



TESTIMONY OF

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Introduction

Chairman Perry, Ranking Member Correa, and distinguished Members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to appear today to discuss the role of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) in combating the flow of opioids, including synthetic opioids such as fentanyl, into the United States. The opioid crisis is one of the most important, complex, and difficult challenges our Nation faces today, and was declared a National Emergency by President Donald Trump in October of last year.¹

As America's unified border agency, CBP plays a critical role in preventing illicit narcotics, including opioids, from reaching the American public. CBP leverages targeting and intelligence-driven strategies, and works in close coordination with our partners as part of our multi-layered, risk-based approach to enhance the security of our borders and our country. This layered approach reduces our reliance on any single point or program, and extends our zone of security outward, ensuring our physical border is not the first or last line of defense, but one of many.

Opioid Trends, Interdictions, and Challenges

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 to-date, the efforts of Office of Field Operations (OFO) and U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) personnel resulted in the seizure of more than 545,000 lbs. of narcotics including over 38,000 lbs. of methamphetamine, over 35,000 lbs. of cocaine, and over 2,700 lbs. of heroin.² CBP seizures of illicit fentanyl have significantly increased from approximately two lbs. seized in FY 2013 to approximately 1,131 lbs. seized by OFO and USBP in FY 2017.³ Approximately 1,218 lbs. of illicit fentanyl have already been seized in FY 2018.⁴ Fentanyl is the most frequently seized illicit synthetic opioid, but CBP has also encountered 18 unique fentanyl analogues, and nine unique synthetic opioids that are not from the fentanyl class.⁵

Illicit drug interdictions in the border environment is both challenging and complex. Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTOs) and Transnational Criminal Organizations (TCOs) continually adjust their operations to circumvent detection and interdiction by law enforcement, quickly taking advantage of technological and scientific advancements and improving fabrication and concealment techniques.

International Mail and Express Consignment Couriers

The smuggling of illicit narcotics in the international mail and express consignment courier (ECC) environments poses a significant threat. Dozens of different types of illicit synthetic drugs, also called "designer drugs," are currently being sold and shipped to end-users in the United States,

¹ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/president-donald-j-trump-taking-action-drug-addiction-opioid-crisis/>

² <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/cbp-enforcement-statistics>

³ <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/cbp-enforcement-statistics>

⁴ <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/cbp-enforcement-statistics>

⁵ These include: acetylfentanyl, butyrylfentanyl, β -hydroxythiofentanyl, α -methylacetylfentanyl, p-fluorobutyrylfentanyl, p-fluorofentanyl, pentanoylfentanyl (a.k.a. valerylfentanyl), 2-furanylfentanyl, p-fluoroisobutyrylfentanyl, n-hexanoylfentanyl, carfentanil, benzodioxolefentanyl, acrylfentanyl, 2,2'-difluorofentanyl, methoxyacetylfentanyl, benzoylfentanyl, cyclopropylfentanyl, and hydrocinnamoylfentanyl.

including synthetic opioids such as fentanyl and its analogues, synthetic cannabinoids,⁶ and synthetic cathinones.⁷ Illicit fentanyl and fentanyl analogues are the most frequently-seized synthetic opioids; although CBP seizures of illicit fentanyl and fentanyl analogues remain relatively small compared to other opioids, such as heroin, the amounts seized have significantly increased over the past several years, from approximately two lbs. in Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 to approximately 544 lbs. in FY 2016,⁸ and approximately 1,476 lbs. in FY 2017.⁹

Illicit narcotics can be purchased from sellers through online transactions and then shipped via the United States Postal Service (USPS) or ECCs. DTOs and individual purchasers move drugs such as illicit fentanyl and fentanyl analogues in small quantities, making detection and targeting a significant challenge. Follow-on investigations, which are conducted by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Homeland Security Investigations (ICE-HSI), are also challenging because these shippers are often not the hierarchically structured DTOs we encounter in other environments. Purchasers can also access open source dark web marketplaces for the tools needed for the manufacturing of synthetic drugs.

In the ECC environment, shipments are processed at 25 established facilities located throughout the United States. Prior to arrival of the express parcels, CBP reviews the manifest information transmitted by the ECC operators and targets those high-risk packages requiring examination. All parcels presented to CBP for examination are subjected to Non-Intrusive Inspection (NII) to include x-ray and gamma ray imaging. CBP operates in all 25 facilities nationwide.

