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## Secretary Nielsen Tours Prototypes



On Jan. 2, the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Kristjen Nielsen toured the border wall prototypes, [tweeting](#), "We will give the men and women of Border Patrol the infrastructure and tools they need to secure our country."

The border wall supports impedance and denial. Determining where impedance and denial would be most effective is measured by "vanishing time," the distance between the border and the point where an illegal border crosser could blend into the local populace. "I've seen [barrier] impacts and its effect on border security," said CBP Acting Deputy Commissioner Ronald D. Vitiello during a visit to the Laredo Sector. "I

believe that it will help us do our work. It will help agents be better prepared and safer." The prototypes were constructed to the U.S. Border Patrol's requirements and must pass rigorous testing before any of the designs are selected to become part of the border barrier. "We'll look at things like aesthetics, how penetrable they are, how resistant they are to tampering and then scaling or anti-climb features," noted Acting Deputy Commissioner Vitiello. For more information, please visit [CBP.gov](#) or contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.

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## CBP's Air and Marine Operations in Miami Partners with U.S. Marshals Service during Coordinated Takedown



CBP's Air and Marine Operations (AMO) Miami Air and Marine Branch, working together with the U.S. Marshals Service for the Southern District of Florida Special Operations Group and Miami-Dade Police Department, provided air support during the arrest of a high-risk fugitive with ties dating back to Miami's "cocaine cowboys" era.

The Miami crews with Air Crew Rifle Operators—airborne sharpshooters—used sophisticated surveillance equipment and streamed live video as part of the multi-agency operations on Jan. 12. [Marine interdiction agents](#) from the Miami and Key Largo Marine Units also supported the U.S.

Marshals Service tactical commander with communications assistance.

Once law enforcement personnel arrived at the residence, the suspect tried to flee on an ATV and then on foot. The AMO crew located the individual and directed ground agents to his location for the arrest. The suspect had been on the run for four years. Authorities also recovered a cache of weapons and \$36,700 in cash.

Working together with other federal, state and local law enforcement in the community is extremely important to CBP's mission, said Martin Wade, Miami Air and Marine Branch director. "This coordinated enforcement effort is a shining example of our ability to support our partner law enforcement agencies in apprehending a very high profile and dangerous fugitive."

The mission of CBP's AMO is to serve and protect the American people. AMO applies advanced and unique aeronautical and maritime skills to ensure America's security. AMO's day-to-day operations along Florida's coastline involve patrolling the seas and skies, intercepting contraband, catching smugglers, and assisting in rescue and recovery operations. For more information, please visit [CBP.gov](#) or contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.



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## CBP Expands I-94 Website Feature and Email Notifications

On Jan. 5, CBP launched two new initiatives to make it easier for [Visa Waiver Program \(VWP\)](#) travelers to check the status of their stay in the United States and remain in compliance with the terms of their admission. A new feature added to the [I-94 website](#) under the “View Compliance” tab allows VWP travelers to check the status of their admission to the United States. This check will inform travelers of the number of days remaining on their admission or the number of days they have remained past their admitted until date. In addition, CBP will now send an email notification to VWP travelers who are still in the United States 10 days before the expiration of their admission period. CBP has taken these proactive steps to help inform and remind travelers of the terms of their admission and to prevent travelers from overstaying. Admission times vary for every traveler depending on class of admission or visa type.

Form I-94 provides non-immigrant visitors evidence they have been lawfully admitted to the United States, which is necessary to verify alien registration, immigration status, and employment authorization. In May 2013, CBP automated the I-94 in the air and sea environment, eliminating the paper forms and manual data entry. Additional information on Form I-94 and traveler compliance checks can be found at [I-94 website](#). Visit [CBP.gov](#) for travel tips and more information on the I-94 website enhancements, or contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.



## Yuma Sector Border Patrol Honors Luis A. “Louie” Aguilar

The Yuma Sector Border Patrol honored fallen Senior Border Patrol Agent Luis A. “Louie” Aguilar with the unveiling of a new monument during a remembrance ceremony on Jan. 19, at the Bureau of Land Management Office in the [Imperial Sand Dunes](#).

Ten years ago, on Jan. 19, 2008, Agent Aguilar was attempting to deploy a tire deflation device to stop a narcotics smuggler from escaping into Mexico across the Imperial Sand Dunes. The suspect, driving a Hummer SUV, accelerated his vehicle and intentionally swerved and struck Agent Aguilar. Despite the attempts of his fellow agents and EMS personnel to save his life, Agent Aguilar died at the scene. For more information, please visit [CBP.gov](#) or contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.



## Baltimore CBP Seizes \$1M in Counterfeit Stainless Steel Sinks

On Jan. 17, CBP officers seized 2,990 stainless steel sinks for displaying a counterfeit UPC shield design in Baltimore. The shipment arrived from Malaysia for an address in Maryland. CBP examined the shipment for [anti-dumping and countervailing duties](#) enforcement. During that examination, CBP officers discovered the UPC shield logo.

CBP officers and intellectual property rights (IPR) specialists verified the UPC shield logo was real with the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials, the registered trademark holder.

If authentic, the stainless steel sinks would have had a manufacturer suggested retail price of about \$1.1 million.

CBP protects businesses and consumers every day through an aggressive [intellectual property rights \(IPR\)](#) enforcement program, and has made IPR enforcement a [CBP priority trade issue](#).

On a typical day in 2016, CBP officers seized [\\$3.8 million](#) worth of products with IPR violations. For more information, please visit [CBP.gov](#) or contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.

## CBP Enforcement News

### CBP Field Operations at Hidalgo Port of Entry Seizes Over \$600K in Meth



On Jan. 18, officers assigned to the Pharr International Bridge cargo facility seized alleged methamphetamine valued at \$639,334. After encountering a white 2009 Kenworth tractor trailer CBP officers referred the tractor trailer for a

secondary inspection. They used a [non-intrusive imaging system](#), along with a [canine team](#), to locate the narcotics. CBP officers discovered eight packages containing 31.96 pounds of alleged methamphetamine concealed within the trailer. [CBP Office of Field Operations](#) seized the narcotics along with the tractor and trailer, arrested the driver, and turned him over to the custody of [Homeland Security Investigations](#) special agents for further investigation. Visit [CBP.gov](#) for the full story.



### USBP Agent Provides Lifesaving First Aid

A [Border Patrol](#) agent encountered a man suffering what appeared to be a heart problem Jan. 22 in Port Angeles. The agent, who is a trained paramedic and a member of the Border Patrol Search Trauma and Rescue team, came upon a man receiving CPR from a group of bystanders. The agent rushed to the scene, deployed an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) and

continued lifesaving CPR until the Port Angeles Fire Department arrived. Port Angeles Fire Department took over primary care and transported the man to the hospital.

Blaine Sector Acting Chief Patrol Agent Chris Bippley noted, “This is one example of how our agents not only safeguard America’s borders, but also strive to use their training and experience to benefit and serve the communities in which they live and work.” Visit [CBP.gov](#) for the full story.