

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

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- Overview of our Mission
- Key Initiatives
- Preventing Plant Pests
- Proposed legislation
- Next Steps



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CBP's priority mission is preventing terrorists and terrorist weapons from entering the United States, while also facilitating the flow of legitimate trade and travel. (Includes prevention of agro/bio terrorism)



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Traditional Agriculture Mission

To prevent the introduction of harmful plant and animal pests and diseases from entering the United States.



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CBPAS Staffing Improved at Ports of Entry

| Date | Target Numbers | Actual Staff Numbers | Vacancies |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------------|-----------|
| As of March 1, 2003 | 1,874 | 1,472 | (402) |
| As of May, 2007 | 2, 188 | 2,098 | (90) |



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CBPAS Staffing Improved in Preclearance Operations

- CBP is deploying CBPAS to seven preclearance operations: Aruba, Bahamas (Freeport & Nassau), Bermuda, and Canada (Montreal, Toronto, & Vancouver).



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Key Programs

Quality Assurance

- CBP and USDA conduct site joint visits at ports of entry to ensure consistent port operations and the agricultural mission is carried out in accordance with established regulations, polices, and procedures.
- This fiscal year port reviews have been conducted San Diego, CA, JFK, Laredo, TX, San Juan, PR, Los Angeles, CA, Boston, MA.
- Seattle, WA, and Honolulu, HI remain.



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Key Programs

Port Pest Risk Committees: Meet to discuss issues concerning local pest risk pathways. The committees consist of area USDA, CBP, and State Managers, Officers, CBP Agriculture Specialists (CBPAS), identifiers, the area Veterinary Medical Officer, PPQ (SITC), and IES.



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Key Initiatives

National Agriculture Release Program (NARP):

- Collaboration between CBP and USDA implementing a program that facilitates the entry of certain low risk agricultural products from certain countries at a lower inspection rate.
- NARP will free up CBPAS to concentrate on inspections of high risk agricultural products.



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National Agriculture Release Program (NARP):

Uses national and local criteria.

- Efficient use of personnel
- Systematically and randomly selects commodities.
- Ensures program integrity.
- Increased accuracy in measuring pest risk.
- Adjust to changing risk profile without compromise



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National Agriculture Release Program (NARP): - Mexico List

Asparagus, Banana fruit, Beans (pod or shelled), Bell pepper, Beet, Cantaloupe, Carrot, **Celery**, Chayote, Chive/Onion, Coconut (fruit w/o husks), Cucumber, Eggplant, Honeydew melon, Jicama, Leek & dry onion bulbs, Lemon, Nopales, Okra (from Mx border are only), Parsnip, Pea, Persian Lime, Pineapple, Radish, Sour Lime, Squash, Strawberry, Tomatillo, Tomato, Watermelon.



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National Agriculture Release Program (NARP):



Numerous *Copitarsia* sp. interception on celery from Mexico resulted in the removal of celery from the NARP.



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Key Initiatives

Wood Packing Material:

Implemented USDA wood packaging material (WPM) regulations requiring certification of all international arriving wood products be fumigated with Methyl Bromide or undergo Heat Treatment. WPM regulations were implemented in three phases between September, 2005 and July, 2006.



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Pests found in wood packing

| | FY 06 | FY 07 |
|------------------|-------|-------|
| Live Pests found | 485 | 563 |
| Reportable Pests | 302 | 394 |



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Key Initiatives

Data Management

- Data-automation initiatives, through the automated targeting system (ATS) and Cargo Enforcement Reporting and Tracking System (CERTS).
- These systems allow integration of the agricultural inspection process for trade and passenger operations into the CBP data systems providing enhanced targeting and improving inspection efficiency.



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Data Management

E-Permits

- The electronic permits (e-Permits) feature in APHIS:
 - Automates checking the validity of permits for U. S. shipments at U.S. ports of entry.
 - Interfaces with current release processes
 - Consolidates CBP/APHIS search requirements
 - Utilizes Electronic Data Interchange (EDI)



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Key Initiatives for Ag/Bio-Terrorism Countermeasures

- Collaborating with National Biodefense Analysis and Countermeasures Center (NBACC) to develop risk assessments and pathway analyses for more effective targeting.
- Establishing new intel sources through use of artificial intelligence search engines.
- Collaborating with CBP LSS staff in identifying and testing bio-detection and devitalization devices for bio-threat agents at ports.



