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CBP witnesses at a July 25 House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security hearing on border technology.

## CBP on the Hill: Border Security Technology

On July 25, CBP Office of Field Operations Executive Assistant Commissioner Todd Owen, U.S. Border Patrol Acting Deputy Chief Scott Luck, and Air and Marine Operations Executive Director Dennis Michelini testified before the House Homeland Security Committee, Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security at a hearing titled "Deter, Detect and Interdict: Technology's Role in Securing the Border." In their [joint written testimony](#), the witnesses discussed how border security technology enables CBP to achieve its strategic and operational border security objectives, specifically in combating the flow of illegal aliens and dangerous contraband into the United States.

Technology enhances CBP's operational capabilities by increasing its ability to quickly and safely detect and interdict illegal activity [along U.S. borders, at ports of entry, and in the air and maritime domains](#). For CBP,

the use of technology in the border environment is an invaluable force multiplier that increases its situational awareness and its ability to meet the daily challenges of a dynamic border threat environment. For additional information, please contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.

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John Pickel  
- Trade & Agriculture

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Vigilance



Integrity



Service to Country

## CBP to the Rescue: Protecting the Homeland, Saving Lives

An Excerpt from the [Commissioner's Blog](#), by Acting CBP Commissioner Kevin K. McAleenan, July 2017

When people talk about CBP, they are usually talking about our visible frontline mission. What too often gets overlooked is the humanitarian aid we provide to people who find themselves in need of rescue or medical assistance. Nowhere is this work more challenging than between ports of entry on our Southwest Border where Border Patrol and Air and Marine Interdiction agents operate. Unscrupulous smugglers often abandon migrants, including women and children, in the desert or along remote highways if they become injured, ill, or too tired to keep up with the group. Many of these migrants die of thirst or exposure, and some are victimized further by criminals who prey on the most vulnerable. Nearly every day — especially as the summer temperatures on our Southwest Border climb to dangerous levels — our agents save lives.

On June 19, Border Patrol agents [rescued 44 illegal aliens](#) who were being smuggled in the back of a tractor-trailer just outside Laredo, Texas. And two days later? Agents were tracking a group of suspected illegal aliens near a ranch in El Cenizo, Texas, when [they encountered an unresponsive female citizen of Guatemala](#) who had been abandoned in the sweltering heat by her guide when she could no longer keep up with the group. This area was inaccessible to vehicles, so the agents carried her to their vehicle where a Border Patrol emergency medical technician (EMT) administered medical assistance until emergency help arrived.

The Border Patrol has more than 1,000 agents trained as EMTs to provide emergency medical interventions to other CBP employees, their surrounding communities and interagency partners, and, significantly, those we encounter trying to cross our border illegally. In addition, a specialized Border Patrol unit called [BORSTAR](#), or Border Search, Trauma, and Rescue, can operate in all weather conditions and terrain. In many remote desert and mountain areas, Border Patrol EMTs and BORSTAR agents are often the only medical/rescue unit available for hundreds of miles along remote areas of the border.

CBP's [Border Safety Initiative](#) (BSI) is a program aimed at decreasing the life threatening injuries and deaths associated with illegal border crossings and human smuggling. BSI focuses on the extraordinary efforts taken by Border Patrol agents to rescue those in distress as well as new programs, such as the Missing Migrant Initiative. Last fiscal year, Border Patrol and Air and Marine Interdiction agents rescued 4002 illegal border crossers. So far this fiscal year, CBP has made an additional 2,771 rescues and identified 52 missing migrants, giving a measure of peace to families.



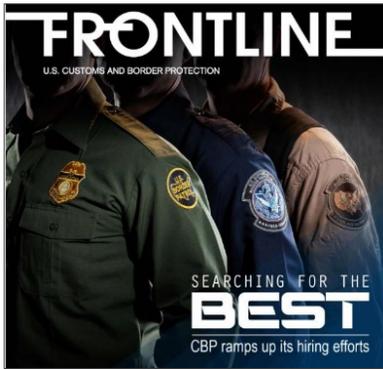
Tucson Sector Border Patrol agents and a BORSTAR medic rescue a man in a remote area of the Huachuca Mountains July 9.

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](mailto:OCAInquiry@cbp.dhs.gov).