CBP also operates within nine International Mail Facilities (IMF), inspecting international mail arriving from more than 180 countries. Upon arrival in the United States, all international mail parcels are screened for radiological threats. International mail requested for inspection by CBP is then turned over to CBP by USPS. Subsequently, CBP x-rays international mail packages that it requests from the USPS for inspection, and physically examines those deemed to be high-risk.

CBP has seen a nearly 50 percent increase in express consignment shipments over the past five years. In FY 2013, CBP processed over 76 million express bills; in FY 2017, CBP processed approximately 110 million bills. International mail shipments have increased an astonishing 200 percent over the past five years. In FY 2013, CBP and the USPS processed approximately 150 million international mail shipments. By FY 2017, the number of international mail shipments had swelled to over 400 million shipments.

Along the Southern Border

⁶ Synthetic cannabinoids are drugs that do not contain marijuana but are pharmacologically similar to tetrahydrocannabinol (<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/wr/mm6527a2.htm>).

⁷ Synthetic cathinones, more commonly known as "bath salts," are synthetic drugs chemically related to cathinone, a stimulant found in the khat plant (<https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/synthetic-cathinones-bath-salts>).

⁸ This includes approximately 440 lbs. seized at POEs (including mail and ECC facilities) and 104 lbs. seized at U.S. Border Patrol checkpoints.

⁹ <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/cbp-enforcement-statistics-fy2017>.

DTOs seek to smuggle opioids, most notably heroin, across our Southwest border and into the United States at and between our POEs,¹⁰ and Mexican manufacturers and traffickers continue to be major suppliers of heroin to the United States. The reach and influence of Mexican cartels, notably the Sinaloa, Gulf, and Jalisco New Generation Cartels, stretch across and beyond the Southwest border, operating through loose business ties with smaller organizations in communities across the United States. The threat of these cartels is dynamic; rival organizations are constantly vying for control, and as U.S. and Mexican anti-drug efforts disrupt criminal networks, new groups arise and form new alliances.

Along the Northern Border

Reporting indicates that cocaine and methamphetamine move north into Canada after transiting the United States from Mexico, while smaller quantities of marijuana, and ecstasy flow south from Canada into the United States. While Northern Border POE seizures of methamphetamine and heroin are low, ICE investigative case reporting indicates that trafficking of these drugs are still responsible for significant social harm and public health and safety consequences at the individual and community levels in specific Northern Border communities such as Massena, New York.

CBP Resources and Capabilities to Target Opioids

CBP, with the support of Congress, has made significant investments and improvements in our drug detection and interdiction technology and targeting capabilities. These resources, along with enhanced information sharing and partnerships, are critical components of CBP's ability to identify and deter the entry of dangerous illicit drugs in all operational environments.

Advance Information and Targeting

An important element of CBP's layered security strategy is obtaining advance information to help identify shipments that are potentially at a higher risk of containing contraband. Under section 343 of the *Trade Act of 2002* (Pub. L. No. 107-210), as amended, and under the *Security and Accountability for Every Port Act* or *SAFE Port Act of 2006*, (Pub. L. No. 109-347), CBP has the legal authority to collect key cargo data elements provided by air, sea, and land commercial transport companies (carriers), including ECCs and importers.¹¹ This information is automatically fed into CBP's Automated Targeting System (ATS), a secure intranet-based enforcement and decision support system that compares cargo and conveyance information against intelligence and other enforcement data.

¹⁰ Heroin is also sometimes transported by couriers on commercial airlines. Heroin intercepted in the international commercial air travel environment is from South America, Southwest Asia, and Southeast Asia.

¹¹ Under TSA requirements, international mail destined for the United States is treated similarly to other cargo and subject to security controls. These security controls, are applied to international mail prior to transporting on aircraft at Last Point of Departure locations to the United States. 49 U.S.C. 44901(a) states: "The Under Secretary of Transportation for Security shall provide for the screening of all passengers and property, including United States mail, cargo, carry-on and checked baggage, and other articles, that will be carried aboard a passenger aircraft." Under 49 C.F.R. 1540.5, "Cargo means property tendered for air transportation accounted for on an air waybill. All accompanied commercial courier consignments whether or not accounted for on an air waybill, are also classified as cargo. Aircraft operator security programs further define the term 'cargo.' These requirements are not dependent on advance electronic manifest data, as provided by ECC operators and other participants in the Air Cargo Advance Screening (ACAS) pilot program.

