

**TESTIMONY OF**

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**U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION  
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**

**BEFORE**

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIME, TERRORISM, AND  
HOMELAND SECURITY**

**May 6, 2009  
Washington, DC**

Chairman Scott, Ranking Member Gohmert, Members of the Subcommittee, it is a privilege and an honor to appear before you today to discuss the work of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), particularly the tremendous dedication of our men and women in the field both at and between our ports of entry.

CBP is the largest uniformed federal law enforcement agency in the country with over 20,000 CBP officers; 18,800 Border Patrol agents; over 1,000 Air and Marine agents; 2,280 agricultural specialists; and other professionals. These personnel are key players to the implementation of Secretary Napolitano's Southwest Border Security Initiative announced in March.

I am pleased to report that CBP continues to achieve success in performing our traditional missions, which include stemming the flow of illegal drugs and contraband, protecting our agricultural and economic interests from harmful pests and diseases, protecting American businesses from theft of their intellectual property, enforcing textile agreements, tracking import safety violations, protecting the economy from monopolistic practices, regulating and facilitating international trade, collecting import duties, and enforcing United States trade laws. At the same time, our employees maintain a vigilant watch for terrorist threats. In FY 2008, CBP processed more than 396 million pedestrians and passengers, 122 million conveyances, 29 million trade entries, examined 5.6 million sea, rail, and truck containers, performed over 25 million agriculture inspections, apprehended over 720 thousand illegal aliens between our ports of entry, encountered over 220 thousand inadmissible aliens at the ports of entry, and seized more than 2.8 million pounds of illegal drugs.

We must perform our important security and trade enforcement work without stifling the flow of legitimate trade and travel that is so important to our nation's economy. These are our twin goals: border security and facilitation of legitimate trade and travel.

### **Support of U.S./Mexican Counter-Drug and Counter-Terrorism Initiatives**

A key and growing area of emphasis involves DHS's role in interdicting the illegal flow of weapons and currency into Mexico. The recent surge in violence in the interior and border cities of Mexico poses a significant threat in Mexico and is a serious concern of the United States. Secretary Napolitano has tasked all DHS components, including CBP, to examine how we can reasonably increase our enforcement activities in an effort to identify and interrupt efforts to smuggle weapons and bulk cash shipments into Mexico.

A majority of the illegal drugs consumed in the United States originate from or pass through Mexican territory and territorial seas. Illicit trafficking profits flow back to Mexican drug trafficking organizations across our common border. The Mexican

government's ability to confront its drug trafficking industry and its willingness to cooperate with U.S. efforts directly affect the impact of any southwest border activities.

In a spirit of cooperation, CBP has established positions at the El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC), the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) Fusion Center, and the DEA Special Operations Division. These initiatives enhance interaction with the Intelligence Community (IC) and law enforcement agencies to more effectively facilitate the collection, analysis, and dissemination of actionable drug-related intelligence as well as two full-time positions at the National Gang Intelligence Center (NGIC), and has also partnered with the National Gang Targeting, Enforcement and Coordination Center (GangTECC).

EPIC, originally established in an effort to improve drug and border enforcement operations along the Southwest Border, has broadened its mission becoming international in scope. Centrally located in El Paso, it also has the following representation: the Department of Homeland Security; CBP; Immigration & Customs Enforcement; U.S. Coast Guard; U.S. Secret Service; Drug Enforcement Administration; Federal Bureau of Investigation; Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; U.S. Marshals Service; National Drug Intelligence Center; Internal Revenue Service; Department of the Interior; National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency; Department of Defense; Joint Task Force-North; Joint Interagency Task Force-South; Texas Department of Public Safety; and other state and local agencies. The multi-agency environment of EPIC makes it ideal for the exchange of information and intelligence.

Additionally, CBP's Office of Intelligence and Operations Coordination established a National Post Seizure Analysis Team (PSAT) at the National Targeting Center-Cargo and is in the process of establishing Intelligence Operations Coordination Centers (IOCC) with the first one under construction in Tucson, Arizona. The IOCCs will make CBP a more fully integrated, intelligence driven organization by linking intelligence efforts and products to operations and interdictions.

Operation Panama Express is an OCDETF initiative, executed through OCDETF Co-located Strike Forces, in which CBP participates with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigations Division, the U.S. Coast Guard, and multiple state and local law enforcement agencies in a multi-agency international drug flow investigation that combines detection and monitoring, investigative, and intelligence resources to provide actionable intelligence to Joint Interagency Task Force-South (JIATF-S) operations to interdict the flow of cocaine from northern South America to the United States. JIATF-S interdiction operations in the transit zone supported by CBP P-3 Airborne Early Warning, Coast Guard HC-130, Coast Guard vessels, and CBP P-3 Tracker aircraft interdict large, sometimes multi-ton, shipments before they can be split into smaller loads for movement across the southwest border over multiple routes and distributed to U.S. cities, towns, and small communities.

