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Office of Congressional Affairs
202.344.1760

Michael J. Yeager,
Assistant Commissioner

Kim M. Lowry,
Deputy Assistant Commissioner

Branch Chiefs

Laura Cylke
– Budget & Appropriations

Angie LaTour
– Strategic Planning & Outreach

Stephanie Talton
– Border, Air & Marine Operations
– Field Operations & Intelligence

Chase Wollenhaupt
– Trade & Agriculture



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Trade Advisory Committee Focuses on ACE, ACAS and the Export Process



CBP Acting Commissioner Thomas Winkowski speaks at the August 7 quarterly meeting of the COAC.

During the August 7, 2013, meeting of the Advisory Committee on Commercial Operations (COAC), U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) presented updates and received valuable feedback from trade stakeholders on a variety of trade facilitation, antidumping enforcement and modernization issues.

“A tremendous amount of work has been done by the COAC subcommittees and the working groups this past quarter,” said CBP Acting Commissioner Thomas S. Winkowski, who co-chaired the proceedings with Timothy Skud, the deputy assistant secretary of tax, trade, and tariff policy for the U.S. Department of the Treasury. COAC is a 20-member advisory committee that Congress established in 1987. The committee provides advice and recommendations to CBP and the Department of the Treasury on the commercial operations of CBP and trade-related interdepartmental functions.

Key highlights of the meeting include:

- CBP’s announcement of a three-year deployment schedule for the completion of the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) with firm dates for mandatory use of ACE.
- The COAC’s feedback on the ongoing improvement of the Air Cargo Advanced Screening (ACAS) program and recommendations to develop program rules that accommodate various business models.
- A COAC subcommittee’s detailed analysis and recommendations on how to improve and modernize the export process.

Additional topics also included the development of e-bonds, encouraging enforcement and prosecution of anti-dumping/countervailing duty cases, and ongoing work toward mutual recognition of trusted trader programs with foreign governments, including Canada, Mexico and Israel.

For additional information on the August 7 COAC meeting, please visit the [CBP Website](#) or contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.

CBP, German Customs Collaborate on Pharmaceutical Seizure



On August 12, 2013, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) announced that it seized 20,000 Zolpidem pills, a schedule IV controlled substance, thanks to a collaborative enforcement effort with the German Customs Investigations Bureau *Zollkriminalamt*.

“Timely information from *Zollkriminalamt* and excellent targeting and coordination efforts by CBP’s Pharmaceuticals Center of Excellence and Expertise (CEE) resulted in this significant interception, keeping these harmful pills off of our streets,” said Robert E. Perez, Director of Field Operations in New York.

Acting on information provided by the *Zollkriminalamt*, CBP’s Pharmaceutical CEE targeted several shipments, and CBP officers at the San Francisco International Mail Facility intercepted numerous parcels originating in India that had transited Germany. Upon examination of the suspect parcels, CBP personnel discovered that the 10 parcels contained 20,000 Zolpidem pills, a Schedule IV controlled substance, and seized the pills.

This enforcement action follows another collaborative effort in March between CBP and French Customs Fake Medicine Observatory when CBP seized 400 Carisoprodol pills, another schedule IV controlled substance.

As these seizures illustrate, CBP collaborates with its international partners to intercept merchandise that infringes on registered trademarks, is made of substandard materials, or contains prohibited substances that may present a threat to public safety.

The Pharmaceutical, Health and Chemicals CEE is one of 10 virtual centers that provide one-stop processing to lower the trade’s cost of business, provide greater consistency and predictability and enhance CBP enforcement efforts. The Centers represent CBP’s expanded focus on “Trade in the 21st Century,” transforming customs procedures to align with modern business. The CEEs will also serve as resources to the broader trade community and to CBP’s U.S. government partners.

For additional information, 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.

CBP, Chicago Department of Aviation Launch Self-Service Kiosks at O'Hare Airport



On August 15, 2013, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the Chicago Department of Aviation announced that Automated Passport Control (APC) is now available for U.S. citizens at O'Hare International Airport. This new technology will allow travelers to scan their own passport, complete their Customs declaration, and confirm travel information using a self-service kiosk

before reaching the CBP officer to complete the inspection.

