



Border Patrol agents brief members of the National Guard on the operation of a Skybox Surveillance platform in Yuma, Ariz..

Commissioner addresses National Explorer event

FLAGSTAFF, ARIZ. — More than 50 U.S. Customs and Border Protection Explorers gathered at the 2006 National Law Enforcement Explorers Conference at Northern Arizona University here July 10-14.

CBP Commissioner W. Ralph Basham, the outgoing chair of the National Explorers Committee, delivered the opening night keynote speech. "CBP has been a strong supporter of the Explorer program since the mid-1980s, and we will continue to support it because we recognize the great value society receives from our involvement with our country's young people," Basham said.

The Explorer Law Enforcement program, founded in 1973, is a worksite-based program for young men and women who plan to pursue careers in law enforcement. With

— CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

National Guard deploys to 'Jump Start' border build-up

By Linda Kane, Public Affairs Specialist, Office of Public Affairs

CBP Border Patrol agents from Yuma, Ariz. and members of the National Guard are working together on the Arizona-Mexico border to maintain border security, and not even mid-summer 113-degree heat seems to cool their enthusiasm for the task.

Yuma is a recipient of National Guard troops sent to Arizona, California, New Mexico and Texas as part of Operation Jump Start, a presidential initiative to support the Border Patrol while it hires, trains and deploys 6,000 new agents. The Guardsmen have volunteered to relieve the Border Patrol of non-law enforcement support duties until more agents can be hired. Border Patrol Chief David V. Aguilar in late July said that indications on the ground are that Operation Jump Start is providing a deterrent effect, meaning his agents are seeing less attempts at illegal immigration.

Guardsmen play no direct law enforcement role in apprehending or securing anyone detained for making illegal border crossing

"The dynamics of illegal immigration and illegal narcotics trafficking are such that criminal organizations typically seek out border areas that will support their illegal cross border smuggling efforts. The organizations will ... look to base their staging, stashing, and jump off points into the United States at locations that have the infrastructure to support their smuggling activities."

—David V. Aguilar, CBP Border Patrol Chief

attempts. Instead, some Guardsmen in Yuma are serving as additional "eyes and ears" for Border Patrol agents. Guard personnel are working in the communication center monitoring the numerous remote cameras placed along the border with Mexico. Guard personnel also provide border-related intelligence analysis. Normally, Border Patrol agents rotate into these assignments, but now are free to do field border enforcement work.

Another area where the Guard is assisting is in entry identification teams that work surveillance duty. Deployed in groups of three and four, Guardsmen use state-of-the-art detection technology to monitor the border from strategic observation points. If they detect illegal migrations, they radio agents to make the interception.

"One thing that I think is critical," said Chief Aguilar, "is that the approach to border security, at all borders, is a comprehensive approach — one of technology, one of personnel, and one of infrastructure. In all three facets of those components, the Guard is now playing a part."

These Guardsmen will serve until the Border Patrol can deploy the full contingent of agents, targeted for the end of calendar year 2008. As agents join the ranks of the Border Patrol, Guard numbers will be reduced.

From car mechanics to horse trainers

Another area where the Guard is present is in the vehicle maintenance shop. Maintenance and repair work on the Border Patrol fleet in Yuma is normally done by mechanics contracted to the CBP Border Patrol, but Border Patrol agents do the scheduling, oversight and some routine maintenance. Working in the shop were several Guardsmen from various Arizona National Guard units.

One soldier, Sgt. Guzman from the 3666 Unit of the Arizona Guard, was hard at work on a vehicle high on a hoist. "My unit is a maintenance company so I have experience as an automotive mechanic. But I have received on-the-job-training here too," said Guzman. Another Guardsman, working in Yuma for about a month, said that automobile repair was a hobby but that he had volunteered to work with the Border Patrol "indefinitely."

At the Del Rio sector, a Guardsman is working as a "wrangler," ensuring that the horses for the horse patrol are properly maintained and trained. In other sectors, Guardsmen trained in journalism and press relations are assisting Border Patrol agents on public affairs duties.

Yuma Sector, located in the southwestern Arizona, is a typical of how the Guard will operate in Border Patrol sectors. Yuma has several substations including border stations at Yuma, Wellton and Blythe, Calif. The sector has seen increasing illegal immigrant activity over the last three years as enforcement operations in other sectors have forced the movement of the illegal immigrant trade. Last fiscal year the sector made more than 138,000 arrests with more than 14,000 of those detained having a criminal history or active warrants for arrest for crimes like murder, narcotics trafficking and aggravated assault.

A history of helping

National Guard troops have worked for more than 20 years with the CBP legacy agencies

— CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



'President' Sterling Watson shakes the hand of a thrilled CBP employee.

Photo by Gerald L. Nino

Make-A-Wish event galvanizes headquarters to honor 'President' Sterling Watson

>>> FOLLOW THE 'PRESIDENT'S' DAY AT CBP ON PAGE 8

CBP lab team showcased in international counter-proliferation exercise

A team of forensic scientists from U.S. Customs and Border Protection's Laboratories and Scientific Services participated in "Pacific Protector 06," a proliferation security initiative exercise conducted in Darwin, Australia from April 3-6. The exercise tested the ability of international partners to deter and prevent the proliferation of weapon of mass destruction and related materials. The event included participants and observers from 32 nations, which culminated in the CBP scientific team partnering with their Australian counterparts to identify and secure radioactive materials.

Although Pacific Protector 06 – or "PP06" – was a training exercise and not a real interdiction case, the Australian Minister for Defense, Dr. Brendan Nelson, noted that the threat portrayed was "very real." Nelson rhetorically asked, "Would you really have more than 30 countries sending their highest level military and civilian enforcement agencies to Australia for an exercise like this if it were not a real threat?"

The PP06 scenario was partially based on a 1997 conventional weapons interdiction in Australia. Yet, it is very plausible that a similar event could occur. Last summer, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice noted 11 successful Proliferation Security Initiative I interdictions during a nine-month period.

Initiative gains support of 70 nations

Since its establishment in May 2003, the Proliferation Security Initiative has gained the support of more than 70 nations determined to undertake effective measures for interdicting weapons of mass destruction, consistent

with domestic legal authorities and international laws and frameworks. Nations who have endorsed the initiative take part in several exercises, such as PP06, and host multiple expert-level meetings every year to further develop the capacities to work cooperatively to stop WMD. Intelligence, diplomatic, law enforcement, customs, financial, military and other tools are at the disposal of Proliferation Security Initiative participants to prevent the proliferation of WMD-related materials.

Since early 2005, CBP has fully participated in the initiative and has established a Proliferation Security Initiative program staff within its international affairs office. CBP's PSI program identifies the experts and resources that CBP can provide to the initiative, and conducts outreach with foreign customs and law enforcement agencies, as well as industry. CBP is able to provide a number of complementary anti-proliferation tools to the PSI with its Container Security Initiative, National Targeting Center, Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism and Automated Commercial Environment.

The scenario for exercise PP06 involved fictional intelligence received about the transport of sensitive WMD items heading for the fictional Pacific state of "Kamaria" on a civilian aircraft. As the aircraft's flight path took it through Australian airspace, a decision was made to divert the aircraft to the Royal Australian Air Force Base in Darwin and examine the suspect cargo. In the exercise, the aircraft was portrayed by a Royal New Zealand Air Force B757 and was escorted down by two Australian F/A-18 fighters.

A combined Australian and Japanese Customs search team located radioactive material on the plane, which was then removed from the aircraft by specialist teams from the Australian Army, United Kingdom Royal Air Force, and the Singapore Armed Forces. A joint team consisting of the CBP-LSS team and an Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency Emergency Operations Unit made the final determination of the precise nature of the radioactive source.

CBP detection capabilities enter "hot zone"

The CBP-LSS team consisted of Dave Fluty, director for scientific services; Pat Donnachie, physical scientist; and Dr. Naomi Redmore, chemist. They came equipped with two Exploranium GR-135 Radiation Isotope Identifiers, and pooled their resources with the Australian team.

Working side by side, the combined group set up a "hot zone" around the radioactive material to contain any possible contamination, and used a remote camera to determine the integrity of source packaging prior to opening exterior containers. The team determined that the radiation intensity of the materials was not harmful to team members, and used its detection equipment to analyze the gamma spectrum signatures and confirm the identity of the sources. Through its technical and scientific expertise, the joint team was able to determine that two types of radioactive material were present, revealing that smugglers were attempting to "mask" their illicit sources with declared sources. The team determined that no special nuclear materials were present, and safely transported the sources to a secure location.

Full range of detection capabilities

The detection capabilities portrayed at PP06 were just a small fraction of the resources that CBP-LSS has to detect and halt illicit materials. In addition to WMD, LSS provides forensic and scientific support in the areas of crime scene investigation, trade enforcement, intellectual property rights and narcotics enforcement. LSS operates eight laboratories, each with mobile laboratories that can be used for on-site emergency response and border security operations.

