



U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Otay Mesa Pedestrian Entry/Exit Field Test

FACT SHEET

As part of U.S. Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) mission, CBP is testing new technologies and procedures to help secure the border, enhance the integrity of the immigration system, and facilitate lawful travel, which is vital to America's economy.

What is CBP testing?

CBP is testing new biometric technologies at the Otay Mesa pedestrian crossing. For certain non-U.S. citizens, this involves providing a biometric image of their face and iris upon entry and departure from the United States. The purpose of this is to assist in identity verification and the matching of entry records with departure records. This applies to non-U.S. citizens only.

Similar to the current airport outbound environment, CBP will continue to perform and record law enforcement queries for U.S. citizens as they depart the U.S.

U.S. citizens will not provide biometrics as part of this field test. Travelers without an acceptable travel document will still be inspected by a CBP officer. Cross-checking arrival information with departure information helps secure the border and helps protect travelers from identity theft or other illicit use of their documents.

Testing these technologies at Otay Mesa allows CBP to:

- Enhance national security by helping CBP officers make more informed decisions on admissibility and biometrically identify people who may pose a threat;
- Determine the performance of biometrics technology in an outdoor environment;
- Test the speed and quality of biometric photos, and the ability to match the biometric images to biometrics on file (for instance, visa application photos);

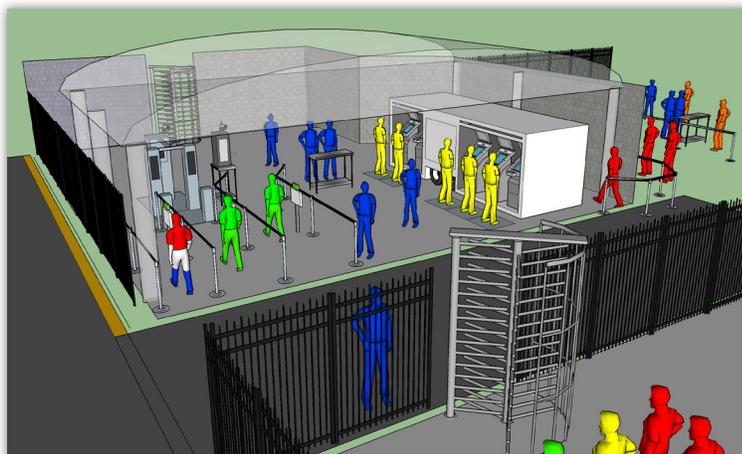
- Test viability and accuracy of non-intrusive biometric technologies;
- Enhance the U.S. immigration system by identifying people who have overstayed their legal terms of admission; and
- Determine the feasibility of incorporating the technologies into entry and exit procedures and measure how they affect border-crossing traffic.

When will the testing take place?

This technology test is being conducted in two phases:

- Phase 1: Certain non-U.S. citizens entering the U.S. will provide their biometrics using kiosks equipped with face and iris image cameras. This test will begin in December 2015.
- Phase 2: In February 2016, all travelers departing the U.S. will provide biographic data. Certain non-U.S. citizens departing the U.S. will provide face and iris biometric images. The Pedestrian Entry/Exit Field Test will end on or before June 30, 2016.

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Artist rendering of new departure procedures at the Otay Mesa pedestrian crossing.



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What will be required of pedestrian travelers entering the United States at Otay Mesa?

There will be no change for U.S. citizens. Certain other travelers will continue to provide their biographics by swiping their travel documents at the inbound kiosks. In addition, certain other travelers will provide images of their face and iris.

What is the difference between biographic and biometric information?

Biographic data includes text-based information such as name, gender and date of birth, as well as information pertaining to an individual's passport or visa.

Biometrics are physical characteristics unique to an individual, such as fingerprints, iris images, or facial dimensions. When used together, biographic and biometric information can better assure a person's identity—helping to prevent fraud and enhance national security.

Certain non-U.S. citizens visitors provide fingerprints to verify identity at air and sea ports of entry. This pedestrian test allows CBP to explore new biometric technologies, as well as procedures unique to land border crossings.

Will U.S. citizens be required to provide their biometrics?

No. U.S. citizens are required only to provide biographic data by swiping their travel document (passport, trusted traveler program card, or other legally acceptable document) upon entry and departure.

Why are you testing these technologies in Otay Mesa?

Otay Mesa was selected due to traffic volumes, existing infrastructure, and its past experience testing emerging technologies.

Whose facial and iris images will be part of this field test?

Foreign visitors who are normally subject to fingerprinting when they apply for U.S. visas and other

travel documents will now provide their facial and iris images.

Will the images be shared or stored? How will my privacy be protected?

CBP is dedicated to protecting the privacy of all travelers and has procedural and physical safeguards to protect and secure traveler data. The images will be stored in a secured local database and will be used for test purposes only and will not be stored or shared with any other party or system. Any personally identifiable information received by CBP shall be handled by CBP, as appropriate and necessary, in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended.

If I'm a U.S. citizen, why do I need a travel document to depart?

U.S. citizens are required to have a valid U.S. passport or other legally acceptable travel document to depart from or enter the United States, per 8 USC 1185 (b).

Is participation in the test mandatory?

Yes.

Will this cause delays?

Port managers will closely monitor traffic flow throughout the testing period and will make adjustments as needed to minimize delays.

Is CBP targeting and preventing those who entered the United States illegally from departing?

No. However, if a traveler is found to be unlawfully present in the United States, their information will be documented, per current procedures, which will likely result in a delay. If it is determined that the traveler does not otherwise pose a threat, they will be allowed to depart upon completion of this process. ■