

**Commercial Customs Operations Advisory
Committee (COAC)
Rapid Response Subcommittee**

May, 2019

COAC

COMMERCIAL CUSTOMS OPERATIONS
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Commercial Customs Operations Advisory Committee (COAC)
May 2019**

**Report of the Work of the COAC
Subcommittee on Rapid Response (RR)**

Co-Chairs

**Brenda Barnes – Geo. S. Bush & Co., Inc
Brian White – The J.M. Smucker Company
Kathy Wilkins – Alliance Operating Services**

Rapid Response Subcommittee Members:

Cindy Allen, Brenda Barnes, Barry Baxter, Celeste Catano, Lenny Feldman, Lisa Gelsomino, Warren Hastings, Amy Magnus, Madeleine Veigel, Brian White, Kathy Wilkins.

Background

As a new subcommittee in the 15th term, the COAC Rapid Response subcommittee was formed to work with CBP to formulate new topics and ideas to be discussed and address emerging issues. There are several issues that the RR subcommittee would like to focus on in 2019 including USMCA, the tariff challenges with Section 232, 201 and 301 and the exclusion/exemption processes and other developing topics.

All subcommittee objectives and scope are consistent with the official charter of COAC.

Summary of Work

The Rapid Response Sub-Committee has the responsibility of looking at opportunities to enhance the trade and government processes, policies and programs, enabling the trade and CBP to be better positioned for the future. Our Sub-Committee currently consists of two working groups. Each have identified substantial tasks over the last few months and continue to work on recommendations.

- **21st Century Customs Framework (21st CCF) Working Group:** Initial kick-off meeting was held on April 23, 2019. Adam Blank, CBP OT/Acting Director provided a comprehensive overview of the status of the 21st CCF program and how the public comments were recognized and used to modify the original 6 pillars down to 5. CBP also shared that COAC will help to fine-tune the objectives.
 - Meeting was held on April 29, 2019 to further drill down the underlying objectives of the 5 pillars and receive feedback from COAC. Initial CBP focus on Pillars 1 and 3, with additional information on Pillars 2 and 4 at a later date.
 - Additional meeting was held on May 10, 2019 for COAC to provide comments and ask additional questions for clarification of the 5 pillars.

- The RR subcommittee provided written comments on the 5 pillars regarding objectives and any suggestions for missing items to CBP on May 14, 2019.
- **Northern Triangle Working Group:** The COAC Statement of Work (SOW) for this working group was circulated by CBP on May 14, 2019 and the kick-off call was held May 15, 2019. CBP and COAC leads provided an overview of the working group's objectives, deliverables and anticipated work. The SOW was provided to all working group members for feedback. This working group will be soliciting input from members and cataloging challenges and opportunities businesses encounter while conducting business in the Northern Triangle countries relating to customs, trade and other non-tariff barriers. Several follow-up calls are planned to advance the work.

Conclusion

The Rapid Response Subcommittee has formed two new Working Groups for two very important topics facing CBP and the trade community. The 21st CCF program is a large and extensive representation of topics that COAC can work with CBP to modernize the future of the trade environment. The COAC appreciate the opportunity to provide input and support the program as well as continued coordination and collaboration with CBP and its partner departments and agencies.

While the Northern Triangle Working Group is just beginning to evolve, the RR Working Group is very excited about the opportunities the important group will encounter.