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**Office of Congressional Affairs**  
202.344.1760

**Michael J. Yeager,**  
Assistant Commissioner

**Kim M. Lowry,**  
Deputy Assistant Commissioner

**Branch Chiefs**

Laura Cylke  
– Budget & Appropriations

Angie LaTour  
– Strategic Planning & Outreach

Stephanie Talton  
– Border, Air, & Marine Operations  
– Field Operations & Intelligence

Chase Wollenhaupt  
– Trade & Agriculture



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## Acting Commissioner Provides Progress Report on CBP Trade Initiatives



Acting CBP Commissioner Thomas S. Winkowski addresses the AAEI on June 17

On June 17, 2013, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Acting Commissioner Thomas S. Winkowski addressed hundreds of trade business leaders at the American Association of Exporters and Importers 92nd Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. and spoke about progress. “We’ve learned a lot since the events of September 11. We’ve come a long way in envisioning what an efficient and secure border looks like and what it means to our economy and to your business,” said Winkowski, the keynote speaker at AAEI’s opening day luncheon.

“Our challenge today is taking what we’ve learned in the past 10 years to help institutionalize global standards and harmonized processes,” he said. “One of the big lessons we learned is that it’s all done in partnership because all trade is global.”

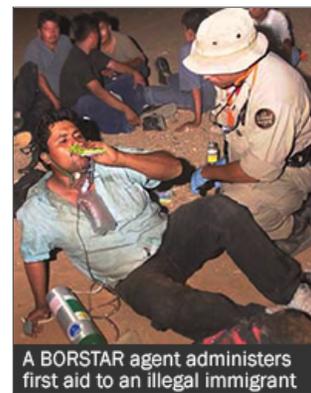
Winkowski provided the audience with a progress report, highlighting three key programs that CBP is working on with the private sector – the Air Cargo Advance Screening (ACAS) pilot; the Centers of Excellence and Expertise (CEE); and the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE).

“Together, with our partners, we’ve accomplished a lot,” said Winkowski. “Since we spoke to you last year, we’ve opened 10 Centers of Excellence and Expertise. We’ve worked with brokers on education requirements and streamlined the licensing process.” In addition, he said, “we’ve introduced a new concept for developing ACE—Agile software development,” which focuses on delivering small pieces of functionality within CBP’s cargo processing system.

Winkowski cited other major achievements including, the launch of a simplified entry cargo processing pilot in the air transportation mode; the signing of a memorandum of intent that will lead to a unified U.S. government at the border; and the development of a resource optimization strategy that will assist in the transformation of the way the agency does business.

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

## Border Patrol Rescues Migrants with Life-Threatening Heat Injuries



A BORSTAR agent administers first aid to an illegal immigrant

As summer temperatures continue to climb, Border Patrol agents are working diligently to save lives across the Southwest border.

Between May 13 and June 12, 2013, Border Patrol Search, Trauma and Rescue (BORSTAR) teams in Arizona rescued 177 undocumented immigrants who were unable to continue due to heat-related illnesses; more than 50 undocumented immigrants were rescued in one week alone. So far in July, agents from the Rio Grande Valley Sector have found the remains of seven illegal immigrants, who perished in the rugged ranchlands of South Texas, and rescued eight others.

Smugglers intent on increasing their profits will force ill-prepared illegal immigrants to remote regions of the desert, often resulting in loss of life. The desert has very few natural water sources or shaded areas and it is physically impossible for the average person to carry sufficient water to avoid life-threatening heat injuries. In addition, smugglers convince migrants that they will only walk a short distance. In reality, they are forced to walk long distances within short periods of time. Those unable to keep up are left behind to die.

Technology also plays a significant role in assisting agents with rescues. The Tucson Sector Border Patrol has 22 rescue beacons located throughout its area of responsibility to assist those in distress. Instructions are in multiple languages and when activated, agents are able to respond quickly. BOSTAR teams utilize a “911 phone” that opens lines of communication with additional law enforcement partners and first responders.

Please visit the [CBP Newsroom](#) for additional information on Border Patrol rescue operations or contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.