A specially trained laboratory forensic "jump team" can provide crime scene investigation, documentation and testing for cases involving possible terrorist activity, and be activated at a moment's notice.

Complementing the live exercise were tabletop activities, designed to focus on the legal, diplomatic and administrative responses to a proliferation incident, and an outreach program to nations who have not yet endorsed the PSI statement of interdiction principles. Representation at PP06 included individuals from CBP's international affairs office, the Department of Homeland Security's domestic nuclear detection office, the State Department and a Pacific Command KC-135 refueling tanker.

PP06 successfully demonstrated the number of capabilities available to Proliferation Security Initiative endorsees to identify and interdict WMD-related materials. **EB**

Border Patrol build-up

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and now with CBP, providing support for law enforcement counter-narcotics missions.

"The relationship between the National Guard, the Department of Defense, and the CBP Border Patrol is one that's been going on for many, many years," said Chief Aguilar. The Guard has also built infrastructure like fences, vehicle barriers and all-weather access roads on the southwest border during missions that predate the President's plan. During Operation Jump Start, Guardsmen will continue to play an important role in designing and constructing infrastructure.

The Yuma sector is 126 miles of some of the most desolate border in the country. The sector covers 172,000 square miles of territory in Arizona, California and the entire state of Nevada. And Yuma is hot in the summer-time, with temperatures that routinely reach 110 degrees and above. While this should not be a surprise, migrants entering the country illegally often are unprepared for the heat and the distances in this area, or the possibility of being abandoned by their human smuggler guide.

Interstate 8, the closest major highway that would serve as a conduit to the interior of the United States, is between 50 and 60 miles from the U.S./Mexico border, and in the heat that often proves to be an impossibly long walk.

And did we mention snakes?

Another complicating factor in Yuma sector is the Cabeza Prieta Wildlife Refuge, the third largest national wildlife refuge in the lower 48 states that contains rugged territory with mountain ranges that loom over barren desert. Cabeza Prieta shares 56 miles of border with Sonora, Mexico and has been described by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which maintains it, as the "loneliest international boundary on the continent."

So lonely, forbidding, and dangerous that visitors to the refuge are required to sign a

Hold Harmless Agreement that warns that they could die from falling into "old mine shafts and other openings or weaknesses in the earth, as well as other natural and/or manmade conditions too numerous to recite therein." Another tourist Website advises, "unprepared humans simply cannot survive the heat and dryness of the refuge interior." And then there are the snakes—24 species live here including six kinds of rattlesnakes.

And there's more peril. The Barry Goldwater Firing Range is within the Cabeza Prieta Refuge and is a "hot" range where the military conducts live firing drills. The range has been used as a gunnery and bombing range since World War II and there is additional danger from unexploded ordnance that remains on the surface and is buried on the refuge. Though one might think that illegal immigrants would think twice before attempting to cross here, the range serves more as a complicating factor than as a deterrent. Warning signs are posted, but Border Patrol agents often have to radio the military to stop firing so they can quickly swoop in and rescue immigrants caught unprepared.

Turning the tide

Despite the dangers, news of the presence of more Border Patrol agents bolstered by the support of the National Guard is filtering its way across the border into Mexico and it is having an impact. Since the President's announcement, CBP Border Patrol has seen a 45 percent decrease in apprehensions compared to the same period prior to the announcement. Even factoring in a seasonal decrease, apprehensions are down 25 percent compared to each of the last two years.

The Guard will continue to serve as a bridge to accomplishing CBP's border security goals as the Border Patrol works to meet the ambitious hiring goal that will provide long-term solutions. In just the last six months, nearly 700 Border Patrol agents have graduated from the Border Patrol Academy with nearly 500 more currently attending training.

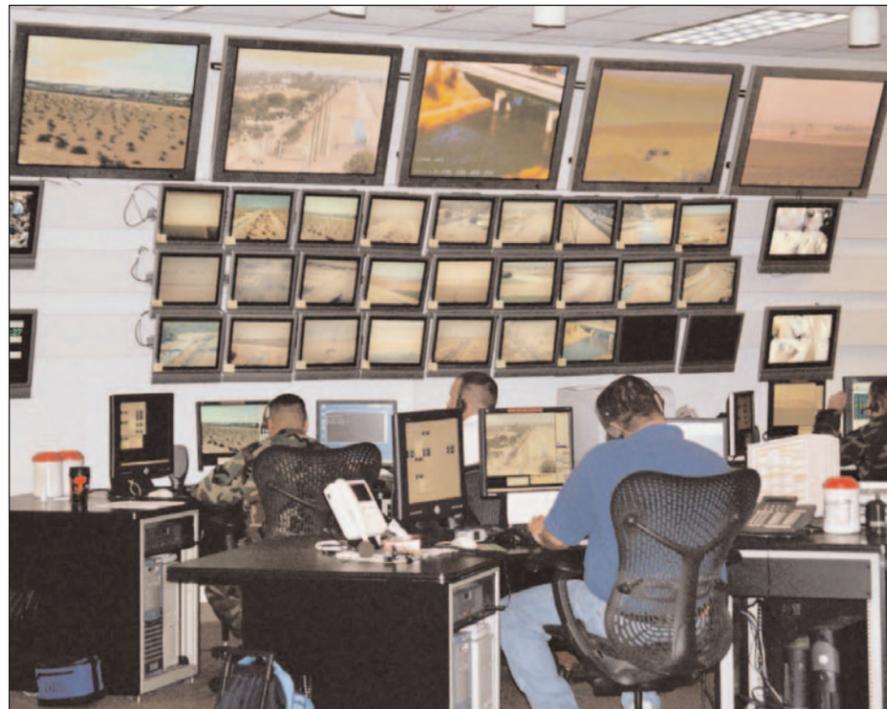


Photo by CBP

Member of the National Guard scans detection sensor monitors at Yuma Border Patrol Communication Center

In Yuma, and all across the southwest border, CBP Border Patrol presence in the field is increasing. As new waves of National Guardsmen reach the border, they will continue

to bolster our resources by assisting the Border Patrol and freeing agents to conduct enforcement operations ensuring the safety and security of our borders. ♦

Infrastructure: building blocks of border security

What is it? Infrastructure is often used to describe constructed physical security measures that assist CBP in controlling our borders. It is the fencing, vehicle barriers, lighting, all-weather access roads, land clearings, and bridge-crossings that serve as either obstacles to crossing the border illegally or that allow CBP agents better access to border areas.

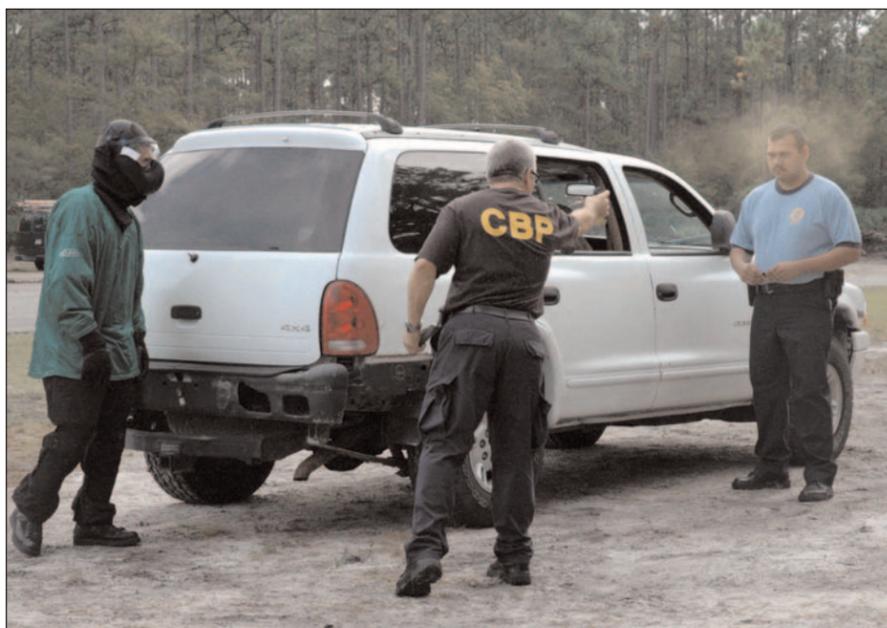
Where is it? Infrastructure is placed where it is strategically relevant. The border with Mexico is close to 2,000 miles long and is made up of highly developed urban areas, undeveloped areas that have relatively easy access to major thoroughfares and desolate terrain that is truly "miles from anywhere."

What works best? Primary fencing and lighting have been installed in border areas that are adjacent to urban populated areas.

Vehicle barriers are used in remote areas with easy access to major thoroughfares and that are known to be high traffic areas for smugglers.

Land clearing and all weather patrol roads provide access to border areas that serve as smuggling conduits.

Installation of roads develops areas resulting in an increased quality of life for residents, and facilitates CBP agents patrol efforts.



CBP Field Operations Academy

Newly hired CBP Officers receive a blast of O.C. spray and must successfully work through the effects of the spray to graduate from the basic CBP Officer Basic program.

