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CBP Commissioner Meets with Trade and Security Officials in Mexico



On April 10 and 11, 2014, U.S. Customs and Border Protection Commissioner R. Gil Kerlikowske participated in a series of meetings with his counterparts from the Government of Mexico and the private sector.

On April 10, Commissioner Kerlikowske met with Ardelio Vargas Fosado, National Migration Institute Commissioner; Jesús Murillo Karam, Mexico’s Attorney General; Monte Alejandro Rubido Garcia, Commissioner of National Security; and Enrique Galindo Ceballos, Commissioner of the Mexican Federal Police. On April 11, the Commissioner met with Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Sergio M. Alcocer Martínez de Castro, Tax Administration Service Chief Aristóteles Nuñez, and Customs Administrator General Alejandro Chacón Domínguez.

“This visit to Mexico was my first international trip as Commissioner, which shows the importance I place on the work we do with our Mexican counterparts. The meetings I had with Mexican colleagues over the last two days exemplified the ongoing partnership between our two countries and the shared responsibility and commitment to enhancing North American competitiveness and security,” said Commissioner Kerlikowske.

Discussions focused on current issues and future strategy, including strengthening the two countries’ bilateral partnership and continued support in furthering our mutual trade, travel, immigration and security objectives. Commissioner Kerlikowske and Chief Nuñez led a discussion during a Trade roundtable with representatives from Mexico’s private sector. Participants lauded the United States’ and Mexico’s close coordination with private sector stakeholders and urged continued collaboration as both governments move forward to improve the procedures and mechanisms to improve cross border trade.

For additional information, please contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.

Border Patrol Agents Assist HSI in Houston Stash House Investigation



As part of the South Texas Campaign (STC), a multi-agency coordinated effort to combat transnational criminal organizations, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) recently assisted U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) with an investigation that led to the identification and arrest of multiple individuals charged with hostage-taking, firearms, and human-smuggling offenses. CBP and HSI are both part of the STC, which integrates the intelligence-gathering, analysis, and targeting capabilities of federal, state, local, and Mexican partners to identify subjects for arrest and prosecution, and to combat illicit networks. Border Patrol agents, who are part of the STC Houston area team, are assisting HSI in this investigation.

On March 19, 2014, the Houston Police Department discovered 115 individuals who had entered the United States illegally being held in a home in Houston, TX. The 115 subjects stated that they were held captive and were threatened with beatings and firearms by smugglers. The smugglers kept the subjects in unsanitary, deplorable conditions, and had also taken the subjects’ outer garments and shoes to deter any attempts to escape.

Five of the smugglers have plead guilty to federal charges and are pending sentencing. Additionally, site exploitation conducted by law enforcement operating within the STC, led to the discovery of related incriminating documents. Analysis at the South Texas Border Intelligence Center, a facility designed to intensify and integrate intelligence gathering and sharing activity among law enforcement agencies across South Texas, led to the identification of — and the issuance of an arrest warrant for — a sixth individual involved in this case. The analysis of evidence also revealed several links between this incident and other targeted smuggling activities, and provided valuable intelligence on the larger illicit networks operating in the South Texas Corridor. As the investigation continues, more arrests are expected.

Formed as a key response to the President’s 2011 *Strategy to Combat Transnational Organized Crime*, the STC coordinates efforts and resources to create an environment that disrupts and degrades transnational criminal organization networks and their ability to operate throughout the South Texas corridor.

The Houston stash house incident demonstrates the value and effectiveness of risk-based and whole-of-government efforts, such as the STC, which serves to support the integration of investigative and operational capabilities of multiple law enforcement agencies, taking full advantage of the strengths of the entire law enforcement community in South Texas, to have the greatest impact possible on criminal organizations.

For additional information, please 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, HSI Release FY 2013 IPR Numbers

On March 24, 2014, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) announced the comprehensive results of ongoing efforts to protect America from the illicit trade in counterfeit and pirated goods during Fiscal Year (FY) 2013. CBP and HSI are the components within the Department of

Homeland Security (DHS) responsible for enforcing intellectual property rights (IPR).

