



# CBP Border Security Report

Fiscal Year 2016

*December 30, 2016*



Homeland  
Security

*U.S. Customs and Border Protection*



# Border Security Report

## Table of Contents

Introduction .....	1
Discussion.....	1
Border Technology and Investment .....	3
Transparency and Accountability .....	4
Conclusion.....	5

# I. Introduction

As the agency charged with safeguarding America's borders, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) plays a vital role in protecting the national security of the United States. This report summarizes CBP's Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 border enforcement efforts, which reflect CBP's focus on transparency and building partnerships to secure a 21st Century border against a variety of threats and adversaries.

## II. Discussion

### **Enforcement Efforts At and Between Ports of Entry**

In FY 2016, total apprehensions by the U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) nationwide between ports of entry numbered 415,816. This represents an increase over FY 2015, but was lower than FY 2014 and FY 2013, and a fraction of the number of apprehensions routinely observed from the 1980s through 2008.<sup>1</sup> Apprehensions are an indicator of total attempts to cross the border illegally. Meanwhile, the characteristics of illegal migration across our southern border have changed significantly over the last 15 years – far fewer Mexican nationals and single adults are attempting to cross the border without authorization, while far more families and unaccompanied children are fleeing poverty and violence in Central America. A growing share of unauthorized migrants are surrendering to law enforcement to seek humanitarian protection rather than trying to evade detection or apprehension. In FY 2014, Central Americans apprehended on the southern border outnumbered Mexicans for the first time; in FY16, the same was true.

In FY 2016, the USBP apprehended a total of 59,757 unaccompanied children and 77,857 family units nationwide. In FY 2014, those numbers were 68,631 and 68,684, respectively, indicating a 13 percent decrease in unaccompanied children and a 12 percent increase in family units over FY 2014.

CBP continues to monitor the arrival of unaccompanied children<sup>2</sup> and family units<sup>3</sup> from Central America and is working closely with federal, state, and local authorities to support federal interagency efforts with respect to these populations.

Building on its Dangers of the Journey and Know the Facts campaigns, of 2014 and 2015 respectively, CBP produced four testimonials in 2016 for release to communities in El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Mexico, and the United States, describing in the migrant's own words the tragedies that occurred on their respective journeys north. With a reach of approximately 75 million people, the campaigns seek to dispel misinformation about U.S. immigration policies and discourage illegal migration.

---

<sup>1</sup> Nationwide Border Patrol apprehensions averaged over 1.1 million per year between 1980 and 2008.

<sup>2</sup> Individuals under the age of 18 who were not with their biological parent or legal guardian at the time of the encounter.

<sup>3</sup> The term Family Unit represents the number of individuals (to include a child under 18 years old, parent, or legal guardian) apprehended with a family member by the U.S. Border Patrol.

USBP apprehensions of Mexican nationals in FY 2016 decreased by 17 percent when compared to the high-water mark in FY 2014. Apprehensions of individuals from countries other than Mexico—predominately individuals from Central America—decreased by 13 percent. Of the 415,816 apprehensions nationwide, 408,870 were along the southwest border. Of those along the southwest border, 390,161 were from Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.

Enforcement actions at ports of entry continued to yield important border security achievements. At ports of entry in FY 2016, CBP officers arrested 8,129 individuals wanted for serious crimes. Officers also identified 274,821 inadmissible individuals at ports of entry, an increase of 7.6 percent from FY 2015. Depending on the circumstances, these individuals were placed in removal proceedings, allowed to voluntarily return to their country of origin, or allowed to withdraw their applications for admission into the United States to return to their country of origin. While the most common reasons individuals were found to be inadmissible pertained to their inability to satisfy documentary requirements, some individuals were found to be inadmissible based on previous immigration violations, criminal grounds, and for national security-related reasons.

CBP officers and agents also played a critical counter-narcotics role, resulting in the seizure or disruption of more than 3.3 million pounds of narcotics in FY 2016. In addition, the agency seized more than \$129 million in unreported currency through targeted enforcement operations.