Raising the bar on physical fitness training standards

By Christiana Halsey, *Management Program Specialist, CBP Field Operations Academy*

Preparing for the worst

Imagine a situation at your local port where an individual presents him or herself for entry. During the interview process, you trigger a nerve and they become increasingly agitated and lunge at you trying to do bodily harm – they may even have a weapon. This situation could happen at the primary booth, in secondary or in a confined area such as an office space or examination room. Would you know what to do? How would you handle the situation?

It's scenarios like the one above and other endless possibilities that have been the nexus for increased physical standards and extensive intermediate use-of-force training for CBP Officers both during basic training and continued throughout their career in the field.

Back to basics

During the 16-week basic CBP Officer course, the CBP Field Operations Academy provides newly hired officers with 102 hours of physical techniques training. The 102 hours of training incorporates: 32 hours of physical conditioning; 4 hours for the physical efficiency battery with increased standards for the 1.5 mile run in 16 minutes and 30 seconds or less; 18 hours teaching open-hand defensive tactics; 16 hours of arrest techniques; 18 hours of intensive training with intermediate use-of-force tools such as the baton and Oleoresin Capsicum (O.C.) spray; and, 14 hours focused on first aid and responder situations.

The most notable addition to the CBP officer basic training program is the accretion in hours and intensity of intermediate use-of-force training. Intermediate use-of-force encompasses basic officer presence and good verbal commands all the way up to defensive tactics using a baton or O.C. spray. Basic students now receive 8 hours of baton training and 10 hours of O.C. training. Mike Brown, Acting Assistant Director for the CBP Field Operations Academy Physical Techniques and Firearms Division explains that students must successfully complete a three-part evaluation with both the baton and O.C. to graduate basic training. The evaluation incorporates a written exam for both baton and O.C., a proficiency or skills test for both and completion of a use-of-force scenario which includes an exposure to O.C. spray and then having to successfully work through the effects of the spray. "Once

they leave the Field Operations Academy they have the total package. They leave with the tools and knowledge and then it's up to them to continue improving their skills through experience and on-going training with Intermediate Force Instructors in the field," Brown stated.

Maintaining muscle memory

CBP officers will continue use-of-force training once they return to port. Defensive tactics are now part of a trimester training regime led by Intermediate Force Instructors (IFIs) trained at the CBP Advanced Training Center in Harpers Ferry, W. Va. Field training includes, but is not limited to: continued defensive tactics and arrest techniques training; port or location specific tactical training; and, yearly recertification in the use of the baton and O.C. spray. Many of the IFIs will spend 3 additional weeks at the CBP Field Operations Academy observing basic training and assisting with the delivery of baton and O.C. "What we're trying to do is bridge the gap between the Academies and the training that is being delivered in the field," explained Wes Windle, Assistant Director for the CBP Advanced Training Center. "The CBP Field Operations Academy and Advanced Training Center is working together to deliver a unified and comprehensive training program out to our officers from the beginning of their training throughout their careers."

Changing the culture

The CBP Field Operations Academy has begun incorporating defensive tactics, arrest techniques, baton and O.C. training into advanced training programs delivered in Glynco, Georgia and locations nationwide. "We're moving towards a culture or belief system within CBP that fitness is not solely for personal gain. We have a responsibility to each other to provide back-up and assistance and to do our jobs effectively," Mike Brown concluded.

Officers who attend Basic Admissibility Secondary Processing (BASP), Passenger Inspection and Vehicle Interdiction Training (PIVIT), Land Border Outbound Training (LBOBT), Anti-Terrorism Contraband Enforcement Team (AT-CET), Mobile Response Team (MRT), the Enforcement Officer program and other advanced training programs must participate in use-of-force training. To find out more about use-of-force training in your local area, contact your local Intermediate Force Instructor or field training officer. If you're requesting training provided by the CBP Field Operations Academy, review the course outline to ensure that you are capable of fulfilling any physical requirement for a particular course. ♦

COMMISSIONER'S MESSAGE



Keeping the momentum



W. Ralph Basham
Commissioner
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Five years ago, in an explosive flash, four commercial air flights changed the course of history. Every September 11 since has given us a time to remember and honor those lost to this tragedy. This year, at the five-year mark, also gives us an opportunity to take stock of how far we've come since that tragic day.

9/11 thrust enormous changes upon our world and our agency—from the initial days when the Customhouse was destroyed by the fall of the Twin Towers and when we shut down our borders and grounded all planes—to the historic creation of the Department of Homeland Security and the development of unprecedented programs that both safeguard our country and protect our economy. Just how far we've come became clear when the latest terrorist plot was uncovered in London this summer. We, and our international partners, responded with deliberate measures and heightened concern, and with the confidence that we had a system in place and partners around the world to work with to quickly and systematically address the threat.

The many programs CBP—and other entities of DHS—have instituted since 9/11 protect our nation not only against terrorists and terrorist weapons, but against threats of all kinds—illegal drugs and aliens, harmful food products, and criminal organizations operating across our borders. Since I became Commissioner in June, I have spent a great deal of time on the road seeing our operations firsthand, and while I know we can never be 100 percent safe, I believe the manpower, technology, infrastructure, and programs we've put in place—coupled with the partnerships we've established with the private sector, other federal agencies, state and local law enforcement, and the international community—make our nation safer than we were five years ago.

I join you, my CBP colleagues, at a pivotal time in our short history, when we have a chance to continue the momentum begun in those early days, and when the programs and partnerships begun in the first few years after 9/11 are evolving and maturing and taking root around the world.

As America's frontline agency, our responsibilities are daunting, but the dedication and stamina I've witnessed among the men and women of CBP are inspirational—and our chance to make a difference in our own country—and to the world—has never been greater. I'm proud to be a part of this outstanding organization at this important time in history, and as your Commissioner, I thank each of you for the job you continue to do every day to make our nation safer—and our world a better place.

National Law Enforcement Explorer conference

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more than 700 Explorers, CBP has one of the largest law enforcement Explorer programs in the federal government. The Office of Field Operations has 20 posts in operation nationwide including Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, and the Border Patrol has 28 posts, mostly in Texas, Arizona and California.

This year more than 4,000 Explorers attended the weeklong biennial conference that included seminars, individual and team competitions, demonstrations and a career fair. Explorers had opportunities to interact with the most advanced law enforcement technology from a cross section of law enforcement agencies.

A wide variety of activities

While the conference was a lot of fun and provided many entertainment events, it wasn't just a party. Explorers got up early to attend seminars, participate in competitions and were on the move until bedtime. Seminars included areas like the one conducted by the CBP Border Patrol on border security. CBP Border Patrol agents from various stations in Arizona gave the Explorers an overview of the work of the Border Patrol and insight into what agents face on a typical day patrolling our country's borders. In addition, the seminar had some of the technology used by the Border Patrol like sensors, night goggles and tools like tire deflation devices to stop fleeing vehicles. Other seminars covered topics like gang violence, psychological profiling, effective communication, and narcotics trafficking and interdiction.

Competition in numerous law enforcement topics also is part of the event. For example, one competition is in search-and-arrest techniques. In these contests, Explorers are evaluated on how they handle staged scenarios like searching an apartment occupied by suspected drug dealers. Explorers are graded on effective entry; situation control; searching, locating, identifying and preserving evidence; arrest techniques; and proper "field," or on-site, identification of narcotics seized. Other areas of competition include crime scene search, shoot/don't shoot, traffic stops, and emergency field first aid. And there are individual events like physical performance testing, and pistol competitions.

Setting the foundation

Exploring offers 14-to-20 year olds the opportunity to work with dedicated law enforcement professionals throughout their formative years. It is designed to provide a training experience for the participants and to contribute to the development of skills that they will be able to employ in the law enforcement profession.

Commissioner Basham has been involved with the Explorer Program for many years during his work at the Secret Service and the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center and now with CBP. He spoke of the value of the program in building morals and ethics, qualities necessary to assume leadership positions in the future. LK ♦

CBP establishes new 'admissibility officer' position

Offers opportunity to specialize in immigration secondary environment

U.S. Customs and Border Protection recently announced the launching of a new specialization within the CBP officer ranks, the admissibility officer. The announcement comes after years of focusing on the integration of CBP officers into a consolidated workforce responsible for nearly all aspects of inspection at the nation's ports of entry. (Agriculture specialists remained a separate entity.)

Continuing evolution

Why this position, why now? It's all part of the "continuing evolution" of the CBP officer position, says Deputy CBP Commissioner Deborah J. Spero. Spero chartered a working group "to review the CBP officer occupation to further refine vital responsibilities and consider whether new position might be required." Based on their discussions and research, CBP officials recognized that there are specialty areas that require additional, focused training and experience, and that the immigration secondary environment is one of them. For in addition to performing the full range of CBP officer function, admissibility officers require a thorough knowledge of immigration laws, regulations, procedures, and precedent decisions, and ability to make difficult disposition determinations and process complex casework.

