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## CBP Responds to the Ebola Outbreak

The 2014 Ebola epidemic is the largest in history and has had a significant impact in multiple West African countries. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) are engaged on a daily basis with our interagency partners to prepare for and respond to Ebola and other potential threats to public health. CBP and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have closely coordinated to develop policies and procedures to identify travelers at all ports of entry – in the land, air, and sea environments - who may potentially be infected with communicable diseases and to minimize the risk to the traveling public. These procedures, which include visual observation of travelers for overt symptoms, questioning, and notification to CDC

personnel as appropriate, have been utilized collaboratively by both agencies on a number of occasions with positive results.

As part of DHS's ongoing response to prevent the spread of Ebola in the United States, CBP, in coordination with the CDC, is conducting enhanced screening for travelers arriving from or through an Ebola-affected country. These measures are in place at five U.S. airports – Atlanta, Chicago O'Hare, Dulles, JFK, and Newark – where over 94% of travelers from the affected region enter the United States. The enhanced screening includes:

- Identifying travelers from the Ebola-affected countries and isolating these travelers from the rest of the traveling public while the individual completes a questionnaire and contact information form and medically-trained personnel take his or her temperature;
- Referring travelers with symptoms and those who may have been exposed to Ebola to CDC for a public health assessment. CDC will then determine whether the traveler can continue to travel, is taken to a hospital for further evaluation, or is referred to a local health department for further monitoring; and
- Encouraging the traveler to seek health care at the first sign of any potential illness.

On October 21, 2014, DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson announced that all passengers arriving in the United States whose travel originates in Liberia, Sierra Leone or Guinea will be required to fly into one of the five airports that have the enhanced screening and additional resources in place. DHS is working closely with the airlines to implement these restrictions with minimal travel disruption.

For additional information on DHS's coordinated response to Ebola, please visit the [DHS Website](#) or contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.

## CBP's Counter-Scout Operation Targets Human and Drug Smugglers



Over the past six months, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has been successfully targeting and apprehending cartel scouts who guide drug and human smugglers along the border in their attempts to evade law enforcement. This special operation, conducted jointly by the Office of Air and Marine Tucson Air Branch and the Border Patrol Tucson Sector Special Operations Division (SOD), uses air interdiction agents and helicopters to insert SOD operators on high mountaintops near scout locations, positioning the agents to interdict scouts and dismantle their operations. Agents often fast rope from the helicopter to the ground in an effort to quickly make an apprehension. Since the operation's inception, 24 scouts have been apprehended, 6,500 pounds of narcotics have been seized and 11 rescues have been conducted.

Scouts are used by transnational criminal organizations to help facilitate the smuggling of contraband and illegal aliens. Scouting networks in the Tucson Sector are complex in nature, often involving several key players, locations and technology including radios, solar panels and cell phones. Agents have also discovered food supplies to last for several days or weeks, camping supplies, and weapons. Scouts represent one of the most dangerous elements Border Patrol agents encounter in the field. The Tucson Sector will remain focused on targeting and countering their efforts.

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](mailto:OCAInquiry@cbp.dhs.gov).

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

## CBP Hosts Security Training for Ghana Officials



From September 22-26, 2014, officials from four Ghana agencies – Ghana Police Force, Ghana Immigration Services, Ghana Revenue Authority, and the Narcotics Control Board – came together in Washington, DC, for a Targeting and Risk Management (TRM) training hosted by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP).

The five-day training, led by CBP officers, provided a unique opportunity for the Ghana delegation to receive in-depth exposure to CBP's role in securing and facilitating cross-border trade and travel.

The course focused on targeting, post-seizure analysis, human trafficking, aircraft and shipping cargo examination, compliance, outbound targeting, and internal conspiracy. CBP officers from the Non-Intrusive Inspection Division provided explanation and demonstration of some of the devices CBP uses during search and seizures, including thermal detectors, non-intrusive tools and technology, and radiation isotope identifiers.

The TRM training was a part of a series of international engagements that have unfolded between CBP and our partners in Western Africa over the past year. In May, CBP officers traveled to Ghana to conduct a Canine Assessment with the objective of determining the feasibility of starting a canine program for the Ghana Customs Service. Other ongoing CBP engagements in the West Africa region include: the West Africa Cooperative Security Initiative Women's Leadership Training; the Senegal, Mauritania, and Mali International Border Interdiction Training, the Senegal International Visitors Program and the Cabo Verde Short-Term Advisory. Each training addresses specific country needs and requests, enabling the United States to invest in improving the effectiveness of African border security administrations. CBP seeks to engage with African partners like Ghana to become more proactive in identifying and interdicting threats emanating from the Continent, and extend the U.S. zone of security outward.

CBP provides a wide array of short-term and long-term technical training and assistance to host nations' customs and border security agencies. Based on CBP's expertise as the front-line border security agency for the United States, these programs are designed to build the capacity of foreign law enforcement agencies to implement more effective customs operations, border policing, and immigration inspections.

These investments also extend the U.S. zone of security by developing trusted and reliable partners that can identify and intercept dangerous goods or individuals before they become potential threats to the United States.

For additional information on CBP's international training and assistance, please visit the [CBP Website](#) or contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.

## CBP Rescues Undocumented Immigrants from Dangerous Smuggling Attempt



On October 22, 2014, Border Patrol agents rescued six undocumented immigrants after they attempted to illegally further their entry into the United States near Eagle Pass, TX.

Agents encountered a flatbed pickup truck at an immigration checkpoint. During inspection, a Border Patrol canine alerted agents to the cargo area of the vehicle. Agents transported the vehicle to the Eagle Pass Port of Entry for inspection by a non-intrusive imaging system. A scan of the vehicle revealed an image of several human bodies hidden in the diesel auxiliary tank. Emergency Medical Services were immediately contacted and placed on standby.

CBP officers deployed a forklift to remove the auxiliary tank from the bed of the truck. Once the tank was raised, six men ranging in age from 19 to 50 – were discovered inside. The subjects appeared disoriented and were sweating profusely. Medical personnel evaluated the subjects at the scene.

The driver was turned over to Homeland Security Investigations for alien smuggling. The six subjects hidden inside the pickup – three from Mexico, two from El Salvador and one from Guatemala – were transported to the Eagle Pass South Border Patrol Station and processed according to CBP policy.

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

## Fighting Film Thieves: How CBP Helps Prevent Motion Picture and Television Piracy



During the summer of 2012, a U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) international trade specialist on the West Coast, was poring through data from thousands of customs seizures of counterfeit goods at the U.S. ports and flagged something suspicious. He saw a high concentration of seizures of DVDs in a small city in the Pacific Northwest. Then, he noticed similar patterns in other cities in a neighboring state.

Within months, through the use of different databases, the CBP specialist and special agents from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) confirmed that a network of individuals was involved in a sophisticated film piracy operation. One of the importers had set up nearly 20 companies, using multiple names and identities.

Piracy, the unauthorized reproduction or use of motion pictures, television programs or any other type of creative content, is not a new concept. As technology has improved, the ability to steal products has become more and more sophisticated. Combating piracy requires a coordinated effort. Most counterfeits are illegally produced in China. At the border, CBP evaluates goods to see if they pose a threat and if they violate any laws enforced by Customs. If copyrights or trademarks are infringed, the goods are seized and prevented from getting into the stream of U.S. commerce.

Please visit the [CBP Website](#) for the full feature story, photos, and video in *Frontline*, CBP's official magazine. For additional information, please contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.

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