on the North, Church St. on the East, Liberty St. on the South and West St. on the West.

Model of the World Trade Center. The U.S. Customhouse is the low-rise building at the left of the North Tower. This model has been restored and will be featured in the 9/11 museum opening in 2011 at the WTC site.



### August 5, 1966

Official ground breaking for the start of construction at the World Trade Center (WTC) site.

### June 2, 1970

GSA signs a 20-year lease agreement with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey for Building Six in the northwest corner of the proposed World Trade Center, which will be named the **U.S. CUSTOMHOUSE**.

### April 4, 1973

Dedication of One World Trade Center (North Tower) and Two World Trade Center (South Tower.)

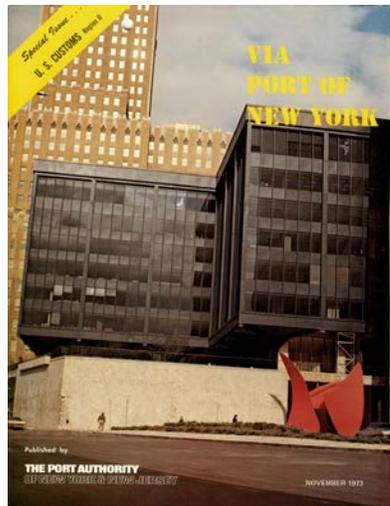


1972 photograph - the North (at left) and South Towers are nearing completion - the 8-story custom-house can be seen to the left of the North Tower, at the north-east corner of West & Vesey Streets.

Photo Credit: New York & New Jersey Port Authority.

### August 1973

U.S. Customs Service begins move from the historic U.S. Customhouse on Bowling Green and the U.S. Appraisers Stores at 201 Varick Street into consolidated quarters in Six World Trade Center (WTC6.)



The 8-story U.S. Customhouse, looking north from West Street; the Alexander Calder stabile "Three Red Wings" is one of the many original works of art commissioned for the WTC site.

Photo Credit: November 1973 issue of "Via Port of New York" commemorates the opening of the U.S. Customhouse; published by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey



Main entrance to the U.S. Customhouse from the plaza of the World Trade Center prior to the Dedication Ceremony; the lobby is incomplete the time.

Cover photograph from the Fall 1973 issue of "Customs Today" which commemorated the dedication and formal opening of Customs new building at the World Trade Center.



Left photo: Fritz Koenig's 25-foot high sculpture "Great Spherical Caryatid" symbolizes world peace through world trade and stands on the WTC plaza near the customhouse (at right in photo.) Right photo: After 9/11, the sculpture is found under mounds of rubble; Mr. Koenig later supervises the restoration of the sculpture which today is temporarily seated in Battery Park with the old U.S. Custom House at Bowling Green as a backdrop. Plans are to return the sculpture to the WTC site.

Right photo credit: Tom Miller blog

**October 19, 1973**



Dedication of the U.S. Customhouse, Six World Trade Center.

**February 26, 1993**

**FIRST BOMBING OF THE WORLD TRADE CENTER.**

At 12:18 p.m. Al-Qaeda terrorists detonate 1,500 pounds of explosives in a van parked on the second level of the WTC's



underground parking garage, leaving a five-story deep crater. Six people are killed, more than one thousand are injured, with over \$500 million in damage to the WTC infrastructure.

The terrorists plan was to inflict structural damage to the North Tower resulting in its collapse onto the South Tower and causing it to fall. Fortunately their plan is not successful, as only one of the major structural columns is damaged by the blast.

Evacuation of the towers is extremely difficult because the blast has

knocked out four of the eight feeder lines to the Consolidated Edison power substation located under WTC Building 7, resulting in the loss of all emergency evacuation communications in the WTC and plunging many areas into darkness. An hour after the blast, the FDNY orders Con Edison to cut off all power, including natural gas and steam. The Mayor of New York's Emergency Command Center is located on the 23<sup>rd</sup> floor of WTC7 - and it goes dark.

The explosion traps hundreds of people underground in debris and the resultant fire. The ceiling of the underground PATH station collapses and the area soon becomes an inferno for hundreds of commuters. Emergency exit stairwells in the buildings fill with dense, acrid smoke, making evacuation slow and torturous. Many people are trapped in elevators and have to be freed by firefighters. A kindergarten class from a public school in Brooklyn is caught on the 107<sup>th</sup> floor observatory and it takes all day for the children to walk down the smoke-filled stairways. Twenty-three people make their way onto the roofs of the towers and are rescued by NYPD helicopters.

Power is partially restored to the Twin Towers at 7:20 p.m., but it is not until 9:30 p.m. (nine hours after the blast) that rescue workers declare that everyone has been evacuated.

After the WTC bombing, USCS and INS special agents join with the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF - established in 1980) in the search for the terrorists involved.

*Within a month of the bombing, the JTTF apprehends four individuals responsible for the attack. On May 25, 1994, each of the four terrorists is sentenced to 240 years in prison without bail*

*On February 7, 1995, Ramzi Yousef, the mastermind behind the bombing, is arrested in Pakistan and extradited to the U.S.; he is sentenced to life imprisonment without bail on January 8, 1998.*

*Eyad Ismoil, driver of the bomb-laden truck, is arrested in Amman, Jordan in August 1995, extradited to the U.S., and sentenced to 240 years in prison without bail on April 3, 1998.*

### **March 19, 1993**

The World Trade Center reopens for business. The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey implements a \$250 million life safety and security plan for the WTC, which includes the elimination of general public parking in the underground garage and the implementation of strict access controls.

### **August 7, 1998**

Al-Qaeda suicide truck bombers attack the U.S. embassies in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and Nairobi, Kenya, killing a total of 224 people, including 12 Americans, and wounding 5,000 others.

*On June 11, 2011, Somali officials report that Fazul Abdullah Mohammed, the al-Qaeda operative responsible for the bombings in Kenya and Tanzania, has been killed by Somali security forces on June 7, 2011.*



Nairobi, Kenya after truck bomb is detonated by Al-Qaeda suicide bombers outside the American Embassy.

Photo: FBI

### **Late 1999**

Fear grows of al-Qaeda master-minded terrorist attacks on the homeland on the upcoming millennium: January 1, 2000.

## December 14, 1999

Ahmed Ressam, 23, an Algerian who emigrated illegally to Canada in 1994, attends three al-Qaeda terrorist training camps in Afghanistan between March 1998 and February 1999. Returning to Montreal he joins a six-person terrorist cell planning an attack on the Los Angeles International Airport at the time of the Millennium.

On December 14, in a rented car loaded with 100 lbs. of explosives packed in the trunk's spare tire well, Ressam passes through Canadian inspection at the Victoria, B.C. car ferry to Port Angeles, Wash., by presenting a Canadian passport that identifies him as Benni Antoine Noris.

Arriving at Port Angeles, U.S. Customs inspector Diana Dean alerts to Ressam's nervous behavior and decides to send him to secondary inspection. While another inspector is searching the car's trunk, inspector Dean requests Ressam to step out of the car. While being escorted to the border station, Ressam breaks free and takes off running; Inspectors Chapman and Johnson chase him for several blocks and manage to wrestle Ressam to the ground when he attempts to hi-jack a car stopped at a traffic light.



Port Angeles, Wash. Customs Inspectors at the car ferry terminal. Michael Chapman, Diana Dean, Mark Johnson and Dan Clem.

Ressam, known as the "millennium bomber," is arrested by the local police and taken into custody by the U.S. Border Patrol on charges of misrepresentation on entry and failure to be inspected.

An explosives expert later concludes the explosives in Ressam's vehicle could have produced a blast 40 times greater than that of a devastating car bomb. It is considered a miracle the handling of the material during inspection of the car's trunk did not trigger an explosion.

*Ressam is sentenced to 22 years in prison in 2005 and 2010. With each sentencing, the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals has vacated the sentence and required the case to be sent back to the Seattle district court for a recalculation of the sentence for Ressam's conviction on nine counts of felony. Ahmed Ressam remains in a "Supermax" federal prison in Colorado.*

### **October 12, 2000**

Terrorists associated with al-Qaeda attack the U.S. naval destroyer, USS *Cole*. Suicide bombers in a small craft loaded with explosives steer into the side of the destroyer, which was preparing to refuel in the port of Aden, Yemen. The explosion rips a 1,600 square foot hole in the hull of the USS *Cole*, killing seventeen American sailors and wounding thirty-nine others.