There are other specialized positions within the CBP officer ranks as well. "We are enriching the basic CBP officer position to capture the varied functions performed by CBP officers," stated Spero. "These critical functions include Liaison, Outreach, Hazardous Materials, Firearms, Non-Deadly Force, Non-Intrusive Inspection, Enforcement and Special Response Teams, Targeting and Analysis, Port and Facilities Security, Intelligence, and Training responsibilities. These critical functions have been codified as addenda to the CBP officer positions." Fully separate specialized positions, she stated, "have been retained or created for

Canine, Law Enforcement, and Admissibility functions, due to their unique requirements."

Admissibility vs. enforcement officer

The new position differs from the CBP officer (enforcement) position. Enforcement officers focus on the criminal prosecution of aliens who violate U.S. immigration laws and related statutes. Admissibility officers' focus will be on administrative arrests, removal, and other enforcement-related actions of aliens who are in violation of immigration laws. Enforcement officers evaluate and determine which cases have met the evidentiary threshold to be referred for criminal prosecution. Although admissibility officers will have the authority to refer a case for criminal prosecution, it would not be the majority of their casework.

"This is an important step in continuing to realize CBP's ambitious agenda to integrate and meet the specific needs of its inspectional workforce."

—Deputy Commissioner Deborah J. Spero

Level and qualifications

The admissibility officer position is a GS-1895-11, filled via assignment of work principles and lateral reassignment opportunities, as well as through vacancy announcements. Positions may be filled through Lateral Reassignment Opportunities. TECS announcements are to be posted nationally, with location-specific numbers/vacancies for commuting area. Registers will be forwarded to the Field Office, and selections will be made from the registers.

To be qualified for the new position, officers must have completed or be scheduled to complete the Advanced Admissibility Training or equivalent (also known as Basic

Admissibility Secondary Processing). Successful candidates for the position must also meet the following criteria:

- Must be or have been a journeyman CBP Officer, GS-1895-11.
- Must have been trained in and worked all aspects of passport control passenger processing.
- New CBP officers must have completed all their on-the-job assignments, and worked at least 6 months in primary and 6 months in secondary on admissibility issues.
- CBP officers with Customs experience must have received the appropriate cross-training modules and have been working in the passenger-processing environment for 6 months or longer.
- Must have knowledge of, and maintain access to applicable systems, to include, IDENT/AIFIS, ENFORCE, NCIC, INSMENU, CIS and TECS/IBIS.
- Must have a thorough knowledge of non-immigrant and immigrant classifications, and inadmissibility grounds.
- Must have the ability to take legally sufficient sworn statements, and write accurate reports.

The Advanced Admissibility Training course is held at the CBP Academy, with new classes beginning every two weeks. The course is 22 classroom days or about a month in length. Almost 200 CBP officers have either completed the course or are attending the course at this time.

Need for additional training

Why is the additional training necessary? CBP officers exercise significant authority when determining a person's admissibility to the United States: Immigration enforcement actions carry serious consequences for the alien applicant. For example, an expedited removal order results in a 5-year bar to re-entry, and carries the same weight as the decision of an administrative hearing.

CBP's enforcement actions are scrutinized by other government agencies, as well as non-government organizations and immigrant rights groups. For these reasons, it is imperative that CBP officers preparing casework that will result in an applicant's removal/refusal, prosecution, or other enforcement action, have received thorough training to complete legally sufficient casework. In determining admissibility and making disposition recommendations, including the appropriate use of discretion, CBP officers will need to be knowledgeable in immigration law, regulation and policy, and precedent decisions. CBP officers must be able to weigh all pertinent information in a fair and deliberate process.

An extended assignment

The position is intended as an extended assignment; the length of the assignment will be determined by the Port Director, or his designee, according to the operational needs of the port. Since the position requires a significant training commitment, and learning curve, officers will be assigned to the position description for extended durations. Additionally, the Port Director, or his designee, will have the discretion to make changes to assignments of work in order to meet mission and operational requirements.

The establishment of the CBP officer (Admissibility) creates another opportunity for officers with an aptitude for detecting fraud, eliciting responses, determining admissibility, and processing immigration enforcement actions to excel in this area, as well as train others to become proficient in this area. This, as with other specialty assignments will enable officers to expand their knowledge and skills in the specific areas and contribute to their career development and growth. **DB**



Photo by Kimberly A. Carton

The fuzzy white spots on the cherimoyas are the mealy bugs.

Agriculture canine team makes important interception

Recently, a Chicago CBP Agriculture Specialist K-9 team made an important prohibited fruit interception. The prohibited items were intercepted in a passenger's hand-carried and checked luggage by the AQI Specialist (Canine) Kim Der-Yeghiayan and her partner, Saint.

The 22 pounds of plant items and 1,482 individual fruits and vegetables were:

1 orange peel,
11 mangos,
2 soursops,
8 pounds of fresh lotus stems,
3 pounds of fresh pandanus leaves,
6 pounds of fresh sensitive plant,
2 pounds of fresh edible flowers,
3 pounds of Szechuan peppercorns,
32 cherimoyas,
156 mangosteens,
16 peppers,
395 rambutans,
541 loquats,
170 longens, and
159 Vietnamese potatoes.

The passenger was traveling from Vietnam on Korean Airlines to Glendale Heights, IL. Several quarantine significant insects in the mealy bug family were intercepted in and on the prohibited fruit.

The prohibited items were all seized and destroyed. **EC**

Development of new DHS and CBP 5-year strategic plans under way

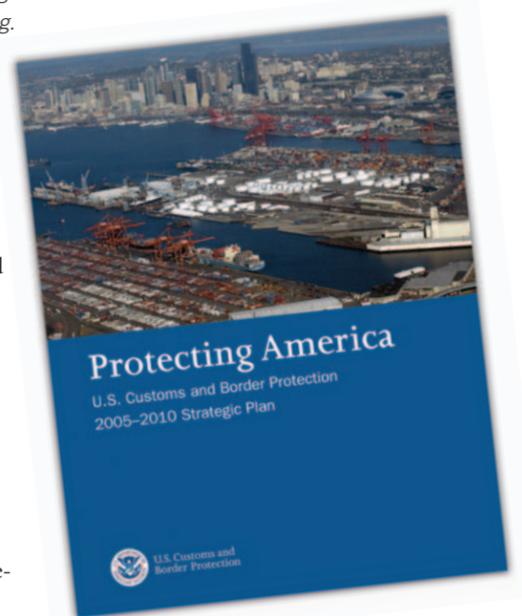
By Johanna Roark, Strategic Planning Program Manager, Office of Policy and Planning.

To drive future Department of Homeland Security (DHS) budget and activities, the department is well on its way to developing a new 2007-2012 Strategic Plan. Representatives from each component have participated in developing and reviewing the plan, and the final draft plan is due to Congress on September 30, 2006. It will feature four goals:

- Protecting the American people, society and the economy;
- Build a nimble, effective emergency response system and promote national resilience;
- Collect, analyze and share reliable information and intelligence with stakeholders; and
- Strengthen DHS core management, policy, and operational integration.

CBP employees support all four goals in some way, and they will guide the update to the current CBP 2005-2010 Protecting America Strategic Plan.

As a first step to developing the CBP 2008-2013 Plan, which will be published late next year, the Office of Policy and Planning (OPP) invites employees to review the current plan and submit suggestions for improvements to CBP.Strategic.Plan@Customs.Treas.Gov.



Over the next few months, OPP will talk with employees, senior leadership, experts, partners and other stakeholders regarding trends and issues that CBP will face in the future.

To view the current CBP strategic plan, go to <http://cbpnet/xp/cbpnet/oc/> or call 202.344.2700 for a copy. For a copy of the current DHS Plan visit: http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/interapp/editorial/editorial_0413.xml. To ask a question about strategic planning, call Johanna Roark on 202.344.2329 or email Johanna.Roark@dhs.gov. ♦

CBP maintains strong security on demanding Canadian border

Recent arrests in Toronto, Canada of suspected Al-Qaeda terrorist plotters have put a spotlight on Canadian border security. CBP already has a strong security posture at the Canadian border, and there are no plans to adjust that posture at this time. However, should it be necessary, CBP has several options available to increase capabilities through additional overtime, surge teams and more technology-based inspections.

CBP continues to monitor, analyze and adjust its operational posture when necessary to identify threats on all borders northern, southern and coastal.

The Integrated Border Enforcement Team (IBET) is a multi-agency law enforcement team that emphasizes a harmonized approach to Canadian and United States efforts to target cross-border criminal activity. The importance of IBETs has been heightened by the new reality of terrorism and the need to enhance border integrity.

Here are the ways in which CBP's operational offices contribute to U.S.-Canadian border security:

OFFICE OF FIELD OPERATIONS

Since 9/11, more than \$122 million in technology have been deployed to the Canadian border, including \$8.7 million in tactical communications, \$60 million in Radiation Portal Monitors, and \$40 million in other large-scale non-intrusive equipment. Future deployments include \$150 million for RPMs and large-scale non-intrusive equipment. In addition, \$200 million has been spent to enhance truck arrival process and the cargo entry process in the Canadian border.

