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Commissioner Marks First Year at CBP; Announces New Agency Vision and Strategy

On March 7, 2014, R. Gil Kerlikowske was sworn in as Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), the agency of more than 60,000 employees charged with border security and the facilitation of lawful trade and travel.

During a recent [speech](#) at the Brookings Institution, Commissioner Kerlikowske shared progress the agency made during his first year and announced a new agency vision and strategy. The first comprehensive strategic plan in nearly a decade, CBP's *Vision and Strategy 2020* advances collaboration, innovation, and integration as strategic themes

driving CBP forward into the year 2020.

"Our *Vision and Strategy 2020* clearly outlines how we plan to enhance both our agility and ability to meet increasingly global and complex challenges," said Commissioner Kerlikowske.

CBP's *Vision and Strategy 2020* outlines four goals:

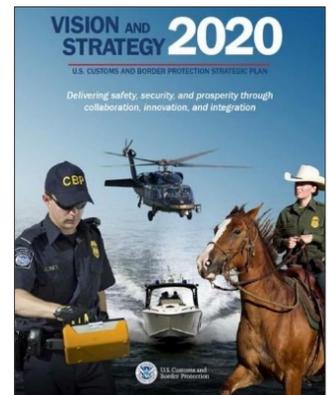
- Combat terrorism and transnational organized crime
- Advance comprehensive border security and border management
- Enhance U.S. economic competitiveness by enabling lawful trade and travel
- Promote organizational integration, innovation, and agility

During his speech, Commissioner Kerlikowske acknowledged the tremendous responsibility placed on the agency's personnel by describing a typical day at the agency. As the Nation's frontline border agency, CBP enforces 500 laws for 47 federal agencies. Commissioner Kerlikowske also discussed accomplishments during his first year at CBP in the areas of travel, trade and transparency, including:

- the facilitation of 107 million travelers, while reducing wait times by as much as 30 percent;
- the facilitation of 26 million cargo containers, a four percent increase over the previous year;
- new guidelines and enhanced training regarding the use of force;
- a marked decline in the number of use of force incidents in the first half of FY 2015; and
- newly delegated authority for CBP to investigate employees for alleged criminal misconduct.

The *Vision and Strategy 2020* reaffirms the agency's commitment to partnerships, innovation, as well as integrated, risk-informed, intelligence-driven law enforcement operations.

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



Commissioner Testifies on CBP's FY 2016 Budget Request

On April 23, 2015, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Commissioner R. Gil Kerlikowske testified before the House Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Homeland Security, for a hearing on CBP's Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 Budget Request.

In his [written statement](#), Commissioner Kerlikowske discussed how CBP is using the resources provided by Congress efficiently and effectively, and demonstrated how the [FY 2016 Budget Request](#) supports CBP's continued commitment to national and economic security by strengthening frontline capabilities and optimizing resources.

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 On the Hill: Securing the Northern Border

On April 22, 2015, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Office of Field Operations Deputy Assistant Commissioner John Wagner and U.S. Border Patrol Chief Michael Fisher testified before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee for a hearing on, "Securing the Border: Understanding Threats and Strategies for the Northern Border."

In a joint written statement, the witnesses described how the Northern border is operationally distinct from other environments. The 5,500-mile long boundary with Canada, "delineates two friendly nations with a long history of social, cultural, and economic ties that have contributed to a high volume of cross-border trade and travel, amounting to more than two billion dollars a day," said the witnesses.

Northern border operational challenges include periods of high volumes of travel and trade, harsh weather conditions, and limited communication and sensor signals in some of the remote areas. To address these challenges, CBP collaborates with Canadian, federal, state, local, tribal and private industry partners to ensure tailored and effective surveillance technology, law enforcement personnel, and resources are in place and have the capability to adapt to changing conditions and respond to the Northern border operational environment at and between ports of entry.

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



CBP To Host West Coast Trade Symposium

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) proudly presents, "Advancing Trade Through Partnership and Enforcement," the 2015 West Coast Trade Symposium. During the symposium, presenters will provide updates and announcements on key trade topics and initiatives, including CBP's Trade Vision; the Single Window; Exports; One U.S. Government at the Border; and Trade Enforcement. The symposium will be held in Tacoma, WA, on May 27, 2015, at the Hotel Murano. Registration will close on May 1, 2015.

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

CBP Conducts Targeting Training in Peru; Contributes to Drug Seizure



U.S. Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) Office of International Affairs (INA) develops and implements programs for foreign law enforcement agencies with the intent of sharing expertise and experience to improve border operations and enhance capabilities for addressing global challenges and threats.

From March 2-6, 2015, INA conducted a Targeting and Risk Management course in Lima, Peru, for 29 Peruvian law enforcement officials. The course provided specific techniques and best practices on how to utilize limited resources to screen cargo entering, transiting, or exiting Peruvian borders.

A few days following the training, in Iquitos, Peru, the Peruvian Maritime Task Force (PMTF) reported that the CBP training had contributed to the discovery and seizure of eight packages of cocaine that were hidden in a shipment of wood destined for Mexico. The PMTF had utilized the techniques recently shared by CBP and intercepted approximately 38 kilograms of cocaine.

CBP provides a wide array of short- and long-term technical training to host nations' customs and border security agencies. 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 engagements 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 programs, please visit the [CBP Website](#) or contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.

International Customs Magazine Highlights CBP's Piracy Enforcement Efforts



WCO News, the official magazine of the World Customs Organization (WCO), recently featured how U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) works with other federal agencies, such as Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), and private-

sector industry stakeholders to prevent motion picture and television piracy.

The majority of pirated and counterfeit goods are shipped into the United States through international mail and express courier facilities and it takes a lot of resources to examine shipments and make infringement determinations. CBP works closely with couriers to efficiently and effectively inspect targeted shipments and seize any goods that infringe on copyrights or trademarks, while ensuring the flow of lawful shipments is not hindered.

The internet has increased the ease with which sellers can market and ship counterfeit and pirated goods to consumers, making it more difficult to enforce intellectual property laws, explained Therese Randazzo, CBP's Director of Intellectual Property Rights Policy and Program. "The internet has changed importation of counterfeit and pirated goods, but the laws haven't kept up," said Randazzo.

CBP is a member of the [WCO](#), whose mission is to provide leadership, guidance, and support to Customs administrations to secure and facilitate legitimate trade, realize revenues, protect society and build capacity. The full WCO News article, written by Marcy Mason, is available on the WCO website in [English](#) and [French](#).

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

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