The number of IPR seizures increased nearly 7 percent from 22,848 in FY 2012 to 24,361 in FY 2013. The Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price (MSRP) of seized goods increased from \$1.26 billion in FY 2012 to \$1.74 billion in FY 2013 — this breaks down to an average of approximately 66 seizures per day, with a MSRP of \$71,500 per seizure.

"Together with our IPR partners, CBP continues to guard the nation's borders against counterfeit products," said CBP Commissioner R. Gil Kerlikowske. "These products are not only unsafe and dangerous to consumers, but they also pose a threat to the economic security of our country."

The National IPR Center is one of the U.S. Government's key weapons in the fight against criminal counterfeiting and piracy. Working in close coordination with the Department of Justice Task Force on Intellectual Property, the IPR Center harnesses the tactical expertise of its 21 member agencies to share information, develop initiatives, coordinate enforcement actions and conduct investigations related to intellectual property theft. Through this strategic interagency partnership, the IPR Center protects the public's health and safety and the U.S. economy. Collaboration through the IPR Center led to 692 arrests, 401 criminal indictments, and 451 criminal convictions for criminal IPR infringement activities in FY 2013.

While the People's Republic of China remains the primary source economy for counterfeit and pirated goods seized, representing 68 percent of all IPR seizures by MSRP in FY 2013, DHS made seizures from 73 additional economies, including Hong Kong, India, Korea, Singapore, and Vietnam.

CBP is committed to seeking global solutions to the global trafficking in counterfeit and pirated goods. Notably, CBP engaged in a joint enforcement operation with China resulting in the removal of 243,000 items trading between the countries, as well as joint enforcement operations with France and Germany.

CBP and HSI protect businesses and consumers every day through an aggressive IPR enforcement program. CBP targets and seizes imports of counterfeit and pirated goods, and enforces exclusion orders on patent-infringing and other IPR violative goods.

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



Jordan to Participate in CBP Cargo Security Initiative

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) recently announced that the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan will participate in the Container Security Initiative (CSI).

CSI increases security for maritime containerized cargo shipped to the United States from around the world by addressing the threat to border security and global trade posed by the potential threat of terrorists and terrorist weapons in the maritime environment.

"The success of CBP's risk-based approach to security is dependent on the support of our partners," said CBP Commissioner R. Gil Kerlikowske. "We are pleased to be continuing the success of the Container Security Initiative with the Kingdom of Jordan."

The Port of Aqaba will utilize near real-time remote imaging of a container examination process, while incorporating a live video transmission/feed to monitor the inspection process. Non-intrusive inspection and radiation detection technology will be used to screen high-risk containers before they are shipped to U.S. ports. The declaration of principles was signed in Amman, Jordan, on July 26, 2011.

On average, about 25,000 seagoing containers arrive at America's seaports every day. Launched in January 2002, CSI is a revolutionary and dynamic initiative aimed at securing maritime cargo shipments against terrorist threats.

There are currently 58 operational CSI ports in Europe, Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and North and South America. Approximately 80 percent of maritime cargo containers destined for the United States transit through CSI ports.

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



Arrival/Departure History Now Available on I-94 Website

On May 1, 2014, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) launched a new webpage that offers nonimmigrant U.S. visitors access to not only their current I-94 arrival/departure record, but also their arrival/departure history going back five years. This electronic travel-history function means that travelers may no longer need to file Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests to receive their arrival/departure history, greatly speeding their process.

Travelers can access their I-94 information at <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/i94> by entering their name, date of birth, and passport information. Clicking on "Get Most Recent I-94" will return the I-94 number, most recent date of entry, class of admission and admit-until date. The information does not reflect changes of status, extension of stay or adjustments of status granted by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS). Clicking on "Get Travel History" will return their five-year travel history based on their I-94

records. Travelers have the option to print these records. Travelers can also cancel pending FOIA requests for travel history information—after they have received the information from the new website—by clicking on "Request FOIA Cancellation."

CBP implemented the online version of Form I-94 in April 2013. The positive public response to that streamlining initiative prompted the agency to offer travel histories online as well.

If a traveler has lost his or her paper Form I-94 that was issued prior to the online system and the record is not available online, the traveler can file a Form I-102, Application for Replacement/Initial Non-Immigrant Arrival-Departure Document, with CIS.

For additional information, please contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.

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