CBP processed 79 million travelers through Canadian border ports of entry (POE) in fiscal year 2005.

Since 9/11, CBP has doubled the number of officers at POEs from 1,615 to 3,391, expanded cooperative law-enforcement operations with Canada and has increasingly employed sensors, cameras, aircraft and marine patrols.

OFFICE OF BORDER PATROL

The Border Patrol has nearly tripled its manpower from 340 to 980 agents along the Canadian border since fiscal year 2001 in its efforts to establish substantial probability of detecting, apprehending, and deterring illegal aliens, criminal elements, and terrorist threats in the Canadian border regions.

The Border Patrol has leveraged "smart border" technology in locations to multiply the effect of enforcement personnel, which allows for the strategic deployment of agents in an "in depth defense" posture substantially increasing the probability of apprehending criminal and terrorist elements.

Northern border apprehensions are currently showing a decrease of 19 percent compared to the same time last year. In 2005 the Border Patrol made 4,935 arrests compared to 4,011 arrests so far this fiscal year.

OFFICE OF AIR AND MARINE

There were no Air and Marine Branches in the Canadian border before 9/11. Since then, two new branches were opened with additional branches planned for the future. More than 50 new personnel will support these two new offices with about 40 personnel already on-board along the Canadian border.

In 2004 CBP A&M opened branches at Bellingham, Wash., and Plattsburgh, NY, as part of an effort to enhance law enforcement efforts along the Canadian border.

Preparations are underway to establish a third Canadian border branch in Great Falls, Mont., and we expect to have initial presence there later this summer.

CBP Air and Marine expects to establish an initial presence in both the Detroit, Mich., and Grand Forks, ND, areas in 2007.

The Air and Marine Operations Center communicates directly with the Canadian National Operations Center and we are currently working to increase our radar coverage along the Canadian border.

The Office of CBP Air and Marine has a close working relationship with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and has participated in a variety of joint operations.



Photo by Zachary Mann

A CBP patrol boat escorts Royal Caribbean International's Freedom of the Seas

CBP patrol boats escort world's largest cruise ship

In May 2006, Customs and Border Protection patrol boats in Miami escorted the largest cruise ship in the world, Royal Caribbean International's Freedom of the Seas. The ship weighs 160,000 tons, has 15 decks, is 208 feet high, 185 feet wide, and 1112 feet long. The ship is wider and taller than the height of the Statue of Liberty, and longer than the USS Ronald Reagan aircraft carrier.

The CBP OFO Marine Unit pictured is a 22-foot Boston Whaler powered by twin 175 horsepower outboard engines. It has a crew of three CBP officers. The boat is one of only two boats assigned to the Office of Field Operations in the entire country. Both boats are based out of the A-TCET (Anti-Terrorism Contraband Enforcement Team) on the Port of Miami. The second boat, not pictured, is a 26-foot Boston Whaler with twin 250 horsepower engines.

Both boats are used to patrol the ports in South Florida (Miami and Port Everglades), numerous marinas, rivers, canals and waterways protecting our borders, and to enforce US laws. **DB**

ACE is operational at the Southern Border

"From Brownsville, Texas, to Otay Mesa, California, ACE now stretches more than 1,900 miles along the U.S. Mexican border," said Cargo Systems Program Office Executive Director Louis Samenfink. "With the completion of installations on the southern border, ACE is in place to significantly enhance border security and expedite trade, especially as we transition to electronic manifests, a powerful, time saving tool for CBP and the trade community."

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has completed installations of the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) in California and Arizona, including the ports at Otay Mesa, Calexico, Andrade, and Tecate in California, and San Luis, Arizona. ACE is the commercial trade processing system being developed by CBP to enhance border security and expedite legitimate trade. Eventually ACE will be the lead system at all ports when, in the coming years, capabilities are rolled out for air, rail, and sea cargo processing.

The electronic manifest (e-Manifest) capability is currently available at all ACE ports. Truck carriers are encouraged to establish ACE truck carrier accounts now to ensure efficient border operations when e-Manifests are eventually mandated at all land ports. More than 3,000 e-Manifests have been filed to date. The faster carriers adopt e-Manifests, the faster the border crossing process speeds up for everyone.

Time Saving System

Truck carriers can submit an e-Manifest through the web-based ACE Secure Data Portal or via CBP approved Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) procedures. There are more than 200 companies certified to submit e-Manifests through EDI, and numerous companies are using the portal for submission. The portal is essentially a computer screen similar to a Web site home page that connects CBP



and the trade community by providing a single, integrated, on-line access point for communications and information. With a one-screen system, data can be stored and reused requiring less data entry time for truck carriers.

How does e-Manifest work?

When a truck approaches the primary booth, transponder technology similar to that of a toll-paying device may be used to signal the truck's arrival. The e-Manifest is automatically retrieved along with the matching pre-filed entries, in-bond requests, and other release declarations for the CBP officer to view and process. In addition, by establishing and using an ACE portal account, carriers can track the status of their trips and generate a wide variety of reports. This enables carriers to identify trends to plan future courses of action and achieve better results for their company. The time saving aspect also provides opportunities to increase profits. By allowing the truck carrier to begin import procedures early, drivers spend minimal time at the border itself, so delivery time is lessened, giving truckers more time to haul more shipments to earn more money.

With the completion of California, ACE has now been rolled out in every state on the southern border of the United States. Soon installations will begin in the northeast. There are currently 43 ACE ports in the states of Arizona, California, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, North Dakota, Texas, and Washington. CBP is working diligently to finish deployment at all land-border ports. ♦

CBP employees honored by Women in Federal Law Enforcement

On June 21, Women in Federal Law Enforcement (WIFLE) honored two CBP employees in its 2006 Awards Ceremony. These were Border Patrol Agent Wendi Lee, Otay Mesa, (Calif.) Sector, and Deputy Chief Patrol Agent Loretta Lopez-Mossman, Spokane, Wash.

Agent Lee was honored with the Julie Y. Cross Award for her quick and selfless actions and willingness to sacrifice her own safety to protect others. Lee participated in a high-speed chase of suspected illegal aliens on an entrance ramp to a crowded California interstate. By jumping into and stopping an abandoned van traveling backward into the flow of traffic, Lee protected citizens as well as fellow officers.

Agent Lopez-Mossman received the Outstanding Advocate for Women in Federal Law Enforcement award. Throughout her career, she has served with dedication and performed her duties in an exemplary manner. For example, she filed a successful class action lawsuit against the government for

installing an 8-foot wall within an obstacle course as an artificial barrier that kept women out of the Border Patrol. Upon her retirement June 2, she became the first female Border Patrol agent to complete 28 years of service.

WIFLE is an organization of women and men who work together to foster awareness of the value that women bring to law enforcement. Through cooperation and communication, WIFLE aims to improve gender equity in law enforcement by encouraging women to enter and excel in their chosen careers.

WIFLE is an outgrowth of an interagency committee formed by the Department of the Treasury and the Department of Justice in 1982. In June 1999, WIFLE was established as a non-profit organization. Members represent more than 60 Federal law enforcement agencies.

Congratulations to all of the 2006 nominees and award winners. **DB**

Border Patrol participates in 21st Special Olympics Torch Run

By Jennifer Lloyd, *Executive Assistant,
Headquarters Office of Border Patrol*

On Friday, June 9, calls of cadence could be heard from Headquarters Office of Border Patrol (HQOBP) as the group ran in formation, led by Chief David Aguilar and Deputy Chief Luis Barker, with the Border Patrol flag billowing as the group passed it around and carried it along.

HQOBP, joined by participants from other CBP offices (totaling 60+), remained in formation from the West Terrace of the U.S. Capitol Building to the field at Fort McNair for the 21st Annual Law Enforcement Torch Run, sponsored by the Special Olympics, District of Columbia.

With rain clouds in the sky and humidity in the air, HQOBP and many other law enforcement agencies—such as the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD); the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS); US Capitol Police (USCP); the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (BATFE); and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)—assembled at the U.S. Capitol Building, each wearing the official commemorative Law Enforcement Torch Run T-shirt.

“We believe it is important to come together as part of the law enforcement family to contribute to and support this important cause,” Chief Aguilar stated.

After a speech was given by Honorary Chairman Chief Charles H. Ramsey of the D.C. Metropolitan Police and the National Anthem was sung by CBP’s Linda Gray, the clouds parted and the race officially started, with the sun beating down on the runners.

The mass of law enforcement agents and employees began the run to Fort McNair, if not motivated by the good cause, then at least by the calling of the hotdogs, hamburgers, and ice cold beverages waiting for them at the end of the 2.5 mile run.

Did you know? The strange things people try to bring to the States

By Dannielle Blumenthal, *Public Affairs
Specialist, Office of Public Affairs*

Here at U.S. Customs and Border Protection, we process many people for admission to the United States. On a typical day in 2005, for example, our officers processed 1,181,605 passengers and pedestrians, including 630,976 aliens. Often those dealings have involved seizures of prohibited items from people who may not know any better than to try and bring them in: 1,145 prohibited meat, plant materials or animal products were seized on an average day last year.

