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CBP and GSA Launch Program to Support Port of Entry Infrastructure



U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has partnered with the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) to develop the Donation Acceptance Program (DAP), a [framework](#) supporting the new pilot program authorized by Congress in January 2014 that permits CBP to enter into partnerships for certain services and to accept certain donations. Pursuant to Section 559 of the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014*, CBP and GSA are authorized to accept donations of real property, personal property (including monetary donations) and non-personal services from private sector and government entities. Accepted donations may be used for activities related to the construction, alteration, operations, and maintenance of CBP or GSA-owned ports of entry.

Infrastructure enhancements play a critical role in the improvement of trade and travel facilitation. CBP faces a growing demand for facilities and renovations at aging ports of entry. This authority provides an alternate method of financing port of entry modernization and construction projects.

On October 20, 2014, CBP will be announcing the open period for submitting donation proposals for CBP and GSA consideration. CBP will evaluate proposals from private corporations, public entities, municipalities, port authorities, consortiums, and any other private sector or Government entity. Donation proposals will be evaluated based on their individual merit and ability to satisfy the evaluation criteria. CBP and GSA will only consider submissions that envision Federal ownership of the proposed donation.

Public-private partnerships are a key component of CBP's [Resource Optimization Strategy](#), and allow CBP to provide new or expanded services at domestic ports of entry. Last year, CBP entered into Section 560 Reimbursable Services Agreements with the City of El Paso: City of Houston Airport System; Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport; Miami-Dade County; and South Texas Assets Consortium. These locations have already benefitted from significant wait time reductions despite rising traffic volumes.

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

Aerostats: Disrupting Drug and Human Smuggling from 10,000 Feet



CBP Completes Aerostat Surveillance System Upgrade

U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Office of Air and Marine (OAM), recently announced that its eight helium-filled balloon surveillance systems, which provide radar coverage of the U.S. / Mexico border, South Florida and Puerto Rico areas, are fully operational.

The Tethered Aerostat Radar System or TARS, uses helium for deployment to heights as high as 10,000 to 12,000 feet. This allows long-range radars to overcome line-of-sight constraints caused by the curvature of the earth and other terrain limitations. The aerostats are tethered to a winch system on the ground and are lowered when not in use.

These powerful surveillance tools are used by CBP's Air and Marine Operations Center to provide border monitoring and enforcement of low-level aircraft and small vessels approaching the border. TARS have proven to be important and cost effective tools in thwarting illegal drug and human smuggling since they were first deployed in the United States more than 30 years ago.

The former U.S. Customs Service began the aerostat program in 1978 and the U.S. Air Force expanded it in the 1980s to provide monitoring capabilities to several federal agencies. In 2013, CBP assumed responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the systems.

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.

Patrolling the Rio Grande River



Frontline, the exclusively-digital magazine of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) recently featured how riverine agents of the U.S. Border Patrol use Safe Boats to deter

criminal activity along the Rio Grande River.

The Southwest river border begins near Yuma, AZ, running 1,250 miles through streams, creeks, lakes and rivers to the mouth of the Rio Grande at Brownsville, TX. Several hundred miles of the Southwest water border is deep enough for boats, but the waters are rocky and difficult to navigate, with currents and depths that can change by the hour. Depths range from just a few inches in most places to more than 200 feet in Lake Amistad, TX. The terrain on both sides of the water border is scrubby, isolated and largely uninhabited.

As on any other part of the long Southwest border, criminals probe for weak points on the water border to smuggle drugs and illegal immigrants. Against this threat, CBP has organized the riverine force, staffed by specially trained Border Patrol agents using a fleet of watercraft to patrol along the Northern and Southwestern water borders. Often working with CBP's Office of Air and Marine and land-based agents, Border Patrol riverine adds a layer of waterborne border protection from airboats and other vessels moving as fast as 45 miles per hour.

Please visit the [CBP Website](#) for the full story, photographs and video. For additional information on CBP's riverine operations, please contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.

CBP, CBSA Trusted Traveler Enrollment Event



U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA) will hold a Trusted Traveler enrollment event to expedite pending NEXUS applications at the Toronto preclearance facility.

The event begins on October 14 and runs through October 31, 2014.

"This is a great example of the cooperative partnership between the Greater Toronto Airports Authority, the Canadian Border Services Agency and CBP to make the passenger arrival process into the United States more streamlined, efficient and user-friendly," said Donald Anderson, port director for CBP Toronto Preclearance. "The Trusted Traveler Programs are not only a benefit to the traveling public but also to CBP by allowing for a greater focus on individuals that may present a threat to America or Canada."

NEXUS was launched in 2000 as a joint effort between CBP and the CBSA and has enrolled more than one million members. NEXUS allows pre-screened, low-risk travelers to proceed with little or no delay into the United States and Canada. At land border crossings, NEXUS members proceed to dedicated NEXUS-only lanes and present their NEXUS photo-identification cards. NEXUS members also enjoy the benefits of dedicated security screening lines at select Canadian and U.S. airports, including TSA PreV™ lanes, as well as access to Global Entry kiosks at no additional cost. The increased membership of the NEXUS program further encourages cross-border travel, supporting both American and Canadian economies.

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

CBP Enforcement News



CBP Recovers Classic Jaguar Stolen 46 Years Ago

Los Angeles, CA – U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers, in partnership with a National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) Special Agent and a California Highway Patrol Investigator assigned to the Foreign Export and Recovery outbound team at the Los Angeles/Long Beach seaport complex, recently recovered and seized five stolen vehicles. The vehicles were discovered in a container en route to the Netherlands. One of the stolen vehicles was a two-door 1967 Jaguar XKE convertible stolen in New York 46 years ago. The collectible will be returned to its owner who now lives in Florida.

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



CBP Officers Seize Nearly \$240,000 in Unreported Currency During Outbound Operations

Tucson, AZ – On October 6, 2014, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers conducting outbound inspections at the Dennis DeConcini crossing arrested a 19-year-old man from Pasco, WA, for attempting to smuggle nearly \$240,000 in unreported U.S. currency into Mexico through the Port of Nogales. CBP officers had referred the man and his vehicle for further inspection. Officers found the unreported currency hidden beneath the trunk's undercarriage. Officers processed the vehicle and currency for seizure and referred the driver to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations.

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



CBP Intercepts Asian Gypsy Moth in Hawaii

Honolulu, HI – U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agriculture specialists stationed at the Honolulu seaport recently intercepted 11 Asian Gypsy Moth (AGM) egg masses on a ship from Taiwan. Each of these masses can contain hundreds of eggs of this devastating plant pest. The interception marks the first time the destructive pest's eggs have been discovered in the islands. AGM (*Lymantria dispar*) is a voracious pest that can eat the foliage of more than 600 different species of forest trees, shrubs, and other plants. If established in the United States, AGM could decimate America's forest resources and agriculture production.

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

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