Investigators assessing damage to the USS *Cole* after the 10/12/2000 attack.

Photo credit: FBI

### **August 4, 2001**

*U.S. Immigration Inspector José Melendez-Perez, on duty in secondary inspection in the Orlando, Florida International Airport, is assigned the case of a Saudi national, Mohammed al-Kahtani, who has arrived from London's Gatwick Airport. The inspector believes al-Kahtani should not be admitted and seeks agreement from his supervisor. Al-Kahtani is refused entry and returned to Saudi Arabia - he is later identified as the probable twentieth 9/11 hijacker.*

### **September 11, 2001: ATTACK ON AMERICA**

**Al-Qaeda sponsored terrorists attack New York City's World Trade Center, and the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia; a projected attack on the U.S. Capitol or the White House is thwarted by passengers aboard AA flight 77 and the aircraft crashes near Shanksville, Pa.**

#### **7:59 a.m.**

Logan International Airport, Boston: American Airlines Flight 11 departs for Los Angeles. At 8:19 a.m., flight attendant notifies American Airlines the plane has been hijacked.

**8:14 a.m.**

Logan International Airport, Boston: United Airlines Flight 175 departs for Los Angeles. The last flight radio communication is recorded at 8:42 a.m. At 8:47 a.m. the transponder code changes and at 8:52 a.m. a flight attendant notifies United Airlines the plane has been hijacked.

**8:20 a.m.**

Dulles International Airport, Chantilly, Virginia: American Airlines Flight 77 departs for Los Angeles.

**8:42 a.m.**

Newark International Airport: United Airlines Flight 93 departs 42 minutes late for San Francisco. Forty-six minutes into the flight (9:28 a.m.), hijackers breach the cockpit and Ziad Jarrah takes control of the plane, diverting it eastward toward Washington, D.C.

**8:46:40 a.m.**

The FAA's Boston control center contacts the Northeast Air Defense Sector (NEADS) that American Airlines Flight 11 has been hijacked. NEADS scrambles two military jets to the New York area from Otis Air National Guard Base on Cape Cod, Mass.

**8:46 a.m.**

American Airlines Flight 11 impacts the North Tower, cutting through floors 93 through 99. Evidence suggests all emergency stairwells in the tower are impassable from the 92<sup>nd</sup> floor up. The ensuing jet fuel-fed fireball erupts out of elevator shafts onto numerous lower floors, including the 77<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, the West Street lobby level, and the B4 level which was 4 stories underground.

Full evacuation of the North Tower is ordered approximately ten minutes after the impact by AA11. Many civilians located in the South Tower are initially unaware the North Tower has been struck. The 8-story customhouse is ordered evacuated; the building is emptied within twelve minutes and there is no loss of life to those occupying WTC-6.

**8:46 a.m.**

The New York City Fire Department (FDNY), the New York Police Department (NYPD) and the New York Port Authority Police Department (PAPD) receive the first report of an aircraft crashing into the North Tower.

**8:48 a.m.**

Officials in the Mayor's Office of Emergency Management (OEM) in WTC Building 7 begin to activate the Emergency Operations Center. The Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) is asked to immediately send at least five federal Urban Search & Rescue Teams to the WTC.

**8:50 a.m.**

Two helicopters from the NYPD Aviation Unit are dispatched to assess the feasibility of a rooftop landing and special rescue operations. The helicopters communicate with New York's three major airports informing them that a commercial aircraft has crashed into the WTC's North Tower (air traffic controllers are unaware of the event.)



NYPD Aviation Unit helicopter pilots determine rooftop rescues from the burning North Tower is not possible (the radio antennas can be seen rising above smoke.)

Photo credit:  
NYPD Aviation  
Det. Greg Semendinger

**8:52 a.m.**

A FDNY battalion chief and two ladder and two engine companies enter the West Street lobby of the North Tower where they encounter badly burned civilians who had been caught in the path of the fireball that exploded out of the elevator shafts. At 8:57 a.m., the firemen begin climbing stairwell C with the goal of approaching the impact zone.

**9:00 a.m.**

Transit officers begin shutting down subway stations in the vicinity of the WTC and evacuating civilians from those stations. PAPD officers begin rescue and evacuation operations in the PATH station beneath the WTC.

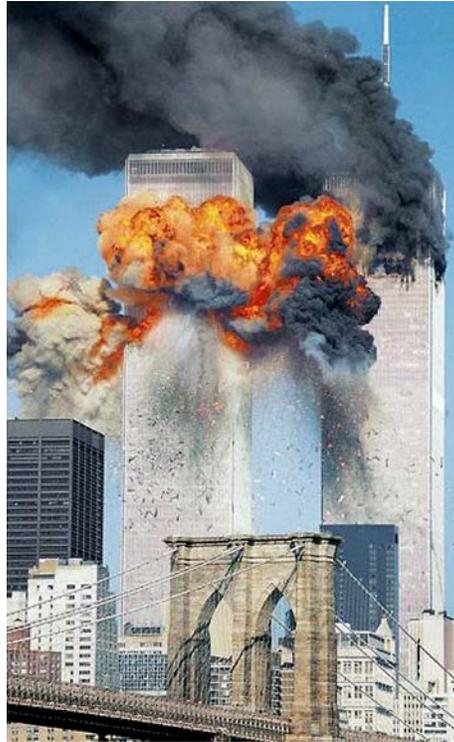
**9:02 a.m.**

The public-address system in the South Tower announces an orderly evacuation of the building will begin.

In the period between 8:46 a.m. and 9:03 a.m., New York City and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey mobilizes the largest rescue operation in the city's history. Over a thousand first responders are deployed, evacuation had begun, and the critical decision is made: the North Tower fire cannot be fought – the response is now a search and rescue operation.

**9:03:11 a.m.**

Hijacked United Airlines Flight 175 impacts the South Tower, cutting into floors 77 through 85. The plane banks as it strikes, leaving portions of the building undamaged on impacted floors. Thus, Stairwell A initially remains passable from at least the 91<sup>st</sup> floor, quite possibly from top to bottom of the tower.



UA175 strikes the south side of the South Tower. Photo taken from Brooklyn, with the bridge in the foreground.

Photo: unattributed

**9:15 a.m.**

Bridges and tunnels into Manhattan begin closure to all but emergency vehicles and pedestrians.

**9:25 a.m.**

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) orders the first-ever nationwide ground-stop, prohibiting the landing and departure of all commercial, passenger and general aviation flights at U.S. airports. Northeast Air Defense Sector (NEADS) jets establish combat air patrol over Manhattan.

**9:30 a.m.**

The New York Stock Exchange is evacuated and does not open for business. At approximately the same time, all persons who remained behind in the Mayor's Office of Emergency Management's "bunker" in 7WTC are instructed to evacuate immediately.

**9:37 a.m.**

American Airlines Flight 77 crashes into the west side of The Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia.



The Pentagon burning  
09/11/2001 Photo: Telfair H. Brown, USCG



The Pentagon - three days after the attack.  
09/14/2001 Photo: TSGT Cedric H. Rudisill, USAF

**9:40 a.m.**

The FAA orders all 4,546 non-emergency civilian aircraft in North American airspace at that time to land immediately at the nearest available airport.

**9:45 a.m.**

Evacuations underway at the United States Capitol, the White House, federal office buildings, the Empire State Building, the United Nations, the Kennedy Space center, Disney World and other possible terrorist target sites **nationwide**.

**9:58:59 a.m.**

The South Tower collapses in ten seconds.



Although the first to be struck, the North Tower continues to burn as the South Tower collapses at 9:59 a.m.

Photo credit: NYPD Aviation Det. Greg Semendinger

**10:03 a.m.**

United Airlines Flight 93 crashes in an open field in Stonycreek Township, near Shanksville, Penna. After passengers on board



are made aware the hijacked plane is en route to Washington, D.C., with the White House or the Capitol as possible target, they storm the cockpit and seize control of the aircraft forcing it to crash.

All 44 people on board are killed. Of the four aircraft hijacked on September 11, UA93 is the only one that failed to reach its intended destination.

**10:05 a.m.**

**U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE AND U.S. IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE GO TO ALERT LEVEL ONE AT THE U.S. PORTS OF ENTRY**

**10:28:25 a.m.**

One hour and forty-two minutes after being struck by AA11, the North Tower collapses. **The U.S. Customhouse, is destroyed** when the North Tower collapses onto it and a flash fire rips through the severely damaged building.



