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CBP, Federal Maritime Commission Agree to Share ACE Data



CBP Acting Commissioner Thomas S. Winkowski and FMC Chairman Mario Cordero sign an MOU to share ACE-ITDS trade data

(Photograph by Josh Denmark)

On July 19, 2013, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to share Automated Commercial Environment-International Trade Data System (ACE-ITDS) data in order to strengthen the balance of facilitation and enforcement regarding the regulation of ocean carriers and other entities involved in ocean trade.

"This is a significant step forward toward ensuring greater security, compliance and facilitation of cargo in the maritime environment," said CBP Acting Commissioner Thomas S. Winkowski. "CBP has enjoyed an excellent working relationship with the FMC over the years. The agency has a true passion for what they do and we look forward to working on this renewed partnership."

The MOU will allow data from ACE-ITDS and other CBP systems to be transferred directly to the FMC for use in fulfilling its statutory and regulatory duties and responsibilities. This direct transfer of data will conserve resources of both agencies and ensure compliance with the SAFE Port Act.

The agreement establishes the specific data elements to be shared, the legal authority of FMC to receive the data, and the conditions under which FMC may use, store or share the information. ACE-ITDS trade data is protected by the Trade Secrets Act and both agencies are obligated under the agreement to properly safeguard the data.

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

CBP On the Hill: The Abu Dhabi Preclearance Facility



CBP Acting Deputy Commissioner Kevin K. McAleenan testifies at a July 10 hearing

(Photograph by Josh Denmark)

On July 10, 2013, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Acting Deputy Commissioner Kevin McAleenan testified before the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade for a hearing titled, "The Abu Dhabi Preclearance Facility: Implications for U.S. Businesses and National Security." In a written statement, Mr. McAleenan emphasized the significant security and facilitation benefits achievable through the establishment of a preclearance operation in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), a key ally in the Middle East.

"A critical objective of CBP's multi-layered strategy is to extend our zone of security to interdict threats as far from the homeland as possible, working closely with our international partners," said McAleenan.

"Preclearance operations in Abu Dhabi would assist CBP in preventing terrorists, illicit cargo and other national security threats from gaining access to aircraft flying to the United States from the UAE."

In addition to the security benefits a preclearance location in Abu Dhabi would yield, McAleenan also articulated the anticipated facilitation benefits by providing a scenario describing the effect of preclearing one of the current daily flights from Abu Dhabi to Chicago O'Hare International Airport (ORD). "Preclearing this flight would remove almost 20 percent of the arriving travelers from processing queues at ORD during this peak hour and provide a significant, positive impact on primary and secondary examination wait times." Similar benefits would be realized at other domestic airports such as John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK) and Dulles International Airport (IAD).

While relevant law prohibits CBP from seeking reimbursement for customs preclearance activities other than the routine customs user fees, the UAE airport authority would reimburse CBP for approximately 85 percent of total costs associated with immigration and agriculture-related inspectional activities. This reimbursable structure, said McAleenan, "has the potential to make preclearance operations in Abu Dhabi the most cost effective CBP airport operation globally."

The full written testimony is available on the [CBP Website](#). A preclearance fact sheet is also available on the [CBP Website](#). 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:

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

Protecting our Northern Border: Enhancing Collaboration and Building Local Partnerships



On July 12, 2013, CBP Border Patrol Havre Sector Chief Patrol Agent Christopher Richards testified at a Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Subcommittee on the Efficiency and Effectiveness of Federal Programs and the Federal Workforce field hearing on, "Protecting our Northern Border: Enhancing Collaboration and Building Local Partnerships."

In a written statement, Richards stated, "Since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, DHS has dedicated historic levels of personnel, infrastructure, and technology to the Northern border. Border Patrol agent staffing on the Northern border has increased by over 650 percent – from approximately 340 agents in 2001, to approximately 2,200 agents today."

The Northern border environment presents many challenges, said Richards. "At CBP, we recognize the importance of partnerships, intelligence, and information sharing to the success of our mission, and as such, we are engaged in several national initiatives to increase security and enhance economic prosperity on the Northern border."

Other witnesses on the panel were U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement Special Agent in Charge Kumar Kibble, and Blackfeet National Homeland Security Director Robert Desrosier. The full written testimony is available on the [CBP Website](#).

Coming Soon: CBP Officer Job Opportunity Announcement



U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is one of the Department of Homeland Security's largest and most complex components, with a mission to keep terrorists and their weapons out of the United States. It also is responsible for securing the border and facilitating lawful international trade and travel

while enforcing hundreds of Federal laws and regulations, including immigration and drug laws.

CBP will open a CBP Officer job opportunity announcement on July 29, 2013. The announcement's purpose is to find well-qualified applicants to join CBP's frontline workforce to replace CBP Officers in 2014 and 2015. CBP is seeking applicants throughout the United States, including the territories and District of Columbia, with a hiring focus on the Southwest Border and the Central and Northern East Coast. CBP's hiring process is strenuous, and applicants need to meet exacting standards of fitness, medical, drug, and, most importantly, integrity.

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

New Public Service Announcement Promotes Awareness of Human Trafficking



On July 24, 2013, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) announced the availability of a Public Service Announcement (PSA) to enhance awareness of human trafficking. "Out of the Shadows," a product of the Department of Homeland Security's Blue Campaign, highlights the fact that the general public walks among victims of human trafficking every day, and it's time to "open our eyes."

"Human trafficking is a crime that cannot remain hidden," said CBP Acting Commissioner Thomas S. Winkowski. "By bringing this into the forefront we are urging the public to be aware of this injustice and to help us, as law enforcement, bring the perpetrators to justice and support the victims."

The Blue Campaign provides a unified voice for the Department of Homeland Security's efforts to combat human trafficking. To watch the video, click on the image above or visit the [CBP Website](#). For more information, please contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.

CBP Enforcement News



Border Patrol Agents Confiscate over \$64K in Cocaine Hidden in Shoes

Salton City, CA – On July 23, 2013, El Centro Sector Border Patrol agents assigned to the Indio Station apprehended a suspected narcotics smuggler at the Highway 86 checkpoint. After responding to some brief questions, the driver of the vehicle told agents she was smuggling an unknown substance in her shoes. A search of her shoes revealed two small packages wrapped in brown tape. The substance found inside tested positive for cocaine. The cocaine had a combined weight of approximately 2.34 pounds with an estimated street value of \$64,000. The woman was arrested as the sole suspect in the case. The suspect, vehicle, and narcotics were turned over to the Drug Enforcement Administration for further investigation.

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



CBP Officers Find 45 Pounds of Liquid Meth in Gas Tank

San Diego, CA – On July 23, 2013, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers at the Otay Mesa passenger port of entry found more than 45 pounds of liquid methamphetamine hidden in a vehicle gas tank. When the driver, who claimed to be a U.S. citizen but was unable to provide any documentation to establish his identity, was referred for a more intensive inspection, a CBP human/narcotic detector canine alerted to the undercarriage. CBP officers looked under the vehicle, noticed liquid leaking from a seam to the left of the gas tank, and that the liquid was crystallizing. CBP officers tested the crystallized liquid and determined that it was liquid methamphetamine. CBP officer removed the gas tank which contained two compartments, one with gasoline, and one with about 46 pounds of liquid methamphetamine.

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

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