"To remain competitive in the global economy, we must continue to optimize our resources and realize efficiencies at our nation's international airports," said CBP Acting Deputy Commissioner Kevin K. McAleenan. "Thanks to the City of Chicago, automated passenger processing at International Terminal 5 will not only improve security, it will benefit travelers, the travel industry and ultimately the nation's economy."

During the short time the kiosks have been in place at Chicago O'Hare, CBP has seen a 40 percent decrease in wait times for U.S. citizens with more than 60 percent of eligible travelers using the kiosks.

APC is a key component of CBP's overall Resource Optimization Strategy. The APC system was initially developed by Vancouver Airport Authority and CBP. Vancouver Airport Authority partnered with the Chicago Department of Aviation to provide software technology and self-service kiosks to O'Hare International Airport.

For additional information, please visit the [CBP Website](#) or Contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.

Global Entry Eligibility Expanded to Germany, Qatar, Republic of Korea, and United Kingdom



On August 9, 2013, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) published a Federal Register notice officially expanding eligibility for participation in Global Entry to citizens from the Republic of Korea,

Germany, Qatar, and the United Kingdom. Citizens participating in Korea's Smart Entry System (SES), Germany's Automated and Biometrics-Supported Border Controls (ABG) Plus, and select Qatar and United Kingdom citizens may be able to receive Global Entry benefits.

Global Entry kiosks are available at 34 U.S. airports and 10 CBP preclearance locations in Ireland and Canada, serving 98 percent of all incoming air travelers. In order to become a member of Global Entry, interested individuals must fill out an online application, pay the \$100 application fee, undergo a background investigation and complete an interview with a CBP officer at a Trusted Traveler enrollment center which includes submission of fingerprints. Upon approval, membership is valid for five years.

CBP recognizes the importance of international travel to our national economy. Facilitating legitimate international travelers as quickly as possible, while maintaining the highest standards of security, is critical to the CBP border security mission and vital to the economic strength of our nation. Global Entry allows pre-approved, low-risk travelers the ability to bypass traditional CBP screening and use an automated kiosk to complete their entry into the U.S. upon arrival.

For additional information, please visit the [CBP Website](#) or Contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.

CBP Enforcement News



Border Patrol Agents Nab Smugglers, Confiscate \$3.1 Million in Marijuana

Tucson, AZ – On August 21, 2013, Tucson Sector Border Patrol agents seized more than 6,100 pounds of marijuana worth an estimated \$3.1 million. Douglas Station agents, in collaboration with Hedglin Forward Operation Base agents, responded to reports of suspected narcotics smuggling and encountered two occupants fleeing from a vehicle. The vehicle contained 1,554 pounds of marijuana. A short time later, agents from the Nogales Station observed a van driving away from the International Boundary. Responding agents discovered the vehicle abandoned a short distance from the border. The van contained over 4,600 pounds of marijuana.

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



CBP Officers Seize Almost 3,000 Pounds of Marijuana Concealed in Shipment of Hay

Calexico, CA – On August 16, 2013, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers at the Calexico East cargo facility intercepted almost 3,000 pounds of marijuana worth a million dollars hidden in a shipment of alfalfa. After encountering a tractor-trailer with a commercial shipment of alfalfa, CBP officers utilized the port's imaging system and detected anomalies in the cargo. A canine team screened the conveyance and the detector dog alerted to the bales of alfalfa inside the trailer. Officers subsequently discovered marijuana concealed inside the bales.

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



CBP Agriculture Specialists Seize Prohibited Live Bird Concealed Inside a Woman's Handbag

San Diego, CA – On August 10, 2013, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agriculture specialists at the Otay Mesa port of entry seized a live bird, and assessed penalties to the traveler who failed to declare the prohibited agricultural item. CBP agriculture specialists discovered the live half-moon conure bird concealed inside a woman's handbag. The bird was seized by CBP and transferred to the custody of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Veterinary Services for proper handling and quarantine. The half-moon conure population, native to western Mexico, has decreased in many areas due to illegal or unrestricted trade.

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

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