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R. Gil Kerlikowske Sworn in as CBP Commissioner



On March 7, 2014, R. Gil Kerlikowske was sworn in as Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), taking the helm of the Department of Homeland Security agency with the dual mission of protecting national security objectives while promoting economic prosperity and security. CBP, with over 60,000 employees and a budget of \$12.4 billion, is the largest federal law enforcement agency and second largest revenue collecting source in the federal government.

“Having spent a career in law enforcement, there is no greater honor or responsibility than to serve as Commissioner of CBP,” said the Commissioner in a statement to CBP employees. “I also want to assure you that although my career has been in law enforcement, I am attentive to and appreciate the vital and important work you perform in order to expedite our imports and exports, protecting our agriculture assets, and the impact you have on travel and visitors. I worked in Seattle and Buffalo where international trade and commerce were important priorities.”

Mr. Kerlikowske brings four decades of law enforcement and drug policy experience to the position. Most recently, he served as Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy. He formerly served nine years as the Chief of Police for Seattle, WA. When he left, crime was at its lowest point in 40 years. Previously, he was Deputy Director for the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, where he was responsible for more than \$6 billion in federal assets. Mr. Kerlikowske was also Police Commissioner of Buffalo, NY. The majority of his law enforcement career was in Florida where he served in the St. Petersburg Police Department.

He was elected twice to be President of the Major Cities Chiefs, which represents the largest city and county law enforcement agencies in the United States and Canada. He has received numerous awards and recognition for leadership, innovation, and community service. He served in the U.S. Army where he was awarded the Presidential Service Badge. Mr. Kerlikowske holds a B.A. and a M.A. in criminal justice from the University of South Florida.

Please join CBP in welcoming Commissioner Kerlikowske, whose leadership and experience will be invaluable as we continue our critical mission of protecting our Nation’s borders and promoting economic security. For additional information, please contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.



DHS Announces Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Request

On March 4, 2014, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson unveiled the Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) fiscal year (FY) 2015 budget request of \$38.2 billion in net discretionary funding, building on the progress DHS has made in each of its mission areas while strengthening existing capabilities. The FY 2015 Budget priorities continue the Administration’s unwavering commitment to secure our borders and ports of entry against illegal entry of people, weapons, drugs and other contraband, and to facilitate the movement of lawful trade and commerce.

The FY 2015 Budget includes salaries, benefits, and operating costs for 25,775 U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers and 21,370 Border Patrol agents. The Budget also includes resources to complete the hiring of 2,000 new CBP officers, which commenced in FY 2014, and up to an additional 2,000 officers funded by fees in FY 2015. Additional officers would result in faster processing and inspecting of passengers and cargo at U.S. ports of entry, as well as more seizures of illegal items, such as drugs, guns, and counterfeit goods. In addition, the Budget includes \$362 million to maintain the necessary infrastructure and technology along our Nation’s borders to ensure that law enforcement personnel are able to accomplish their objective as rapidly as possible without impediments.

The Budget also supports investments in DHS’s intelligence and targeting programs, which will increase operational efficiencies and enhance our ability to interdict threats and dangerous people before they reach the United States.

Visit the DHS Website to read the Secretary’s announcement. For more information, please contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.

The Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA) serves as the single point of contact within CBP for communications between CBP and Congress.

OCA is committed to addressing any question or concern you may have related to CBP’s complex mission. Please contact us:

Phone: (202) 344-1760; Fax: (202) 344-2152; E-mail: OCAInquiry@cbp.dhs.gov.

Please visit CBP’s Congressional Resources webpage for Frequently Asked Questions, News and Events, and other CBP Resources.

DHS Finalizes Prison Rape Elimination Act Standards

Rape is violent, destructive, and a crime, no matter where it takes place. In response to concerns related to incidents of rape of prisoners in Federal, state, and local prisons and jails, as well as the lack of data available about such incidents, the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) was enacted in September 2003. On March 7, 2014, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) finalized PREA regulations to prevent, detect and respond to sexual abuse and assault in DHS confinement facilities, meeting a May 2012 Presidential Directive.

“DHS is committed to upholding a culture that promotes safety and refuses to tolerate abuse,” said Secretary Jeh Johnson. “This rule will strengthen standards in DHS confinement facilities and ensure robust oversight.”