The North Tower begins to collapse.  
Photo credit: NYPD Aviation Det. Greg Semendinger.



The North Tower goes down.  
Photo credit: NYPD Aviation Unit Det. Greg Semendinger.



A U.S. Coast Guard rescue team from Sandy Hook, N.J. approach Lower Manhattan just after the WTC's North Tower collapses.

Photo credit: USCG PA2 Tom Sperduto



The U.S. Customhouse lies in ruin, with remains of the North Tower leaning on the south side of the building. At top right is the smoldering remains of WTC Building 7.

9/17/2001 Photo: Chief Photographer's Mate Eric J. Tilford, U.S. Navy.

**5:20 p.m.**

The 47-story WTC7 collapses. The building, set afire when the North Tower fell, is located across Vesey Street from the U.S. Customhouse. This 14-year-old steel-frame building straddling a Consolidated Edison sub-station, housed the Mayor's Office of Emergency Management and Emergency Command Center on the 23<sup>rd</sup> floor. The U.S. Secret Service occupied over 85,000 sq. ft. in the building, and the IRS Regional Council occupied over 90,000 sq. ft.



WTC7 collapses onto Vesey Street at 5:20 p.m. The shattered custom-house is at the right of image. Photograph: unattributed

The United States suffers the largest loss of life in history as the result of this hostile attack on the homeland. A total of 2,973 people are known to have been killed in New York, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania. In New York City, many first responders sacrifice their lives while helping others. The FDNY suffers 343 fatalities, including the Chief of Department. The PAPD suffers 37 fatalities, including the Port Authority Police Department Superintendent. The NYPD suffers the loss of 23 officers .

## **AMERICA RESPONDS**

"Uncommon valor was a common virtue"

**Quotation from Admiral Chester W. Nimitz on the Battle of Iwo Jima during World War II**

In an unprecedented effort not seen since World War II, the Nation comes together to secure and protect the homeland and bring aide and comfort to the immitigable suffering and loss of its citizens.

### **September 11, 2001**

Newly appointed Commissioner of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), James W. Ziglar, has been on board just thirty-nine days when the World Trade Center and the Pentagon are attacked.

At the time of the attacks, Robert C. Bonner is awaiting Senate confirmation of his appointment to be Commissioner of the U.S. Customs Service (USCS). John C. Varrone, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Investigations John C. Varrone is serving as Acting Commissioner of Customs because Charles W. Winwood, who had been acting commissioner after the departure of Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly, is on vacation in a remote area of Ontario, Canada.

At the FBI, the new director, Robert S. Mueller III, has been at the helm for only eight days when America is attacked.

The focus immediately after the attacks begin is whether any of the aircraft remaining in the North American airspace pose an imminent threat.

At 9:40 a.m. The FAA orders all 4,546 non-emergency civilian aircraft in North American airspace at that time to land immediately at the nearest available airport. Progressive inspection of aircraft is suspended and all flights into the U.S. will be inspected at first U.S. port of arrival consistent with Alert Level One procedures. International flights in the air over the Atlantic and Pacific are diverted to Canada due to overcrowding at U.S. airports.



88 flights crossing the Atlantic Ocean en route to the U.S. are grounded in Halifax, Nova Scotia and Gander, Newfoundland in eastern Canada.

This photograph shows 47 wide-body jets double-stacked on the runway at Halifax International Airport.

Photo: Halifax International Airport.

At 10:05 a.m., the USCS, in concert with INS, goes to Level One Alert at the U.S. ports of entry. All ports go to 24/7 schedules. With the increase in security and the grounding of air flights, cross-border traffic begins to build, causing protracted delays – often as long as 12 hours.

At USCS headquarters, Acting Commissioner Varrone immediately sets up a command center where intelligence briefings are held every 15-20 minutes. It is decided the movement of Customs executive staff to an off-site location in Northern Virginia will be impossible due to clogged traffic arteries. Initially, non-essential headquarters employees are instructed to shelter in place because of the traffic situation; they are released before the noon hour.

Within the first 45 minutes after the second plane hits the WTC's South Tower, USCS' director of the Office of Intelligence delivers to Acting Commissioner Varrone a list of 19 individuals believed to be the hijackers on the four aircraft involved in the 9/11 attack. This vital information is hand-carried to the FBI's command center.

Intelligence briefings at USCS are given at 7:30 a.m. each morning by the Executive Director, Headquarters Intelligence Division, who will then go to the Treasury Department to brief Secretary O'Neill, followed by an in-person briefing with FBI director Mueller.

USCS and INS deploy aircraft to move additional customs, immigration and border patrol officers to the ports of entry along the U.S./Canada border. All officers work long shifts in order to keep the ports operational with increased security and to mitigate traffic backups.

When James Ziglar accepted the nomination to be INS commissioner, the President and the Attorney General had issued two mandates that were to be his top priorities: (1) restructure and reform the INS by separating the services and enforcement functions to create greater accountability, effectiveness and efficiency, and (2) reduce the backlog of citizenship applications. After the attack, the drive to restructure the agency and undertake the production of a unified information

technology system is accelerated in order for INS to meet the demands and obligations incurred in the immediate national security buildup and massive recovery efforts

The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) immediately mobilizes more than 2,000 Reservists in the largest homeland defense and port security operation since World War II.

Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) activates Federal Response Plan. FEMA deploys National Urban Search and Rescue Response teams to New York, the Pentagon and Shanksville, Pa., and deploys the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to assist with debris removal.

For the first time, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) activates the National Disaster Medical System, dispatching more than 300 medical and mortuary personnel to the New York and Washington, D.C.; dispatching one of eight 12-hour emergency "push packages" of medical supplies; and activating 80 Disaster Medical Assistance Teams nation-wide. 7,000 private sector medical professionals are placed on deployment alert.

In New York City, the attacks on 9/11 destroy the offices of the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey (WTC1); U.S. Customs Service, USDA's Animal Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Commerce, Department of Labor, and the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco & Firearms (WTC6); N.Y. Mayor's Office of Emergency Management and Command Center, U.S. Secret Service and the Internal Revenue Service Regional Council (WTC7.)

With air traffic ordered grounded, the FBI takes the lead in investigating the causes leading up to the attacks and those responsible for planning and carrying out the destruction. During the evening of September 11, the FBI New York Field Office moves telephones, computers, facsimile machines, and other equipment into a temporary command post in a parking garage. Command centers are set up in midtown Manhattan, Queens and Long Island.

The destruction of the Port Authority's offices in the North Tower and the adjacent customhouse strikes a devastating blow to the operation of the Port of New York. Immediately after evacuating the customhouse, the Customs Management Center Director makes his way to JFK Airport where a USCS command center is set up. When the collapse of the North Tower destroys the customhouse, planning gets underway to provide temporary accommodations at the airport and at Port Elizabeth in New Jersey for many of the 800 customhouse employees.

Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, the Police and Fire Commissioners and the Director of the Office of Emergency Management establish an emergency operations command post at the New York Police Academy on East 20<sup>th</sup> Street.

### September 12, 2001

Seven hours after the collapse of the Twin Towers, the last survivor is rescued at 12:30 a.m.

The FBI launches the largest criminal inquiry in U.S. history, code named **PENTTBOM (Pentagon/Twin Towers Bombing Investigation.)** More than 4,000 FBI special agents and 3,000 support personnel are assigned to work on the PENTTBOM investigation. INS commits almost 1,000 special agents to support PENTTBOM FBI's Strategic Information Operations Center (SIOC).

The New York Stock Exchange, the American Stock Exchange and NASDAQ do not open, and remain closed until September 17.

### September 13, 2001

**At 11:00 a.m.,** the FAA coordinates with the Department of Defense, the Department of State, U.S. Secret Service, the FBI, USCS, INS and U.S. Marshals Service in reopening national airspace to U.S. carriers for flights out of or into airports that have implemented the FAA's new security requirements; Ronald Reagan National Airport in Arlington, Va. will not open for three weeks because of its proximity to the Pentagon and Washington, D.C.

Within 36 hours of the attacks INS deploys 317 U.S. Border Patrol agents to nine airports across the country as part of a multi-agency effort to heighten security and safeguard civilian passengers, employees and property at key airports in the U.S. National Guard personnel replaces border patrol agents on October 25, 2001.

Utilizing the intelligence data on the 19 probable hijackers provided by the Customs Service, the FBI begins development of a "watch list" designed to identify potential hijackers and others who could be planning additional terrorist acts once air travel resumes.