The products CBP needs to prevent from entering the United States are those that would injure community health, public safety, American workers, children, or domestic plant and animal life. Sometimes the products that cause injury, or have the potential to do so, may seem fairly innocent. But appearances can be deceiving.

Here are some of the more “interesting” items that people have tried to bring through Customs and Border Protection and the actual rules governing their entry to the U.S.

• **Dog and cat fur:** It may sound strange, but as recently as April 2006, the London Telegraph reports, dog and cat fur is “flooding” from China into the European Union. In the United States, it is illegal to import, export, distribute, transport, manufacture, or sell products containing dog or cat fur. As of

Along with food and beverages were games, music, dancing, and most importantly, satisfaction for contributing in the enhancement of the lives of local children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

Coordinated by Assistant Chief Jim Wainer and Border Patrol Agent Sal Moreno, HQOBP sold 175 T-shirts, raising over \$2600 for the Special Olympics programs in the District of Columbia.

Along with HQOBP’s sale of 175 T-shirts, MPD sold an impressive 1300 shirts, reigning the top sellers for the eighth year in a row. Following MPD was NCIS, who sold 525 T-shirts, USCP with 192, BATFE with 158, and ICE with 115. This year’s event raised approximately \$50,000. More than \$1 million has been raised for this worthy affair since its inception in the District of Columbia.

“We definitely sold more T-shirts than we did last year, but with MPD selling an impressive 1300 T-shirts, our goal for next year is to expand our sales by going out to our sectors to see what type of numbers we can put up to contribute to a worthy cause like the Special Olympics,” Assistant Chief Wainer stated.

On the front of all the T-shirts was a newly designed Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run logo. HQOBP proudly wore their own unique design on the back of their shirts: the BP coin, the American Flag, and their motto, “Honor First,” thanks to the efforts of their graphic designer, Barry Taylor.

The purpose of the run is to donate money from the T-shirt sales so that the fees are covered for each Special Olympics athlete, coach, and volunteer to participate in the Special Olympics sports training program. Money raised covers uniforms, equipment, facilities, transportation, meals, and most importantly, the medals awarded to the athletes.

To volunteer and contribute in next year’s festivities, contact the Special Olympic District of Columbia’s coordinators Melinda Dee or Maria-Nelly Johnson at (202) 408-2640.

November 9, 2000, the Dog and Cat Protection Act of 2000 calls for the seizure and forfeiture of each item containing dog or cat fur. The Act provides that any person who violates any provision may be assessed a civil penalty of not more than \$10,000 for each separate knowing and intentional violation, \$5,000 for each separate gross negligent violation, or \$3,000 for each separate negligent violation.

• **Fish and wildlife:** With bird flu a pending concern, this restriction takes on greater urgency than ever. On May 2, Robert G. Webster, a virologist at the St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn., told the Washington Post that he believes bird flu will arrive in the U.S. eventually, “possibly carried by infected birds illegally brought into the country.” We recommend that you contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service before you depart if you plan to import or export any of the following: Wild birds, land or marine mammals, reptiles, fish, shellfish, mollusks, or invertebrates; any part or product of the above, such as skins, tusks, bone, feathers, or eggs; products or articles manufactured from wildlife or fish.

• **Game and hunting trophies:** People smuggle animal heads into the United States more often than one might think! If an individual plans to import game or a hunting trophy, they should contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at 800.358.2104 before leaving. Trophies may also be subject to inspection by

CBP employee wears two hats—serving in CBP, Army

By Adline Tatum, *Office of Equal
Employment Opportunity*

Over the last three years, Nicolle J. James has worn two hats as a U.S. Customs and Border Protection program officer and a Master Sergeant in the U.S. Army Reserve. Interestingly, both agencies share a similar mission: combating and eradicating terrorism.

James began her federal career with the U.S. Customs Service in 1998 at the port of Oakland as a member of the Contraband Enforcement Team, and then became an enforcement rover at the San Francisco International Airport. In 2000, she moved to Grand Forks, British Columbia, Canada, in support of the New Millennium project and earned the Commissioner’s Millennium Award. Three years ago, James transferred to the Office of Border Unification in Washington, D.C. She currently works in the Traveler Policies Division, Office of Field Operations, Traveler Security and Facilitation group.

James joined the Army Reserve on April 5, 1990, as a patient administrative specialist. She is a core member of the 2d Medical Brigade, which is headquartered in San Pablo, California, and has been in that unit her entire Army Reserve career. She has been the Noncommissioned Officer (NCO) in Charge of the Patient Administration Division/Medical Regulating Office since 1997. She has been performing the duties as the command’s Equal Opportunity Advisor (EOA) since 2001.

On June 24, 2005, James received the 4th Annual Merlin G. Pope, Jr. Outstanding US Army Reserve Equal Opportunity Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year Award. The award was established four years ago to recognize individual outstanding equal opportunity leadership qualities in honor of the late Merlin Pope, Jr., a nationally known leader and pioneer in diversity.

This award was presented to James in recognition of the outstanding manner she provided leadership which led to qualified minorities and women being integrated into and promoted in the Army Reserve. Additionally, James received the Bronze Medal for exceptionally meritorious service during Operation Iraqi Freedom, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army

CBP for sanitary purposes. Also, federal regulations do not allow the importation of any species into a state with fish or wildlife laws that are more restrictive than federal laws. If foreign laws were violated in the taking, sale, possession, or export to the United States of wild animals, those animals will not be allowed entry into the United States.

• **Soil:** Soil is considered the loose surface material of the earth in which plants, trees, and scrubs grow. In most cases, the soil consists of disintegrated rock with an admixture of organic material and soluble salts. Soil is prohibited entry unless accompanied by an import permit. Soil must be declared and the permit must be verified. In May 2005, CBP officers performing anti-terrorism operations at the Santa Teresa port of entry made an unusual discovery: Recently installed technology helped them discover 49 sandwich-size baggies of soil being smuggled from Mexico to the U.S.

• **Biological specimens:** A U.S. Department of



Photo by James Tourtellotte

Nicolle James

Achievement Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

In February 2003, shortly after arriving in Washington, D.C., James’ unit was activated and deployed to Baghdad, Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II. James held one of the most critical positions as the Brigade Medical Regulating Office Non Commissioned Officer In Charge, where she managed a staff of 10 personnel. One of her primary responsibilities in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II was to coordinate the transportation of injured U.S. service personnel, injured coalition forces, and other critically injured patients to the appropriate Level III Medical Treatment Facilities. James also functioned as a counselor to her troops, which enabled them to have their private fears and concerns about being in Iraq personally addressed.

In addition to James’ day-to-day duties, she was appointed as one of the Brigade’s Equal Opportunity Advisors (EOA). For twelve months, she continually performed EOA responsibilities in conjunction with her other responsibilities. James comments she had no idea equal opportunity was so important in combat. She states, “I was not prepared, and I had to get prepared very quickly.” James also expressed that her personal motto is, “Never disregard a soldier’s concerns and/or feelings.” James volunteered to remain in Iraq for an additional month to serve as the temporary EOA.

James graduated from Columbus University in 2001 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice.

CBP salutes James’ dedication to duty and accomplishment, and we wholeheartedly welcome her back home. Thank you, Nicolle, for your service to our country and for all that you do for us here at CBP. ♦

Agriculture permit may be needed to import biological specimens, including bacterial cultures, culture medium, excretions, fungi, arthropods, mollusks, tissues of livestock, birds, plants, viruses, vectors for research, biological or pharmaceutical use. Permit requirements are located under “Permits” on the USDA Website at www.aphis.usda.gov. For some permits one may have to contact the Centers for Disease Control at www.cdc.gov.

Before leaving for a trip abroad, it makes sense to ask CBP about the items one plans to bring back to be sure they’re not prohibited or restricted. Prohibited means the item is forbidden by law to enter the United States. Examples of prohibited items are dangerous toys, cars that don’t protect their occupants in a crash, or illegal substances like absinthe and Rohypnol. Restricted means that special licenses or permits are required from a federal agency before the item is allowed to enter the United States. Examples of restricted items include firearms, certain fruits, vegetables, and some animals. ♦

CBP's four-legged warriors

By Elysa Cross, *Writer-Editor, Office of Public Affairs*

In addition to U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers, Border Patrol agents and agriculture specialists, CBP has another group of employees who work every bit as hard to protect the United States from terrorists and their weapons, narcotics, animal and plant pests and diseases, they also find concealed and injured people. These are the members of the CBP canine enforcement program and their handlers. They have been described as a single unit with two heads, six legs and one heart.

CBP has the largest number of working dog teams of any federal law enforcement agency. Canine teams are assigned to over 73 ports of entry and 74 Border Patrol stations throughout the United States.

