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Office of Congressional Affairs
202.344.1760

Michael J. Yeager,
Assistant Commissioner

Kim M. Lowry,
Deputy Assistant Commissioner

Branch Chiefs

Dan Price
– Budget & Appropriations

Stephanie Talton
– Field Operations & Intelligence

Joe Croce
– Border, Air & Marine Operations

Robert B. Andrews
– Trade & Agriculture



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CBP Launches New Mobile Passport Control App



On August 11, 2014, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) announced the launch of the first authorized application to expedite a traveler’s entry process into the United States. Mobile Passport Control (MPC) will allow eligible travelers to submit their passport information and customs declaration form via a smartphone or tablet prior to CBP inspection. This first-of-its-kind app was developed by Airside Mobile and Airports Council International-North America in partnership with CBP as part of a pilot program at the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.

“CBP continues to transform the international arrivals experience for travelers by offering new and innovative ways to expedite entry into the United States, while maintaining the highest standards of security,” said CBP Commissioner R. Gil Kerlikowske. “By offering this app to passengers, we hope to build upon the success we have already experienced with Automated Passport Control, which has resulted in decreases in wait times as much as 25-40 percent, even with continued growth in international arrivals.”

MPC offers U.S. citizens and Canadian visitors a more efficient and secure in-person inspection between the CBP officer and the traveler upon arrival in the United States.

Much like Automated Passport Control (APC), the app does not require pre-approval, is free to use and does not collect any new information on travelers. As a result, travelers will experience shorter wait times, less congestion and faster processing.

MPC is just one part of CBP’s [Resource Optimization Strategy](#). Last year, as part of its commitment to innovation, CBP rolled out APC, which is now available in 22 locations, and automated the I-94 form. CBP has also enrolled more than two million travelers in trusted traveler programs, which allow CBP officers to process travelers safely and efficiently while enhancing security and reducing operational costs.

iPhone and iPad users can download the app for free from Apple’s App Store. MPC is expected to expand to more airports later this year and to Android smartphone users in the future. For additional information, please visit the [CBP Website](#) or contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.

CBP Cargo Targeting Leads to Counterfeit Merchandise in Rail Container



Rail container merchandise seized by CBP included 200 motorcycle engines that were not certified by the EPA.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers recently targeted a rail container at the port of Portal, North Dakota. During inspection of the targeted rail container, CBP officers discovered merchandise that violated multiple laws and regulations. The merchandise consisted of approximately 300 counterfeit Wii remote controllers, 400 counterfeit USB converters and 200 small motorcycle engines that were not certified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

CBP determined that the trademark was counterfeit on the Wii remote controllers and USB converters. As a result, CBP seized those items. The counterfeit merchandise had a manufacturer’s suggested retail price of \$20,800. In addition, CBP seized the small engines that were found not to be certified, as required by the EPA. The manufacturer’s suggested retail price for the engines was \$16,400.

Stopping the flow of illicit goods is a Priority Trade Issue for CBP. The importation of counterfeit merchandise can damage the U.S. economy, and threaten the health and safety of the American people. With the growth of foreign trade, unscrupulous companies have profited billions of dollars from the sale of counterfeit and pirated goods. To combat the illicit trade of merchandise violating laws relating to intellectual property rights (IPR), trademark and copyright holders may register with CBP through an online system. Such registration assists CBP officers and import specialists in identifying violative merchandise.

CBP’s IPR enforcement strategy is multi-layered and includes seizing violative merchandise at our borders; pushing the border “outward” through audits of suspect importers; cooperating with our international trading partners; and collaborating with industry and governmental agencies to enhance these efforts.

For additional information, 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.

United States and Kenya Sign Customs Mutual Assistance Agreement



Acting Deputy Commissioner Kevin McAleenan and Minister of the Treasury Henry Rotich sign a CMAA on August 6.

On August 6, 2014, the United States signed a Customs Mutual Assistance Agreement (CMAA) with Kenya today marking a significant milestone in collaboration on security and trade facilitation between the two countries. U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Acting Deputy Commissioner Kevin McAleenan signed the agreement on behalf of CBP and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Minister of the Treasury Henry Rotich signed the agreement on behalf of Kenya.

