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CBP Addresses the Rise in Unaccompanied Children at the Southwest Border



An information campaign poster that translates to: "I thought it would be easy for my son to get his papers in the North. That wasn't true."

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is responding to multifaceted humanitarian and security issues as tens of thousands of unaccompanied alien children have been arriving at the Southwest border, specifically in the Rio Grande Valley (RGV) region of Texas. As of mid-June of this fiscal year, CBP had apprehended more than 52,000 children who arrive hungry, thirsty, exhausted, scared and vulnerable. Approximately three-quarters of those apprehended had traveled from El Salvador, Guatemala, or Honduras.

On July 9, 2014, CBP Commissioner R. Gil Kerlikowske testified before the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs for a hearing on, "Challenges at the Border: Examining the Causes, Consequences, and Responses to the Rise in Apprehensions at the Southern Border."

In a [joint statement](#), Commissioner Kerlikowske, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Administrator Craig Fugate, and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Thomas S. Winkowski, discussed the Department of Homeland Security's three-fold strategy to address the situation: (1) process the increased tide of unaccompanied children through the system as quickly as possible; (2) stem the increased tide of illegal migration into the Rio Grande Valley; and (3) do these things in a manner consistent with our laws and values as Americans.

To help process the influx of children and uphold border security operations, CBP has deployed additional Border Patrol agents to the RGV, where the largest numbers of unaccompanied minors are arriving. CBP has also developed the "Dangers Awareness Campaign," a multimedia public awareness campaign to communicate the dangers of sending unaccompanied children on the long journey from Central America to the United States, and is working with stakeholders in Central America and the United States in order to encourage the use of Dangers Awareness Campaign materials.

For additional information on CBP's response to the rise in unaccompanied children, including information on the Dangers Awareness Campaign, please visit the [CBP Website](#) or contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.

U.S. Customs Service Celebrates 225th Anniversary



The U.S. Customs Ensign flying over CBP Headquarters in Washington, DC.

This year we celebrate the 225th anniversary of the United States Customs Service, the oldest legacy agency of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). Our theme, "Celebrating Our History, Building Our Future," is inclusive to our Customs, Immigration, Agriculture, and other heritage missions.

In the years after the American Revolutionary War, the young Nation needed to generate funds for its economic growth and infrastructure. On July 31, 1789, the First United States Congress created a field organization of customs districts under appointed collectors of customs. The collectors oversaw the building of revenue cutters to patrol our coasts, lighthouses to guide ships to our ports, and custom houses to represent the Federal

presence in the states.

The story of Customs is America's story. It is the story of the Founding Fathers who were instrumental in our creation, the people who made our history more than two centuries ago, the people who came together in 2003 to form CBP under the Department of Homeland Security, and the men and women who are still making our history.

Today, CBP's Office of Field Operations manages the Nation's 328 air, land, and sea ports of entry. We continue to drive our Nation's economic engine by facilitating lawful international trade and travel and enforcing hundreds of U.S. laws and regulations.

The National Archives in [New York City](#) and the Maritime Museum in [San Francisco](#) are among the organizations featuring exhibitions in celebration of the 225th anniversary. For more information about the history of CBP, including the history of the [customs flag](#), the first official flag of a U.S. Government agency, please visit the [CBP Website](#) or 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:

Phone: (202) 344-1760; Fax: (202) 344-2152; E-mail: OCAInquiry@cbp.dhs.gov.

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

CBP Announces Additional Partnerships to Promote Trade and Travel



On July 23, 2014, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) announced that it has made initial selections for 16 new reimbursable services agreements to promote economic growth in cross-border trade and travel across the country. These public-private partnerships in California, Florida, Nevada, Colorado, Delaware, Pennsylvania, and Texas will allow approved private sector and state and local government entities to reimburse CBP for expanded services to improve processing and inspection times for incoming commercial and cargo traffic.

Last year, CBP entered into five reimbursable service agreements under Section 560 of the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2013. As a result, CBP provided an additional 9,000 CBP officer assignments and opened primary lanes and booths for an additional 24,000 hours, increasing border processing throughput at U.S. air and land ports of entry. Among the three participating airports, the added staffing and supplementary lane openings, in conjunction with Automated Passport Control deployments and other innovative technology efforts, have helped decrease wait times by an average of almost 30 percent while traveler volume has increased about seven percent over the last year.

Section 559 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 expands this authority to enter into additional agreements to increase CBP's ability to provide new or enhanced services (not to replace existing services) on a reimbursable basis by creating partnerships with private sector and government entities. These agreements will not replace existing services. Reimbursable services under Section 559 include customs, agricultural processing, border security services, and immigration inspection-related services at ports of entry. The statute maintains several limitations at CBP-serviced airports, including a maximum of five reimbursable service agreements permitted per year, and reimbursable services being limited to overtime costs only.

"CBP is transforming the way we do business to efficiently process the growing number of travelers each year. These partnerships allow us to remain a strong global competitor and destination for businesses and travelers," said Acting CBP Deputy Commissioner Kevin K. McAleenan.

The reimbursable services authority is a key component of CBP's [Resource Optimization Strategy](#), and will allow CBP to provide new or expanded services at domestic ports of entry reimbursed by the partner entity.

For additional information, including a list of the entities tentatively selected for these partnerships, please visit the [CBP Website](#) or contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.

CBP Debuts New Multimedia Frontline Magazine



U.S. Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) Office of Public Affairs is excited to announce the debut of the new multimedia *Frontline*, the official magazine of CBP.

Formerly a quarterly print publication, *Frontline* is now an online-only, digital publication, and readers can expect

new feature articles every month.

The new and improved *Frontline* provides a greater level of reader engagement through the combination of diligent reporting, dynamic photography, and interactive video elements. *Frontline* is now available anywhere with simple access for mobile users on tablets and smartphones.

The new *Frontline* also will allow readers to easily search for the topics of interest and share them with friends or colleagues.

In the latest issue of *Frontline*:

- **What Lies Beneath:** Investigating Arizona's Illicit Subterranean Passageways with Border Patrol's Tunnel Team.
- **Human Trafficking in 1914:** The work of Immigration Special Agent Kate Waller Barrett on behalf of exploited women and girls in the early 20th century.

The full electronic version of *Frontline* is available on the [CBP Website](#).

CBP Enforcement News



CBP Intercepts First in Port Caterpillar in Jamaican Passenger's Baggage

Baltimore, MD – On Thursday, July 24, 2014, a U.S. Department of Agriculture entomologist confirmed that U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agriculture specialists at Baltimore Washington Thurgood Marshall International Airport discovered a new pest in the Baltimore area when they intercepted a Chrysauginae (Pyralidae), a type of caterpillar, while inspecting sour sop leaves found in a passenger's luggage. Caterpillars can pose a significant agriculture threat because they feed on a wide variety of important agriculture crops. Infestation can lead to a decrease in productivity and quality of crops, which can result in significant economic loss. When bacteria and fungi enter the injury caused by the feeding caterpillars indirect effects such as rotting or early dropping of fruits can occur.

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



CBP Intercepts Marijuana in Broccoli Shipment

Calexico, CA – On July 18, 2014, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers at the Calexico East commercial facility thwarted an attempt to smuggle 680 pounds of marijuana within a shipment of broccoli. During a dockside inspection of the conveyance, and following an alert from a CBP narcotics detector dog, officers discovered 261 wrapped bundles concealed within the boxes of broccoli stored in the trailer. The bundles field-tested positive as marijuana.

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

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