

**AIR CARGO ADVANCE SCREENING PILOT**  
**Government Report for May 22<sup>nd</sup> COAC Quarterly Meeting**  
**Office of Field Operations (OFO)**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

During this quarter of the COAC, OFO updated the COAC ACAS Working Group members on the status of the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM). CBP and TSA have been engaging in joint presentations in an effort to provide a holistic viewpoint on air cargo security within the global supply chain.

**CBP POSITIONS TO COAC RECOMMENDATIONS:**

***COAC Recommendations***

1. “In particular, there is a need for greater CBP/TSA cooperation to better align security concepts and programs, not only in regard to the resolution of ACAS selectee screening holds, but also to promote a more efficient supply chain approach to air cargo security.”

- **CBP Position:** CBP and TSA continue to work together to provide a unified approach to air cargo security.

2. “There is also a need for expanded CBP advocacy and leadership on harmonization and interoperability initiatives in the international arena, which are applicable not only to pre-departure risk assessment programs, but also to existing and planned post-departure manifest systems..”

- **CBP Position:** Both agencies are working together to ensure that global standards for air cargo security include: the collection of shipment-level data as early as possible in the supply chain. CBP has also been working closely with the World Customs Organization, the European Union, and Canada, to share best practices and lessons learned towards a unified global standard on air cargo security.

**PILOT STATUS:**

***ACAS Regulatory Analysis***

- For more than 12 months, OFO has been engaged in trade consultations through the COAC about transitioning the ACAS pilot into a regulation.
- On November 4, 2013, OFO finished preparing the ACAS NPRM request; however amendments were made to them in February 2014. The Office of International Trade, Regulations and Rulings (OT/RR) is reviewing and preparing the NPRM for interagency review and clearance. OT/RR currently estimates that it take approximately ten months to submit the NPRM for Department review.

**BACKGROUND:**

In October 2010, the global counterterrorism community interdicted concealed explosive devices were discovered in cargo on board aircraft destined for the United States. This incident demonstrated the significance of advance information in disrupting attempted terrorist attacks. While CBP has been receiving advance information for air shipments prior to arrival since 2004, this incident compelled CBP to seek the same information prior to loading cargo onto aircraft bound for the United States. CBP and TSA launched the ACAS pilot in December 2010 with the express industry. Now, pilot participation consists of entities representing not only the express industry, but also freight forwarders, passenger carriers, and heavy all-cargo carriers.