



U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Immigration Advisory Program (IAP)

FACT SHEET

The Immigration Advisory Program is part of U.S. Customs and Border Protection’s layered security strategy. Its goal: To protect air travel and improve security by sharing techniques and information with partnering host governments.

Key Objectives

- Prevent terrorists and other criminals from boarding commercial aircraft destined for the United States; and
- Assist partner countries in reducing the number of improperly documented travelers.

How the Program Works

U.S. Customs and Border Protection advisory personnel are posted at the host country’s airport during processing of flights bound for the United States. These unarmed, plain clothes officers discreetly assist airline and security employees with review of traveler information during the processing of U.S.-bound flights. They directly support host-country personnel with document examination and traveler security assessments.

By analyzing electronic passenger information and passenger reservation data, Immigration and Advisory Program officers are able to identify potential threats. IAP officers engage carriers and travelers to confirm potential matches and make “no board” recommendations to air carriers and the host government to prevent



An Immigration Advisory Program officer examines a traveler’s documents at London Heathrow Airport.

these passengers from boarding flights destined to the United States.

By training air carriers, their security staff, and host-country authorities in the most up-to-date techniques, Immigration Advisory Program officers help to disrupt illegal migration routes and stop criminals in the partnering country and beyond. Also, the United States government avoids the costs associated with removal proceedings and the airline avoids penalties and the costs of transporting the individual back to the originating airport.

These U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers serve strictly as advisors to the partner nation. They hold no authority while working in the host country. ■