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On the Hill: CBP Testifies on Border Security and Terrorist Pathways

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials recently testified at two congressional hearings highlighting our complex mission of preventing dangerous people from entering the country – both at official ports of entry (POE) and in between.

On September 13, 2016, [Mark Morgan](#) testified for the first time as the new Chief of the U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) at a hearing before the House Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security titled “Pushing Back the Line of Scrimmage: Defense-in-Depth Strategy.” In his [written testimony](#), the Chief highlighted the USBP’s layered enforcement, which “makes full use of available enforcement opportunities to produce a layered deployment of capabilities to improve our comprehensive understanding of the threat environment, to increase our ability to rapidly respond to threats, and to strengthen enforcement.”



On September 14, 2016, CBP Deputy Commissioner [Kevin McAleenan](#) testified alongside several Department of Homeland Security (DHS) colleagues at a House Homeland Security Committee hearing titled “Shutting Down Terrorist Pathways into America.” In their joint [written testimony](#), the witnesses discussed how “DHS is continually refining its risk-based strategy and layered approach to border security, extending our zone of security as far outward from the Homeland as possible to interdict threats before they ever reach the United States.”



Furthermore, CBP Commissioner [R. Gil Kerlikowske](#) will be testifying on September 27, 2016, at a House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Trade [hearing](#) on “Effective Enforcement of U.S. Trade Laws.” For additional information, please contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.



CBP Launches New TFTEA Webpage

Implementation of TFTEA Provisions Continue

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) recently launched the *Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015* (TFTEA, or “the Act”) webpage – www.cbp.gov/trade/trade-enforcement/tftea – as a means to provide the trade community information on TFTEA-related issues. The webpage showcases news updates on trade enforcement and trade facilitation efforts in areas such as [forced labor](#), [antidumping and countervailing duties](#) (AD/CVD), [intellectual property rights](#) (IPR), the [Automated Commercial Environment](#) (ACE), as well as the latest on trade community engagement.

CBP continues to implement the numerous, complex provisions of the Act. Most recently, in accordance with Section 304 of the Act, CBP enhanced its enforcement of IPR

by starting to accept online applications for the recordation of unregistered copyrights that are still pending registration with the U.S. Copyright Office (USCO). Once recorded, unregistered copyrights will receive the same the same CBP enforcement benefits as copyrights that are registered with the USCO.

Furthermore, in accordance with Title IV of the Act, commonly referred to as the Enforce and Protect Act of 2015, or EPA, on August 22, 2016, CBP published an [interim final rule](#), effective immediately, establishing formal procedures for investigating claims of evasion of AD/CVD orders. Specifically, it provides for a transparent administrative proceeding where parties can both participate in and learn the outcome of the investigation. It also provides an option for both administrative and judicial appeals of the investigation.

CBP’s trade mission is highly complex – the Agency enforces nearly 500 U.S. trade laws and regulations on behalf of 47 federal agencies, facilitates compliant trade, collects revenue, and protects the U.S. economy and consumers from harmful imports and unfair trade practices.

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

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:

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

Please visit CBP’s [Congressional Resources](#) webpage for Frequently Asked Questions, News and Events, and other CBP Resources.



CBP officers during a June 2016 seizure of illegally imported Chinese honey. Photo Credit: ICE-HSI

CBP and ICE Seize 42 Tons of Illegally Imported Honey

On August 12, 2016, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Import Specialists from the Miami-based Agriculture & Prepared Products Center of Excellence & Expertise (APP Center) in collaboration with CBP Officers and Special Agents with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) in Chicago, seized approximately 42 tons of illegally imported Chinese honey. This represents the third such significant seizure of honey in four months. The honey was contained in 132 fifty-five gallon drums that were falsely declared as originating from Taiwan to evade anti-dumping duties applicable to Chinese-origin honey. In June 2016, [HSI and CBP seized nearly 60 tons of honey](#) that were falsely declared as originating from Vietnam. Prior to seizing the smuggled honey, samples were sent to the CBP Laboratory for analysis, where it was determined that the honey had a greater than 99 percent probability match with honey originating from China.

CBP Import Specialists have been working with HSI agents on honey transshipment for years following concerns from industry experts about how antidumping circumvention schemes like the one announced today foster a divergent market which severely disadvantages legitimate importers, processors, and consumers of honey. Today's seizure follows a string of successful criminal prosecutions by HSI Chicago agents of multiple U.S. importers convicted of illegally transacting in smuggled Chinese honey disguised as Taiwanese – among many other false origins – who were ultimately sentenced and subsequently deported.

With the recent enactment of the *Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015* (TFTEA), Congress recognized that industries and companies that circumvent U.S. law and regulation remain a risk to this nation's economic security. Among its provisions, TFTEA requires CBP and HSI to collaborate to enhance trade enforcement, with a specific emphasis on honey illegally imported into the United States.

Over the past few years, CBP has established ten industry-based Centers of Excellence & Expertise, placed throughout the country, as part of CBP's plan to become more industry and account focused in order to protect the interests of legitimate businesses. The APP Center employs CBP Import Specialists around the United States whose main focus is ensuring the legitimacy of importations in the agricultural and food industries.

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

CBP Announces FY 2017 Donations Acceptance Program Proposal Submission Period



The U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Donations Acceptance Program (DAP) is pleased to announce its upcoming FY 2017 large-scale proposal submission period. The submission period will remain open for 40 days, from October 3, 2016 through 5 P.M.

EST on November 11, 2016. This submission period applies to proposals that are expected to cost more than \$3 million (e.g. new facilities, major renovations, expansions, or other large-scale infrastructure improvements). Proposals that are expected to [cost \\$3 million or less](#) (e.g. small land donations, minor facility enhancements and lane expansions, and equipment and technologies), may be submitted year-round.

The DAP is a mechanism that border stakeholders may use to invest in and expedite port of entry infrastructure and technology improvements; improvements that seek to reduce wait times, facilitate throughput, and create a more secure, efficient, and reliable border transportation network. Specifically, the DAP permits CBP and the General Services Administration (GSA) to accept donations of real property, personal property (including monetary donations) and non-personal services for port of entry construction, alterations, operations and maintenance purposes.

Proposals will be evaluated based on their ability to satisfy the criteria set forth in the [DAP Framework](#). For more information, questions, templates and other program and proposal-related guidance, please visit [cbp.gov/dap](#) or contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.

CBP Air and Marine Operations Unveils Next Generation Coastal Interceptor Vessel



U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), [Air and Marine Operations](#) (AMO), recently celebrated the unveiling of its next generation Coastal Interceptor Vessel (CIV) with multiple events throughout the D.C. area including a Capitol Hill congressional operational

demonstration, a media day, and two static displays at CBP headquarters and at the Department of Homeland Security.

AMO's Marine Interdiction Agents will operate the CIV in coastal waters to combat maritime smuggling and defend the waterways along our nation's borders from acts of terrorism. The vessel will provide agents with additional speed and maneuverability, and improved comfort and safety. It is equipped with a state-of-the-art marine navigational suite.

AMO currently operates a fleet of high-speed interceptor vessels, which are approaching the end of their service life. The new CIV will incorporate technological advances in hull design, safety equipment and electronics packages to enhance operational effectiveness. AMO's contract with SAFE Boats International will allow for delivery of up to 52 vessels.

The [history](#) of AMO's marine program dates back to 1789 when the United States established the U.S. Customs Service and deployed a fleet of vessels to patrol U.S. coastal waters and prevent the smuggling of contraband. AMO's newest CIV, the *Alexandria*, is named after one of the early collectorships.

For additional information, photos, and video, please visit the [CBP Website](#) or contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.

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