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Implementing the ACE Single Window

On January 4, 2014, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) successfully implemented new Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) features, marking the second successful deployment of new ACE features in less than six months. Several features were implemented as part of this deployment:

ACE Cargo Release

- Expansion of the ACE Cargo Release Pilot to include foundational capabilities for ocean and rail manifest shipments.
- Processing of in-bond transactions with partial quantities.
- Implementation of a single accept/reject message so that filers receive only one message that includes both CBP and Partner Government Agency (PGA) actions.
- Incorporation of the Mail Entry Writing System (MEWS) in ACE, to facilitate collection of duties/taxes/fees on imported items delivered by the Postal Service and close a significant gap in revenue collected for these items.

Manifest

- Incorporation of the Vessel Manifest System into ACE, making it easier for officers to track and monitor the thousands of vessels entering U.S. ports each day.

ACE Entry Summary

- ACE Entry Summary validations for simple duty calculations.

PGA Integration

- Enhancements to how PGA Message Set data is submitted, to reduce data duplication for the trade filer.
- Upgraded screens to speed the reporting of findings for CBP agriculture specialists.

CBP is one step closer to making ACE a true single window environment for electronic trade processing, while eliminating paper, improving the speed of processing, lowering the costs for government and industry, and increasing interagency coordination.

CBP is now looking ahead to the April 2014 launch of ACE Deployment C, which will encompass multiple significant features, including the initial integration of certified form summary and truck manifest into ACE Cargo Release and the incorporation of export commodity processing into ACE. The April deployment will allow CBP to decommission the Automated Export System and lay the foundation for future enhancements for all modes of transportation.

For additional information, please visit the [CBP Website](http://www.cbp.gov) or contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.



PLAY VIDEO

Inside CBP's National Targeting Center

Every day, U.S. Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) National Targeting Center (NTC) works quickly and quietly to identify people and products that pose potential threats to our Nation's security, and to stop them from entering the United States.

The NTC employs highly skilled targeting specialists using state-of-the-art technologies to identify high-risk people and cargo in the air, land and sea environments, both entering and leaving the United States. The NTC carefully targets and coordinates examination of the small percentage of shipments and travelers who may be connected to terrorism or other transnational crimes, such as narcotics smuggling, human trafficking, merchandise counterfeiting, and money laundering.

By identifying high-risk passengers and cargo well before they would cross our land borders, sail into our ports, or touch down on our tarmacs, the NTC team is on duty to protect our people and economy 24/7.

On the cargo side, the NTC targets and coordinates examinations of high-risk cargo, ensuring that high-risk shipments arriving to the United States by all modes of transportation – be it by air, by maritime vessel, by truck or rail over land – are safe and admissible prior to arrival. That includes targeting agricultural and biological shipments, which have a nexus to terrorism and national security, then referring the suspect shipments to the receiving U.S. port of entry for a further examination before the cargo is permitted to enter the United States.

The NTC team also helps protect intellectual property rights by working with CBP's industry partners, other Federal agencies, and foreign governments to fight cross-border trade in bogus merchandise.

For additional information, please view the [NTC Video](#), 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.

On the Hill: CBP Testifies before Senate and House Subcommittees



Deputy Chief Ronald Vitiello testifies on January 28.

Administratively Uncontrollable Overtime at DHS

On January 28, 2014, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Office of Border Patrol Deputy Chief Ronald Vitiello and U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Chief Human Capital Officer Catherine Emerson testified at a Senate

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, Subcommittee on the Efficiency and Effectiveness of Federal Programs and the Federal Workforce hearing titled, "Examining the Use and Abuse of Administratively Uncontrollable Overtime (AUO) at the Department of Homeland Security."

In a joint written statement, Vitiello and Emerson thanked the Subcommittee for the opportunity to address DHS's use of AUO and stated, "[T]he Department has sought legislative changes for several years that would enable U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to reform and rationalize its compensation structure. Existing AUO authorities no longer meet the needs of a 21st century law enforcement environment."

AUO was established by Congress in 1966 (Public Law 89-554), and is a payment mechanism that allows the compensation of certain employees for irregular, unscheduled, but necessary overtime. In order to be eligible for AUO, an employee must be in a position in which the hours of duty cannot be controlled administratively and which requires substantial amounts of irregular or occasional overtime work, with the employee generally being responsible for recognizing, without supervision, the circumstances which require the employee to remain on duty.

The Department takes its responsibility to be a good steward of taxpayer dollars very seriously. Within DHS Components, allegations of misconduct that are raised by employees are typically provided to and addressed by Component internal affairs offices and/or the DHS Office of the Inspector General in conjunction with the Component's human resources office.

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



Assistant Commissioner Charles Armstrong testifies on February 6.

TECS Modernization

On February 6, 2014, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Office of Information Technology Assistant Commissioner and Chief Information Officer Charles R. Armstrong testified at a House Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Oversight and Management Efficiency hearing on,

"Examining Challenges and Wasted Taxpayer Dollars in Modernizing Border Security IT Systems."

The hearing focused on TECS, a key border enforcement system. Because TECS is over 25 years old and uses dated architecture and technology that are difficult to enhance and expensive to maintain, TECS is migrating to a new enterprise architecture that will provide a solid foundation for the future, enable enhanced capabilities, maintain high performance and availability, and align with other DHS modernization activities.

In his written statement, Mr. Armstrong stated, "CBP has made significant progress with our TECS Mod Program to date, and we anticipate completion of program development and Full Operational Capability (FOC) in mid FY 2016."

Program planning and execution can always be improved; however, CBP TECS Mod has strong schedule, risk, and requirements management practices in place, which have facilitated delivery of required functionality on schedule and within budget. CBP is working hard to continue incrementally delivering TECS Mod functionality and completing the program within budget by mid FY 2016. We are continuing to improve the management of all our programs by ensuring effective oversight, and by harnessing best practices in how we run those diverse programs. These efforts enhance CBP's multilayered approach to vetting and identifying potential travelers to the United States who may pose a threat to the homeland.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Chief Information Officer Thomas Michelli also testified at this hearing.

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

CBP Enforcement News



CBP Officers Seize Nearly \$123,000 in Marijuana

Douglas, AZ – On January 30, 2014, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers selected a SUV for inspection after a narcotic detection canine alerted to the vehicle. After searching the vehicle, officers discovered 143 packages of marijuana, weighing more than 245 pounds, stashed throughout the vehicle as well as in the spare tire. The subject was arrested and referred to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations.

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



CBP Agriculture Specialists Seize Bird Eggs

Phoenix, AZ – On January 22, 2014, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agriculture specialists assigned to the Tucson Field Office seized a box of raw bird eggs. CBP officers at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport referred a passenger on a flight from Kenya for an agriculture inspection upon arrival. An agriculture specialist discovered a plastic box inside a suitcase containing 103 small eggs. When asked, the owner claimed they were to be used as a medicine for her heart.

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

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