Havoc ensues when importers, exporters, brokers, and freight forwarders with offices in or close to the World Trade Center lose information needed to feed into Customs Automated Commercial System (ACS) - the electronic bridge between the USCS and its trade partners.

Traffic continues to build at the U.S. land border crossings.

### September 14, 2001

President George W. Bush issues Presidential Proclamation 7463: "**DECLARATION OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY BY REASON OF CERTAIN TERRORIST ATTACKS,**" and Executive Order 13223: "Ordering the Ready Reserve of the Armed Forces to Active Duty and Delegating Certain Authorities to the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Transportation."

The FBI forwards a "watch list" initially containing 100 names to their field offices, INS and the Border Patrol, USCS, the FAA, commercial airlines and 18,000 state and local police departments nationwide.

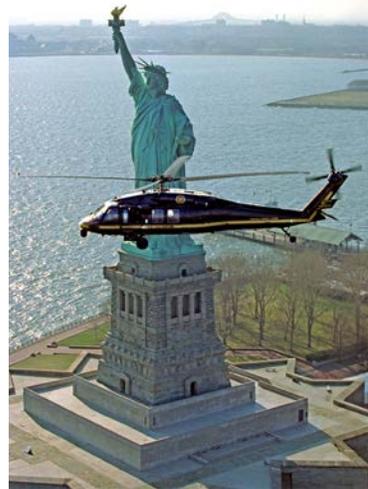
INS as lead unit activates the **NATIONAL SECURITY UNIT (NSU)** to coordinate the investigation and possible detention of individuals of interest to other law enforcement agencies.

The U.S. Congress officially enacts **OPERATION NOBLE EAGLE (ONE)**. The North American Aerospace Command (NORAD), maintains the program, which involves the U.S. Air National Guard, the U.S. Air Force, and the Canadian Air Force, plus coordination with federal agencies such as the USCG, USCS and the FAA.



USCS P-AEW&C aircraft provide over 25% of all domestic AEW missions/coverage in the first month of *Operation Noble Eagle*.

A USCS UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter provides air security over New York Harbor



### September 2001–July 2002 Fresh Kills recovery operation site

*Fresh Kills (from the Middle Dutch word kille, meaning "riverbed" or "water channel") is a stream and freshwater estuary in the western portion of Staten Island. It is the site of the Fresh Kills Landfill, which was closed in March 2001 and was in the process of being turned into a park at the time of the attack on the WTC.*

The World Trade Center recovery operation site is established at the former Fresh Kills Landfill on Staten Island to recover human remains, personal objects and material evidence from the rubble of the seven buildings that once occupied the WTC site.



Recovery teams from the NYPD, FDNY, Port Authority Police Department, U.S. Secret Service, USCS, FBI, CIA, Alcohol Tobacco & Firearms, USCG and N.Y. Air National Guard join in assisting the staff of the New York Special Agent in Charge in the recovery operations.

At the WTC site, USCS special agents are lowered by crane through a gaping hole in the severely damaged customhouse in order to secure and retrieve any surviving evidence files and records from the secure vault in what had been the office of Customs Special Agent in Charge in New York.

Over 300 individuals are identified by the recovery teams thus affording closure for next of kin and friends. Approximately 4,000 personal photo-graphs, 54,000 personal items such as identification cards and drivers licenses, 1,358 vehicles including 201 fire apparatus and 61 NYPD vehicles are retrieved.



Souvenir from "Top of the World - World Trade Center" retrieved from the Fresh Kills recovery site.

Fresh Kills - examination of contaminated material and objects.



### **September 19, 2001**

Establishment of the USCS **TERRORISM RESPONSE TASK FORCE** to coordinate all investigative leads and intelligence information.

### **September 24, 2001**

Robert C. Bonner is sworn in by Treasury Secretary Paul H. O'Neill as the seventeenth commissioner of the U.S. Customs Service. He immediately establishes that the USCS now has twin goals: (1) increasing security and (2) facilitating trade.

### **October 4, 2001**

Robert Stevens, of American Media in Boca Raton, Florida, is hospitalized with inhalation anthrax. The first known victim of biological terrorism, Stevens dies the following day.

### **October 7, 2001**

**In response to the September 11 attacks on America, the United States launches the war in Afghanistan, where Osama bin Laden and the headquarters of the al-Qaeda organization are believed to be located.**

### **October 8, 2001**

President George W. Bush issues Executive Order 13228, establishing the **OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY (OHS)** and the **HOMELAND SECURITY COUNCIL** in the Office of the President of the United States. Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge is sworn in as Assistant to the President for Homeland Security.

### October 9, 2001

President George W. Bush issues an Executive Order creating the **OFFICE OF COMBATING TERRORISM** in the Office of the President of the United States.

### October 12, 2001

**One month after the 9/11 attacks, the Department of Transportation restores general aviation in fifteen major metropolitan areas.**

### October 21, 2001

Establishment of the USCS' **NATIONAL TARGETING CENTER (NTC)**, within the Office of Field Operations. The NTC is the centralized coordination point for all USCS' anti-terrorism efforts.

### October 23, 2001

The **OFFICE OF ANTI-TERRORISM** is created in the Office of the Commissioner of Customs.

### October 25, 2001

The Department of the Treasury and USCS launch **OPERATION GREEN QUEST**, a joint financial enforcement initiative led by Customs, and supported by the IRS, Secret Service, and other Treasury Department bureaus, as well as the FBI and the Department of Justice, bringing the full scope of the government's financial expertise to bear against sources of terrorist funding.



USCS Commissioner Robert Bonner and Treasury Deputy Secretary Kenneth Dam announce *Operation Green Quest*

### October 29, 2001

President George W. Bush chairs the first meeting of the Homeland Security Council (HSC), and issues Homeland Security Presidential Directives: "Establishing the organization and operation of the Homeland Security Council"; and "Establishing the Foreign Terrorist Tracking Task Force,"

### November 2001

**Attorney General Ashcroft and INS Commissioner Ziglar release the Administration's plan to reform and restructure the INS**, splitting service and enforcement functions into two bureaus. In April 2002, the first steps in restructuring are carried out, including establishing a direct reporting chain from the Border Patrol Sector Chiefs to the headquarters Chief of the Border Patrol.

INS launches **OPERATION TARMAC** to enhance security at U.S. airports. Field offices initiate worksite enforcement investigations into the hiring practices of companies employing individuals who work at airports and have direct access to commercial aircraft and other secure areas; particular attention is paid to companies providing security at major U.S.

airports.

**November 16, 2001**

USCS Commissioner and Canadian Commissioner of Customs sign the **OTTAWA FRAMEWORK**, a document outlining policies and actions designed to improve security and anti-terrorism on U.S./Canadian shared and external borders without hindering the flow of legitimate trade and travel.

**November 19, 2001**

The Aviation and Transportation Security Act creates the **TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION (TSA)** within the U.S. Department of Transportation, to oversee the security of all modes of transportation.

The Federal Aviation Administration's **FEDERAL AIR MARSHAL PROGRAM (FAMs)** is transferred to the newly established TSA. Customs Press Release of December 7, 2001 announces U.S. Customs special agents are supporting FAMs until sufficient new air marshals can be trained; as many as 125 Customs agents are dispatched temporarily to FAMs for assignment to commercial airline flights.

**November 27, 2001**

USCS Commissioner Bonner announces the creation of

**CUSTOMS-TRADE PARTNERSHIP AGAINST TERRORISM (C-TPAT)**, the most ambitious Customs-industry program launched to date. The goal

of C-TPAT is to guarantee the integrity of every cargo container bound for the U.S. from the moment the container is packed to the minute it arrives at its final destination.



**December 5, 2001**

INS announces the **ALIEN ABSCONDER INITIATIVE**, which requires entering the names of fugitive alien absconders into the FBI's National Crime Information Center database.

**December 10, 2001**

USCS announces new enforcement program: **OPERATION SHIELD AMERICA** is launched to prevent international terrorist organizations from obtaining sensitive U.S. technology, weapons, and other equipment.



**December 12, 2001**

Tom Ridge, Director, Office of Homeland Security, and Canadian Deputy Prime Minister John Manley sign a **DECLARATION FOR THE CREATION OF A SECURE AND SMART BORDER (SMART BORDER DECLARATION)**, which formally launches 30 major initiatives designed to strengthen the performance of both customs organizations in four critical areas: secure flow of people, secure flow of goods, secure infrastructure, and coordination and information sharing in the enforcement of these objectives.

