



# CBP Border Security Report

Fiscal Year 2014

*December 19, 2014*



Homeland  
Security

*U.S. Customs and Border Protection*



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# I. Introduction

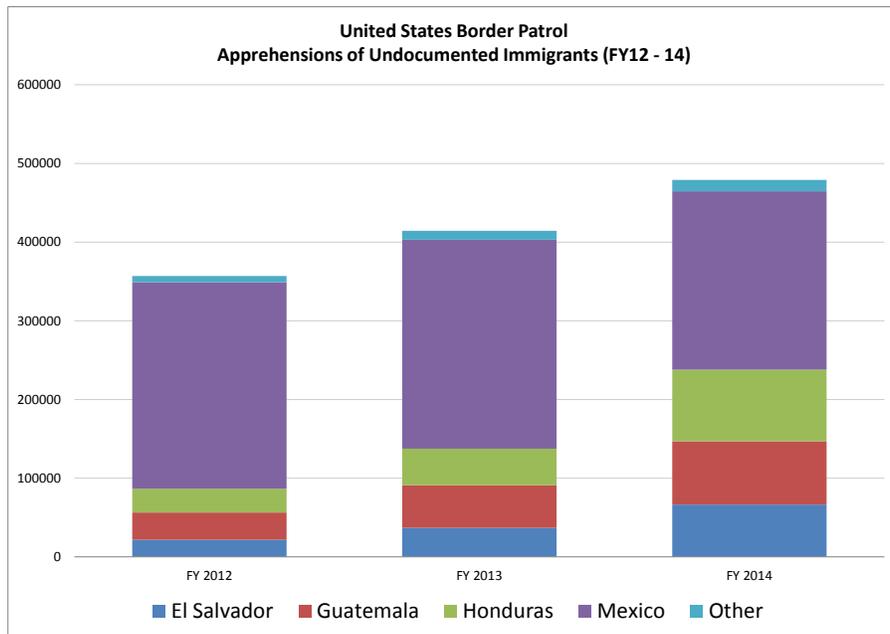
As the agency charged with safeguarding America's borders, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) plays a vital role in protecting the national security of the United States. This report summarizes CBP's fiscal year 2014 border enforcement efforts, which reflect CBP's focus on transparency and building partnerships to secure a 21st Century border against a variety of threats and adversaries.

# II. Discussion

## **Enforcement Efforts At and Between Ports of Entry**

The Nation's long-term investment in border security has produced significant and positive results in FY 2014. Illegal migration, as defined by total Border Patrol apprehensions, continues to reflect an overall decline compared to the peak in 2000. Border Patrol apprehensions totaled 486,651 nationwide in FY 2014, compared to 420,789 in FY 2013. The uptick is largely due to the increase in unaccompanied children and family units who turned themselves in to Border Patrol agents in South Texas this summer. In FY 2013, the Border Patrol apprehended a total of 38,833 unaccompanied children and 15,056 family units nationwide. In FY 2014, those numbers were 68,631 and 68,684, respectively—a 76 percent increase in unaccompanied children and a 356 percent increase in family units over FY 2013. DHS responded aggressively to this spike, and by September the number of unaccompanied children and family units crossing into South Texas were at their lowest levels in almost two years.

While Border Patrol apprehensions of Mexican nationals in FY 2014 decreased by 14 percent when compared to FY 2013, apprehensions of individuals from countries other than Mexico—predominately individuals from Central America—increased by 68 percent. Of the 486,651 apprehensions nationwide, 468,407 of those apprehensions were of individuals from Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, and nearly all apprehensions were along the southwest border. In FY 2014, CBP apprehended 66,638 nationals from El Salvador, 81,116 nationals from Guatemala, 91,475 nationals from Honduras, and 229,178 nationals from Mexico.



At ports of entry in FY 2014, CBP officers arrested 8,013 individuals wanted for serious crimes. Officers also stopped 223,712 inadmissible aliens from entering the United States through ports of entry, an increase of 9 percent from FY 2013. Grounds of inadmissibility included immigration violations, criminal and other violations, and national security reasons. Depending on the circumstances, these individuals were arrested, allowed to voluntarily return to their country of origin, or allowed to withdraw their application for admission into the United States.

These efforts were aided by CBP’s National Targeting Center, the Immigration Advisory Program, and the Regional Carrier Liaison Group. In FY 2014, these programs led to the identification of 11,494 high-risk travelers, who would have been found inadmissible at a U.S. port of entry, and who were prevented from boarding flights destined for the United States. The Immigration Advisory Program employs CBP officers at foreign airports where they review passenger information and/or assess the passenger documentation prior to their U.S.-bound flights. Immigration Advisory Program officers make “no board” recommendations to carriers and host governments regarding passengers bound for the United States. Regional Carrier Liaison Groups, located in Honolulu, Miami and New York, expand the Nation’s zone of security beyond physical U.S. borders by working with commercial carriers to prevent the boarding of passengers who may pose a security threat, have fraudulent documents, or are otherwise inadmissible.

