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Vigilance
★
Integrity
★
Service to Country

Letter from the Acting Assistant Commissioner

I'm Bradley Hayes, acting assistant commissioner for CBP's Office of Congressional Affairs. The 2019 hurricane season began last month, which made me reflect on CBP's unprecedented hurricane recovery efforts after the devastating storms in 2017. In the aftermath of Hurricane Maria, CBP flew supplies to Puerto Rico, performed wellness checks, and helped the community by assisting with the distribution of food and water. (You can read the full story in our [Frontline magazine](#).) Humanitarian efforts are a large part of our mission—whether it's preparing to respond to disasters, saving lost hikers, or performing CPR on migrants in distress. I hope you enjoy this issue of CBP Access, which puts our humanitarian efforts in the spotlight.



Border Patrol Agents Revive Drowned Teen

On June 25, Border Patrol agents performing maritime operations on the Rio Grande River observed two individuals struggling to stay afloat near the Eagle Pass port of entry. As agents came to assist, they saw a third person a short distance downstream, submerged beneath the surface and unmoving. Agents moved closer and pulled the lifeless teen aboard their vessel. The 13-year-old male was unconscious and not breathing, and had been underwater for more than a full minute.

The vessel commander quickly performed CPR, assisted by the vessel's crew. Through the agents' efforts, the teen eventually coughed up water, began breathing on his own, and regained consciousness. The two other people, later determined to be the rescued teen's parents, were all brought safely to the U.S. shore. Learn more at [CBP.gov](#), or contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.

CBP Hosts 2019 CBP Region IV All Hazards Preparedness Event in Miami



Senior CBP leaders from across the United States joined dozens of law enforcement personnel, emergency management professionals and practitioners from across the region for the 2019 CBP Region IV All Hazards Preparedness workshop this week ahead of this year's hurricane season.

The two-day CBP Region IV All Hazards Preparedness event emphasized emergency management procedures and included strategic breakout discussions related to incident management efforts.

CBP officers and agents join local, state, and federal partners during natural disasters and subsequent recovery efforts in maintaining an emergency operations center—supporting search and rescue services, recovery assessments, security, and relief efforts.

CBP identifies 10 Lead Field Coordinators who are geographically dispersed nationwide and fall within the 10 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regions. CBP Region IV provides communications and coordination for all assets in Region IV which includes Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, the Caribbean, Puerto Rico and the U.S Virgin Islands during major disasters and national emergencies.

CBP remains in constant communication with travel and trade stakeholders during emergencies and conducts travel and trade facilitation operations as long as it is safe to do so.

CBP's Air and Marine Operations (AMO) aircrews from the Miami Air and Marine Branch, Jacksonville Air and Marine Branch and National Air Security Operations Center – Jacksonville have deployed for a number of complex response and recovery efforts following destructive hurricanes over the last few years in Puerto Rico, Florida, Texas and the Carolinas. Air and Marine Operations transports vital supplies during humanitarian flights and actively supports relief operations and assessments.

Learn more at [CBP.gov](#), 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.

Border Patrol Agents Rescue Two Men with Special Needs

Members of the Del Rio Border Patrol Sector Search, Trauma, and Rescue (BORSTAR) team rescued two undocumented immigrants with physical limitations in Eagle Pass, Texas. "Smuggling organizations have little concern for the wellbeing of innocent individuals and show no remorse," said Del Rio Sector Chief Patrol Agent Raul L. Ortiz. "I commend our agents for acting swiftly during this emotionally charged situation."

On May 30, agents from the Del Rio Sector BORSTAR team observed a group of 12 undocumented immigrants cross the Rio Grande River in Eagle Pass. Agents saw one individual, a double amputee with one arm and one leg, being carried by smugglers to the bank of the river and thrown into the water. Once in the river, the individual struggled to stay afloat. The BORSTAR team swiftly responded and swam out to save the drowning victim.