CBP's National Targeting Center, the Immigration Advisory Program, and the Regional Carrier Liaison Group led CBP efforts in FY 2016 to identify and prevent the boarding of 14,293 travelers on flights destined for the United States who may have presented an immigration or security risk. The Immigration Advisory Program employs CBP officers at foreign airports where they review passenger information and/or assess the passenger documentation prior to their U.S.-bound flights. Immigration Advisory Program officers make "no board" recommendations to carriers and host governments regarding passengers bound for the United States. Regional Carrier Liaison Groups, located in Honolulu, Miami, and New York, expand the Nation's zone of security beyond physical U.S. borders by working with commercial carriers to prevent the boarding of passengers who may pose a security threat, have fraudulent documents, or are otherwise inadmissible.

In addition to the pre-departure efforts for travel, NTC led CBP efforts in the identification of inadmissible individuals in various application programs. Continuous vetting of non-immigrant visas and Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) travel authorizations allows CBP to immediately determine whether to provide a "no board" recommendation to a carrier in imminent travel situations, to recommend that Department of State (DOS) revoke the visa, or to deny an ESTA application. In FY

2016, CBP coordinated with DOS to revoke 2,833 visas, and received over 14 million ESTA applications, of which 133,546 were denied.

In FY 2016, CBP's Air and Marine Operations (AMO) continued its efforts to interdict individuals traveling in aviation and maritime environments. During FY 2016, Air and Marine agents contributed to the apprehension of 55,923 individuals by the USBP, and 4,303 criminal arrests by agents in conjunction with other law enforcement partners. Air and Marine Operations enforcement actions contributed to approximately 13 percent of the USBP's overall apprehensions.

AMO's Air and Marine Operations Center (AMOC) supported CBP efforts to secure America's borders and prevent the illegal flow of people and goods across the air, land, and sea approaches by conducting threat assessments on 486,142 radar and other electronic detections. AMOC successfully detected and prosecuted 296 of 297 suspect conventional aircraft border incursions that were initially unidentified or attempting to illegally enter the United States, achieving a 99.7 percent mission success rate. AMOC also coordinated with AMO maritime and U.S. Coast Guard assets in interdicting 64 maritime suspect targets in the Gulf of Mexico, Florida Straits, Caribbean, and the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

During FY 2016, AMO aircrews contributed to 194 seizure, disruption, or interdiction incidents in the transit zone, resulting in the interdiction of over 197,677 pounds of cocaine. AMO, in coordination with Joint Interagency Task Force- South, conducts long-range aerial patrols and surveillance missions as part of Operation Martillo. The Task Force oversees the detection and monitoring of illicit traffickers and assists U.S. and multi-national law enforcement agencies with the interdiction of maritime drug traffickers.

## **Border Technology and Investment**

CBP has worked to address the changing composition of attempted border crossers and to maintain border security through significant investments in enforcement resources and enhanced operational tactics and strategy. One example is CBP's investment in eight Tethered Aerostat Radar Systems (TARS) which form a network of long-range radars deployed along the border. The TARS can identify and monitor low-altitude aircraft and vessels at a distance of 200 miles. TARS and other sensor data are integrated through the Air and Marine Operations Surveillance System at the AMOC in Riverside, California. The AMOC integrates data from hundreds of domestic and international radars and optical sensors to provide surveillance of critical national infrastructure throughout the United States. TARS recorded more than 330 suspected cross-border attempts in FY16, about 37 percent of all border-related radar detections.

In addition, AMO deploys unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) along the Southwest Border to detect, identify, and classify moving tracks of interest over land. These UAS are equipped with Vehicle and Dismount Exploitation Radar, (VADER) a strategic and tactical operations sensor that provides comprehensive situational awareness for an

expanded area. VADER is a side-looking airborne radar system designed to detect moving targets or perform coherent change detection. VADER-equipped UAS in association with the on-board camera is effective in detecting, identifying, classifying, and tracking moving targets.

AMO aircrew can relay real-time tactical information to our law enforcement partners while simultaneously capturing strategic/forensic information. UAS data can be streamed to a ground command, control, and communication (C3) structure and used as actionable intelligence in the field while simultaneously providing intelligence analysts with forensic information. During FY 2016, AMO’s UAS recorded 7,908 confirmed detections of illegal activity. Since the inception of VADER in 2012, AMO’s UAS have recorded over 44,000 confirmed detections.