CBP's canine officers work with specially trained detector dogs at our nation's borders, land ports, seaports, international airports, and international mail facilities. The CBP canine programs have developed training courses in addition to training and deploying canine teams with an array of specialized detection capabilities. This includes:

- **Agriculture detector dogs** who find fruits, vegetables, meats or other prohibited items that may carry animal, pests, or plant diseases that could possibly harm U.S. agriculture resources.
- **Border Patrol Search, Trauma, and Rescue (BORSTAR) Canines** and their handlers are highly specialized units capable of responding to emergency search and rescue situations. The dogs are trained to search off leash and perform a recall-re-find indication, which has the dog return to the handler after finding missing persons and leading the handler to the location.

- **Chemical detector dogs** locate chemical odors used in weapons of mass destruction that could be smuggled into the United States.
- **Concealed human/narcotic detector dogs** locate concealed persons attempting to enter the United States illegally, as well as narcotics.
- **Currency detector dogs** locate the odor of undeclared U.S. currency being smuggled out of our country to circumvent required monetary reporting requirements.
- **Explosive detector dogs** locate explosive odors—that could be concealed in cargo, vehicles, aircraft, luggage and on passengers.
- **Narcotics detector dogs** locate narcotics, such as marijuana, hashish, heroin, cocaine, ecstasy, and methamphetamine.

Three training facilities support the CBP canine force:

- The Canine Enforcement Training Center in Front Royal, Virginia, established in 1974;
- The National Canine Facility in El Paso, Texas, established in 1991; and
- U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Detector Dog Training Center in Orlando, Florida, established in 1997.

In addition to CBP's border security mission, the CBP Canine Enforcement Program also conducts training for other federal, state, local, and foreign law enforcement agencies. The program also provides, on a case-by-case basis, assistance to state and local law enforcement entities.

Obtaining a dog

The predominant canines chosen for the program are from the sporting and working breeds such as Labrador retrievers, Golden retrievers, Belgian Malinois, German



Photo by Gerald Nino

An agriculture canine checks a vehicle for contraband

Shepherds, Dutch Shepherds, English Beagle, along with mixed breeds. The most important factor in selecting detector dogs for training is not the breed, but their personality and enthusiasm the dog displays toward retrieving a given object.

The majority of dogs selected for the program are obtained from vendors, animal shelters, humane societies and rescue leagues. However, in September 1998, a breeding program was established to provide additional detector dogs to the program. Currently, CBP has produced 171 puppies in 24 litters. This program relies on the local community to raise the puppies in foster homes. The Office of Border Patrol breeding program has produced 26 puppies in 3 litters.

Teamwork

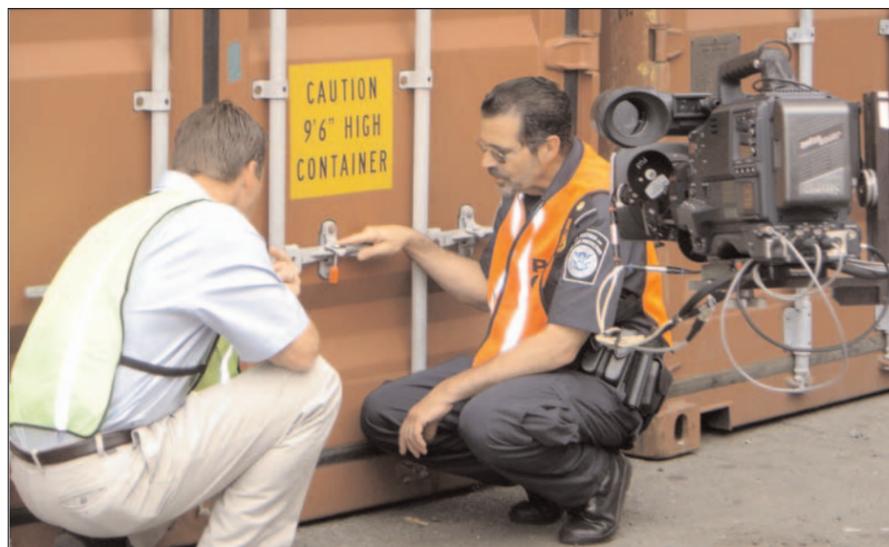
While the dogs usually get most of the credit for a find, it really is a team effort. A good dog also needs a good handler to get him moving in the right direction to start a search and to be able to interpret what the dog is telling him. The longer a team works together, the easier it is for the handler to read the signals that his dog is sending to him.

At U.S. borders and checkpoints, a canine team can screen a vehicle in seconds and do a thorough exam in minutes. Even a cursory search by an officer alone would require at least 20 minutes. The dogs are also able to check packages in a fraction of the time needed by mail examiners—saving time, money, and manpower.

The twilight years

The dogs usually start training at one year of age and mandatory retirement is at age nine. All the dogs, whether they are rescued from a shelter, donated by their owners, or are part of the breeding program, find a good home at the end of their career. No dog is ever sent to an animal shelter. CBP employees adopt many of the dogs that don't make it through training, and handlers usually take their retiring canine partner home with them.

They may not make the news, but everyone on the frontlines know the value of a well-meshed team of dog and handler. The bad guys fear them and the good guys praise them—the canine teams of U.S. Customs and Border Protection. ♦



Pardo demonstrates techniques used to detect container seal and door tampering in the container yard of New York Container Terminal (NYCT) at Howland Hook in Staten Island, NY

Legendary CBP officer appears in training film on seal tampering

By Lucille Cirillo, *Public Affairs Officer, New York Field Office*

U.S. Customs and Border Protection CBP Officer Ray Pardo just wrapped filming of his debut in a series of Office of Training and Development (OTD) of several training videos soon to be released. The video, "Detecting Container Seal Tampering," was filmed at Howland Hook's New York Container Terminal (NYCT), located in Staten Island, New York, over a seven-day period in June. The editing of the video is scheduled for completion by September and distribution to the field is planned for October. The video focuses on CBP's priorities and missions and gives CBP officers and agriculture specialists in the

field a more in-depth review of door mechanisms and insight into discerning legitimate seals from compromised or counterfeit seals, which may be indicative of smuggling.

In the post-9/11 era, container security has become paramount in the war against terrorism. The fear of terrorists attempting to smuggle weapons of mass destruction in a container has spotlighted the significance of identifying containers that have possibly been compromised. Officer Pardo has given countless courses on detecting and identifying seal tampering to CBP officers and other law enforcement agencies such as the FBI, CIA, state and local police, as well as shipping lines and container companies. To make Ray Pardo's course

widely available to all CBP officers and other law enforcement agencies, OTD elected to produce a series of training videos that will equip CBP officers with the knowledge to do their jobs well.

The seal tampering video is the first in a series of videos. There will be three additional videos on concealment, each featuring land, sea, and air. The first in the series of videos will focus on container and commodity concealment; with later videos to address concealment methods used in POV's, truck cabs, aircraft and vessels. The videos will review indications of concealment and the use of tools to find false compartments and traps.

Catherine Hartman, an executive producer with Maslow Media, is spearheading the filming and production of the training videos. Hartman has done work for a variety of government agencies, including the FBI and the State Department, but has been working full time for CBP as an executive producer for the past two years. She has recently been recognized for her work on the Border Patrol recruitment video titled "Protecting the Homeland" that received airtime on local television stations along the Southwest border. She has received other various commendations and industry awards for her work with other agencies.

OTD uses the instructional system design process and adult learning principles and its goal is to develop training materials that address the needs of employees in an interesting, engaging and innovative manner. OTD has chosen Catherine Hartman to produce these films because of her dedication to ensuring that the learning material is conveyed in a manner that fully engages the audience using multimedia as well as a manner that is relevant and realistic for use in the field. ♦

CBP's own 'MacGyver'

Pardo has a solid reputation as a subject matter expert in the field of container security and anti-smuggling. Before starting his career with the U.S. Customs Service 22 years ago, Pardo was a diesel mechanic and welder. In 1984, Pardo became a Customs inspector. He has been a member of the Newark Anti-Terrorism Contraband Enforcement Team (AT-CET) for the last 15 years and has become a nationally recognized expert on smuggling and concealment methods.

Back in the days when CET teams conducted full container strips solely in search of a "load of dope" and long before container-imaging equipment was used by the agency, Pardo would examine the seals and container doors of shipments that contained narcotics to determine how they had been compromised. After years of conducting surveillance and counter-surveillance of narcotics smuggling techniques, Pardo has become an expert at obtaining entry into any container without leaving any evidence of tampering.

"To find contraband, it is all about looking at the fine details and spotting discrepancies. But the greatest force multiplier we have as an agency is taking the knowledge and experience of individual officers and making it widely available through training," says Pardo on his starring role in the video.

Officer Pardo has also performed interviews for a variety of media such as CNN, Good Morning America, the Discovery Channel, Newsweek, and the New York Times. Because he is so renowned in this field, Pardo has been called upon to testify in court as an expert witness. In May of 2006, Officer Pardo testified in a federal criminal case regarding itemizer readings in a case of a container that had a false wall. Pardo's expert testimony corroborated the testimony of one of the Haitian conspirators who cooperated with the prosecution that linked the container to a seizure of cocaine made by DEA agents to a Haitian smuggling ring who had used the container to smuggle almost 2,000 pounds of cocaine from Haiti in December 2003.

