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Vigilance



Integrity



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From left to right - CBP Office of Administration Assistant Commissioner Eugene Schied, Office of Human Resources Management Assistant Commissioner Linda Jacksta, and Office of Field Operations Deputy Assistant Commissioner John Wagner at an April 19 hearing.

CBP On the Hill: Keeping Pace with Trade, Travel, and Security

On April 19, 2016, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Office of Administration Assistant Commissioner Eugene Schied, Office of Human Resources Management Assistant Commissioner Linda Jacksta, and Office of Field Operations Deputy Assistant Commissioner John Wagner testified before the House Homeland Security Committee, Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security for a hearing on “Keeping Pace with Trade, Travel, and Security: How Does CBP Prioritize and Improve Staffing and Infrastructure?” In their [joint written testimony](#), the witnesses discussed how CBP is addressing hiring, resource, and infrastructure challenges to ensure the security and facilitation of [growing volumes of trade and travel](#) at our Nation’s [ports of entry](#) (POE).

CBP’s frontline personnel are our greatest resource. CBP’s Office of Human Resources Management works diligently to recruit, hire, and retain the men and women serving in [frontline positions](#) and has taken several steps to address hiring challenges by establishing a Frontline Hiring Program Management Office and a Frontline Recruitment Command; streamlining processes that reduce the time to hire; and enhancing collaboration with the Department of Defense in hiring transitioning service members. For example, CBP recently piloted several iterations of a “Hiring Hub” concept, which consolidate the interview, [polygraph](#), provisional clearance determination, and employment offer, and have decreased processing time to an average of 160 days, reducing the time-to-hire by over sixty percent.

To reduce overall workload requirements, the Office of Field Operations (OFO) continues to implement its Business Transformation Initiatives, a critical element of OFO’s three-prong [Resource Optimization Strategy](#), which leverage advanced technology and automate forms collection processes to reduce administrative burden, increase security, and reduce border wait times to save an estimated total of 536,000 inspection hours and the equivalent of 453 CBPOs through FY 2017. In addition to traditional funding streams, thanks to the support of Congress, CBP has recently received authority to enter into [partnerships with private sector and government entities](#) to accept reimbursement for additional or enhanced customs, immigration, and agriculture services. The [Reimbursable Services Program](#) (RSP) provides stakeholders and CBP the flexibility to meet situational or future demand for extended or enhanced services to secure and facilitate the flow of trade or travel at participating POEs.

The efficiency of our inspection facilities is also crucial to CBP POE operations. Alongside the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA), CBP’s Office of Administration oversees the repair and modernization of CBP’s inspection facilities at our 167 land border crossings. CBP uses a multi-step process to prioritize modernization investments and, in close coordination with key federal, state, and local stakeholders, we conduct a Strategic Resource Assessment to identify individual needs at each facility.

In addition to the RSP, CBP has received authority to accept donations of real and personal property. This [Donations Acceptance Program](#) (DAP) provides CBP and GSA the opportunity to consider donation proposals and address local POE infrastructure needs that might not otherwise be addressed because CBP and GSA have to prioritize improvement on a nationwide level. The CBP DAP is pleased to announce its new process for accepting and evaluating proposals that are valued at \$3 million or less and are of minimal size, scope and complexity. The Small-Scale Donation Proposal Process is a more streamlined and simplified avenue for stakeholders interested in investing in and expediting small-scale, high impact border infrastructure, technology, and other related improvements. Proposals that qualify as small-scale may be submitted on a year-round basis and are evaluated 60 to 70 percent quicker than proposals submitted during the DAP’s annual cycle for mid to large-scale proposals. The DAP Process Guide and Proposal Template along with CBP and GSA evaluation procedures and criteria are available at cbp.gov/dap.

The facilitation and security of lawful travel and trade is a priority for CBP and we are taking steps, working closely with our stakeholders, Congress, and our Federal partners to increase frontline staffing, streamline our business processes, improve our facilities, and enhance our security and facilitation efforts.

For additional information, please contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.



CBP, ICE Report More than \$1 Billion of Intellectual Property Rights Seizures

On April 15, 2016, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) released their [annual report](#) stating that the total number of products seized containing [Intellectual Property Rights](#) (IPR) infringements increased nearly 25 percent in Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 compared to FY 2014. Additionally, had these products been genuine, the estimated manufacturer's suggested retail price (MSRP) of the seized goods would have been over \$1.35 billion, a ten percent increase in the value of seized goods from the previous fiscal year.