The National Targeting Center

At CBP's National Targeting Center (NTC), advance data and access to law enforcement and intelligence records converge to facilitate the targeting of travelers and items of cargo that pose the highest risk to our security in all modes of inbound transportation. The NTC takes in large amounts of data and uses sophisticated targeting tools and subject matter expertise to analyze, assess, and segment risk at every stage in the cargo/shipment and travel life cycles. As the focal point of that strategy, the NTC leverages classified, law enforcement, commercial, and open-source information in unique, proactive ways to identify high-risk travelers and shipments at the earliest possible point prior to arrival in the United States.

To bolster its targeting mission, the dedicated men and women of the NTC collaborate with critical partners on a daily basis including ICE-HSI, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), members of the Intelligence Community, and the United States Postal Inspection Service (USPIS). Investigative case data is fused with CBP targeting information to bolster investigations targeting illicit narcotics smuggling and trafficking organizations. Moreover, NTC works in close coordination with several pertinent task forces including the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force, the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas, and the Joint Interagency Task Force-West, as well as the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Joint Task Forces (JTF).

Advance Electronic Data

In the postal environment, recent bi-lateral agreements regarding advance electronic data (AED) between USPS and foreign postal operators have increased CBP's ability to target high-risk shipments. CBP and USPS now have an operational AED targeting program at five of our main IMFs with plans for further expansion. USPS is responsible for locating the shipments and delivering them to CBP for examination. Thus far in FY 2018, CBP has interdicted 186 shipments of fentanyl and fentanyl analogues at the John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK) IMF, a participant in the AED program. One hundred and twenty-five of those interdictions can be attributed to AED targeting. CBP and USPS continue to work with foreign postal operators to highlight the benefits of transmitting AED.

CBP, in close coordination with USPS and FDA, provided technical assistance on the pending Synthetics Trafficking and Overdose Prevention (STOP) Act to address these challenges in a multi-phase process, which emphasizes risk-assessment, technology, and collaboration across the Federal government and with our international partners. We support efforts to expand the ability of USPS to collect fees to help offset the additional cost associated with building the capacity of foreign postal operators to implement AED collection, to develop new scanning technology, and increase the availability of AED for international mail.

Targeting Precursors

Many of the precursor chemicals that can be used to synthesize synthetic opioids such as fentanyl are currently non-regulated and many have legitimate uses. However, CBP has sufficient authority to seize precursors if they can be identified as having illicit end-use intentions, including the production of illicit drugs. CBP targets precursor chemicals transiting the United States with destinations to Mexico and other countries. When these shipments are identified through

interagency collaboration as having illicit end-use intentions, the shipments are offloaded for further inspection and enforcement action by external agencies such as the DEA and ICE-HSI.

In addition to targeting illicit substances directly, CBP also targets related equipment such as pill presses and tablet machines. DEA regulates pill press/tablet machines and there is an ICE Diversion Coordinator assigned to the DEA Special Operations Division (SOD) who oversees the investigations of pill press/tablet machine imports being diverted for illicit uses. The Diversion Coordinator works closely with the NTC to identify and target individuals importing and diverting pill press/tablet machines to produce fentanyl and other synthetic drugs. In FY 2014, 24 seizures of pill presses and /tablet machines were made by OFO. The number increased to 92 in FY 2017.

CBP Resources and Capabilities to Detect and Interdict Opioids

CBP, with the support of Congress, has made significant investments and improvements in our drug detection and interdiction technology and targeting capabilities. CBP officers utilize a variety of technologies and narcotics detection canines to detect and presumptively identify illicit drugs, including illicit opioids, at international mail and express consignment carrier facilities.

