

**STATEMENT BY  
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HEARING ON “NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION: US EFFORTS TO HELP OTHER  
COUNTRIES COMBAT NUCLEAR SMUGGLING NEED STRENGTHENED  
COORDINATION AND PLANNING”  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMERGING THREATS AND CAPABILITIES**

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Chairwoman Landrieu, Senator Roberts, members of the Subcommittee, thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Since the collapse of the Warsaw Pact and the breakup of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s, the U.S. Customs Service has been at the forefront of U.S. government overseas technical assistance programs to counter the weapons of mass destruction (WMD) threat. These early efforts, some of which were funded through Nunn, Lugar, Domenici non-proliferation funds, continue today and have expanded significantly in recent years in WMD source and transit countries. These programs concentrate on in-country technical advisors, equipment delivery, and a wide range of training to help foreign governments detect, identify, interdict and investigate the smuggling of items of WMD. The assistance provided to foreign governments also strengthens our domestic borders by stopping items of WMD before they reach our shores.

Since September 11<sup>th</sup>, at the direction of the President, the top priority of Customs has been responding to the continuing terrorist threat at our land borders, seaports, and airports. I would like to describe for you some of our most significant efforts and initiatives on that front.

Since September 11<sup>th</sup>, Customs has been at a Level One alert across the country – at all ports of entry. Level 1 requires sustained, intensive anti-terrorist efforts, and includes increased inspections of travelers and goods.

To help ensure that Customs forms a coordinated, integrated counter-terrorism strategy for border security, Customs established a new Office of Anti-Terrorism to coordinate Customs' role within our national security architecture.

Customs agents are also working diligently under Project Shield America to monitor exports of strategic weapons and materials from the U.S. They are seeking to prevent international terrorist groups from obtaining sensitive U.S. technology, weapons and equipment that could be used in a terrorist attack on our nation.

To help Customs officers in the field, the Commissioner also established the Office of Border Security. The mission of that office is to develop more sophisticated anti-terrorism targeting for passengers and cargo in the seaport, airport, and land border environments.

Customs has also created the Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism, "C-TPAT", which is a partnership with some of the largest U.S. importers to improve security along the entire supply chain. We were very pleased to have Governor Ridge, Secretary O'Neill and Commissioner Bonner announce C-TPAT at the Ambassador

Bridge in Detroit, Michigan on April 16, 2002. To date, there are nearly 300 signatories to this initiative.

To complement C-TPAT, Customs developed the Container Security Initiative which places Customs enforcement personnel in major foreign shipping ports. The Customs officers will establish international security criteria for identifying high-risk cargo containers that potentially pose a risk of containing terrorists or terrorist weapons, including weapons of mass destruction. In addition to having U.S. Customs officers in Halifax, Montreal and Vancouver, Customs recently signed agreements with the governments of the Netherlands, Belgium, and France that will place our officers in Rotterdam, Antwerp and Le Havre. We anticipate other ports in Europe will sign up in the near future, as well as Asia. CSI is integral to the President's homeland security strategy, and is supported by both the G-8 and the World Customs Organization.

Customs continues to deploy technology that will comprehensively inspect arriving and departing people and cargo in all port environments and for all modes of transportation. To date Customs has deployed 90 large-scale non-intrusive inspection systems along with other technologies that will assist inspectors in conducting high-confidence, non-intrusive inspections quickly and efficiently.

In 1998, Customs began deploying technology to detect radiological sources. Since that time, we have deployed over 4,000 personal radiation detectors and over 200 x-ray van mounted radiation detection units. This year we ordered over 4,000 additional

personal radiation detectors and have funding for 172 portal radiation detectors and 128 isotope identifiers for our ports of entry.

Customs is working closely with the Department of Energy to investigate systems and technology to detect radiological and nuclear materials to enhance our detection capabilities. Specifically, we are working with the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and the Special Technology Laboratory. Customs will be working closely with certain elements of the Department of Energy that will be integrated into the President's plan for a Department of Homeland Security in order to detect and prevent the transport of nuclear explosives into the United States. The National Strategy calls for the new Department to develop and deploy new inspection procedures and detection systems against the entry of such materials.

In addition, Customs is currently engaged with the Department of Transportation in the Container Working Group, with the U.S. Coast Guard for targeting sea containers and with the Federal Aviation Administration for detection technology for cargo and baggage.

We are currently conducting operational field tests of portal radiation detection systems to determine system capabilities and to develop procedures and response protocols. A challenge will be our ability to differentiate between the numerous consumer goods such as cement, porcelain, potash, and bananas that may give off

radiation, as well as medical isotopes given to humans for detection and treatment of disease and the attempt to smuggle and/or conceal a second radioactive source.

Concerning other possible WMD, Customs, in partnership with Johns Hopkins University, is working to establish a chemical/biological project to investigate systems and technologies to augment and enhance our existing detection capabilities.

Thank you again, Madame Chairman and the members of the Subcommittee, for this opportunity to testify. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.