In FY 2015, apparel and accessories, along with watches and jewelry, were the top two product categories for number of IPR violative shipments seized. The People's Republic of China remained the primary source economy for counterfeit and pirated goods seized, accounting for 52 percent of the estimated MSRP value of all IPR seizures.

Tactical interagency collaboration with the [National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center](#) (IPR Center) in FY 2015 resulted in 538 arrests, with 339 indictments, and 357 convictions. CBP and HSI will continue to protect businesses and consumers every day through their aggressive IPR border enforcement program. Theft of intellectual property threatens America's innovation-based economic vitality, business competitiveness, the livelihood of workers, consumer safety, and national security. IPR has been a CBP [Priority Trade Issue](#) since 2007, as it represents a high-risk area that has potential to cause significant harm to the U.S. economy and the health and safety of the American people.

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

CBP Issues Withhold Release Orders on Products Produced by Forced Labor



U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Commissioner R. Gil Kerlikowske recently directed the issuance of two withhold release orders based on reasonable information of use of convict labor. The orders require detention of imported [potassium, potassium hydroxide, and potassium nitrate](#) manufactured or mined by Tangshan

Sunfar Silicon Industries in the People's Republic of China; and imported [soda ash, calcium chloride, caustic soda, and viscose/rayon fiber](#) manufactured or mined by Tangshan Sanyou Group and its subsidiaries in the People's Republic of China.

It is illegal to import into the United States goods, made wholly or in part, with convict labor and/or [forced labor](#) (including forced child labor) and/or indentured labor under penal sanctions. CBP issues withhold release orders when information available reasonably indicates merchandise in violation of 19 U.S.C. § 1307, is, or is likely to be, imported.

The [Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015](#), signed by the President on February 24, 2016, strengthens the capabilities of CBP to exclude goods made with forced labor from U.S. commerce. The new law repeals the "consumptive demand" clause in 19 U.S.C. § 1307, which allowed importation of forced-labor goods, "if the goods were not produced in such quantities in the United States as to meet the consumptive demand of the United States."

Elimination of the consumptive demand loophole increases CBP's ability to safeguard human rights through CBP's authority to address violations, harmonize supply chain standards, and prevent future abuses involving forced labor. CBP is working closely with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and other agencies to enforce the statute and regulations and is also actively engaging with non-governmental organizations, industry stakeholders, and others, to encourage them to come forward with information regarding suspected use of forced labor with respect to U.S.-imported goods.

Under CBP regulations, any person who has reason to believe that merchandise produced by forced labor is being, or is likely to be, imported into the United States may submit detailed information, as required by 19 C.F.R. § 12.42(b), to any port director or the Commissioner of CBP. Instructions on how to submit information are located on the [CBP Website](#).

For additional information, please contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.

CBP Seeks Industry Input on Body Worn, Vehicle Mounted Cameras



On April 7, 2016, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) announced the next step in the Agency's expanded use of cameras by releasing a [Request for Information](#) (RFI). In the RFI, CBP is

soliciting information and recommendations for two camera systems: a Body Worn Camera (BWC) system that can be worn by a CBP agent or officer, and a Vehicle Mounted Camera system that has multi-camera capability and the ability to capture and record audio and video.

With the completion of the [BWC Feasibility Study](#) and subsequent [report](#) on the next steps for the Agency, CBP continues to develop an implementation strategy for all camera technology. This strategy includes the creation of a CBP Camera Working Group; evaluation of camera technology; and creation of all necessary policies and procedures for key issues identified in the BWC feasibility study report. CBP also continues to meet with experts and review resources made available by the U.S. Department of Justice, state and local law enforcement, and non-governmental organizations.

"This solicitation for information on available technology is an important step in CBP's efforts to determine how expanded camera usage can benefit our agency," said Commissioner Kerlikowske. "CBP is committed to this effort and expanded transparency through a number of efforts, including an increased camera infrastructure."

The [President's Fiscal Year 2017 Budget](#) includes \$5 million to be used to develop operational requirements for camera technology, conduct technical evaluations, procure and establish a camera system, and develop our camera policy.

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.