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Letter from the Assistant Commissioner: Border Security

I'm Pete Ladowicz, Assistant Commissioner for CBP's Office of Congressional Affairs. Border security has many elements. Whether its protecting our ports of entry, patroling the seas and the skies, or guarding the perimeter of the United States, the men and women of CBP are our nation's first line of defense.

On a typical day in FY 2017, CBP arrested 21 wanted criminals; seized 5,863 pounds of narcotics, more than a quarter million dollars of undeclared or illicit currency, and \$3.3 million worth of products with intellectual property rights violations; stopped 7 known or suspected terrorists from entering the country; and apprehended more than 800 people between U.S. ports of entry. But our jobs are not only preventing dangerous and illegal goods and people from entering the United States; we also facilitate legitimate trade and travel, which strenghtens the American economy.

Border security is national security, and we look forward to continuing to work with you to protect our nation.

Carla L. Provost Named Chief of the U.S. Border Patrol



On August 9, Commissioner Kevin K. McAleenan announced the selection of Deputy Chief Carla L. Provost as the 18th Chief of the U.S. Border Patrol. She is the first woman to serve in this position.

"There is no one more suited to lead the Border Patrol," said Commissioner McAleenan. "It is my distinct honor to appoint Chief Provost to this position. I have absolute confidence in her experience, leadership, judgment and dedication to lead the Border Patrol, as well as her unwavering commitment to our mission, and our agency."

Chief Provost has had a distinguished 23-year career in the U.S. Border Patrol, holding a wide variety of supervisory, management, and leadership positions having worked her way up through the ranks in key operational roles in some of the busiest sectors in the country.

She entered on duty with the U.S. Border Patrol in 1995, as a member of Class 277 and was first assigned as a Border Patrol agent at the Douglas Station in the Tucson Sector. In 1998, she was promoted to a supervisory Border Patrol agent position, and in 2001 to a field

operations supervisor position. In 2006, Chief Provost was promoted to assistant chief patrol agent at the Yuma Sector. In 2009, she became patrol agent in charge of the Wellton Station in the Yuma Sector.

In 2011, Chief Provost was appointed to the Senior Executive Service (SES) as deputy chief patrol agent of the El Paso Sector. In 2013, she was named chief patrol agent for the El Centro Sector in Imperial, California, where she led 1,200 employees and oversaw all operations within her area of responsibility. In July 2015, Chief Provost was named deputy assistant commissioner of Internal Affairs, where she oversaw compliance with all CBP-wide programs and policies relating to corruption, misconduct, or mismanagement. She became deputy chief of the U.S. Border Patrol in 2016.

For more information, please visit CBP.gov or contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.

Edward E. Young Appointed as Executive Assistant Commissioner, Air and Marine Operations

On August 17, Commissioner Kevin K. McAleenan announced the appointment of Edward E. Young to be the Executive Assistant Commissioner (EAC), Air and Marine Operations (AMO). Mr. Young has served as the Acting EAC of AMO since October 2016.

EAC Young has nearly 28 years of law enforcement experience, having begun his career in 1990 with the former U.S. Customs Service as an Air Interdiction Officer in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

EAC Young has played a pivotal role in helping to develop AMO into the nationally recognized air and marine force that it is today. For more information, please visit <u>CBP.gov</u> or 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: OCAlnquiry@cbp.dhs.gov.

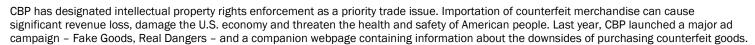
CBP Seizes Over \$2 Million Worth of Counterfeit Cartier Love Bracelets in Philadelphia

On July 23 at the Port of Philadelphia, CBP officers selected a shipment manifested as bracelets from Hong Kong. When the shipment was inspected for possible counterfeit merchandise, the officers found 31 Cartier rose and yellow gold bracelets and 17 Cartier white gold bracelets, all diamond paved. Due to the poor packaging and quality of the items, CBP officers detained the shipment for further evaluation.

Officers worked with CBP's Consumer Products and Mass Merchandising Centers for Excellence and Expertise, the agency's trade experts, who verified through the trademark holders that the bracelets were counterfeit.

"For these CBP officers, keeping their 'eyes on the prize' didn't mean finding real gold, but instead finding fool's gold," said Joseph Martella, CBP Port Director for the Area Port of

Philadelphia. "Our expertly trained CBP officers stopped dozens of illicit consumer products from entering the United States yet again."



CBP also collaborates with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Homeland Security Investigations (ICE-HSI) and 21 other partners at the National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center to ensure a comprehensive response to intellectual property theft. For more information, please visit CBP.gov or contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.



On August 14, a Tucson man transporting four illegal aliens in a Ford Fusion fled from Willcox Border Patrol agents who were attempting to conduct an immigration inspection on Highway 80 near Tombstone. When agents tried to stop the vehicle, the driver sped away toward Tombstone High School but stopped after crashing through a gate in front of the school. Five men bailed out of the vehicle in an attempt to escape on foot.

Helicopter flight crews from Air and Marine Operations and Cochise County Air responded to assist agents on the ground and soon all five suspects were apprehended. The driver, identified as a 35-year-old U.S. citizen, now faces felony smuggling charges. The vehicle's other four occupants, identified as Mexican nationals, will be processed for immigration violations.

A similar incident occurred the evening prior near Sunizona when agents from Willcox Station's Highway Interdiction Team attempted to stop a Chevy Malibu on Highway 191. A 22-year-old Douglas man driving the vehicle fled from agents during an immigration stop after two female Mexican nationals bailed from the vehicle. Responding agents arrested the two women and later caught up with the Malibu on Highway 186, with the Douglas man and two other illegal aliens near the vehicle. The Douglas man faces felony smuggling charges while the four Mexican nationals are being processed for immigration violations. For more information, please visit CBP.gov or contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.

Nogales CBP Officers Seize \$1M in Hard Drugs

On August 11, U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers at Arizona's Port of Nogales arrested two Mexican nationals involved in connection with failed attempts to smuggle more than 51 pounds of heroin, cocaine and methamphetamine into the United States.



CBP officers at the Dennis

DeConcini Crossing referred a 32-year-old Mexican woman for further inspection of her Chevrolet compact wagon Saturday morning. A CBP narcotics detection canine alerted to a scent it was trained to detect on the front and rear bumpers. Officers removed more than a dozen packages of cocaine, which weighed nearly 40 pounds and worth an estimated value of almost \$953,000.

That afternoon, officers at the DeConcini Crossing referred a 30-year-old Mexican male for further inspection of his GMC SUV. A CBP canine alert led to the discovery of more than nine pounds of meth, worth nearly \$28,000. The search of the vehicle roof also led to the seizure of more than two pounds of heroin, worth nearly \$65,000.

Officers seized the drugs as well as both vehicles. The subjects were both arrested and then turned over to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations.

CBP and Southwest Airlines Partner to Provide Officers and Canines with Mission-Essential Training Aids

On August 20, 2018, CBP announced a new formal partnership arrangement with Southwest Airlines Co. as part of the Donations Acceptance Program. Under this partnership arrangement,



Southwest Airlines will provide CBP with discarded luggage available at air ports of entry where both partners operate. CBP will in turn use this luggage to train canines to search for and detect narcotics, weapons, and other illegal contraband entering and leaving the United States.

"CBP is pleased to announce its first corporate partnership with a major airline for the provision of canine training aids," said Todd C. Owen, Executive Assistant Commissioner, Office of Field Operations. "These training aids are important in helping CBP achieve its mission of safeguarding America's borders and protecting the public from dangerous people and materials."

For more information, please visit $\underline{\text{CBP.gov}}$ or contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.