CBP is also responsible for detecting and preventing unauthorized incursions into the United States. Toward this end, CBP continues to work with the Mexican Government in the development of increased law enforcement surveillance and interdiction capabilities. Detection of U.S./Mexican border air intrusions is essential to effective interdiction operations along our borders with Mexico. The primary means of detection is a large radar network, monitored at the Air and Marine Operations Center (AMOC) in Riverside, California. Information is fed to the AMOC through a network of airborne early warning, aerostat, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and ground based radar systems. Personnel at the AMOC detect aircraft “short landings” and border penetrations and coordinate CBP and Mexican interdiction assets to intercept, track, and apprehend smugglers as they transverse the U.S./Mexico border.

The Government of Mexico maintains a strong commitment to interdiction. CBP will continue to assist the Government of Mexico in its counterdrug effort, including Command, Control, Communications, and Information support.

### **Intelligence and Operational Coordination**

CBP continues to evolve into a more integrated, intelligence-driven organization and we are in the process of establishing a robust field organization. The CBP Office Intelligence and Operations Coordination is in the process of developing capabilities which will integrate CBP intelligence and operational elements for more effective command and control, mission deployment, and allocation of resources.

Intelligence gathering and predictive analysis require new collection and processing capabilities. CBP is also developing the Analytical Framework for Intelligence (AFI), a set of data processing tools that will improve the effectiveness of CBP and other DHS analysts in detecting, locating, and analyzing terrorist networks, drug trafficking networks, and other threats. These intelligence and operational coordination initiatives complement the Secure Border Initiative’s (SBI) technology programs.

### **Southwest Border Initiative**

In March, Secretary Napolitano announced a far-reaching Southwest Border Initiative to crack down on Mexican drug cartels through enhanced border security, including the deployment of hundreds of new personnel, enhanced intelligence technology that will maximize capabilities and better coordination with other federal law enforcement entities such as the Department of Justice, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, DEA, and FBI as well as state, local, and Mexican law enforcement authorities. The Secretary’s initiative calls for a number of CBP actions:

**Initiates 100 percent southbound rail scanning** – Customs and Border Protection formerly did not screen any of the cargo traveling by rail from the United States into Mexico; it is now scanning all of rail cargo for weapons, ammunition, and currency.

Existing non-intrusive inspection equipment is being used to detect contraband in cargo on each of the eight rail crossings on the southwest border.

**Adds Border Patrol Agents** – CBP is placing 100 more Border Patrol agents at southwestern ports of entry to bolster outbound inspections from the U.S. into Mexico in order to detect arms and bulk-cash smuggling. In the past, the Border Patrol has not ordinarily served in this capacity.

**Adds Mobile Response Teams** – Three Mobile Response Teams of 25 CBP officers each are periodically deploying to the southwest border to participate in focused operations developed to combat arms and bulk cash smuggling.

**Augments Search Technologies** – An additional nine Z-Backscatter mobile X-ray units have been moved to the southwest border to help CBP identify anomalies in passenger vehicles.

**Engages Canine Teams** – A total of twelve teams of “cross-trained” canines – trained to identify both weapons and currency – have been deployed to the southwest border.

**Adds License Plate Readers** – Outbound lanes currently equipped with license plate readers will receive upgraded license plate reader technology to improve CBP’s ability to identify the vehicles of known or suspected smugglers of cash, weapons, drugs, or persons. This information is shared with other law enforcement agencies through EPIC and the OCDETF Fusion Center.

**Enhances Operation Stonegarden Grant Funding on the Border** – Grant guidance for the remaining balances in Operation Stonegarden from FY 2006 to FY 2008 will be modified to enhance current state, local, and tribal law enforcement operations on the southwest border. The new guidelines will expand the scope of what the funds can be used for, freeing up to \$59 million for state, local, and tribal law enforcement on the border to pay for additional law enforcement personnel, operational overtime expenses, and travel or lodging for deployment to the southwest border.

**Actively Engages State, Local, and Tribal Law Enforcement** – DHS is aggressively reaching out to law enforcement in border communities, recently conducting a firsthand tour of state and local law enforcement operations along the southwest border and leading bi-monthly conference calls with chiefs of police and sheriffs in a classified setting.

### **Conclusion**

Thank you for the opportunity to describe our plans for border security and to highlight some of our progress to date. With your continued support of CBP, I am confident that we will continue to make tremendous strides in increasing control of our borders.

I look forward to your questions.