International Partnerships Facilitate Legitimate Trade and Travel

Canada, U.S. Release Beyond the Border Progress Report

On December 14, 2012, the United States and Canada released a joint report on the significant progress made by the two countries toward advancing perimeter security and economic competitiveness since the launch of the Beyond the Border (BTB) Action Plan.

“In the first year,” the White House report states, “we have made significant progress in achieving the vision of perimeter security and economic competitiveness through the activities outlined in the Beyond the Border Action Plan. We have deepened our longstanding partnership to further advance our shared economic and security interests.” Accomplishments highlighted in the report include:

- Mutual recognition of respective air cargo security programs for passenger aircraft, eliminating the need for re-screening, increasing the number of flights that can travel and allowing airports to shorten the time between flights.
- An operational model for a pilot program to inspect truck cargo well before the border, reducing wait times at the border, and resulting in increased throughput of goods each day.
- Additional benefits to trusted travelers, including expedited passenger screening at U.S. airports for Canadian travelers, making it easier to travel to more than one U.S. destination.

In addition to the progress made over the past year, the report also describes additional Beyond the Border initiatives that are underway, including the harmonization of trusted trader programs; the full implementation of an entry/exit program at the land border; the negotiation of a preclearance agreement for the land, rail, and marine modes; and an update to the existing preclearance agreement for the air mode.

For more information on Beyond the Border, please visit the DHS Website. The full Beyond the Border Report is available on the White House Website.

Mexico, U.S. Collaborate to Combat Sale, Importation of Counterfeit Goods

This past holiday season U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) participated in the National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center’s (IPR Center) Operation Holiday Hoax, an annual targeted effort to track down those who sell counterfeit and pirated products. The IPR Center, led by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), coordinated the efforts of CBP, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and the government of Mexico to conduct inspections at the ports as well as target stores, flea markets and swap meets involved in the importation, distribution and selling of counterfeit and pirated products in cities across the United States and Mexico.

This is the third year that the IPR Center has conducted Operation Holiday Hoax. Last year’s operation led to the seizure of more than 327,000 counterfeit and pirated items with a manufacturer’s suggested retail price worth an estimated $76.8 million.

"The protection of intellectual property rights is one of CBP's top priority trade issues," said Assistant Commissioner for International Trade Al Gina. "Operations like this protect American businesses and consumers. CBP works daily to keep counterfeit goods out of the U.S. and to bring producers and distributors of these goods to justice."

Last year, Mexico's Tax Administration Service conducted 845 inspections in the main ports of entry, executed 160 search warrants nationwide and seized 23.8 million counterfeit and pirated items including 10 tons of used clothing, cigarettes, electronics, tools and DVD's. The estimated value of the seized goods was 96.7 million pesos, or $7.1 million.

The IPR Center is one of the U.S. government's key weapons in the fight against counterfeiting and piracy. To learn more about the IPR Center, visit www.IPRCenter.gov.
Public-Private Partnerships Improve Border Security, Supply Chain Security and Global Trade

2012 East Coast Trade Symposium
— CBP’s Frontline News takes viewers inside the 2012 East Coast Trade Symposium held November 27-28, 2012 at the National Harbor. CBP leadership and executives from the trade industry discuss the importance of public-private partnerships to the security and efficiency of international trade.

Season 7 of Border Wars Premier
— CBP’s Frontline News provides a backstage look at the premier of the 7th season of Border Wars. National Geographic Television producers and executives and CBP leaders discuss the successful relationship between CBP and National Geographic and express their excitement for the newest season.

Upcoming Event: C-TPAT Conference
January 8-10, Washington, DC

CBP is proud to announce the 2013 C-TPAT Conference scheduled for January 8-10, 2013 in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. The theme of this year’s conference is Unified Global Security: The Challenge Ahead. The Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT) is the largest and most successful government-private sector partnership to emerge since 9/11. C-TPAT was launched in November 2001, with just seven major importers. Today, over 7,400 companies are enrolled, and these companies – critical players in the global supply chain – include United States importers, customs brokers, terminal operators, carriers and foreign manufacturers. For more information on C-TPAT and the upcoming conference, please visit the CBP Website or contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.