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CBP Raises the Stakes in South Texas



An integrated team composed of South Texas Campaign partners (HSI, DEA, and CBP) prepares to conduct a targeted enforcement action.

The latest issue of U.S. Customs and Border Protection’s (CBP) *Frontline Magazine* highlights the coordinated efforts of the South Texas Campaign (STC) to disrupt transnational criminal organizations and degrade their ability to ply their illicit trade in South Texas.

“Historically, we have deployed our resources based on flow and we have totally changed our philosophy on that. We now deploy our resources based on threat and risk,” said CBP Commander Robert L. Harris, who leads the STC.

The STC is focused on outcomes, such as apprehensions of key corridor targets, prosecutions, and convictions of major smuggling organization members. These actions disrupt and degrade the ability of the campaign’s principal targets to operate and have more lasting impact than everyday outputs such as seizures or apprehensions.

“We’re not chasing the flow,” said Frank Longoria, acting assistant commander of planning for the STC, “we’re chasing who controls the flow.”

The campaign has multiple ongoing operations in the South Texas corridor that target illegal alien and narcotics smuggling, human trafficking for slavery or prostitution, as well as southbound smuggling of weapons and unreported currency.

The campaign employs a unified command concept, which includes close coordination with leadership from CBP, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement-Homeland Security Investigations, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Drug Enforcement Administration. Agency leaders receive and deliver briefings regarding ongoing STC operations and reach consensus regarding campaign targets. CBP also works closely with state and local law enforcement partners and its Mexican counterparts on the intelligence that drives the STC’s enforcement operations.

The full article is available in the Winter 2013 (Volume 6, Issue 3) issue of *Frontline* on the [CBP Website](#). For more information, please contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.



Special response agents and officers depart to serve a high-risk warrant.

Phase I of Cargo Pre-inspection Pilot Concludes



U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), in partnership with Canada Border Services Agency and Public Safety Canada, concluded a five-month pilot test of cargo pre-inspection, and deemed the concept feasible. The truck cargo pre-inspection pilot began on June 18, 2013 at the Pacific Highway

crossing adjacent to Surrey, British Columbia. The project was coordinated under the “Beyond the Border: A Shared Vision for Perimeter Security and Economic Competitiveness” initiative.

Phase I of the initiative was designed to determine the feasibility of placing CBP officers on Canadian soil, including the feasibility of using certain technologies and jointly developed procedures, to pre-inspect selected southbound trucks, drivers and cargo prior to arrival into the United States. Eligible participants were enrolled members of CBP’s Free and Secure Trade (FAST) program. FAST-eligible trucks entering the United States had the opportunity to use a dedicated pre-inspection commercial primary booth located on the Canadian side of the border. Secondary inspections, when required, were conducted in the U.S. port of entry.

Phase II of the pilot will be conducted at the Peace Bridge Crossing in Buffalo, NY, adjacent to Fort Erie, Ontario, and will begin in January 2014 for up to one year. Phase II will test the ability of the pre-inspection process to reduce wait times and border congestion—streamlining the flow of cross-border trade that is vital to both country’s economies.

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:

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Please visit CBP’s [Congressional Resources](#) webpage for Frequently Asked Questions, News and Events, and other CBP Resources.



CBP Receives Light Enforcement Helicopters

On December 23, 2013, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Office of Air and Marine (OAM) announced it will take delivery of its last American Eurocopter AS-350 Light Enforcement Helicopter under the current contract. This delivery makes 84 such helicopters in OAM's fleet and provides the agency with improved capabilities as it retires the MD-500, MD-600 and OH-6 helicopters.

"The AS-350 is the workhorse aircraft and fulfills a unique role for CBP by combining the small size and flexibility of a light enforcement helicopter with the mission capability of a larger aircraft," said OAM Assistant Commissioner Randolph D. Alles. "The integrated day-night camera, mapping, and lighting systems allow OAM agents to more effectively monitor targets and perform support missions for federal, state, and local partners. The addition of these aircraft into the OAM fleet equips our agents with the most mission-effective, state-of-the-art, light enforcement helicopters available today."

Since December 2008, CBP has received 38 AS-350 Light Enforcement Helicopters – almost doubling the number of AS-350 helicopters in the OAM fleet. The aircraft blends power, performance, specialized cameras, and video downlink capabilities to make the AS-350 one of the most flexible and capable air assets supporting CBP and OAM missions. With the delivery of the final aircraft in the 5-year contract, OAM completes the largest single procurement of assets to date and continues to advance its law enforcement capabilities through the successful acquisition of new, cutting edge aircraft to fulfill its border security and support mission.



The cockpit of a new CBP AS-350 Light Enforcement Helicopter.

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

CBP Intercepts \$10M Shipment of Counterfeit Headphones



CBP seized more than 24,000 counterfeit headphones.

With the growth of foreign trade, unscrupulous companies have profited billions of dollars from the sale of counterfeit and pirated goods. The importation of counterfeit merchandise can damage the U.S. economy, and threaten the health and

safety of the American people. U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is a key player in the enforcement of intellectual property rights (IPR).

CBP recently targeted a rail container at the port of Portal, ND. Upon inspection of the container, CBP officers discovered headphones, manufactured in China, bearing the trademark "Beats." CBP determined that the trademark was counterfeit and seized 24,660 items with a manufacturer's suggested retail price of \$10,776,420.

CBP's IPR enforcement strategy is multi-layered and includes seizing fake goods at our borders, pushing the border outward through audits of infringing importers and cooperation with our international trading partners, and collaborating with industry and other government agencies to enhance these efforts. To combat the illicit IPR trade, trademark and copyright holders may register with CBP through an online system that assists CBP officers and import specialists in identifying fake merchandise.

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



2014 East Coast Trade Symposium

The 2014 East Coast Trade Symposium will be held March 6-7, 2014 at the Washington Hilton Hotel in Washington, DC. This year's theme is "Increasing Economic Competitiveness through

Global Partnerships and Innovation.

Please visit the [CBP Website](#) for additional information. If you are interested in attending the event, please contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.



One DHS Day on the Hill

On Thursday, January 16, 2014, CBP will participate in the One DHS Day on the Hill. The event will be held in Cannon 345 from

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please join us for this event open to all Congressional Members and Staff. Please contact the Office of Congressional Affairs for additional information.

CBP Enforcement News



CBP Officers Seize 128 Pounds of Cocaine from Shipping Container

Baltimore, MD – On December 18, 2013, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers seized 128 pounds of cocaine concealed in a shipping container in at the Baltimore seaport. Using non-intrusive imaging technologies, CBP officers detected anomalies in a commercial shipment of car parts. After opening the container, CBP officers discovered that the anomalies were two gym bags that contained a combined 50 bricks of a white-powdery substance that field-tested positive for cocaine. CBP officers seized the cocaine, which had an estimated street value of about \$4 million.

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



CBP Agriculture Specialists Discover First in Nation Pest in a Shipment of Grapes

Philadelphia, PA – On December 14, 2013, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agriculture specialists at the Philadelphia Seaport made a first in nation pest discovery when they intercepted *Parepitrachus pulverulentus Denticeps*, a type of beetle, while inspecting a shipment of grapes from Peru. Beetles may pose a significant agriculture threat because they cause damage by feeding on agricultural crops as well as native plants, thereby lowering crop yields and crop quality.

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

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