



Chairman John Carter

*Subcommittee on Homeland Security
House Committee on Appropriations*

Opening Statement:

*U.S. Customs and Border Protection
and
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
FY 2019 Budget Requests*

Witness:

Kevin McAleenan Commissioner, CBP
Matthew Albence, Executive Associate Director for ICE ERO
Derek Benner, Executive Associate Director for ICE HSI
10:00 AM | Thursday | April 12, 2018 | RHOB 235C

Welcome to our panel of witnesses. Today we have Kevin McAleenan, Commissioner of CBP and Matthew Albence and Derek Benner, Executive Assistant Directors for ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations and ICE Homeland Security Investigations. Commissioner, while we have known you for many years, today is the first time you have appeared as the confirmed Commissioner of CBP – we congratulate you on the confirmation.

The subcommittee is holding a hearing on the budget request for two DHS components – ICE and CBP – for a couple of reasons. The first is practical. Given the late start of the fiscal year 2019 budget hearing cycle, we are operating on a compressed schedule in order to meet this Committee’s objective of completing the Homeland Security Appropriations bill in July. Second, having ICE and CBP testify together provides an opportunity to hear how they operate jointly and how those operations inform the budget requests.

The fiscal year 2019 budget request for CBP is \$14.2 billion, an increase of \$218 million above the amount provided in fiscal year 2018. This includes over \$1.6 billion for new physical barriers.

There are legitimate questions about the request that require answers. For example, spending is proposed for various types of barriers but it is unclear where they will be located or if they can be executed in fiscal year 2019. Likewise, we need to understand how this budget request supports security at ports of entry.

The fiscal year 2018 budget request for ICE is \$8.8 billion in discretionary spending, an increase of \$1.4 billion over fiscal year 2017. The largest share of the increase supports the hiring of 2,000 ICE agents and 52,000 detention beds.

The subcommittee needs to understand how fiscal year 2018 appropriations may have impacted these requests. We want to work with you to make sure that fiscal year 2019 funding builds on the work that you will accomplish this year.

Before I turn to our witnesses for their statements, the text of which will be included in the record, I'd like to recognize the distinguished Ranking Member for any remarks she wishes to make.

###