As the man was safely being taken to the U.S. river bank, agents inland observed another individual, a paraplegic man, being carried to and thrown into the river in the same vicinity as the first individual. The paraplegic man immediately began to drown. Agents in the water quickly swam to the location of the second individual while agents on the ground were able to jump in the water and successfully recover the first individual. Fighting the strong river current, agents were able to effectively reach the paraplegic man and safely bring him to the U.S. river bank.

The two individuals, both Honduran nationals, were offered medical attention but refused. Both individuals were transported to the Eagle Pass South Station and processed in accordance with CBP guidelines which includes suitable placement. Learn more at CBP.gov, or contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.



U.S. Border Patrol in the Rio Grande Valley Sector Continues to Take Measures During Current Humanitarian and Border Security Crisis

U.S. Border Patrol Stations and the Centralized Processing Center, to include the Donna Temporary Facility, are holding an average of 8,000 illegal aliens in recent days, a result of waves of migrants fleeing El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.

Despite the addition of a soft-sided temporary facility constructed in Donna, Texas, the sheer number of illegal aliens crossing through the Rio Grande Valley has reached record levels, straining the sector's capacity to process individuals. In order to create more capacity, agents and other personnel tasked to patrol the border have been re-assigned to construct four temporary structures at both the McAllen and Rio Grande City Border Patrol stations in

order to provide additional shelter for individuals awaiting their turn to be processed. These additional structures, which are equipped with generators, lighting and HVAC systems, expand the sector's processing capacity.

At the Centralized Processing Center, individuals receive new clothing and shoes in addition to food and medical care. Costs to maintain and accommodate the needs of those in custody have reached the tens of thousands of dollars per day. Members of the DHS Surge Capacity Force, which is comprised of civilian employees along with the Coast Guard, Federal Protective Service, Office of Field Operations and Department of Defense (DOD) personnel from throughout the nation, are assisting the sector in transporting migrants; providing administrative support, meal distribution and monitoring the welfare of individuals in CBP custody, however; DOD personnel are not conducting law enforcement actions. Learn more at CBP.gov, or contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.

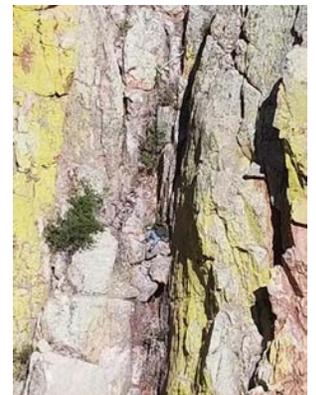
Multi-Agency Rescue Required to Save Man from Patagonia Mountain Cliff

On May 23, Border Patrol agents from the Sonoita Station in Arizona were notified of a 911 distress call from a man stranded on a cliff in a remote area of the Patagonia Mountains.

Agents searched for the man, who was found precariously perched on a steep cliff. Due to the dangerous location of the Mexican national, Border Patrol's elite Search Trauma and Rescue Team was called in to coordinate the extraction.

Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) Ranger and CBP Air and Marine Operations helicopter crews called to survey the area for an extraction path had to postpone the rescue operations until a second DPS helicopter equipped with a specialized hoisting mechanism arrived.

Through a hoisted extraction, the man was brought down to safety into the custody of medically trained Border Patrol agents. The 32 year-old man was found in good health condition and transported to the Sonoita Station for further processing. Learn more at CBP.gov, or contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.



Border Patrol Agents Reunite 1-Year-Old With Mother in Mexico



On June 10, Border Patrol agents from the Eagle Pass Station apprehended a group of illegal aliens, including a 1-year-old boy and his uncle, shortly after they crossed the Rio Grande River into the United States. During processing, agents discovered that the uncle and the child were separated from the child's mother while crossing the river. The mother, a Honduran national, was in the custody of Mexican immigration officials in Piedras Negras, Mexico. Border Patrol agents coordinated with Mexican immigration officials and reunited the boy with his mother in Mexico.

"Unaccompanied children present a unique challenge for the Border Patrol," said Del Rio Sector Chief Patrol Agent Raul L. Ortiz. "In this case we were able to work with Mexican immigration officials to reunite this child with his mother." Learn more at CBP.gov, or contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.

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