Non-Intrusive Inspection Equipment

At our POEs and in the international mail and express consignment environments, CBP utilizes technology, such as non-intrusive inspection (NII), x-ray, and gamma ray imaging systems to detect the illegal transit of synthetic drugs hidden on people, in cargo containers, and in other conveyances entering the United States. CBP currently has 304 large-scale NII systems and over 4,500 small-scale systems deployed to, and between, POEs. These systems enable CBP officers to examine cargo conveyances such as sea containers, commercial trucks, and rail cars, as well as privately owned vehicles, ECC, and international mail parcels for the presence of contraband without physically opening or unloading them. This allows CBP to work smarter and faster in detecting contraband and other dangerous materials. Between October 1, 2003 and April 30, 2018, CBP conducted more than 87 million NII examinations, resulting in more than 20,000 narcotics seizures and more than \$79.2 million in currency seizures.

Canines

Canine operations are an invaluable component of CBP's counternarcotic operations. The CBP Canine Training Program maintains the largest and most diverse law enforcement canine training program in the country. CBP officers utilize specially trained canines for the interdiction of narcotics, firearms, and undeclared currency, as well as in support of specialized programs aimed at combating terrorism and countering human trafficking. OFO Concealed Human and Narcotic Detection Canines are trained to detect concealed humans and the odors of marijuana, cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, hashish, ecstasy, fentanyl and fentanyl analogues.

The use of canines in the detection of narcotics is a team effort. CBP's Laboratories and Scientific Services Directorate (LSSD) produces canine training aids and provides analytical support to the CBP Canine Training Program, including controlled substance purity determinations, training aid quality analyses, and research on delivery mechanisms that maximize safe vapor delivery during training exercises. Most recently, OFO's National Canine Program, in coordination with LSSD, assessed the feasibility of safely and effectively adding fentanyl and fentanyl analogues as trained odors to deployed narcotic detection canine teams. On June 23, 2017, the Office of Training and

Development's CBP Canine Training Program successfully completed its first Fentanyl Detection Pilot Course. This added the odors of fentanyl and fentanyl analogues to six OFO canine handler teams in the international mail and ECC environments. Beginning October 1, 2018, all new OFO canine handler teams graduating from the CBP Canine Training Program will have successfully completed a comprehensive CBP Canine Detection Team Certification to include the odors of fentanyl and fentanyl analogues. Today, all OFO Concealed Human and Narcotic Detection canine teams across all of OFO's operational environments have completed fentanyl training.

During FY 2017, OFO canine teams were responsible for \$26,813,863 in seized property, \$1,905,925 in fines, \$36,675,546 in seized currency, \$29,674,839 in Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FINCEN) actions, 197 firearms and 22,356 rounds of ammunition, 79 concealed humans and 384,251 lbs. of narcotics. In FY 2018 to-date, OFO canine teams have been responsible for \$7,322,522 seized property, \$411,073 in fines, \$7,951,376 in seized currency, \$9,178,971 in FINCEN actions, 150 firearms, 5,418 rounds of ammunition, 105 concealed humans and 187,409 lbs. of narcotics.¹²

Laboratory Testing

As the narcotics seized through the international mail and at ECC facilities usually have a very high purity, CBP officers at IMFs and ECC facilities use various field testing devices to rapidly screen suspected controlled substances and obtain presumptive results. Using CBP's Laboratories and Scientific Services Directorate (LSSD) Field Triage Reachback Program, CBP officers can transmit sample data directly to LSSD for scientific interpretation and identification. When any synthetic opioids are detected by the reachback program, LSSD notifies key CBP personnel at the NTC, as well as our liaisons at the DEA. CBP is working to expand the field testing program, along with the scientific assets and personnel who are able to provide real-time chemical composition determinations.

In 2016, CBP pilot tested four handheld tools and a new reagent test kit to provide immediate presumptive testing for fentanyl and fentanyl analogues. Based on the results of the pilot, OFO procured 12 systems for further testing across San Diego, Tucson, El Paso, and Laredo Field Offices. Last year CBP purchased over 90 handheld analyzers for deployment. Handheld analyzers improve officer safety, and provides a near real-time capability to increase narcotic interdiction.

Workforce Protection

CBP's frontline operations, including drug interdiction activities, are extremely hands-on. The potential for contact with dangerous substances – especially illicit synthetic opioids – is a very real health and safety risk to law enforcement personnel and canines. For example, in its pure powder form, fentanyl is approximately 50-100 times more potent in its intensity, speed of action, and effect than morphine, and, at first glance, it is often mistaken for other drugs, which appear as white powders such as cocaine or heroin. Due to the risk of unintentional exposure and subsequent hazardous drug absorption and/or inhalation, the confirmatory testing for the presence

¹² Effective 4/24/18

of synthetic opioids such as fentanyl and its analogues is best executed in a laboratory by trained scientists and technicians.