## Transparency and Accountability

CBP continued on its path to increased transparency and accountability in FY 2016. The examples below are some of the highlights of programs that have come to fruition over the past 12 months.

### Use of Force

[Use of firearms](#) decreased for the fifth consecutive year to less than half the total in 2012, while there were 585 assaults on agents and officers in FY 2016.

Less-Lethal Device and Other Less-Lethal Force rose slightly in 2016.

<b>CBP USE OF FORCE BY FISCAL YEAR (FY 2012 - 2016)</b>					
	<b>FY 2012</b>	<b>FY 2013</b>	<b>FY 2014</b>	<b>FY 2015</b>	<b>FY 2016</b>
Firearm	58	48	29	28	27
Less-Lethal Device and Other Less-Lethal Force	874	1167	1008	728	951
<b>Total</b>	<b>932</b>	<b>1215</b>	<b>1037</b>	<b>756</b>	<b>978</b>

In FY 2016, the CBP Use of Force Incident Team (UFIT) deployed to 23 use of force incidents. The National Use of Force Review Board (NUFRB) convened five times, deliberating on a total of 12 CBP use of force incidents. Additionally, the CBP UFIT review boards, known as Local Use of Force Review Boards (LUFRB), reviewed 248 use of force incidents. CBP released the results of eight incidents reviewed by the NUFRB and will release the results of additional cases in the future.

### Homeland Security Advisory Councils (HSAC) CBP Integrity Advisory Panel (IAP)

In March 2016, the CBP IAP published its Final Report after a year-long review of CBP’s integrity components. Building on the recommendations from the Interim Report, the Final Report contains recommendations for expanding criminal investigative staffing, increasing transparency in CBP, identifying and preventing corruption through data

analytics and behavioral research, and revising training, policy guidelines, and incident reviews for use of force. The CBP IAP final report is available [here](#).

In September of FY 2016, the CBP's Office of Training Development completed the pilot session of the newly redesigned Border Patrol Basic Training Program. This new program represented three years of analysis, design, and development, and includes an increase in the overall length of training from 106 to 117 days. Some highlights of the changes are listed below.

### **Spanish**

- Reintegration of Spanish into all aspects of basic training.
- All trainees required to take Spanish language training.
- Increase grammar fundamentals from 32 to 70 hours.

### **Physical Techniques**

- Less lethal certifications on Baton, Oreoresin Capsicum (pepper spray), Electronic Control Weapon, Pepper ball Launching System, and Projectile Launching Device.
- Law Enforcement First Responder Tactical Casualty Care training.
- Increased use of force training - From 58 to 109 hours.

### **Operations**

- e3 data system processing training increased from 12 to 24 hours.
- Fraudulent documents curriculum increased from 6 to 12 hours.
- Critical Thinking, Risk Management, and Detention modules added.

### **Driver Training**

- Vehicle Immobilization Device and Controlled Tire Deflation Device certifications.
- Conveyance Search training.
- New skid curriculum and course design.

### **Firearms**

- Shoot/No Shoot Target System.
- Increased Judgment Training from 4 to 27 hours.
- Active Threat and Tactical Awareness certifications and Low-Light training with Weapon Mounted Light certification.

### **Scenario Performance**

- 68 hours of scenario-based training developed from the Border Patrol Critical Task List and Use-of-Force Reports.
- Evaluator Training Course for evaluator consistency, role player development, and scenario design.
- Report writing in all scenarios including feedback from the Office of Chief Council.
- 40-hour Pre-Deployment Exercise replicating field environment.

The new training program is expected to be fully implemented in the Fourth Quarter of FY 2017.

### Body-Worn and Vehicle-Mounted Cameras

CBP continued its efforts to expand the use of camera technology by holding an Industry Day in October providing an opportunity for industry to interact with CBP stakeholders and demonstrate their body-worn and vehicle-mounted systems.

As an important next step in our testing and evaluation process, CBP purchased 87 cameras at the end of FY 2016.

## III. Conclusion

CBP's focus and efforts in FY16 reflect its continued commitment to maintaining border security while ensuring increased transparency and accountability. The men and women of CBP serving on the frontlines are dedicated to protecting our Nation's security, while facilitating trade and travel that are vital to our economic prosperity.