



Fiscal Year 2015

# CBP Border Security Report

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Homeland  
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*U.S. Customs and Border Protection*



# Border Security Report

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# I. Introduction

As the agency charged with safeguarding America's borders, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) plays a vital role in protecting the national security of the United States. This report summarizes CBP's fiscal year 2015 border enforcement efforts, which reflect CBP's focus on transparency and building partnerships to secure a 21st Century border against a variety of threats and adversaries.

# II. Discussion

## **Enforcement Efforts At and Between Ports of Entry**

The nation's long-term investment in border security has produced significant and positive results in FY 2015. Illegal migration, as defined by total Border Patrol apprehensions, continues to reflect an overall decline compared to the peak in 2000. Border Patrol apprehensions totaled 337,117 nationwide in FY 2015, compared to 486,651 in FY 2014. This represents a 30 percent decline in the last year and almost 80 percent below its most recent peak in FY 2000.

In FY 2015, the Border Patrol apprehended a total of 39,970 unaccompanied children and 39,838 family units nationwide. In FY 2014, those numbers were 68,631 and 68,684, respectively, resulting in a 41 percent decrease in unaccompanied children and a 42 percent decrease in family units in FY 2015, over FY 2014.

CBP continues to monitor the arrivals of unaccompanied children<sup>1</sup> and family units<sup>2</sup> from Central America and is working closely with federal, state, and local authorities to support federal interagency efforts.

Building on the [\*Dangers of the Journey\*](#) campaign of previous years, in FY 2015 CBP conducted its [\*Know the Facts\*](#) campaign which distributes information to communities in El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Mexico, and the United States about the dangerous illegal journey.<sup>3</sup> With a reach of up to 75 million people, the campaign materials seek to dispel misinformation about U.S. immigration policies and discourage illegal migration.

Border Patrol apprehensions of Mexican nationals in FY 2015 decreased by 18 percent when compared to FY 2014. Apprehensions of individuals from countries other than Mexico—predominately individuals from Central America—decreased by 68 percent. Of the 337,117 apprehensions nationwide, 322,694 of those apprehensions were of individuals from Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, and nearly all apprehensions were along the southwest border. In FY 2015, CBP apprehended 43,564

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<sup>1</sup> Individuals under the age of 18 who were not with their biological parent or legal guardian at the time of the encounter.

<sup>2</sup> The term Family Unit represents the number of individuals (to include a child under 18 years old, parent, or legal guardian) apprehended with a family member by the U.S. Border Patrol.

<sup>3</sup> The *Know the Facts* campaign will be extended through February 2016.

nationals from El Salvador, 57,160 nationals from Guatemala, 33,848 nationals from Honduras, and 188,122 nationals from Mexico.

At ports of entry in FY 2015, CBP officers arrested 8,246 individuals wanted for serious crimes. Officers also stopped 225,342 inadmissible individuals from entering the United States through ports of entry, an increase of 14 percent from FY 2014. These individuals were deemed inadmissible for a variety of reasons, including immigration violations, criminal and other violations, and national security reasons. Depending on the circumstances, these individuals were arrested, allowed to voluntarily return to their country of origin, or allowed to withdraw their application for admission into the United States.

CBP's National Targeting Center, the Immigration Advisory Program, and the Regional Carrier Liaison Group led CBP efforts in FY 2015 to identify and prevent the boarding of 11,611 high-risk travelers on flights destined for the United States. The Immigration Advisory Program employs CBP officers at foreign airports where they review passenger information and/or assess the passenger documentation prior to their U.S.-bound flights. Immigration Advisory Program officers make "no board" recommendations to carriers and host governments regarding passengers bound for the United States. Regional Carrier Liaison Groups, located in Honolulu, Miami, and New York, expand the Nation's zone of security beyond physical U.S. borders by working with commercial carriers to prevent the boarding of passengers who may pose a security threat, have fraudulent documents, or are otherwise inadmissible.

In FY 2015, CBP's Air and Marine Operations continued its efforts to interdict individuals traveling in aviation and maritime environments. During FY 2015, Air and Marine agents contributed to the apprehension of 51,130 individuals by Border Patrol, and 4,485 criminal arrests by agents in conjunction with other law enforcement partners. Air and Marine Operations enforcement actions represent approximately 15 percent of the Border Patrol's overall apprehensions.

CBP officers and agents also played a critical counter-narcotics role, resulting in the seizure or disruption of more than 3.3 million pounds of narcotics in FY 2015. In addition, the agency seized more than \$129 million in unreported currency through targeted enforcement operations.

During FY 2015, CBP's Air and Marine Operations aircrews contributed to 198 seizure, disruption, or interdiction incidents in the transit zone, resulting in the interdiction of over 213,000 pounds of cocaine. CBP, in coordination with Joint Interagency Task Force-South, also provides air assets to support missions conducted as part of Operation Martillo. The Task Force oversees the detection and monitoring of illicit traffickers and assists U.S. and multi-national law enforcement agencies with the interdiction of maritime drug traffickers.