Explicit instructions, including guidance to canine handlers, have been distributed to the field regarding the safe handling of fentanyl and fentanyl analogues. Additionally, in response to increased seizures at LPOEs and the upsurge in the use of heroin across the Nation, in October 2015 CBP completed Phase 1 of a pilot program to train and equip CBP officers with naloxone, a potentially life-saving drug for the treatment of opioid exposure. During Phase I, CBP officers at seven participating POEs¹³ received training on recognizing the signs and symptoms of opioid exposure, administering naloxone, and were certified as CPR instructors. In February 2016, CBP initiated Phase II of the Naloxone Initiative Pilot Program, expanding the pilot to an additional eight POEs and deploying 602 dual-dose Narcan Nasal Spray® kits to the field.¹⁴ To date, OFO has deployed 1,119 two-dose boxes of naloxone to the field. Additional naloxone is being deployed to field offices upon request, as additional personnel are trained in its administration. The naloxone program has also expanded to LSSD to help protect its scientists in both its main and satellite laboratories. CBP was the first Federal law enforcement agency to implement such a program.

Information Sharing and Operational Coordination

Substantive and timely horizontal and vertical information sharing is critical to targeting and interdicting illicit drugs. CBP works extensively with our Federal, state, local, tribal, and international partners and provides critical capabilities toward the whole-of-government approach to address drug trafficking and other transnational threats at POEs, in our IMFs and ECCs, and along the Southwest border, Northern border, and coastal approaches. Our targeting, detection and interdiction efforts are enhanced through special joint operations and task forces conducted under the auspices of multi-agency enforcement teams. These teams are composed of representatives from international and Federal law enforcement agencies who work together with state, local, and tribal agencies to target drug and transnational criminal activity, including investigations involving national security and organized crime.

For example, CBP officers assigned to the Area Port of Philadelphia work extensively with the Pennsylvania State Police and Delaware State Police. For example, CBP officers recently collaborated with the Pennsylvania State Police, Eddystone Police Department, DHS' Border Enforcement Security Taskforce, and the Transportation Security Administration to conduct an operation at Penn Terminal. Container cargo, warehouses, and port grounds were scrutinized and several individuals were identified as being in possession of fraudulent identity documents. Previously removed criminal aliens and a known gang member with an active warrant of arrest were also identified and taken into custody.

The OFO Tactical Operations Division directs special enforcement operations, in concert with ICE-HSI and other law enforcement partners, to identify and disrupt drug smuggling at targeted POEs, IMFs, and ECC facilities. These operations involve NII technology, canine enforcement

¹³ Phase 1 Naloxone Pilot Program POEs include El Paso; Laredo; Fort Lauderdale International Airport; John K. Kennedy International Airport; San Luis: San Ysidro; and Seattle/Blaine.

¹⁴ Phase 2 Naloxone Pilot Program POEs include Miami Int'l/Miami Seaport; Boston; Buffalo; Detroit; Newark; Chicago; Houston Int'l/Houston Seaport; and Dallas.

teams, Antiterrorism-Contraband Enforcement Teams, Special Response Teams, and other law enforcement partner resources. Baltimore Field Office CBP officers also provide support to the Delaware Valley Intelligence Center, Delaware Information and Analysis Center, and the Pennsylvania Criminal Intelligence Center (PaCIC). The mission of PaCIC is to support the decision-making process of Pennsylvania's law enforcement agencies through collating, analyzing, and disseminating intelligence and investigative information pertaining to criminal and terrorism activity.

CBP hosts monthly briefings/teleconferences with Federal, state and local partners regarding the current state of the border – the Northern border and Southwest border – to monitor emerging trends and threats and provide a cross-component, multi-agency venue for discussing trends and threats. The monthly briefings focus on drugs, weapons, and currency interdictions and alien apprehensions both at and between the POEs. These briefings/teleconferences currently include participants from: the Government of Canada, the Government of Mexico, DHS Headquarters, ICE, U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), DEA, FBI, U.S. Northern Command, Joint Interagency Task Force-South, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), U.S. Attorneys' Offices, Naval Investigative Command, State and Major Urban Area Fusion Centers, and other international, Federal, state, and local law enforcement as appropriate.