In FY 2014, CBP continued its efforts to interdict individuals by air and at sea through its Office of Air and Marine, which engages in air and maritime operations to augment border protection and law enforcement efforts at and between the ports of entry. During FY 2014, Air and Marine agents contributed to 4,725 arrests and the apprehension of 79,343 individuals. The Office of Air and Marine’s joint operations resulted in approximately 15 percent of the Border Patrol’s apprehensions.

CBP officers and agents also played a critical counter-narcotics role, seizing more than 3.8 million pounds of narcotics across the country in FY 2014. In addition, the agency seized more than \$237 million in unreported currency through targeted enforcement operations.

During FY 2014, P-3 aircrews from Corpus Christi, Texas, and Jacksonville, Florida, detected 149 suspected smuggling vessels and aircraft. This resulted in the seizure of 112,224 pounds of cocaine with an estimated street value of more than \$8.4 billion.

A breakdown of CBP enforcement actions by state along the southwest border is below:

Enforcement Actions for FY 2014	Arizona	Texas	New Mexico	California	Total SWB
Apprehensions	93,174	332,457	8,675	45,065	479,371
Drug Seizures (pounds)	1,122,415	1,017,089	44,028	183,107	2,366,639
Currency Seizures	\$3,475,523	\$7,732,830	\$969,830	\$12,908,976	\$25,087,159
Persons Determined to be Inadmissible	8,880	48,160	1,077	31,770	89,887

Engaging its state and local partners continued to be an important part of CBP’s border security mission. In FY 2014, \$55 million in Operation Stonegarden funding was provided to states to enhance border security cooperation and coordination among local, tribal, territorial, state and federal law enforcement agencies. States that received funding in FY 2014 included Arizona, California, New Mexico, Texas, Idaho, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Washington, Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Puerto Rico.

## **Border Technology and Investment**

Significant border-wide investments in additional enforcement resources and enhanced operational tactics and strategy have enabled CBP to address the changing composition of attempted border crossers and to maintain border security. For example, during FY 2014, CBP completed the restoration of eight Tethered Aerostat Radar Systems (TARS).

TARS, a network of long-range radars, is the only wide-area persistent air, maritime, and land surveillance capability specifically designed for CBP’s border security mission.

TARS is one of the major sensor feeds integrated into CBP’s domain awareness architecture managed by CBP’s Air and Marine Operations Center. TARS detect and monitor low-altitude aircraft and vessels approximately 200 miles out, well beyond the physical border, thereby significantly increasing domain awareness and the time with which to plan and make decisions.

Moreover, the Office of Air and Marine continues to deploy proven, effective technology along the southwest border to further enhance operational capabilities. Two unmanned aircraft systems along the southwest border are equipped with Vehicle and Dismount

Exploitation Radar, or VADER, a side-looking airborne radar system designed to detect, identify and classify moving tracks of interest over land. VADER has the capability to relay real-time tactical information related to illegal cross-border activity to field agents while simultaneously capturing strategic and forensic information across larger stretches of the border. During FY 2014, VADER made 7,616 detections of illegal activity.

## **Transparency and Accountability**

CBP is committed to increased transparency and accountability. As part of its commitment to transparency, in May CBP publicly released the revised Use of Force Policy [handbook](#) and a consultant [study](#) on use of force. The full implementation of the handbook went into effect in October. In addition, CBP undertook a comprehensive review and redesign of its basic training curriculum, enhanced training for its incumbent curriculum, established a center of excellence to continuously evaluate use of force policy and procedures, installed border fence training venues, and purchased use of force training simulator systems designed to provide officers and agents with a more realistic and job specific training experience.

Additionally, CBP is testing less lethal options, with enhanced range capabilities, to alter the threat perception by CBP agents and officers and provide agents and officers with other safe tactics designed to minimize injury to officers or other persons.

For example, CBP began testing and evaluating the NightHawk control tire deflation device last January. This device will provide CBP officers and agents with an improved ability to address vehicular threats from a safe distance by deflating the vehicles' tires. The testing concluded in July and the evaluation results identified design changes and shortcomings that CBP is addressing with the manufacturer. CBP will consider the continuation of this program once the design changes and shortcomings are fixed.

CBP also integrated the data system that captures assaults against agents and officers with CBP's use of force incident reporting system. This change will allow CBP to conduct comparative analyses of how agents and officers respond to assaults and will help CBP identify "best practice" responses to threats and better inform enhancements to policies, training, tactics and equipment.

In September, Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson delegated to 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. This will allow CBP to have more direct control of these investigations and increase accountability.

CBP is also implementing a unified, formal review process for use of force incidents. This process will create a unified approach to effectively respond to and investigate use of force incidents in a timely manner. Additionally, 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 also formed

an Integrity Advisory Panel to provide CBP with best practices and recommendations from federal, state and local law enforcement integrity thought leaders.

Finally, CBP is implementing a feasibility study on the use of body-worn cameras in each of CBP's operational environments along the U.S. border, at and between ports of entry, in the air and at sea.

### III. Conclusion

CBP's focus and efforts in 2014 reflect its continued commitment to border security, while ensuring increased transparency and accountability. The men and women of CBP serving on the frontlines are dedicated to protecting our Nation's security, while facilitating trade and travel that are vital to our economic prosperity.