Below is a breakdown of CBP enforcement actions in FY 2015 by state along the southwest border:

<b>Enforcement Actions for FY 2015</b>	<b>Arizona</b>	<b>California</b>	<b>New Mexico</b>	<b>Texas</b>	<b>Total Southwest Border</b>
Apprehensions	70,074	39,575	11,218	210,468	331,335
Drug Seizures (pounds)	928,858	224,215	69,607	914,748	2,137,428
Currency Seizures	\$2,102,688	\$7,739,869	\$975,880	\$9,171,935	\$19,990,371
Persons Determined to be Inadmissible	9,362	40,236	1,005	62,971	113,574

Engaging state and local partners continued to be an important part of CBP’s border security mission. In FY 2015, \$55 million in Operation Stonegarden funding was provided to states to enhance border security cooperation and coordination among local, tribal, territorial, state and federal law enforcement agencies. The states that received funding allocations for FY 2015 included Arizona, California, New Mexico and Texas on the southern border; Idaho, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Vermont and Washington on the northern border, and Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and the territories of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

## **Border Technology and Investment**

CBP has worked to address the changing composition of attempted border crossers and to maintain border security through significant investments in enforcement resources and enhanced operational tactics and strategy. One example is CBP’s investment in eight Tethered Aerostat Radar Systems (TARS) which form a network of long-range radars deployed on the border. The TARS, which can identify and monitor low-altitude aircraft and vessels at a distance of 200 miles, increases domain awareness and provides CBP personnel with critical additional time to assess and respond to possible incursions. The system recorded more than 335 suspected cross-border attempts in FY 2015, about 40 percent of all border-related radar detections.

In addition, Air and Marine Operations has deployed two Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) along the Southwest Border to detect, identify and classify moving tracks of interest over land. These systems are equipped with Vehicle and Dismount Exploitation Radar, a side-looking airborne radar that has the capability to relay real-time tactical information related to illegal cross-border activity to field agents while simultaneously capturing strategic and forensic information across larger stretches of the border. During FY 2015, CBP’s UAS recorded 9,371 detections of illegal activity.

## Transparency and Accountability

CBP continued its commitment to increased transparency and accountability during FY 2015. As part of this commitment to transparency, CBP conducted a comprehensive redesign of the U.S. Border Patrol's Basic Training program, including curriculum updates and a focus on reality-based training. The new program is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2016. CBP also installed 18 use-of-force training simulators at training facilities throughout the country. The simulator training incorporates ten scenarios based on CBP specific, real-world events.

In FY 2015, CBP implemented a unified, formal review process for use-of-force incidents. CBP investigative teams reviewed the 28 incidents involving firearms and numerous, less lethal use-of-force cases in FY 2015. Additionally, CBP established an interagency use-of-force review board to determine compliance with policy and make recommendations regarding best law enforcement practices for training, tactics and equipment. CBP will soon release results of the first reviewed cases.

In October, CBP released [use-of-force data](#) for FY 2015, which reflects a 26 percent decline over FY 2014 in the application of use-of-force by U.S. Border Patrol agents, CBP officers, and air interdiction agents.

As part a continued emphasis on transparency and accountability, CBP conducted a feasibility study on the use of body-worn cameras in each of CBP's operational environments along the U.S. border, at and between ports of entry, in the air and at sea. Commissioner R. Gil Kerlikowske then expanded the review to test cameras in additional law enforcement environments, such as checkpoints, maritime patrols and outbound operations at ports of entry.

In September 2014, Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson delegated to CBP the authority to investigate its employees for alleged criminal misconduct. During FY 2015, CBP made strides in implementing this delegated authority, by converting qualified internal affairs employees from general investigators to criminal investigators, which enables CBP to have more direct control of these investigations and increase accountability.

As part of CBP's commitment to increased transparency, CBP implemented new procedures for releasing information to the public immediately following significant use-of-force incidents. CBP increased Spanish-language capacity at the CBP Information Center to provide those who speak Spanish with the same level of service provided to English-speaking customers. With the launch of the translated [help.cbp.gov](#), Spanish speaking callers requesting information will be routed directly to Spanish-speaking public information officers.

In March 2015, the Secretary of Homeland Security established the Integrity Advisory Panel (IAP) to evaluate the progress of CBP's efforts to deter and prevent corruption and

excessive force, while restoring public confidence through greater transparency. The panel met and interviewed dozens of representatives of CBP, Department of Homeland Security (DHS), various stakeholders and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and reviewed numerous reports and a prodigious amount of data. The [IAP's Interim Report](#), published in June 2015, identified 14 recommendations including increasing the number of criminal investigators in CBP's Office of Internal Affairs, revising its use of force policy guidelines, evaluating metrics to measure effectiveness of body-worn cameras, and emphasizing scenario-based learning for use-of-force situations. CBP has implemented, or is in the process of implementing, all 14 of the recommendations.

### III. Conclusion

CBP's focus and efforts in 2015 reflect its continued commitment to maintaining border security while ensuring increased transparency and accountability. The men and women of CBP serving on the frontlines are dedicated to protecting our Nation's security, while facilitating trade and travel that are vital to our economic prosperity.