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



## Searching for the Best: CBP Ramps Up Its Hiring Efforts

An Excerpt from *Searching for the Best*, by Marcy Mason, *Frontline*, June 2017

At a time when federal hiring has slowed at many agencies, CBP is moving at full throttle to recruit new agents and officers to fill its ranks. Within the next few years, CBP will need to meet critical hiring needs for all its uniformed personnel. In January, President Trump issued an Executive Order calling for the hiring of an additional 5,000 Border Patrol agents. Former Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kelly also issued a directive to add 500 Air and Marine agents. Both are in addition to filling a deficit of more than 1,300 CBP officers and 1,700 Border Patrol agents.

"It's a huge undertaking with many challenges, but we're making headway," said Michael Tucker, commander of CBP's National Frontline Recruitment Command, a division of CBP's Office of Human Resources Management, which is responsible for the agency's recruitment strategy and hiring efforts. Tucker, who is a Border Patrol agent himself, said that CBP is using two basic recruitment methods: online advertising and recruiting in person at job fairs, college campuses, and military bases where CBP

recruiters work with transitioning veterans' programs. Last year, CBP conducted 4,407 recruiting events nationwide. "We're trying to do a better job of attracting more people to recruiting events so that prospective candidates can meet officers and agents and ask questions," said Tucker.

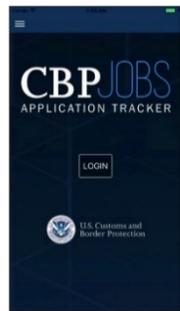
CBP also has taken steps to recruit on military bases. "We physically travel to military installations. We have one base, Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas, where we are co-located with military hiring personnel, and we're working toward similar arrangements with five other military bases," explained Tucker. "This expedites the hiring process because we're right there. Applicants can see a CBP representative onsite who can answer questions, help them apply online, and talk to them about the benefits of CBP."

Furthermore, the National Frontline Recruitment Command has a special unit that focuses on hiring military veterans. "Military personnel have a special vernacular," said Tucker. "We wanted to train our forces to speak that language so we can attract the best candidates. Close to 30 percent of our workforce are veterans and we're proud of that number."

CBP's efforts have not gone unnoticed. In 2016, employment websites Monster and Military.com ranked CBP No. 2 in a list of the best employers for hiring and retaining veterans. For additional information, please read the full story at [CBP.gov](http://CBP.gov), or contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.



Commander Tucker briefs the National Frontline Recruitment Command team at a weekly meeting in Washington, DC



### CBP Launches New Mobile App for Prospective Frontline Agents and Officers

On July 10, CBP launched CBP Jobs, a new mobile app for prospective frontline agents and officers to track their progress through the hiring process. CBP Jobs enables CBP officer, Border Patrol agent, Air Interdiction agent, Marine Interdiction agent, and Agricultural Specialist applicants to view the status of their application and provides important

notifications about upcoming appointments and next steps. Applicants who have already received a temporary job offer can download the free app on an Apple or Android device. For additional information, please visit [CBP.gov](http://CBP.gov) or contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.



### Career Opportunity with the CBP Office of Congressional Affairs

The CBP Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA) is seeking candidates for a GS-0301-12 (with promotion potential to GS-13) congressional liaison specialist position. OCA collaborates with the Hill on legislation, casework, hearings, briefings, and numerous inquiries spanning the broad scope of CBP's complex operations including border security, trade, and travel efforts.

OCA is responsible for advising CBP leadership on legislative and congressional matters and for assisting Members of Congress and their staffs in understanding current and proposed CBP activities and programs.

For additional information, please view the job opportunity announcement on [usajobs.gov](http://usajobs.gov).

## CBP Enforcement News



### Border Patrol Agents Bust Cloned Van at Immigration Checkpoint

On July 26, Ajo Station Border Patrol agents working with a canine at the State Route 85 North immigration checkpoint seized almost \$199,000 worth of marijuana found in a cloned utility van. When the van, driven by a 39-year old male U.S. citizen, approached the immigration checkpoint, a Border Patrol canine alerted to an odor it was trained to detect. Inside the van, within plain sight, were numerous packages determined to be marijuana. Agents immediately arrested the driver for narcotics smuggling and seized the van and the more than 396 pounds of marijuana.

— Visit the [CBP Newsroom](http://CBP Newsroom) for the full story.



### CBP Officers Seize More Than \$1 Million in Cocaine

On July 23, CBP officers working at the Laredo Port of Entry seized more than \$1 million in cocaine. A CBP officer working at the Lincoln-Juarez International Bridge referred a commercial bus for further inspection. Upon a canine and non-intrusive inspection, CBP officers discovered 147 pounds of cocaine. CBP officers seized the narcotics and the case was turned over to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Homeland Security Investigations.

— Visit the [CBP Newsroom](http://CBP Newsroom) for the full story.

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