Make-A-Wish event galvanizes headquarters to honor "President" Sterling Watson

By Dannielle Blumenthal, Public Affairs Specialist, Office of Public Affairs

On July 27, CBP headquarters staff pulled out all the stops to honor visiting "President" Sterling Watson of Mesquite, Tex., an 11-year old cancer patient and Make-A-Wish program participant who wished to be president for a day.

At 10:30 a.m., "President" Watson arrived at the Ronald Reagan Building with a genuine State Department Diplomatic Security Service detail and his "senior staff" (parents Michelle and Michael, and siblings Caleb, Lachelle, Keenan, and Tuesday). He was met by more than 150 flag-waving CBP employees, CBP Deputy Commissioner Deborah J. Spero, CBP Deputy Chief of Staff Chris Clark, and a CBP Color Guard.

Fifteen minutes later, "President" Watson gave his remarks in the CBP press conference room, where "Hail to the Chief" played upon his entrance. Deputy Commissioner Spero and "President" Watson offered some brief remarks, and he then signed a certificate naming the newest puppy in CBP's Canine Enforcement Program litter "Yeller."

Asked what his top priority was, the "president" replied, "Keeping America's national borders safe."

Shortly thereafter, "President" Watson enjoyed a tour of the Commissioner's Situation Room, where he was shown the sophisticated technology that helps keep track of what is going on at the borders and around the nation, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The "President" and his entourage then enjoyed a working lunch of pizza and ice cream. He was presented with gifts from

Deputy Commissioner Spero and representatives of CBP's operational offices: Office of Field Operations, Office of Border Patrol, and Air and Marine.

Asked if he had any comment for the employees of CBP, "President" Watson stated, "Thank you to the employees of CBP for hosting me. I appreciate it very much."

He added, "It is only in America that a little boy from Mesquite, Texas can wish of some day being President of the United States and actually have that wish come true."

The turnout of CBP employees, and the outstanding level of gifts provided to this young man, were a heartwarming display of how much thoughtfulness exists in this organization. From framed photographs, to flags, pens, coins, badges, certificates, and more, CBP showed just how much it really cares. ♦

Did you know...

The nonprofit Make-A-Wish foundation grants wishes to children with life-threatening medical conditions "to enrich the human experience with hope, strength, and joy." It began in 1977 when Customs Officer Tommy Austin met Christopher James Greicius and his mother Linda Bergendahl-Pauling. Chris dreamed of becoming a police officer. He was battling leukemia and when Chris' condition worsened, Austin contacted Officer Ron Cox at the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) about making Chris' wish come true. Officer Cox was more than eager to oblige, and he recruited other DPS members to create a magical experience for Chris. Austin asked Chris if he wanted to ride in a real police helicopter and on April 29, 1980, Chris got his wish. That simple start became the Make-A-Wish Foundation. It has since grown into a worldwide presence, with 25,000 volunteers reaching more than 144,000 children.

Elementary school dedicated to fallen Rio Grande Valley Border Patrol agent

On April 20, the Judson Independent School District in San Antonio, Texas voted to name its newest elementary school after one of CBP's fallen Border Patrol agents, Ricardo Guillermo Salinas.

Agent Salinas was a Border Patrol agent assigned to the Rio Grande Valley Sector in south Texas when he was fatally wounded the morning of Tuesday, July 7, 1998, while assisting another agency.

That day, Salinas and several other agents responded to a call for assistance from the Cameron County Sheriff's Department south of San Benito, Texas. The Sheriff's deputies were pursuing a double homicide suspect. Agent Salinas was helping to set up a perimeter in an attempt to confine the suspect to a wooded area where he was believed to

be hiding. As Agents Salinas and Susan Lynn Rodriguez walked back to their vehicle, the suspect emerged from a cornfield and began firing on them and other law enforcement officers at the scene. During the ensuing gun battle, Agents Salinas and Rodriguez were killed. At the time of his death, Agent Salinas was assigned to the Harlingen Station of the McAllen Sector.

The Border Patrol has a rich history of selflessness and dedication in the face of adversity. Agents recognize the dangers inherent in their chosen profession while enforcing laws and protecting the communities they serve. The willingness of the Judson Independent School District to recognize the sacrifices of this fallen agent demonstrates the impact that Border Patrol agents have on our communities. **DB**



Photo by Laurie Eyring

Nikki with some of her puppies

Stork arrives for the 25th time

The Office of Training and Development is proud to announce the arrival of the "Y" litter. The litter of twelve arrived on July 1, 2006, and consists of six females and six males. The mother is CBP "Nikki," a black Labrador retriever stationed at the Canine Training Center in Virginia. The father is "MH Logo Fifty Five" a yellow Labrador retriever from McLean, VA.

This brings the number of puppies from the CBP breeding program to 186 puppies from 25 litters.

CBP launches security partnership, training program with air carriers

Carrier Liaison Program offers valuable training tools for airline partners

By Kelly Klundt, Public Affairs Specialist, Office of Public Affairs

Recently, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) announced the launch of the Carrier Liaison Program (CLP), a partnership with commercial air carriers that provides U.S. entry requirements and document examination training to airline staff around the world.

"Partnerships with airlines and associations such as the International Air Transport Association and the Air Transport Association are a key element in extending our borders outward, and demonstrate the commitment by private industry to help secure and facilitate travel. This program is mutually beneficial in that it provides a more robust training element to help identify counterfeit travel documents, and establishes an ongoing training and information sharing opportunity, while expediting travel," said Assistant Commissioner Jayson Ahern, Office of Field Operations.

This ongoing program enhances security by increasing carrier effectiveness in identifying

improperly documented passengers destined to the U.S. Comprised of a day long, interactive training, it allows participants to engage in hands-on instruction in fraudulent document identification, passenger assessment, and travel document verification. The Carrier Liaison Program team has developed innovative training products such as sample travel documents that allow participants to examine dozens of common security features. Since February more than 500 carrier staff have attended CLP training at seven cities abroad.

Benefits include reduced numbers of improperly documented individuals boarding aircraft destined to the U.S., as well as assisting carriers to reduce costs and penalties associated with boarding inadmissible passengers. A CBP Carrier Liaison Officer is also available to provide on-site training at ports of entry and serve in an advisory role to carriers. The initial training course was held last month, with more than a dozen courses planned throughout Europe, Asia, and South America over the next year. ♦

IN MEMORIAM

★ ★ ★
In honor of
CBP employees
and retirees

EMPLOYEES

John T. Menkarell
CBP Officer
Tucson, Ariz.
6/29/06

Thomas Meyers
CBP Officer
Santa Teresa, N.M.
7/7/06

Jackie Frierson
Human Resources
Specialist
Washington, D.C.
7/19/06

Buddy L. DeWeese
BP LE Communications
Assist
Twin Falls, Idaho
7/28/06

RETIREES
Larry Augustine
Border Patrol Agent
El Paso, Tex.
8/29/02

Robert "BOB" Forrest Frey
Border Patrol
10/25/04

John B. Manabat, Jr.
Customs Inspector
Detroit Mich.
12/20/04

Roy Boehm
ADDI
Indio, CA
1/16/06

George C. Gibson Jr.
Border Patrol
El Paso, Tex.
1/18/06

Paul O. Reece
Deportation Officer
Dallas, Tex.
2/7/06

Emilio J. Morelli
Asst Regional
Commissioner
St. Paul, Minn.
2/8/06

Richard Quirk Jr.
Deputy Chief
McAllen, Tex.
2/10/06

Roy Lane
Patrol Agent in Charge
Brackettville, Tex.
3/9/06

James L. Rapp
Deputy Chief
Tucson, Ariz.
3/10/06

Gordon Gray
Deputy Chief
Marfa, Tex.
3/14/06

Tommy K. Crowe
Port Director
Phoenix, Ariz.
4/11/06

LeRoy C. Merritt
Deputy Chief
4/9/06

Harry G. Herrera
Border Patrol
Chula Vista, Calif.
4/22/06

John (Jack) R. Oravec
CBP Officer
Dover, Del.
5/16/06

Theodore Parusis
Mission Support
Specialist
Newark, N. J.
5/31/06

Frank Cullimore
Drawback Liquidator
New York, N.Y.
6/1/06

Thomas H. Deitzman
Asst Chief Patrol Agent
El Centro, Ariz.
6/5/06

William J. Rescigno
Senior Customs
Inspector
New York, N.Y.
6/7/06

Thomas Phillip Davis
Operations Officer
Washington, D.C.
6/9/06

Customs And Border Protection Today publishes employee and retiree death announcements as soon as the information is verified. Employees who wish to provide this information may contact Karen Yates at 202.344.3381 or 1.888.286.6539. **EC**



U.S. Customs and
Border Protection

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