U.S. Customs and Border Protection’s 2012 Fiscal Year in Review

On February 1, 2013, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) released a summary of Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 border enforcement efforts. “In 2012, the men and women of CBP played a leading role in making America more secure and more prosperous,” said CBP Deputy Commissioner David V. Aguilar. “These numbers illustrate the investments made by CBP to improve border security, increase efficiencies, and facilitate the flow of legal travel and trade through our nation’s borders.”

In FY 2012, CBP officers inspected more than 350 million travelers. CBP also processed more than $2.3 trillion in trade and nearly 25 million cargo containers. At ports of entry in FY 2012, CBP officers arrested nearly 7,700 people wanted for serious crimes, including murder, rape, assault and robbery and prohibited nearly 145,000 inadmissible aliens from entering the United States. Attempts to cross the border illegally, as measured by U.S. Border Patrol apprehensions, totaled nearly 365,000 nationwide in FY 2012, representing a nearly 50 percent decrease since FY 2008 and a 78 percent decrease from their peak in FY 2000.

CBP agriculture specialists conducted more than 1.6 million interceptions of prohibited plant materials, meat, and animal byproducts at ports of entry while also stopping nearly 174,000 potentially dangerous pests. CBP officers and agents seized more than 4.2 million pounds of narcotics across the country in FY 2012. Additionally, the agency seized more than $100 million in unreported currency through targeted enforcement operations.

The full summary of FY 2012 border enforcement efforts can be found on CBP’s Stats and Summaries page on the CBP Website. Please contact the Office of Congressional Affairs with any questions.

CBP Highlights Key 2012 Trade Transformation Accomplishments

On January 30, 2013, CBP’s Office of International Trade released a report of CBP’s Trade Transformation Accomplishments during Fiscal Year (FY) 2012. Key highlights of the FY 2012 accomplishments include:

- CBP established two additional Centers of Excellence and Expertise: the Automotive and Aerospace Center in Detroit, MI, and the Petroleum, Natural Gas and Minerals Center in Houston, TX.
- In June 2012, Deputy Commissioner David V. Aguilar introduced CBP’s Trade Transformation initiatives as a basis for international standards for the World Customs Organization (WCO) Economic Competitive Package.
- CBP’s Simplified Entry initiative went from working group to pilot in 2012, with several broker participants filing entries.

On September 21, 2012, executives from 10 agencies on the Border Interagency Executive Council (BIEC) met to discuss key interagency collaboration issues.

In May 2012, CBP hosted the first-ever West Coast Trade Symposium in Long Beach, CA.

In May 2012, Deputy Commissioner Aguilar testified before the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Trade hearing titled, “Supporting Economic Growth and Job Creation through Customs Trade Modernization, Facilitation, and Enforcement.”

The report also provides a snapshot of the Trade Transformation priorities for 2013. The full report is available on the CBP Website. Please contact the Office of Congressional Affairs with any questions.
CBP Enforcement News

CBP Enforcement Operation Seizes $3.4 Million in Counterfeit Items Including NFL Super Bowl Team Jerseys

Cincinnati, OH – A recent CBP operation at the express consignment hubs of DHL in Cincinnati, Ohio, and UPS in Louisville, Kentucky, has netted more than $3.4 million in counterfeit items including counterfeit 2013 NFL Super Bowl team jerseys. During the weeks and days leading up to major sporting events, an array of products with the trademark and names of the popular teams are manufactured and made available to fans even though the companies are not licensed to produce these trademarked items. As the federal agency responsible for border protection, CBP plays a key role on the frontline of intellectual property rights (IPR) enforcement as CBP officers and import specialists are involved in the seizure of goods infringing upon trademarks, trade names and copyrights.

Visit the CBP Newsroom for the full story.

Office of Air and Marine P-3 Aircraft Operations Intercept Cocaine Smugglers in Open Waters

Jacksonville, FL – In two recent and separate incidents, CBP P-3 aircraft operating out of National Air Security Operations Center (NASOC) in Jacksonville, detected suspicious waterborne targets carrying more than 3,800 pounds of cocaine with a combined value of more than $130 million. The first incident took place on January 17, 2013, when a P-3 operating near the Galapagos Islands spotted a vessel towing four panga boats. Various maritime patrol assets tracked the targets over several days before turning the surveillance over to the U.S. Navy. U.S. Navy assets intercepted the suspicious vessel and detained one Ecuadorian, two Colombians and recovered more than 800 pounds of cocaine valued over $28 million. The second event took place on January 21, 2013, when the Jacksonville based P-3 detected a go-fast vessel off the coast of Colón, Panama. Surveillance of the go-fast showed it to be loaded with contraband and fuel barrels. The crew onboard the P-3 coordinated with Panamanian law enforcement to respond to the suspected boat. After intercepting the go-fast, the Panamanians recovered 57 bales of cocaine that weighed more than 3,000 pounds and has a street value over $100 million.

Visit the CBP Newsroom for the full story.

CBP Officers Apprehend Smuggler and Seize 38 lbs. of Methamphetamine

San Luis, AZ – On February 2, 2013, a 50-year-old Mexican male was apprehended for attempting to smuggle nearly 38 pounds of methamphetamine into the United States. Customs and Border Protection officers and a detection canine discovered the drugs, valued at more than $560,000, in the frame of the suspect’s Ford SUV. The drugs and vehicle were seized. The suspect was turned over to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s Homeland Security Investigations. Individuals arrested may be charged by complaint, the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity, which raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent unless and until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

Visit the CBP Newsroom for the full story.

United States, European Union Fully Implement Mutual Recognition Decision

On February 8, 2013, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the European Union (EU) announced that, as of January 31, 2013, the mutual recognition decision between CBP’s Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT) program and the EU’s Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) program was fully implemented.

The final phase of the agreement, signed in May 2012 by CBP Deputy Commissioner David V. Aguilar and European Union Taxation and Customs Union Director-General Heinz Zourek, provides reciprocal benefits to C-TPAT members when exporting to EU member states. These benefits which include lower risk score and less exams when shipping cargo were provided to members exporting into the U.S. in Phase I of the agreement which was implemented in July 2012. The goal of these arrangements is to link the various international industry partnership programs, so that together they create a unified and sustainable security posture that can assist in securing and facilitating global cargo trade.

C-TPAT is a voluntary government-business initiative to build cooperative relationships that strengthen and improve overall international supply chain and U.S. border security. C-TPAT recognized that CBP can provide the highest level of cargo security only through close cooperation with the ultimate owners of the international supply chain such as importers, carriers, consolidators, licensed customs brokers, and manufacturers. The C-TPAT program is one layer in CBP’s multi-layered cargo enforcement strategy. In addition to the EU, CBP also has mutual recognition agreements with Canada, Japan, Jordan, Korea, New Zealand and Taiwan. For more information on C-TPAT, please visit the CBP Website or contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.