**December 19, 2001**

The Department Of Transportation restores general aviation in 30 major metropolitan areas.

## December 22, 2001



Twenty-eight year old Richard Reid, a British citizen and convert to Islam, attempts to blow up American Airlines flight 63 from Paris to Miami.

Reid is known as the "Shoe Bomber" based on his shoes being packed with 10 ounces of C-4 plastic explosives. His attempts to ignite the fuses protruding from his shoes alerted a stewardess and nearby passengers, who wrestled Reid into submission; a physician on board administered a tranquilizer he found in the plane's emergency kit. It was later reasoned the explosives did not ignite because the flight had been delayed for a day and the combination of foot perspiration and Reid having walked in the rain had dampened the explosive material.

Flight 63 is diverted to Boston's Logan International Airport when the Reid incident occurs mid-flight. Matthew E. Farrell, Customs Chief Inspector and Officer in Charge at the time the AA flight lands, manages initial confusion, maintains control of the situation, arranging for Reid to be taken into custody, and removing the 185 passengers to a secure and sterile location for federal inspection and to determine if any other accomplices were onboard the flight.

*On January 30, 2003, Richard Reid, indicted on nine terrorism-related counts, is sentenced to life in prison.*

## January 2002

INS and the Department of State (DOS) jointly deploy the DOS Consolidated Consular Database, which includes nonimmigrant visa information plus a photograph of the alien; the data assists immigration inspectors in determining if a nonimmigrant visa holder is engaged in fraudulent conduct or is otherwise making a valid and legal application for admission.

## January 17, 2002

USCS Commissioner Bonner announces the establishment of the **CONTAINER SECURITY INITIATIVE (CSI)**. The first phase of official signings of the Declaration of Principles begins in January 2002. Core elements of CSI:



- Establish criteria for identifying high-risk containers
- Pre-screen containers before they are shipped to the U.S.
- Use technology to prescreen high risk containers
- Develop and use smart and secure containers.



08.07.2002:  
USCS Commissioner Bonner and Dutch Minister of Finance Gerrit Zalm sign CSI agreement for the port of Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

### **January 14, 2002**

INS initiates **OPERATION NORTHERN VIGILANCE 2002**, detailing 100 Border Patrol agents to strategic locations along the Northern border to enhance operational capabilities between the U.S. ports of entry.

### **January 17-18, 2002**

INS Border Patrol officials and other representatives meet with Native American leaders and law enforcement officials in an effort to strengthen security along the U.S./Canada and U.S./Mexico international borders.

### **February 4, 2002**

George W. Bush submits the President's Budget for FY 2003 to the Congress, directing \$37.7 billion for homeland security, up from \$19.5 million in FY 2002.

### **February 15, 2002**

INS signs Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of Defense (DoD) for limited port of entry and Border Patrol support to sustain Alert Level One anti-terrorism operations. DoD supplies 16 intelligence personnel to assist in Border Patrol intelligence centers, and six helicopters to provide aviation support in Border Patrol sectors.

DoD also provides personnel to land border ports of entry to provide heightened security presence, assist in physical inspection of vehicles, and perform traffic management and pedestrian control duties. 800 National Guard personnel begin work in March 2002.

### **March 1, 2002**

The USCS announces an action plan to ensure international air carrier compliance with regulations requiring passenger and crew information prior to arrival in the U.S. on flights from foreign locations.

### **March 19, 2002**

President issues Executive Order 13260 establishing the President's **HOMELAND SECURITY ADVISORY COUNCIL**, and **SENIOR ADVISORY COMMITTEES FOR HOMELAND SECURITY**, in the Executive Office of the President.

### **March 22, 2002**

Secretary of State Colin Powell and Mexico Interior Minister Santiago Creel sign a **SMART BORDER DECLARATION**, an action plan to improve security and efficiency of the U.S./Mexico international border.

### **April 1, 2002**

Automatic revalidation of certain nonimmigrant visas will no longer be permitted at U.S. ports of entry. Included are nonimmigrant aliens returning from short visits to contiguous territories or adjacent islands who apply for new visas during such visits, and aliens who are nationals of countries identified as sponsors of terrorism - currently Cuba, Iran, Iraq, Libya, North Korea, Sudan and Syria.

### April 5, 2002

New INS program: the **NATIONAL AUTOMATED IMMIGRATION LOOKOUT SYSTEM (NAILS)**, a mission-critical online interactive application system that facilitates the inspection and investigation processes by providing quick and easy retrieval of biographical data or case data on individuals who may be inadmissible into the U.S..

### April 8, 2002

INS implements rule changes governing alien visitor's ability to begin a course of study during the period of time such visitors are permitted to remain in the United States.

### April 22, 2002

USCS and INS reinstate progressive flights inspection and begin to allow transfer of passengers on ITI (charter) flights. These flight inspections are reinstated under certain security restrictions, including complete advance passenger information.

### May 14, 2002

President George W. Bush signs the **BORDER SECURITY AND VISA ENTRY REFORM ACT**.

### June 12, 2002

President George W. Bush signs the **BIOTERRORISM ACT OF 2002**.

### July 2002

The Justice Department establishes the **NATIONAL JOINT TERRORISM TASK FORCE (NJTTF)** to serve as a coordinating mechanism with FBI's partners. Forty agencies are members, including USCS and INS. NJTTF becomes a focal point for information sharing and the management of large-scale projects that involve multiple partners.

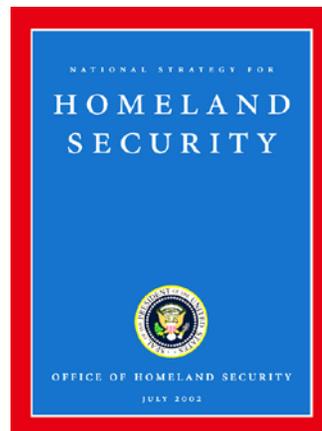


### July 3, 2002

President Bush issues Executive Order 13269: "**Expedited Naturalization of Aliens and Non-citizen Nationals Serving in an Active-Duty Status During the War on Terrorism.**"

### July 7, 2002

The Office of Homeland Security issues the first **NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR HOMELAND SECURITY**, and presents the National Vision for Border and Transportation Security in the proposed Department of Homeland Security.



## National Vision

A single entity in the Department of Homeland Security will manage who and what enters our homeland in order to prevent the entry of terrorists and the instruments of terror while facilitating the legal flow of people, goods, and services on which our economy depends. The Department and its partners will conduct border-security functions abroad to the extent allowed by technology and international agreements. Federal law enforcement agencies will take swift action against those who introduce contraband or violate terms of entry and pose threats to the American people. The U.S. government will work with the international community and the private sector to secure the transportation systems which link American communities to the world, moving people and goods across our borders and throughout the country within hours.

### August 8, 2002

President George W. Bush praises the efforts of USCS employees to recover from the loss of the World Trade Center customhouse, and for the all-out effort of the agency to protect and secure the nation.



### August 21, 2002

President Bush issues Executive Order 13273, amending E.O. 10173 of 10/18/1950, "Prescribing Regulations Relating to the Safeguarding of Vessels, Harbors, Ports, and Waterfront facilities of the United States."

### September 10, 2002

The **NATIONAL SECURITY ENTRY-EXIT REGISTRATION SYSTEM (NSEERS)** provides for INS to fingerprint and photograph individuals who may pose a national security risk to the U.S. Data collected is compared against that of known terrorists and law enforcement lookout lists.

*NSEERS will later be terminated by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), effective April 27, 2011*

### September 11, 2002

Effective on the first anniversary of the attacks on America, a new INS/Justice Department ruling: **Registration and Monitoring Of Certain Nonimmigrants**, a Congressionally mandated Entry-Exit Registration System.

### **November 25, 2002**

President George W. Bush signs the **DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY ACT**.

### **December 12, 2002**

Gov. Tom Ridge and Canadian Foreign Minister John Marley sign a **SMART BORDER DECLARATION** - a USCS action plan to improve security and efficiency along the Northern Border between the U.S. and Canada.



### **January 24, 2003**

Secretary-designate Tom Ridge at press conference announcing the formation of the Department of Homeland Security.

### **January 25, 2003**

Asa Hutchinson is sworn in as the first and only DHS Under Secretary for Border and Transportation Security (BTS).

