

Introduction to Homeland Security

Chapter 6

**Border Security,
Immigration, & Customs
Enforcement**

Border Control

- The borders of any country are strategically important because of the critical role they play in the economic vitality and commerce of the country
- Borders provide access for:
 - Illegal immigrants
 - Illegal goods
- Thus, border security and control is of the utmost importance in the effort to mitigate the risk posed by terrorists and criminals

Border Control (cont.)

- United States has:
 - 5,525 miles of border with Canada
 - 1,989 miles of border with Mexico
 - 95,000 miles of shoreline (maritime border)
 - 3.4 million square mile exclusive economic zone
- Each year, more than 500 million people cross the borders into the United States, some 330 million are non-citizens



Border Security History

- 1904 – Immigration Service Watchmen
 - Mounted Guards
 - Mounted Inspectors (1915)
- Early 20th Century - Govt. more concerned with customs violations
- 1917
 - Govt. issued a higher head tax/literacy requirements for immigrants
 - Caused an increase in illegal immigration
- 1921 – Govt. placed limits on number of immigrants entering country
- 1924 – Labor Appropriation Act
 - Created the Border Patrol

Border Security History (cont.)

- 1932 – Border patrol split between Mexican and Canadian borders
- 1933 – Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) created out of the separate bureaus of Immigration and Naturalization
- 1952 – Border Patrol given the power to board and search conveyances anywhere in the country to search for illegal immigrants
- 1980s/90s – Illegal immigration spiked; Border Patrol expanded
- Launched focused border operations
 - Hold the Line
 - Gatekeeper

Immigration

- “the act of entering and settling permanently in another country, and / or becoming a permanent resident or legal citizen of that country”
- US founded on the principle of open immigration
- Immigration is closely tied to border security
- Immigration law guides the granting of residency and citizenship to foreign nationals
- Changes in immigration law often reflects the volatility of national opinions on the value of more open doors in relation to the need for a growing workforce

Customs Enforcement

- Nations protect their national economic interests through:
 - The levying of import taxes (*duties*) on foreign goods
 - Controlling the rate of flow and quantity of specific goods that enter the country
- US initiated customs services soon after declaring independence in 1776
- For 125 years, customs generated almost all of the US government's revenue, and contributed to the fast growth of the young nation
- The United States remains a major importer of foreign goods
 - Customs account for ~16 of the national income

Border Security within DHS

- Following 9/11, DHS Consolidated:
 - Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS)
 - The Customs Service (CS)
 - U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)
 - The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)
 - Transportation Security Agency (TSA)
- DHS Directorate of Border and Transportation Security (along with DOJ) is charged with border security
- Several components within DHS carry out individual border control tasks

Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (CBP)



- The only agency responsible for protecting the sovereign borders of the US at and between the official ports of entry
 - Considered the "front line" in protecting the nation against terrorist attacks
- Ensures national economic security by regulating and facilitating the lawful movement of goods and persons across U.S. borders
- One of DHS's largest and most complex components

CBP Components/Programs

- Border Patrol
 - Primary mission is the detection and apprehension of illegal aliens and smugglers of aliens at or near the land border
- Office of Air and Marine
- Office of Technology Innovation and Acquisitions
- Secure Freight Initiative
- Container Security Initiative
 - CBP officials deployed at overseas seaports to screen shipping containers bound for the US
- Agricultural Inspection
- CPB Immigration Inspection Program



Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE)

- The principal investigative arm of DHS
- The second largest investigative agency in the federal government
 - Has more than 20,000 employees in offices in all 50 states and 48 foreign countries
- Primary mission - promote homeland security and public safety through the criminal and civil enforcement of federal laws governing:
 - Border control
 - Customs
 - Trade
 - Immigration

ICE (cont.)

- Mission has expanded to include:
 - Terrorist financing
 - Money laundering
 - Arms trafficking
 - Technology exports
 - Commercial fraud
 - Child pornography

ICE (cont.)

- ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO)
 - Charged with enforcement of U.S. immigration law
 - IDs and apprehends removable aliens
 - Detains if necessary
 - Deports to other countries
 - Prioritizes the apprehension, arrest, and removal of convicted criminals

U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)



- Only military organization w/in DHS
- Lead federal agency for maritime drug interdiction and air interdiction (shared with US Customs)
 - Accounts for more than 50% of all cocaine seizures annually
- Also tasked with enforcing immigration law at sea
 - Interdicts illegal migrants at sea and returns them to their country of origin
- Lead agency for the federal response to oil and hazardous materials incident (shares with EPA)



U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)

- Oversees lawful immigration to the US
- Provides accurate and useful information to intending immigrants
- Grants immigration and citizenship benefits
- Currently employs 18,000 people at approximately 250 locations worldwide
- Intelligence has shown terrorists to be interested in exploiting the US immigration system to gain entry to the United States

USCIS Offices

- Office of Citizenship
- Fraud Detection and National Security Directorate
- Refugee, Asylum, and International Operations Directorate (RAIO)

US-VISIT

- Part of DHS National Protection and Programs Directorate (NPPD)
- Secures borders by providing biometric identification services to federal, state and local government decision makers to help them accurately identify the people they encounter and determine whether those people pose a risk to the United States
- Enhances entry and exit security procedures
