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CBP Hosts Trade Advisory Committee



On May 22, 2013, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Acting Commissioner Thomas S. Winkowski began the meeting of the Advisory Committee on Commercial Operations of Customs and Border Protection, otherwise known as COAC, with words of dedication and encouragement. "We've got a very aggressive, important agenda and we're staying the course," said Winkowski, who co-chaired the meeting for the first time in his new, official capacity.

COAC, a 20-member advisory committee established by Congress in 1987, provides advice and recommendations to CBP and the Department of the Treasury on the commercial operations of CBP and trade-related interdepartmental functions. Some of the issues that COAC focuses on include enhanced border and supply chain security, international efforts to harmonize customs practices and procedures, import safety, compliance, and modernization, and automation processes used to facilitate trade.

Reducing costs is a key factor, said Winkowski. "If we're going to be successful, if we're going to be competitive around the globe, then we have to do things faster, we have to be more cost effective," he said. Winkowski cited the recent automation of the I-94 form, a process that is expected to yield a savings of \$18 million a year, as an excellent example.

The committee also discussed the Air Cargo Advance Screening pilot program, known as ACAS. The pilot, a joint effort with CBP, the Transportation Security Administration, and the air cargo community, has been recognized for its unparalleled success. "From the industry side, we see a key factor of its success being the practicality in which the program was planned and constructed," said Elizabeth Shaver, a COAC member who is the director of cargo services for Airlines for America. "As we move ACAS from a pilot into the regulatory period, a key goal with industry is to maintain the program's successful foundation as much as possible."

For more information on the May 22, 2013 COAC meeting, please visit the [CBP Website](#) or contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.

CBP to Open the Final Three Centers of Excellence and Expertise



On June 3, 2013, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) announced a milestone in our trade transformation efforts with the opening of the final three Centers of Excellence and Expertise (CEE): Agriculture & Prepared Products in Miami, FL; Apparel, Footwear & Textiles in San Francisco, CA; and Consumer Products & Mass Merchandising in Atlanta, GA. These final CEEs, created through extensive collaboration between industry stakeholders and CBP, will bring the total number to ten. The CEEs virtually connect CBP personnel around the country by leveraging new technologies and develop comprehensive strategies to better facilitate trade and improve coordination with partner government agencies.

"The Centers of Excellence and Expertise represent a significant step in transforming how CBP processes trade," said Acting Commissioner Thomas S. Winkowski. "Industry-focused and account-based CEEs allow CBP to segment risk within an industry, while enhancing our overall facilitation and enforcement efforts. With ten fully operational CEEs, we now cover a wide range of imported commodities."

The other seven Centers are Automotive & Aerospace in Detroit, MI; Base Metals in Chicago, IL; Electronics in Los Angeles, CA; Industrial & Manufacturing Materials in Buffalo, NY; Machinery in Laredo, TX; Petroleum, Natural Gas & Minerals in Houston, TX; and Pharmaceuticals, Health & Chemicals in New York, NY.

For more information on the CEEs, 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.



Global Entry On-Site Enrollment Opportunity Exclusively for Congress

On July 24, 2013, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) will host a Global Entry Mobile Enrollment Event on the Hill exclusively for Members of Congress and their staff. Global Entry is a CBP Trusted Traveler Program that allows expedited clearance for pre-approved, low-risk travelers upon arrival in the United States.

Due to the volume of applications and necessary vetting time for this event, CBP will be unable to accommodate RSVPs or applications submitted after June 21, 2013. Appointments will be limited; RSVPs will be confirmed in the order in which they are received.

Please contact the Office of Congressional Affairs at OCAInquiry@cbp.dhs.gov or 202-344-1760 for more information.

New DC Enrollment Center: Unable to attend this event? CBP recently opened a new Global Entry enrollment center in Washington, DC. The center is located in the Ronald Reagan Building at 1300 Pennsylvania Ave NW. For more information, please visit the [CBP Website](#) or contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.



IPR Center Open House

June 20, 2013, 1:30-3:30 p.m.
2451 Crystal Dr., 1st Floor Auditorium
Arlington, Virginia 22202

On June 20, 2013, the National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center (IPR Center) will host an Open House. The event presents a unique opportunity to meet the Center's growing team and participating government agencies, including U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), involved in the fight against intellectual property theft and trade fraud. The IPR Center uses the expertise of its 21 partner agencies to share information, develop initiatives, coordinate enforcement actions, and conduct investigations related to intellectual property theft and commercial trade fraud.

Space is limited. To RSVP send your name and congressional office or committee to IPRCenterOutreach@dhs.gov. Please contact the CBP Office of Congressional Affairs with any questions.

CBP Disrupts \$500 Million in Cocaine Smuggling Attempts



Over the Memorial Day weekend, U.S. Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) Office of Air and Marine (OAM) P-3 air surveillance crew, operating out of the National Air Security Operations Center in Jacksonville, FL, interrupted smugglers moving nearly 7,000 pounds of cocaine.

On May 24, 2013, a CBP P-3 crew operating in the Eastern Pacific detected a 30-foot speedboat north of the Galapagos Islands. Realizing they had been spotted, the speedboat crew began dumping packages of cocaine over the side. The CBP P-3 crew vectored a law enforcement helicopter to intercept the vessel. The joint effort denied criminal organizations more than \$82 million dollars from cocaine proceeds.

The following day, a CBP P-3 crew operating in the Western Caribbean detected a three-engine speedboat moving at high speed near the Panamanian and Colombian border. The CBP crew directed Panamanian Law Enforcement vessels to intercept the speedboat, apprehend the individuals, and seize more than 6,000 pounds of cocaine, valued at more than \$445 million.

CBP OAM P-3s have been an integral part of the successful counter-narcotic missions operating in coordination with the Joint Interagency Task Force-South (JIATFS). The P-3s patrol a 42 million square mile area of the Western Caribbean and Eastern Pacific, known as the Source and Transit Zone, in search of drugs that are in transit towards U.S. shores. During fiscal year 2012, the CBP P-3 fleet seized or disrupted more than 117,765 pounds of cocaine valued at more than \$8.8 billion, totaling 21.1 pounds seized for every flight hour, valued at \$1.5 million for every hour flown. Please visit the [CBP Newsroom](#) for the full story.

CBP Enforcement News



Border Patrol Agents Halt Human Smuggling Attempts

Laredo, TX - On June 6 and June 9, 2013, Border Patrol agents rescued 84 undocumented immigrants in three separate human smuggling attempts. On June 6, a service canine alerted Border Patrol agents assigned to the IH-35 Checkpoint to the presence of 35 undocumented immigrants in an unventilated cargo area of a tractor-trailer. On June 9, agents intercepted 30 more individuals under similar conditions. Also on June 9, Border Patrol agents assigned to the Freer Station received an assistance call from the Live Oaks County Sheriff's Department. A total of 18 illegal aliens were found inside a U-Haul truck and turned over to Border Patrol agents.

— Visit the [CBP Newsroom](#) for the full story.



CBP Officers Seize More Than \$1.6 Million in Unreported Funds

Nogales, AZ – On June 9, 2013, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers conducting inspections at the Dennis DeConcini port of entry referred a 56 year-old Mexican man for further inspection. A CBP canine trained to detect currency alerted during the search of the suspect's truck where officers located numerous packages of unreported funds hidden in the dashboard and inside the roof compartment. The vehicle and cash, totaling more than \$1,660,000, were processed for seizure.

— Visit the [CBP Newsroom](#) for the full story.

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