

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

December 4, 2019



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**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**

The COAC Rapid Response Subcommittee was established October 2018, following the restructuring of COAC Subcommittees and underlying Working Groups to better align with CBP's Trade Strategy 2020. This strategy focuses on four areas aimed at modernizing import/export processes, improving trade intelligence, and maximizing efficiencies.

The Rapid Response Subcommittee is an agile assembly of COAC members used to formulate new topics and address emerging issues. This Subcommittee partners with COAC members, trade and CBP to solicit input on active issues and/or emerging concerns that need to be addressed. Concerns raised and acted on by the Rapid Response Subcommittee are expected to be addressed in between the quarterly meetings when possible to ensure the group remains agile and effective. Any issues that require long term research and/or support for implementation would be brought to the COAC to determine whether the work should be added to an existing work group or a new working group should be established.

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

**Summary of Work**

The Rapid Response Subcommittee 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 one Continuing Broker Education Task Force. The Northern Triangle Working Group is on hiatus while the recommendations submitted in August are under consideration.

**Continuing Broker Education Task Force:** The Continuing Broker Education Task Force held a two day in person meeting in Washington, D.C. November 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> which was attended by approximately 20 individuals from the trade and government. The consensus of the Task Force is that the degree of ongoing change within the trade environment has created a higher

level of receptivity and support for mandatory continuing education. The Task Force worked through several open questions that had been put together in advance of the session. There was good discussion on the feasibility and value of the initiative. The Task Force considered issues including: accreditation approach; method and types of content which would be included; as well as compliance and connection with Triennial report. Several areas were identified where a knowledge gap is still existing and plans to further research were discussed. The Task Force expressed the importance of outreach within the sector and jointly discussed potential approaches. The Task Force is preparing another in-person meeting March 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> in Anaheim, CA, and will continue meeting via web conference between now and then.

### **Conclusion**

The Rapid Response Subcommittee looks forward to continued collaboration with CBP on the Continuing Broker Education Task Force objectives. Additionally, we stand ready to support CBP and their partnering government agencies to develop solutions that can address emerging issues.