CBP is a key partner in the implementation of the Office of National Drug Control Policy's (ONDCP) Heroin Availability Reduction Plan (HARP). CBP also utilizes the Department of Justice's Nationwide Deconfliction System operated by the DEA, conducting interagency deconfliction and coordination, and is working with the Heroin and Fentanyl Working Group at the DEA Special Operations Division, alongside ICE-HSI. The Baltimore Field Office also contributes to the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area program (HIDTA), run by the United States Office of National Drug Control Policy, by sharing intelligence and contributing marine unit and other support to local joint operations.

Collaboration with our partners yields results. For example, a CBP led multi-agency team seized fentanyl-laced heroin and marijuana, and arrested three during a compliance examination at the Port of Wilmington, Delaware on April 18, 2018. In addition to CBP, the multi-agency team consisted of ICE-HSI, U.S. Coast Guard, Transportation Security Administration, Alcohol Tobacco Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Delaware State Police, and Delaware National Guard Counterdrug Task Force. Authorities arrested a man near one warehouse who was in possession of a distributable amount of fentanyl-laced heroin, and discovered two additional men in possession of marijuana near another warehouse. While inspecting Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) cards of arriving port workers, authorities detected two men with outstanding Delaware arrest warrants. Delaware State Police troopers took custody of the two men.¹⁵

International Collaboration and Cooperation

Because DTOs are also known to use legitimate commercial modes of travel and transport to smuggle drugs and other illicit goods, CBP partners with the private sector to provide anti-drug smuggling training to air, sea, and land commercial transport companies (carriers) to assist CBP

¹⁵ <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/multi-agency-team-bags-heroin-marijuana-3-arrests-during-port>.

with stopping the flow of illicit drugs; to deter smugglers from using commercial carriers to smuggle drugs; and to provide carriers with the incentive to improve their security and their drug smuggling awareness. Participating carriers sign agreements stating that the carrier will exercise the highest degree of care and diligence in securing their facilities and conveyances, while CBP agrees to conduct site surveys, make recommendations, and provide training.

The trafficking of opioids is a global problem, and CBP continues to work with our international partners to share information and leverage resources to combat this threat. CBP's Office of International Affairs (INA) Technical Assistance Division (ITAD) conducts International Border Interdiction training, coordinated and funded by the Department of State, for various countries worldwide. These courses provide instruction on multiple aspects of border security, including targeting and risk management, interdiction, smuggling, search methodologies, analysis, canine enforcement, and narcotics detection identification. Within the last six months, INA/ITAD has conducted anti-smuggling training in opiate source countries such as Panama, Guatemala, Columbia, Ecuador, Peru, Mexico, Indonesia, India, Thailand, Afghanistan, Kenya, Cambodia, and the Philippines. CBP also provides an Identification of Drugs and Precursor Chemical training course to Mexico and other drug source and transit countries to provide key insight to foreign Customs Officers on the vast resources of precursors available to narcotics producers and traffickers worldwide

Through the 21st Century Border Management Initiative, the U.S. Government and the Government of Mexico are working to strengthen our collaborative relationship and efforts to secure and facilitate the cross-border flows of people and cargo. We receive information from Mexican authorities on a daily basis that helps us better target drug smugglers at the border and continue to work closely to expand joint efforts to combat illicit drug cultivation, production, and trafficking, and sharing more information on smuggling routes and networks. This information sharing, facilitated by the CBP attaché office in Mexico, has allowed for an unprecedented exchange of real-time information through deployments of personnel between our countries. Today, CBP personnel are assigned to Mexico City under the Joint Security Program where we exchange alerts on suspicious DTO movements through the monitoring of our Advance Passenger Information System. This information sharing has also led to numerous seizures and cases within Mexico that serve to disrupt the activities of DTOs throughout the Western Hemisphere.

Conclusion

In coordination with our partners and with the support of Congress CBP will continue to refine and enhance the effectiveness of our detection and interdiction capabilities to prevent the entry of opioids and other illicit drugs into the United States. Chairman Perry, Ranking Member Correa, and distinguished Members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I look forward to your questions.