The **BORDER AND TRANSPORTATION SECURITY DIRECTORATE** is responsible for preventing entry of terrorists into the United States; securing the borders, territorial waters, ports, terminals, waterways, and air, land, and sea transportation systems; carrying out immigration enforcement functions; administering customs laws; and conducting agricultural inspection functions; all while ensuring the speedy, orderly, and efficient flow of lawful traffic and commerce.

### **January 30, 2003**

INS implements the **STUDENT AND EXCHANGE VISITOR INFORMATION SYSTEM (SEVIS)** mandating participation by all U.S. educational institutions enrolling foreign students.

## **Establishment of the BUREAU OF CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION (CBP) in the Department of Homeland Security Effective March 1, 2003**

The U.S. Customs Service inspection and enforcement functions are transferred from the Department of the Treasury to CBP.

The immigration inspection and enforcement functions of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), including the U.S. Border Patrol in its entirety, are transferred to CBP.

The Plant Protection and Quarantine inspection programs at U.S. ports of entry are transferred from the Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Department of Agriculture, to CBP.

All U.S. Customs Service criminal investigative functions (including internal affairs investigative functions), international affairs functions (attachés and representatives), and the air and marine program functions and equipment are transferred to the newly created Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Department of Homeland Security. All INS investigative, detention and removal functions are transferred to ICE.

Two new Associate Commissioner positions are established within CBP's Office of Field Operations:

- Associate Commissioner for Immigration Policy and Programs
- Associate Commissioner for Agriculture Quarantine Inspections

The new position Chief, Office of Border Patrol, is established at the organizational level of CBP's Assistant Commissioners.



03.05.2003: Border Patrol transferring flag to CBP. Standing at left: CBP Commissioner Robert Bonner, CBP Border Patrol Chief Gustavo De La Vina, and ICE Commissioner Michael Garcia.

### **March 20, 2003**

**Start of the Iraq War, or Operation Iraqi Freedom, with the U.S. bombing of the capital city of Baghdad.**

### **March 27, 2003**

Commissioner Bonner announces the new **24-HOUR RULE** program requiring advance cargo manifests from sea carriers is effective as of this date. Sea carriers are granted a 60-day grace period to fully implement the new CBP program.

### **April 10, 2003**

Customs & Border Protection (CBP) introduces a new address to the **World Wide Web**: [www.cbp.gov](http://www.cbp.gov)

### **August 19, 2003**

DHS Secretary Tom Ridge unveils the official seal and signature of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. With the exception of the Coast Guard and the Secret Service, all DHS components are required to use the DHS seal.



06.19.2003: Secretary Tom Ridge unveils new official DHS seal in Detroit, Mich.

### September 10, 2003

Commissioner Bonner, N.Y. Field Operations Director Susan T. Mitchell and N.Y./N.J. Area Port Director Kathleen Haage-Gainor officiate at the opening of newly renovated office space in Newark, N.J. for approximately 350 CBP personnel formerly located in World Trade Center customhouse.

### November 2003

CBP officially undertakes the production of the **AUTOMATED COMMERCIAL ENVIRONMENT (ACE)** Secure Data Portal to provide easy-to-use access to consolidated border processing information to increase import and export efficiency while enhancing security.



### January 2004

Opening of CBP's new **NATIONAL TARGETING CENTER (NTC)** in Northern Virginia, an invaluable anti-terrorism tool, consolidating and analyzing information across several federal agencies to help prevent further acts of terrorism and national security concerns. The NTC uses automated risk management at a national level to provide tactical targeting expertise to support the nation's anti-terrorism efforts.



### January 5, 2004

DHS deploys the **US-VISIT program** (US-VISIT = United States Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator Technology.) The new program is a continuum of measures that collect biometric and biographic information from foreign visitors at U.S. visa-issuing posts around the world, and upon their arrival in, and departure from, U.S. air, sea, and land border ports. The program draws on eligibility determinations made by the Departments of Homeland Security and State.



### January 5, 2004

**TRADE ACT OF 2002** becomes effective, requiring advance transmission of electronic information for inbound and outbound cargo via all modes of transportation.

### March 4, 2004

In conformance with requirements of the **TRADE ACT OF 2002**, CBP issues new rules requiring advance transmission of electronic information for all inbound vessel cargo.



### March 10, 2004

The historic 1799 U.S. Customs Service ensign is established as the official flag of U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

### May 11, 2004

The first class of 32 students begins formal training to become **CBP AGRICULTURE SPECIALISTS**. The new program represents unprecedented cooperation and collaboration between the Department of Agriculture (USDA) and CBP. Agriculture Specialists were formerly Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) inspectors under USDA. Agriculture inspection at the ports of entry is now a vital component of CBP's Office of Field Operations.

### August 2004

CBP initiates placing **CBP attachés** and **CBP representatives** in foreign embassies to oversee CBP operational programs, including:

- The Container Security Initiative (CSI)
- The Immigration Advisory Program (IAP)
- The Customs Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT)
- "Capacity Building," - extending assistance to foreign countries in building up their customs administrations to worldwide standards.

### September 27, 2004

As mandated by Congress, DHS expands US-VISIT program to include foreign visitors under the **Visa Waiver Program (VWP)** (established in 2000).

### October 7, 2004

Commissioner Bonner announces that **biometric identification technology** is fully operational at all border locations in the United States.

### October 1, 2004

Air and marine operations, originally transferred from USCS to ICE on 03.01.2003, are transferred into CBP as the **OFFICE of AIR and MARINE OPERATIONS (AMO)**. All personnel, missions and assets are fully integrated within CBP's organization under the leadership of a CBP Assist. Commissioner



### May 11, 2005

**REAL ID ACT OF 2005** signed into law. Within 3 years from this date, if a person lives or works in the U.S. they will need a federally approved ID card to travel internationally on an airline; the states will be required to issue new drivers licenses to meet new federal standards.

New program announced: **OPERATION AGAINST SMUGGLERS INITIATIVE FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY (OASISS)**, a joint initiative between the U.S. and Mexico that enables Mexican courts to prosecute smugglers for crimes committed in the border region.

**June 2005**



Commissioner Bonner and Maryland Governor Robert Ehrlich, Jr. observe the operation of the newly unveiled **MOBILE SEA CONTAINER SYSTEM** at the Port of Baltimore in Maryland.



**August 29, 2005**

**HURRICANE KATRINA** strikes the Gulf Coast devastating coastal areas from Louisiana to the Florida Panhandle. Catastrophic damage in New Orleans causes closure of the vital port of entry. CBP responds, sending aircraft and boats, along with large groups of CBP Officers, Air and Marine pilots and agents, and Border Patrol agents, to assist in the search and rescue efforts and to assist in reopening the port.

The historic New Orleans Custom House is severely damaged by the flood water and from torrents of water that cascaded downward due to roof damage. It will be almost six years before the customhouse is restored and CBP offices are able to return to the building in June 2011.



Left: CBP Air Interdiction Agents and CBP Officers assist in evacuating residents via a CBP Black Hawk helicopter.

Right: CBP Air Interdiction Agents assist in the evacuation of a New Orleans resident after Hurricane Katrina.





Left:  
CBP Border Patrol Agents in  
an air boat search for  
survivors in flooded New  
Orleans after Hurricane  
Katrina.

### **September 23, 2005**

Just twenty-five days after Hurricane Katrina, **HURRICANE RITA** strikes the Gulf Coast west of New Orleans, wreaking havoc further westward to Sabine Pass, Texas. CBP extends search and rescue assistance following this second destructive storm to devastate the Gulf Coast.

### **Effective October 1, 2005**

The position of Under Secretary for Border and Transportation Security is abolished with the implementation of the DHS Second Stage Review reorganization. CBP and ICE will now report directly to the Secretary, DHS.

### **November 2, 2005**

President George W. Bush announces the establishment of the **SECURE BORDER INITIATIVE (SBI)** under the stewardship of the Secretary of Homeland Security; CBP is assigned the lead role in implementing SBI. SBI is the umbrella program to manage and coordinate CBP's border security programs, infrastructure, technology and operations.

### **November 23, 2005**

Commissioner Robert Bonner retires. DHS Secretary Michael Chertoff appoints Deputy Commissioner Deborah J. Spero to be Acting Commissioner of CBP.