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Key Initiatives/Programs – Training

- Creation & delivery of numerous training initiatives is one of the most significant examples of collaboration and cooperation between CBP and APHIS.
- E-permits is one example of a collaborative training between CBP and APHIS done at the USDA Professional Development Center.



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Training

- Basic training- CBP AS, CBPO
- Post Academy
- Cross-training- Ag Procedures
- Detection training
- Cargo Release/Identification
- Military Cooperator
- Bird handling

Key Initiatives/Programs – Avian Influenza

Joint CBP and APHIS Initiatives include:

- CBP Bird Handling Procedures.
- Musters on Avian diseases.
- AI seminars for mid level/senior level CBP staff.
- Bird Posters.
- Automated targeting of select commodities.



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CBP Agriculture Inspection

Examples of
QMIs from
passenger
processing.



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Seizures Preventing Plant Pests Infestations

- In March 2007, a CBP Agriculture Specialist intercepted an avocado seed moth larva in avocados seized from a passenger who arrived from Nicaragua.



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Seizures Preventing Plant Pests Infestations

- On May 3, 2007 Miami's Passenger Processing Compliance team seized all fruits aboard a South American flight.
- Citrus Canker was discovered on limes which were from the rear aircraft galley put on in Santa Cruz, Boliva.
- Citrus Canker is not known to occur in Boliva.



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Seizures Preventing Plant Pests Infestations

- In December 2006, CBP Agriculture Specialists intercepted a hawthorn spider mite on a shipment of fresh avocados imported from the Dominican Republic.
- This was a first-time, nationwide interception of this particular pest on a cargo shipment.



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Seizures Preventing Plant Pests Infestations

- In November 2006, seven Mexican fruit fly larvae were intercepted in a prohibited shipment of sweet limes imported from Mexico.
- The crates of sweet limes were commingled with a shipment of other agricultural commodities.



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UGA0019034

Asian Gypsy Moth Egg Masses found in Seattle, WA

- On April 04, 2007, CBPAS Shumaker was training four CBPOs as part of the Agriculture Procedures Maritime Processing class.
- During the hands-on training, CBPAS Shumaker took the Officers to MacMillan Piper CES to inspect containers.
- While inspecting the exterior of container for snails (the commodity was iron bars from Australia), CBPO Becerra located a suspect Asian Gypsy Moth (AGM) egg mass.



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CBP Agricultural Inspection

CBP Agriculture
Specialist Canine
Officer



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CBP's Role in Enforcing the Bioterrorism Act of 2002

- **CBP Officers and Agriculture Specialists formally commissioned under the BTA**
- **Concentrate on prior notice of shipments**



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CBP's Role in Enforcing the Bioterrorism Act of 2002

- Tampering evidence
- Sampling and holds for FDA examination
- FDA Prior Notice Center staff at National Targeting Center



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Legislation Affecting CBPAS

- There are four bills in the House and Senate that propose to transfer the CBP agriculture inspectional functions back to USDA.
- There is also legislation proposing a “Food and Safety Act” and would create a “Food and Safety Administration”



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Stakeholder Meeting May 8

- Industry, States, State Organizations
- Pest outbreaks, priorities
- Improve communication, performance
- Need more transparency
- Targeting and data systems good



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Strategies to Bolster Agricultural Mission

- Maintain focus on importance of mission
- Conduct outreach to stakeholders
- Encourage active participation in Pest Risk Committees
- Improve effectiveness of agricultural secondary referrals
- CBPO Training in agriculture programs
- Cutting fruit to find pests and diseases



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Joint Task Force

APHIS and CBP formed a joint task force to:

- Address stakeholder concerns regarding the agricultural mission and operations.
- Evaluate the recommendations of the GAO and OIG reports.
- Develop Joint action plans to improve the Agriculture Program.



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Joint Action Plans

- Communication/Outreach
- Leadership/Structure
- Processes
- Training
- Performance Measures
- Information Management
- Resources
- Emergency Response



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In Closing

CBP/APL Goals Are:

- Develop joint performance measures with APHIS.
- Focus on targeting to improve effectiveness and efficiency of inspections.
- Continue to work closely with other federal agencies.
- Utilize trend analysis to define high risk pathways.
- Maintain work and dialogue with stakeholders.



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