“Customs Mutual Assistance Agreements are valuable tools in the enforcement of our laws as they facilitate information sharing between international partners,” said CBP Acting Deputy Commissioner Kevin McAleenan. “This agreement will expand our efforts to combat illicit cross-border activities and will enable us to continue our work to prevent, detect and investigate customs offenses.”

The United States has now signed 71 CMAAs with other customs administrations across the world. CMAAs are bilateral agreements between countries and enforced by their respective customs administrations. They provide the legal framework for the exchange of information and evidence to assist countries in the enforcement of customs laws, including duty evasion, trafficking, proliferation, money laundering, and terrorism-related activities. CMAAs also serve as foundational documents for subsequent information sharing arrangements, including mutual recognition arrangements on authorized economic operator programs.

For additional information, please visit the [CBP Website](#) or contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.

CBP Abu Dhabi Preclearance Agriculture Specialists Intercept Khapra Beetle



Khapra Beetle larvae.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agriculture specialists recently intercepted nine Khapra beetle larvae and two skin casts from a bag of dried chick peas in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. The U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) positively identified the specimens as *Trogoderma granarium*, commonly known as Khapra beetle. The agriculture specialists discovered the insects in a 4.4 pound bag of chick peas inside a passenger’s checked luggage originating from Karachi, Pakistan. CBP forwarded the specimens to the APHIS Plant Inspection Station at the John F. Kennedy Airport for identification. The chick peas were seized and destroyed.

The Khapra Beetle is considered one of the world’s most destructive insect pests of grains, cereals and stored foods and remains the only insect in which CBP takes regulatory action against even while in a dead state. The Khapra beetle is labeled a ‘dirty feeder’ because it damages more grain than it consumes, and because it contaminates grain with body parts and hairs. These contaminants may cause gastrointestinal irritation in

adults and especially sickens infants. Khapra beetle can also tolerate insecticides and fumigants, and can survive for long periods of time without food.

CBP agriculture specialists receive extensive training and experience in the biological sciences and agricultural inspection. On a typical day, they inspect almost 1 million people as well as air and sea cargo imported to the United States and intercept 4,379 prohibited meat, plant materials or animal products, including 440 insect pests.

“CBP Preclearance locations have the unique capability to search for and intercept these invasive insects prior to departure for the United States”, said Douglas Truesdale, CBP port director for Abu Dhabi Preclearance. “The continued interceptions of Khapra beetle by CBP in Abu Dhabi are a small testament to the hard work our employees perform on a daily basis to protect the U.S. agriculture industry.”

For additional information, please visit the [CBP Website](#) or contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.

CBP Enforcement News



U.S. Border Patrol Agents Seize More Than \$650,000 in Cash

Sullivan City, TX – On August 21, 2014, U.S. Border Patrol agents from the Rio Grande Valley Sector seized more than \$650,000 in cash. The money was seized when agents were following a trail of footprints left behind by people suspected of being in the country illegally. As they were following the trail, the agents discovered four abandoned backpacks that were full of money. The backpacks contained a mixture of U.S. dollars and Mexican pesos as well as 1.2 kilograms of powdered and crack cocaine. The cocaine has an estimated value of nearly \$90,000. The Rio Grande Valley Sector is part of the South Texas Campaign, which leverages federal, state and local resources to combat transnational criminal organizations.

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



U.S. Border Patrol Agents Arrest Criminal Gang Member

Calexico, CA – On August 22, 2014, U.S. Border Patrol agents from the Calexico Station apprehended a dangerous gang member from the “Surenos 13” criminal street gang. A total of 21 gang members have been arrested in El Centro Sector’s area of operation this fiscal year. Border Patrol agents apprehended 28-year-old Oswaldo Medina-Cisneros, who had illegally entered the United States in the downtown area of Calexico. Agents interviewed Medina and determined he was an active member of the “Surenos 13” criminal street gang. Record checks revealed Medina has an extensive criminal history. Medina is in Border Patrol custody and will be criminally prosecuted for illegal re-entry into the United States after being ordered removed.

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

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