

Statement of Under Secretary Asa Hutchinson
Border and Transportation Security Directorate
before the United States House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Homeland Security

March 11, 2004

Introduction:

Mr. Chairman, Congressman Sabo and Members of the Subcommittee:

I am honored and pleased to appear before the Committee to present the President's FY 2005 budget for the Border and Transportation Security (BTS) Directorate. I want to thank you for your strong support of BTS components, especially for the resources you provided in FY 2004, and look forward to working with you in the coming months on our FY 2005 budget.

The \$16 billion BTS request represents a 10 percent increase in resources over the comparable FY 2004 budget, and reflects the Department's strong and continued commitment to the security of our homeland. The fiscal year 2005 budget is a \$1.5 billion increase over fiscal year 2004, and it includes funding for new and expanded programs in border and port security, transportation security, immigration enforcement, and training.

The Border and Transportation Security Directorate made great strides during the first year of operations. Over 110,000 employees and a budget of \$14 billion were reassembled and brought

under BTS. The Directorate was quickly established and successfully began operations on March 1, 2003 – bringing together the legacy agencies and programs that now make up BTS - Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Transportation Security Administration (TSA), Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC), and the United States Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator Technology (US-VISIT) program. Customs, border, immigration, transportation security and training activities have been rejuvenated under their new agencies, increasing the effectiveness of our dedicated employees. BTS continues to create new ways to enhance security by sharing information and intelligence and by coordinating operations within the Department among levels of governments, and horizontally across agencies and jurisdictions. Through the hard work of our dedicated and talented employees, America is more secure and better prepared than we were one year ago.

In addition to the stand-up of the Directorate, we have achieved many results since our creation, including:

- providing fused and enhanced security coordination among our components and other federal, state and local security providers and stakeholders, especially during Operation Liberty Shield and the recent holiday season, including the establishment of the Transportation Security Coordination Center (TSCC) to coordinate intelligence sharing and command and control activities for our national transportation sector;
- strengthening border security through the “One face at the border” initiative, which is cross-training officers to perform three formerly separate inspections—immigration, customs, and agriculture--allowing us to target our resources toward higher risk travelers;

- expanding the container security initiative (CSI) and Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT) to provide improved security to the global supply chain;
- instituting new cutting edge systems, like US-VISIT, to identify and track foreign visitors and students, recording the entry and exit of foreign visitors to strengthen our immigration system;
- safeguarding air travel from the terrorist threat by: increasing the presence of Federal Air Marshals, establishing a Federal Flight Deck Officer program, instituting 100 percent checked baggage screening, issuing new regulations for enhanced air cargo security, expanding the use of explosives detection canine teams, checking names of master cockpit air crew lists, and streamlining and training federal passenger and baggage screeners deployed at airports across the Nation;
- eliminating potential weaknesses in security by suspending transits without visa (TWOV);
- negotiating an agreement with the European Union with respect to Passenger Name Record (PNR);
- negotiating a memorandum of understanding with the Department of State to ensure a coordinated and increasingly effective visa issuance process; and

- establishing a visa security office to provide oversight and guidance on Section 428 of the Homeland Security Act, including establishing two offices in Saudi Arabia to review 100 percent of visa applications;
- standing up a SEVIS tiger team to process foreign students during the summer 2003 back-to-school season; and
- effecting improvements in security capabilities, capacity, training, and infrastructure.

FY 2005 Budget Request

The Fiscal Year 2005 budget for the Directorate builds upon the significant investments and accomplishments effected and in progress.

Strengthening Border and Port Security

Securing our border and transportation systems continues to be an enormous challenge. Ports-of-entry (POE) into the United States stretch across 7,500 miles of land border between the United States and Mexico and Canada, 95,000 miles of shoreline and navigable rivers, and an exclusive economic zone of 3.4 million square miles. Each year more than 500 million people, 130 million motor vehicles, 2.5 million railcars, and 5.7 million cargo containers must be processed at the border and POE.

In FY 2003, CBP processed 412.8 million passengers and pedestrians arriving in the U.S. – 327 million at land borders, 70.8 million at international airports, and 15 million at sea ports. The FY 2005 CBP budget seeks \$2.7 billion for border security inspections and trade facilitation at ports of entry and \$1.8 billion for border security and control between ports of entry.

During FY 2005, we will continue to strengthen our border and port security. The CBP budget seeks an overall increase of \$223 million to maintain and enhance border and port security activities, including the expansion of pre-screening cargo containers in high-risk areas and the detection of individuals attempting to enter the United States illegally.

Specifically, the budget includes an increase of \$25 million for the Container Security Initiative (CSI) which focuses on pre-screening cargo before it reaches our shores, and an increase of \$15.2 million for Customs Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT). C-TPAT focuses on partnerships all along the entire supply chain, from the factory floor, to foreign vendors, to land borders and seaports. As of late January 2004, nearly 3,000 importers, 600 carriers, and 1,000 brokers and freight forwarders are participating in C-TPAT, surpassing the Department's original goal of participation of the top 1,000 importers.

As well as continuing development for secure trade programs, the budget also seeks an increase of \$20.6 million to support improvements for the National Targeting Center and for multiple targeting systems that focus on people, cargo and conveyances. These systems use information

from diverse sources to provide automated risk assessments for arriving international air passengers, shipments of goods to our country, and land border passenger traffic.