### **May 15, 2006**

President Bush addresses the nation regarding border security and immigration reform. As an immediate step to support CBP's Border Patrol efforts the President announces the startup of the **OPERATION JUMP START** program, through which the National Guard will support CBP's Border Patrol efforts to curb illegal immigrants from entering the country through the U.S./Mexico border. The governors of California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas sign a memorandum of agreement with the Defense Department to provide up to 6,000 National Guard members to assist the Border Patrol with surveillance activities and the installation/maintenance of the border fence.

### **2006**

The **BORDER ENFORCEMENT SECURITY TASK FORCE (BEST)** initiative is launched by DHS Secretary Chertoff in an effort to dismantle the leadership and supporting infrastructure of the criminal organizations responsible for perpetrating violence and illegal activity along U.S. borders and the nation's interior, and threaten the overall safety and security of the American public..

### **June 6, 2006**

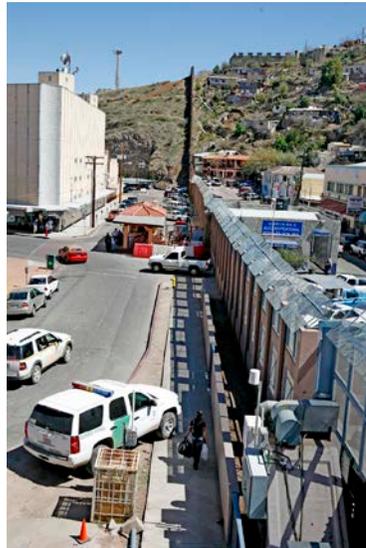
W. Ralph Basham is sworn-in as the second Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

**October 13, 2006**

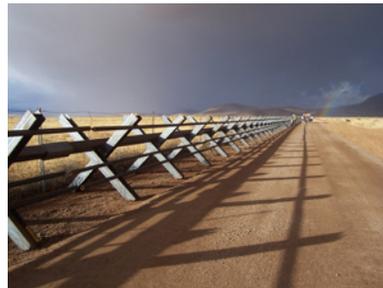
President George W. Bush signs the **SECURITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR EVERY PORT ACT OF 2006 (SAFE Port Act)** establishing a program that couples Non-Intrusive Inspection (NII) and radiation detection technology. Data from these systems will be provided to CBP's National Targeting Center for analysis.

**October 26, 2006**

President George W. Bush signs the **SECURE FENCE ACT OF 2006**. This program is to be administered by CBP through the **SECURE BORDER INITIATIVE NETWORK (SBI net)**.



Above: fence at Morley Ave. Garita, separating Nogales, Ariz. and Nogales, Sonora, Mexico



Above: Santa Teresa, New Mexico  
Below: Vehicle fence in New Mexico



2009: Site reconstruction in preparation for border fence construction at Smugglers Gulch in the San Diego area.

**January 8, 2007**

Official implementation of the **NATIONAL AGRICULTURE RELEASE PROGRAM (NARP)**, a system that identifies high-volume agricultural imports that are low-risk for the introduction of plant pests and plant diseases into the U.S.

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### **Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI)**

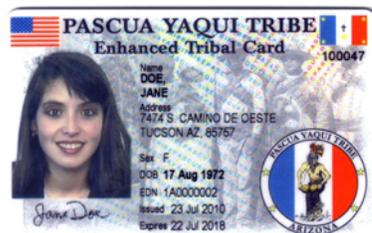
In conformance with the Real ID Act of 2005, the WHTI program is announced in August 2005 and today requires all citizens of the U.S., Canada, Mexico, Central and South America and the Caribbean to present a valid passport or other accepted secure document when arriving by air from any part of the Western Hemisphere.



### **RFID Enabled Cards**

Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) cards are used for border management and satisfy both WHTI requirements and the facilitation of cross-border inspection processes. As the RFID chip is read it signals a database to display biographical information, a photo and the results of terrorist/criminal checks. CBP's Trusted Traveler Programs using RFID cards are: NEXUS, SENTRI and FAST

### **American Indian WHTI-Compliant Tribal Cards**



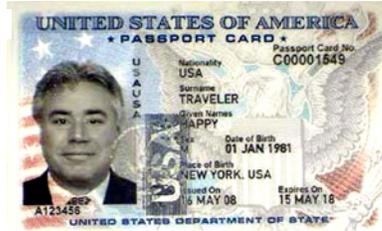
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Pascua Yaqui is the first federally recognized American Indian tribe to develop a border-crossing document that is in full compliance with the mandates of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI)

### **Enhanced Driver's License (EDL)**

Meeting WHTI requirements at land and sea ports of entry, EDL's contain an RFID chip and a Machine Readable Zone (MRZ) that facilitates CBP processing for the holder. The license includes physical security features that guard against tampering.

## WHTI-Compliant Passport Cards



First issued to U.S. citizens by the Department of State in July 2008, passport cards are a less expensive alternative to passport books and may be used to enter the United States from Canada,

Mexico, the Caribbean, and Bermuda at land border crossings or sea ports-of-entry; the card cannot be used for international air travel.

## Free and Secure Trade (FAST) Program

On December 16, 2002, CBP announces the establishment of a new cargo security program: **FREE AND SECURE TRADE (FAST)**. The program provides expedited processing of program participants' qualifying merchandise in designated traffic lanes at select Northern and Southern border crossings.



FAST RFID-cards are WHTI-compliant documents that provide expedited travel to pre-approved commercial truck drivers between the U.S./Canada and U.S./Mexico borders through dedicated lanes at border stations.



President George W. Bush and Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien at the Ambassador Bridge in Detroit observe the FAST program in action.

## NEXUS Program

Established in 2002 as part of the Shared Border Accord, NEXUS is a partnership between the U.S. and Canada, and U.S. and Mexico, that allows prescreened, approved drivers faster processing in dedicated lanes at land and marine inspection facilities on the Northern and Southern U.S. borders.



NEXUS RFID-cards are WHTI-compliant documents providing access to dedicated commuter lanes at the U.S./Canada border, expedited marine reporting, plus access to Global Entry kiosks at designated airports.

## Secure Electronic Network for Travelers Rapid Inspection (SENTRI) Program

Originally initiated by the USCS in 1998, today SENTRI provides expedited CBP processing of pre-approved, low-risk commercial truck drivers crossing the Northern or Southern border at dedicated lanes. Voluntary applicants must undergo a thorough background check against criminal, law enforcement, CBP and terrorist databases; a 10-fingerprint law enforcement check; and a personal interview with a CBP Officer.



SENTRI RFID-cards are WHTI-compliant documents for entry into the U.S. by qualified participants at the Northern and Southern borders

Left: Dedicated SENTRI lane at the port of entry at Otay Mesa, California

Photo credit: William Baron

## Global Entry Program

On April 11, 2008, CBP announced the establishment of a new pilot program: International Registered Traveler (IRT).

On May 27, 2008, the name of the IRT program changed to **GLOBAL ENTRY**. This expedited clearance of pre-approved, low-risk travelers into the U.S., using finger-print biometrics technology to verify a participant's identity & confirms his/her status as a participant in the program.



A sticker affixed to participant's passport or RFID card at the time of acceptance in Global Entry provides visual identification and enables the participant to utilize the **Global Entry kiosks**, thus avoiding having to wait in the regular passport control and primary inspection lines – thus, saving time and delays when making flight connections.

FAST, NEXUS, SENTRI, TRIBAL and PASSPORT CARDS, as well as RFID-enhanced driver's licenses, are recognized by the Global Entry kiosks.



## Automated Passport Control



Acting Deputy Commissioner Kevin McAleenan speaks at the activation of 32 APC kiosks in Chicago's O'Hare International Airport on August 15, 2013

### May 7, 2013

Launch of **Automated Passport Control (APC)**: An innovative technological solution and collaborative approach to improving travel efficiency. A first-of-a-kind partnership between CBP and Canada Customs enables eligible passengers holding U.S. or Canadian passports to use APC kiosks located in international airports to clear customs more efficiently by entering passport information at self-service APC kiosks.

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### March 31, 2007

**Effective this date, DHS officially changes the name of the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection to U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION.**

### April 2007

Establishment of the **MODEL PORTS INITIATIVE**, a joint partnership between DHS/CBP, the travel industry, airlines and airport authorities to improve processes for clearing and welcoming travelers into the U.S.

### October 1, 2007

Establishment of CBP's **Office of Intelligence and Operations Coordination (OIOC)**, which is responsible for the entire intelligence cycle, including planning, collection, processing, production and dissemination of all-source information and intelligence in support of CBP's mission. OIOC also ensures that intelligence is packaged to serve CBP operations and is closely linked with passenger and cargo targeting efforts.

