

PANDEMIC FLU AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The Committee is aware that in 2006 CBP developed plans and procedures to guide CBP's role in a pandemic outbreak. CBP's goal is to decrease the smuggling and distribution of prohibited agricultural commodities and products with influenza risk. In related efforts, CBP developed bird importation handling procedures and deployed related Internet-based training modules. The Committee encourages CBP to explore with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Division of Global Migration and Quarantine the potential of further efforts to improve CBP officer training related to infectious disease interdiction and control at U.S. ports of entry. Such training could include enhanced training at FLETC, distance learning programs, and the use of technology, such as personal data assistants for CBP Officers to provide algorithm-based decision-making tools.

RADIATION PORTAL MONITORS

CBP has reported that the staffing required to operate radiation portal monitors (RPMs) and control the gates where RPMs are deployed has come by reducing other positions, chiefly inspectors. To address this deficiency, the Committee has included \$34,332,000 to fund 350 positions, including 293 CBP Officers, as well as scientists, specialists and support positions.

The Committee has also included \$4,968,000, \$3,200,000 less than requested, for costs of RPM operation and maintenance, which have become the responsibility of CBP following transfer of the systems from the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office. Funding was reduced from the request because the delivery of the Advanced Spectroscopic Portal systems is not expected until mid to late fiscal year 2009.

PROJECT SEAHAWK

The Committee includes \$2,000,000 for the containerized cargo inspection demonstration project as part of Operation SeaHawk at the Port of Charleston, South Carolina. The Committee encourages CBP, along with Coast Guard and ICE, to continue its work with the Department of Justice on the Project SeaHawk law enforcement task force. The Committee directs CBP to report not later than February 16, 2009, on the impact of Project SeaHawk to date, and to include details of how the project will be funded and supported beyond fiscal year 2009.

CONTAINER SECURITY DEVICE (CSD)

The Committee directs CBP to join the Science and Technology (S&T) Directorate to provide quarterly updates on its efforts to explore a viable CSD solution, as described in the S&T section.

AUTOMATION MODERNIZATION

Appropriation, fiscal year 2008 .....	\$476,609,000
Budget estimate, fiscal year 2009 .....	511,334,000
Recommended in the bill .....	511,334,000
Bill compared with:	
Appropriation, fiscal year 2008 .....	+34,725,000
Budget Estimate, fiscal year 2009 .....	0