The United States Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator Technology (US-VISIT) program's goals are to enhance the security of our citizens and our visitors; facilitate legitimate travel and trade across our borders; ensure the integrity of our immigration system; and respect the privacy of our welcomed visitors. US-VISIT represents a major milestone in our efforts to reform our borders. We deployed the first increment of US-VISIT on time, on budget, and met the mandates established by Congress, including biometric capabilities ahead of schedule. The budget seeks a total of \$340 million in FY 2005, an increase of \$12 million over the FY 2004 level for the program. As of late February, over 1.5 million foreign nationals had been processed for entry, generating 125 watch list alerts, and resulting in 51 criminals apprehended. The 2005 funding will further strengthen border security, and enable modernization of border management systems and capabilities. Specifically, funding will be used to expand the entry system to 115 land POEs, beyond the busiest 50 that will be covered by the US-VISIT program in FY 2004. Funding will also be used to expand implementation of an exit solution at our air and seaports. Alternatives are being developed and tested, and will be implemented at 80 airports and 14 seaports in FY 2004.

Within the BTS component budgets, over \$100 million is included for detection systems, a critical element in the war on terrorism. The CBP budget seeks an increase of \$64.2 million to enhance land-based detection and monitoring of movement between ports, and \$10 million to deploy and operate unmanned aerial vehicles. In order to protect the homeland against

radiological threats, the CBP budget seeks \$50 million for radiation detection monitors and equipment. The ICE budget request includes an increase of \$28 million to increase the flight hours of P-3 aircraft by 200 percent. In addition to providing vital detection and monitoring capabilities in the source and transit zones containing mountainous terrain, thick jungles and large expanses of water, the P-3 provides an important capability for domestic airspace security missions.

Improving Aviation Security

We have made great strides in rebuilding and reinvigorating of our aviation transportation security system. We have made significant investments in baggage screening technology – over \$2 billion to purchase and install Explosives Detection Systems machines (EDS) and Explosives Trace Detection machines (ETD) to the nation’s airports – and established a robust technology research and development program. We have deployed 45,000 federal passenger and baggage screeners at the Nation’s airports, expanded the National Explosives Detection Canine Team program, and trained pilots to be Federal Flight Deck Officers.

The FY 2005 TSA budget seeks an increase of \$892 million to enhance transportation security, a 20 percent increase over the comparable FY 2004 level. Specifically, to strengthen interwoven, concentric layers of transportation security, the budget requests increases of \$20 million for credentialing systems (i.e., Transportation Worker Identification Credential, Hazardous Materials transporters, and foreign student pilots); \$25 million for operating the Computer Assisted Passenger Prescreening II System; and \$113 million to and improve screener performance

through training and the deployment of information technology. A substantially improved air cargo security and screening program was implemented last year, and the \$85 million request sustains funding to continue program enhancements and associated air cargo screening technology research and development. We are providing another \$400 million for EDS equipment to improve airport operational efficiency.

Enhancing Immigration Security and Enforcement

The ICE budget request of \$4 billion, which is an increase of \$300 million over the FY 2004 level, seeks to strengthen immigration security and enforcement. Comprehensive immigration security and enforcement extends beyond efforts at and between the ports-of-entry into the United States. It extends overseas, to keep unwelcome persons from arriving in our country, and removing persons now illegally residing in the United States. Pursuant to section 428 of the Homeland Security Act, and the Memorandum of Understanding between the Departments of Homeland Security and State, the ICE FY 2005 budget request of \$14 million includes an increase of \$10 million to support a new visa security unit (VSU). The BTS personnel stationed at overseas posts, including Saudi Arabia, will continue to work cooperatively with U.S. Consular Officials to enhance security and the integrity of the visa process.

As announced on January 7, 2004, the Administration is committed to enhanced immigration integrity and border security. My Directorate will be working to implement a program that meets those goals, while benefiting the economy. Current ICE immigration enforcement programs and the enhancements in the FY 2005 ICE budget request support and are consistent

with a number of elements in this initiative, particularly worksite enforcement. Specifically, the FY 2005 request includes an increase of \$23 million to more than double the number of investigations currently performed by ICE – providing an additional 200 investigators. With these resources, ICE will be able to facilitate the implementation of the President’s temporary worker program initiative by establishing a traditional worksite enforcement program that offers credible deterrence to the hiring of unauthorized workers.

The request also includes nearly a \$100 million increase for the detention and removal of illegal aliens. Detention and Removal of illegal aliens present in the United States is critical to the enforcement of our immigration laws, and the requested funding will expand ongoing fugitive apprehension efforts, the removal from the United States of jailed illegal aliens, and additional detention and removal capacity.

As part of our overall immigration enforcement strategy, ICE will continue to analyze data generated through the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) and US-VISIT program to detect individuals who are in violation of the Nation’s immigration laws and pose a threat to homeland security. The FY 2005 budget requests \$16 million to support these compliance efforts.

Immigration fraud poses a severe threat to national security and public safety because it enables terrorists, criminals, and illegal aliens to gain entry and remain in the United States. An aggressive, focused, and comprehensive investigations and prosecutions program will detect, combat and deter immigration fraud. The \$25 million included in the FY 2005 budget will

provide stable funding to the benefits fraud program by replacing funding previously provided through the Immigration Examinations Fee Account.

Building Departmental Infrastructure

The FY 2005 request includes an increase of \$5 million for the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center to support our security program enhancements and capability sustainment. The FLETC not only serves federal client groups, but also provides training to state and local law enforcement providers. In addition, to enhance global law enforcement efforts, FLETC develops and offers a curriculum that includes international applications.

Conclusion:

Our homeland is safer and more secure than it was a year ago, thanks in part to the dedicated and talented team we have in BTS which excels at coordinating and effecting cross-component activities. Through their efforts, and with the support of our partners in government and the public and private sectors, we will continue to substantially improve our nation's security. I thank the Congress for its support, which has been critical to bringing us to this point. With your continued support for our FY 2005 budget, we will continue to improve the security of our nation.

I am grateful to be here today to outline our efforts for a safer and more secure America. Thank you for inviting me to appear before you today, and I look forward to answering your questions.