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DHS Delegates Criminal Misconduct Investigative Authority to CBP



On September 18, 2014, Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson announced his decision to delegate to U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) the authority to investigate its employees for alleged criminal misconduct. As a result, CBP is converting qualified internal affairs employees from general investigators to criminal investigators.

Previously, CBP was not the primary investigating entity nor did it have the delegated authority to conduct internal affairs investigations of criminal misconduct. With the delegated authority, CBP can investigate criminal allegations referred to it by the Inspector General and utilize CBP resources to work in a collaborative investigative environment.

“Since my confirmation, I’ve been committed to increasing transparency and making changes to improve accountability of the CBP work force,” said CBP Commissioner R. Gil Kerlikowske. “This announcement is part of a larger effort to hold the workforce accountable for maintaining a high standard of integrity and aligning CBP with law enforcement best practices throughout the country.”

Based on a Federal Bureau of Investigation best practice, CBP is implementing a unified and measured CBP-wide approach to effectively respond to, investigate, coordinate, report, review, and resolve use of force incidents in a timely manner. As part of the process, an interagency board will review use of force incidents to determine compliance with policy and best law enforcement practices for training, tactics, and equipment.

CBP is also adopting a comprehensive integrity and personal accountability strategy for all employees, uniformed and non-uniformed personnel alike. The strategy focuses on four areas: prevention, detection, investigation, and response to corruption and misconduct to ensure that CBP holds its employees to the highest levels of professional and personal integrity and ethical standards at all times – whether on or off duty.

In addition, CBP is forming an Integrity Advisory Panel co-chaired by Karen Tandy, former administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration and William J. Bratton, commissioner of the New York City Police Department. Former Administrator Tandy and Commissioner Bratton will lead a panel of some of the most respected names in both federal and municipal law enforcement to provide CBP with integrity best practices and recommendations from federal, state, and local law enforcement leaders.

The [integrity and personal accountability strategy](#) and [fact sheet](#) are available on the CBP website. For additional information, please contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.

CBP On the Hill: The Threat of Foreign Fighters Using Western Passports



CBP Assistant Commissioners Troy Miller and John Wagner testify at a September 10 hearing.

On September 10, 2014, John Wagner, acting assistant commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection’s (CBP) Office of Field Operations, and Troy Miller, acting assistant commissioner of CBP’s Office of Intelligence and Investigative Liaison, testified at a House Homeland Security Committee, Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security, hearing titled, “One Flight Away: An Examination of the Threat Posed by ISIS Terrorists with Western Passports.” Jennifer Lasley, under secretary for analysis of the Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) Office of Intelligence and Analysis, and Hillary Johnson, acting deputy coordinator of the Department of State’s Bureau of Counterterrorism, also testified.

In a joint statement, the DHS and CBP witnesses discussed current efforts to enhance intelligence and operational capabilities to identify and address the threat of terrorist organizations attempting to use commercial air transportation to move operatives into the United States. In cooperation with its partners, DHS and CBP apply a layered approach to address emerging threats, which involves safeguards for visas and travel authorizations; recurrent vetting of passengers; pre-departure programs; arrival processing; and outbound operations.

“Our intelligence-driven strategies are integrated into every aspect of our travel security operations,” said the witnesses. “CBP develops and strategically deploys resources to detect, assess and, if necessary, mitigate the risk posed by travelers at every stage along the international travel sequence.”

The full written statement is available on the [CBP Website](#). 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 Receives Final P-3 Outer Wing



OAM received its 14th and final P-3 Orion outer wing as part of the Service Life Extension Program.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Office of Air and Marine (OAM) recently received its 14th and final P-3 Orion outer wing from Lockheed Martin. The outer wing, delivered ahead of schedule, is part of the Service Life Extension Program, which is designed to maximize

the service life of the P-3 maritime patrol aircraft. The wing replacement approach will add 15,000 hours to the service life of each aircraft; enhance flight safety; reduce maintenance costs; and improve P-3 reliability, availability, and maintainability.