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OCA is committed to addressing any question or concern you may have related to CBP’s complex mission. Please contact us:

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

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

## United States and Canada Release Progress Report on Facilitating Cross-Border Business



On June 26, 2013, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, Canadian Minister of Public Safety Vic Toews, and Canada's Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism Jason Kenney released a progress report entitled "Facilitating the Conduct of Cross-Border Business."

The report, a deliverable of the Beyond the Border Action Plan, describes bilateral efforts to ensure business travelers benefit from more efficient and predictable border clearance processes.

"Safe and secure trade and travel between the United States and Canada supports millions of jobs in both countries," said Secretary Napolitano. "Through our joint efforts with Canada, we are facilitating cross-border business and strengthening our economic competitiveness."

The Beyond the Border Action Plan includes a number of commitments to facilitate the conduct of cross-border business. Key accomplishments to date as outlined in the report include:

- Provided enhanced administrative guidance, training and operational manuals to border officials in order to achieve operational consistency at all ports of entry on business traveler issues.
- Established new processes under which certain categories of business travelers may request adjudication of employment and related petitions by the destination country's immigration authorities to identify and resolve potential issues prior to the actual date of travel.
- Held joint consultations with stakeholders in both countries in order to identify and assess additional ways to facilitate relevant processes through administrative, policy, regulatory and operational improvements. A summary of those consultations is posted online.

For additional information on the progress report, please visit the [DHS Website](#) or contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.

## Border Security Oversight: Identifying and Responding to Current Threats



Chief Michael Fisher and Acting Assistant Commissioner David Murphy testify at a June 27 hearing.

On June 27, 2013, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Border Patrol Chief Michael Fisher and Office of Field Operations Acting Assistant Commissioner David Murphy testified before the House Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee on National Security for a hearing titled "Border Security Oversight: Identifying and Responding to Current Threats." In a joint written statement, the witnesses said,

"For CBP, securing our borders means first having the visibility to see what is happening on our borders, and second, having the capacity to respond to what we see. We get visibility through the use of border surveillance technology, personnel, and air and marine assets. Our ability to respond is also supported by a mix of resources including personnel, tactical infrastructure, and air and marine assets."

The witnesses further stated, "With the support of Congress, CBP has made significant progress in securing the borders through a multi-layered approach using a variety of tools at our disposal. CBP will continue to work with DHS and our federal, state, local, tribal, and international partners, to strengthen border security. We must remain vigilant and focus on building our approach to position CBP's greatest capabilities to combat the greatest risks that exist today, to be prepared for emerging threats, and to continue to build a sophisticated approach tailored to meet the challenges of securing a 21st century border."

Other witnesses on the panel were Immigration and Customs Enforcement Executive Associate Director of Enforcement and Removal Operations Thomas Homan; U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service Associate Director of Refugee, Asylum and International Operations Joseph E. Langlois; and Government Accountability Office Director of Homeland Security and Justice Rebecca Gambler. The full written testimony is available on the [CBP Website](#).

## CBP Enforcement News



### CBP Officers Seize More Than \$1.2 Million in Meth

San Luis, AZ – On July 9, 2013, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers arrested a local woman, a California man, and a Phoenix man in separate incidents at the Port of San Luis for attempting to smuggle nearly 79 pounds of methamphetamine into the United States. In all three incidents, a narcotics detection canine alerted officers to the presence of drugs concealed within each of their vehicles. The drugs and vehicles were seized and all three suspects were turned over to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations.

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



### Border Patrol Agents Apprehend Two Individuals Attempting to Smuggle More Than \$1 Million in Narcotics

San Diego, CA – During the July 4 holiday week, San Diego Sector Border Patrol agents arrested two individuals attempting to smuggle more than \$1 million dollars of methamphetamine and cocaine. Agents encountered the first individual near the I-15 checkpoint. The female driver was questioned and consented to a canine search of her vehicle. The canine alerted to the rear seat where agents discovered almost 45 pounds of cocaine. Agents encountered the second individual at the I-5 checkpoint. A Border Patrol canine alerted to the trunk where agents discovered almost 32 pounds of methamphetamine.

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

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