The DHS rule will require extensive planning and training for officers and others who work in those detention facilities, as well as standards for audits and compliance review. The rule will cover immigration detention facilities overseen by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and holding facilities, which are used by both ICE and U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

The DHS rule consolidates and builds on the substantial safeguards against sexual assault already in place. DHS will continue to develop policies, procedures and practices that advance PREA’s goal of preventing sexual abuse in confinement facilities and is fully committed to the full implementation of its new regulations as well as continued oversight of the detention system.

DHS issued the rule pursuant to the May 2012 [Presidential Memorandum](#) directing all agencies with federal confinement facilities to create rules or procedures setting standards to prevent, detect and respond to sexual abuse, and also to comply with the subsequently enacted, bipartisan Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013.

The Final Rule is available on the [Federal Register](#). For additional information, please contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.

CBP Training and Collaboration Results in \$58 Million Honduras Cocaine Seizure



Recent collaboration between CBP Container Security Initiative (CSI) personnel and Honduran Authorities trained by CBP resulted in the seizure of 2,098 kilograms of cocaine in Puerto Cortes, Honduras. On January 26, 2014, CSI Puerto Cortes had received information from Honduran National Police regarding a possible load of cocaine arriving in Puerto Cortes from Colombia. Honduran authorities requested CSI’s assistance in identifying shipments to examine. CSI personnel utilized CBP’s Automated Targeting Systems (ATS) to identify sea cargo vessels that matched the aforementioned routing. Once vessels were identified, they worked

alongside Honduran authorities in further researching 175 cargo manifests to target shipments they found to be of high risk for narcotics smuggling.

Three days later, the targeted containers were selected for X-ray inspection and anomalies were found during the non-intrusive inspection. A physical exam of one of the containers was conducted by Honduran Police and a CBP-trained Policía Nacional tactical support element, the Grupo de Operaciones Especiales Tacticas (GOET), who assisted by utilizing the ZBV backscatter van. The physical examination revealed hundreds of bricks, wrapped in tape, located in the center of the sheet rock. The bricks contained 2,098 kilograms of cocaine, which was seized with an estimated value of \$58.1 million. The remaining containers were examined with negative results. Information was disseminated to CBP’s National Targeting Center-Cargo (NTCC) and Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) for further investigation.

CBP teams began training Honduran Border Police recruits in October 2011. To date, six teams of agents from the Border Patrol Special Operations Group have rotated through Honduras on 90-day TDYs and graduated 115 Honduran agents.

In 2012, CBP’s Office of International Affairs deployed a CBP Advisor to Honduras to liaise between the Department of State and Policía de Fronteras. During this assignment, the CBP Advisor assisted with the creation of the GOET. CBP advisory presence has continued, with the third advisor currently in country. This example of collaboration by CBP personnel and Government of Honduras partners has been hailed by the Embassy as a model for U.S. government cooperation.

For additional information on CBP’s international training and assistance, please visit the [CBP Website](#) or contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.

CBP Enforcement News



CBP Agriculture Specialists Intercept Hide of Endangered Cat

Nogales, AZ — U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agriculture specialists at the Mariposa Port recently took possession of what appears to be the tanned hide of a large wild cat. Officials initially referred a motorhome for further agricultural inspection after initial questioning Monday. During the course of their inspection, specialists found what appeared to be the pelt of a large spotted cat. Agriculture specialists detained the skin on behalf of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). FWS inspectors determined the pelt is likely that of a large ocelot, a species threatened with extinction and protected by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species.

— Visit the [CBP Newsroom](#) for the full story.



Border Patrol Agents Uncover Drug-Laced Candy, Meth, and Cocaine at Checkpoint

San Clemente, CA — On March 5, 2014, U.S. Border Patrol agents assigned to the I-5 checkpoint intercepted two vehicles with 23 pounds of drugs worth approximately \$160,000 and a variety of drug products geared towards children. The first incident occurred when agents referred a vehicle secondary inspection where agents discovered marijuana e-cigarette cartridges, marijuana cigars, 12.68 pounds of bulk marijuana and lollipops, hard candy, and cookies laced with tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). In the second incident, when a driver had difficulty answering questions and a canine alerted to the vehicle, agents referred the vehicle to nearby California National Guard members, who operate a non-intrusive, imaging-detection system. The system revealed anomalies within the rear seats of the vehicle where agents then discovered six bundles of methamphetamine and two bundles of cocaine.

— Visit the [CBP Newsroom](#) for the full story.

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