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Letter from the Assistant Commissioner: CBP Canines

1 In honor of the “dog days” of summer, this issue focuses on CBP canines. CBP maintains the largest and most diverse law enforcement canine training program in the country. Dogs help with nearly every part of CBP’s mission: preventing terrorists and their weapons from entering the country, detecting dangerous narcotics that harm our communities and agricultural pests that threaten our food supply, and rescuing individuals lost in the dangerous terrain of our borders. We appreciate the support that makes these canine programs possible. –Bradley Hayes, acting assistant commissioner

A Guide to CBP Canine Disciplines

CBP canine teams provide reliable and mobile detection capabilities and are a visible deterrent against criminal and terrorist threats. Here are the many ways canines help CBP carry out its missions.

Concealed Human and Narcotic Detection

Canines are taught to detect concealed humans and the odors of controlled substances, including marijuana, cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, hashish, and ecstasy. Both the officer/agent and the canine are taught proper search sequences when searching private and commercial conveyances, freight, luggage, mail, and premises.



Currency/Firearms Detection

Canines are taught to detect concealed U.S. currency and firearms. Both the officer/agent and canine are taught the proper search sequences when searching vehicles, aircraft, freight, luggage, mail, passengers and premises.



Search and Rescue

Search and rescues canine teams are trained in three disciplines: obedience, tracking/trailing, and large area search. The student candidates hone their land navigation skills during the training of the large area search. The canine teams are introduced to and receive training in rappelling for helicopter operations, backtracking, and deployments in harsh environments, including snow, desert, forest, and mountains.

Tracking/Trailing

An outgrowth of human detection training, this course involves the handler and canine being taught to follow the route of a person or persons. This discipline is used in the apprehension of persons and as an evidence-gathering tool during criminal investigations, and is operations-specific.

Special Response (Patrol)

The Special Response (Patrol) Canine Program addresses several issues, including post-9/11 response in support of the war on terror and increasing levels of violence along the border; an increase in assaults against border agents and illegal aliens; and improved operational effectiveness and officer safety. The special response canine trained in human detection/tracking and the physical apprehension of violent subjects is singularly suited for this need.



Human Remains Detection/Cadaver

In addition to search-and-rescue, canines are trained to locate the remains of persons who have died in remote, barren areas due to exhaustion, exposure and dehydration. This skill is also used in missing person and suspicious death investigations.

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.

Beagle Brigade at ATL Intercepts Giant African Snails

In June, CBP agriculture specialists working at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL) discovered two Giant African snails in a traveler's luggage after arriving on a flight from Nigeria. Candie and Chipper, members of the CBP "Beagle Brigade" on duty at ATL, alerted to a traveler's checked bags at the international arrival baggage claim area. During further inspection, a CBP agriculture specialist found the live Giant African snails inside a suitcase. The beagles also found prohibited fruits and vegetables.

On a typical day nationally, CBP agriculture specialists inspect more than one million people, as well as air, land, and sea cargo imported to the United States, and intercept 4,552 prohibited meat, plant materials, or animal products, including 319 agriculture pests and diseases. For more information, contact the Office of Congressional Affairs or visit CBP.gov.



Agents Seize Meth, Arrest Six in Remote Area East of Lukeville

U.S. Border Patrol agents, a Border Patrol canine, and a CBP Air and Marine Operations helicopter crew arrested six drug smugglers and seized several packages of meth on July 31, approximately 30 miles east of Lukeville.

Using detection technology, agents briefly spotted the group walking northbound from the border in an area well-known to agents as a drug smuggling corridor. Agents began to track footprints, which led them to several backpacks laying in the dirt. Meanwhile, the helicopter crew began searching the area and spotted several individuals attempting to hide in brush nearby.

Agents arrested four Guatemalans, one Ecuadorian, and one Mexican national. The backpacks contained over 25 pounds of meth. It is becoming more common for smugglers to backpack hard narcotics through remote parts of the desert on routes historically used for marijuana trafficking.

The men and drugs were turned over to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Homeland Security Investigations. For more information, contact the Office of Congressional Affairs or visit CBP.gov.

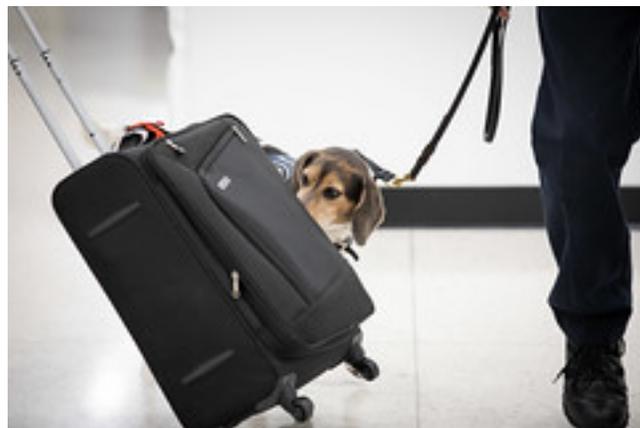
Border Patrol K9 Team Apprehends Four Illegal Aliens in Vermont

On May 27, U.S. Border Patrol agents from the Swanton Sector apprehended four illegal aliens attempting to hide in a wooded area near Rainville Road in Highgate, Vermont. Agents responded to the area and deployed a Border Patrol canine team, which quickly located the group. Three individuals were apprehended approximately 200 yards from the main road, attempting to conceal themselves under brush. A fourth person fled the scene and was apprehended following a short foot pursuit. The four people are citizens of Mexico without immigration documentation allowing them to enter or remain in the United States illegally.

"Border Patrol canines are trained to detect persons attempting to conceal themselves," said Patrol Agent in Charge Matt Sherman. "The quick response of the Border Patrol agents and the Border Patrol canine team led to the apprehension of four individuals illegally trying to enter the United States." For more information, contact the Office of Congressional Affairs or visit CBP.gov.



Dulles CBP Seizes Nearly \$28k in Unreported Currency from Ghana-Bound Travelers



In May, a CBP currency detector dog alert resulted in the seizure of unreported currency from Ghana-bound travelers at Washington Dulles International Airport.

The currency K9 alerted to one passenger's carry-on bag. She reported to CBP officers that she possessed \$8,000. Officers discovered \$11,500 in her carry-on.

The woman then admitted to traveling with four additional passengers. She allegedly reported that her travel companions were carrying currency for her, which is known as structuring, to avoid exceeding the \$10,000 reporting threshold. Structuring is a serious allegation that may result in federal prosecution. However, no charges have been filed at this time.

CBP officers had the four additional travelers and their baggage pulled from the flight for further inspection. Officers discovered an additional \$16,354 of the first woman's currency among three of her four travel companions. Officers seized a total of \$27,854 and provided the woman \$154 as humanitarian relief. Officers released all five travelers.

It is perfectly legal to carry large sums of currency in or out of the United States. However, federal law requires that travelers who possess \$10,000 or more in currency or other monetary instruments must report it all to a CBP officer at the airport, seaport, or land border crossing when entering or leaving the country. For more information, contact the Office of Congressional Affairs or visit CBP.gov.

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