### October 12, 2007

**Secure Freight Initiative (SFI)** becomes fully operational. The seaports of Southampton, UK; Port Qasim, Pakistan; and Puerto Cortez, Honduras are the first to implement SFI by scanning all maritime containers destined for the U.S. for nuclear or other radiological materials.

### November 7, 2007

All 99 U.S. land border ports are now capable of processing **ACE E-MANIFESTS** (Automated Commercial Environment electronic truck manifests.)

### February 2008

CBP initiates the **ALIEN TRANSFER EXIT PROGRAM (ATEP)** in the San Diego, Yuma and El Centro Border Patrol Sectors; the program is extended to the Tucson Sector, and in November 2009 to the El Paso Sector.

ATEP is an ongoing program which moves Mexican nationals from one Border Patrol Sector to another before removing them to Mexico, thus breaking the smuggling cycle by physically separating aliens from the smuggling organizations that repeatedly attempt to guide the Mexicans into the U.S.

### September 13, 2008

**HURRICANE IKE** makes landfall at Galveston, Texas, resulting in the largest evacuation of Texans in that state's history and the largest search-and-rescue operation in U.S. history.



Above: Gilchrist, Louisiana is leveled after Hurricane Ike.  
FEMA photo: Jocelyn Augustine

Right: CBP's Predator B Unmanned Aircraft Vehicles serve a vital link in search and rescue operations and in charting damage from Hurricane Ike.



Left: A CBP U-60 Black Hawk helicopter delivers Air and Marine agents, equipment and supplies to assist in search and rescue operations after Hurricane Ike.

### January 12, 2009

All VISA WAIVER PROGRAM (VWP) travelers are now required to obtain a travel authorization via the **ELECTRONIC SYSTEM FOR TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION (ESTA)** prior to traveling to the United States under the VWP



### February 28, 2009

Commissioner Basham retires. Deputy Commissioner Jayson P. Ahern is appointed to serve as Acting Commissioner of CBP.

### December 25, 2009

Nigerian Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, known as the "**Underwear Bomber**," having a package of plastic explosives hidden in his underwear, injects chemicals into the package in an attempt to down Northwest Airlines Flight 253 carrying 300 passengers, en route from Amsterdam to Detroit, Michigan on Christmas Day.

Passengers on the flight are alerted on hearing a popping noise followed by a fire erupting under Abdulmutallab's seat. While others douse the flames, a passenger tackles the 23-year old, subdues him and removes him to the plane's first class section where he is examined to ensure he has no further weapons on his body. The flight lands safely in Detroit and Abdulmutallab is taken into custody and arrested.

*On January 7, 2010, Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab is indicted on six charges including attempted murder and trying to use a weapon of mass destruction to kill nearly 300 people. He pleads "not guilty." To date, Abdulmutallab has not been sentenced.*

### January 12, 2010

A catastrophic magnitude 7.0 **earthquake strikes Haiti**, with an epicenter just 16 miles west of the capital city of Port-au-Prince. CBP assists with search and rescue operations and in processing refugees arriving in the U.S. on humanitarian airlifts.



A CBP DHC8 is loaded with humanitarian relief supplies for earthquake-stricken Haiti

CBP Officers and Air Interdiction Agent assist Haitian refugee arriving at the Orlando-Sanford Airport in Florida



### March 27, 2010

Alan D. Bersin becomes the third Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

### March 30, 2010



Opening of the CBP's **INTELLIGENCE AND OPERATIONS COORDINATION CENTER** in Tucson, Ariz., which will serve as the one-stop source for coordination and information sharing across operational

entities within CBP: Field Operations (port security and facilitation), Border Patrol, and Air and Marine.

### May 1, 2010

An attempted Saturday night car bombing in New York's busy Times Square by Faisal Shahzad (the "**Times Square Bomber**"), a 31-year old Pakistani-born and newly naturalized citizen, is thwarted when a T-shirt vendor notices smoke coming from the vents near the rear seat of a Nissan Pathfinder parked at the curb with the engine running and its hazard lights on. The vendor alerts a nearby mounted police officer, who smells gunpowder as he approaches the SUV, calls for assistance and begins clearing the busy square. The crudely made bomb had started to detonate but malfunctioned. Shahzad is identified as the owner of the Pathfinder and an intensive manhunt to find him ensues.

On May 3, CBP Officer Daniel Donohue begins his tour of duty at the CBP National Targeting Center in Virginia; he has been briefed about Faisal Shahzad as he begins his tour. At approx. 10:40 p.m. Donohue finds Faisal Shahzad's name on a list of passengers aboard Emirates Airlines Flight 202 from JFK Airport to Dubai, which is preparing to pull away from the gate. Donohue alerts CBP watch commander Petra Horne of his discovery just 20 minutes before the plane's departure at 11:00 p.m. Officer Horne immediately notifies the JFK Outbound Enforcement Team which is responsible for checking all departing flights.



CBP Officers Daniel Donohue and Petra Horne

Photo credit: Miller for the N.Y. Daily News

CBP Officers Paul Casquarelli and Robert McConkie are already stationed on the tarmac next to the Emirates aircraft, which has secured its door in preparation for pulling away from the gate within two minutes. When alerted by the JFK team leader, Casquarelli contacts the pilot, giving him Shahzad's name and seat number. When the plane door opens, Faisal Shahzad is standing there complacently holding his carry-on

bag. As Casquarelli and McConkie take Shahzad into custody, he asks them "Are you FBI or NYPD?" When the CBP officers identify themselves, Shahzad replies, "I wondered what took you so long."

CBP Officers Robert McConkie (left) and Paul Casquarelli talk to a reporter several days after taking "Times Square Bomber" Faisal Shahzad into custody.



Photo credit: ABCNews screen shot

*The FBI's New York office later presents evidence that Shahzad planned to strike on more than one occasion and that he intended to kill large numbers of innocent people with mobile weapons of mass destruction.*

*On October 5, 2010, Faisal Shahzad is sentenced to life in prison without parole.*

### **July 2010**

DHS launches the **BLUE CAMPAIGN**, an anti-human trafficking initiative to coordinate a three-pronged strategy of prevention, protecting victims, and prosecution.

### **October 29, 2010**

Package bombs are found on U.S.-bound cargo planes about to depart from the United Kingdom and Dubai, U.A.E.

### **November 2010**

The DHS Office of Intelligence and Analysis establishes the **BORDER INTELLIGENCE FUSION SECTION (BIFS)** at the El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC) with the objective of providing multi-source intelligence and law enforcement information to support investigations, interdictions, and other law enforcement operations related to the Southwest border.

BIFS is a joint collaborative effort of DHS, DOJ, DoD, and partners in the intelligence community. BIFS accesses and analyzes intelligence and information received by and developed at EPIC in order to produce a common picture for intelligence and operations.

### **February 7, 2011**

Commissioner Bersin announces the creation of the **JOINT OPERATIONS DIRECTORATE (JOD)** in the Office of the Commissioner; and CBP's first **JOINT FIELD COMMAND (JFC) in Arizona** – an organizational realignment to bring together CBP's Field Operations, Air and Marine, and Border Patrol operations in Arizona to integrate border security, commercial enforcement, and trade facilitation missions to more effectively meet the unique challenges faced in CBP's area of operations in Arizona.

## **Agriculture Inspection at the Ports of Entry**

Since 9/11, CBP has trained more agriculture specialists, implemented more stringent targeting techniques, improved partnerships with USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and enhanced communications with state agriculture departments.



CBP Agriculture Specialists examine star fruit at the Port of Long Beach, Calif.

A CBP Agriculture Specialist examines flowers looking for pests, disease or infection.



A CBP Agriculture Specialist utilizes digital imagery.

An example of strengthened partnerships and enhancements in training and

technology is CBP's interception of the Khapra beetle. An increasing number of Khapra beetle detections at U.S. ports of entry in shipments of rice, leads the U.S. Department of Agriculture to issue a federal quarantine that restricts the importation of rice from Khapra beetle endemic countries effective July 30, 2011.

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## **May 1, 2011**

**Just four months shy of the tenth anniversary of 9/11, President Obama announces to the nation that U.S. Navy Seals have killed Osama bin Laden in his suburban residential compound in Abbottabad, about 35 miles outside Islamabad, Pakistan.**

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