OAM P-3s operate throughout North and South America. The P-3's distinctive detection capabilities allow highly-trained crews to identify emerging threats well beyond the land borders of the United States. By providing surveillance of known air, land, and maritime smuggling routes in an area that is twice the size of the continental United States, the P-3s detect, monitor, and disrupt smuggling activities before they reach the shore.

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2013, CBP's P-3 operating out of Corpus Christi, TX, and Jacksonville, FL, flew more than 6,000 hours in support of counternarcotic missions and detected 146 suspected smuggling vessels and aircraft. This resulted in the seizure or disruption of 119,195 pounds of cocaine worth nearly \$9 billion. Overall, the P-3 program contributed to the seizure or disruption of nearly \$1.5 million worth of drugs for every flight hour in FY 2013.

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

CBP Seizes Fake Tablets Worth \$1.1 Million



A tablet computer bearing a counterfeit SD trademark.

The U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Import Specialist Enforcement Team (ISET) at the Laredo, TX, Port of Entry recently seized a commercial shipment of counterfeit electronic tablets valued at \$1.1 million for allegedly infringing on the Amazon, Google, Micro SD and SD registered and recorded U.S. trademarks.

In the recently finalized enforcement action, a CBP import specialist at World Trade Bridge selected a shipment of polymer lithium operated screens, electronic tablets, for a secondary examination.

During the examination, CBP import specialists observed that the electronic tablets bore the Amazon, Google, Micro SD and SD trademarks, all of which are trademarks recorded with CBP. A legal review by CBP Headquarters Intellectual Property Rights Branch indicated the imported tablets bore potentially counterfeit marks. A license administrator for SD confirmed that the use of their trademark was unauthorized. CBP's ISET determined on August 14, 2014, that the shipment of 11,540 electronic tablets lacked legal authorization from SD-3C LLC, Google Inc., and Amazon Technologies Inc., and that the tablets were counterfeit and subject to seizure. CBP subsequently seized the tablets, which carried a manufacturer's suggested retail price, had the trademarks been genuine, of \$1.1 million.

"This is a significant seizure of tablets found to be infringing on three separate trademarks recorded with CBP," said Joseph Misenhelter, CBP port director, Laredo Port of Entry. "Seizures like these ensure that valuable intellectual property is protected from harm from would-be knockoff products and help restore the integrity of America's economy."

CBP's vigilant enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights protects America's businesses against the threat of unfair and illicit competition from foreign companies and prevents goods that may be dangerous to consumers or national security from entering the United States.

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

CBP Enforcement News



CBP Agriculture Specialists Intercept Undeclared Fruit Trees in Passenger's Luggage

Phoenix, AZ – On August 30, 2014, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agriculture specialists at the Port of Phoenix seized several undeclared fruit trees. CBP cargo office personnel at the Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport were checking an arriving flight from Mexico City when an agriculture canine alerted to a passenger's luggage. The canine, a member of CBP's Beagle Brigade, detected eight plants, three of which were small fruit trees. The subject was issued a civil penalty. The undeclared plants were inspected for pests and destroyed.

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



CBP Nets Illegal Aliens Off Southern California Coast

San Diego, CA – On September 26, 2014, agents from the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Office of Air and Marine and U.S. Border Patrol arrested 15 illegal aliens after their 35-foot panga boat came ashore in Mission Beach, CA. There were 14 males and one female on board ranging from 12 to 47 years old. U.S. Border Patrol agents seized the vessel and all individuals on board the panga were taken to a local Border Patrol station for processing.

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



CBP Intercepts First in Port Acusta Snail

Baltimore, MD – On September 10, 2014, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agriculture specialists intercepted *Acusta sp.*, a type of snail, while inspecting a container of aluminum sheets from China. Snails may pose a significant agriculture threat because they cause damage by feeding on agricultural and horticultural crops as well as native plants. Once the specimen was identified by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, the shipment of aluminum sheets was fumigated and released.

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

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