## BORDER SECURITY REPORT OF THE PROPERTY OF THE

VOLUME 14 MAY / JUNE 2019 FOR THE WORLD'S BORDER PROTECTION, MANAGEMENT AND SECURITY INDUSTRY POLICY-MAKERS AND PRACTITIONERS



#### SPECIAL REPORT



Border Threat Detection

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A global review of the latest news and challenges from border agencies and agencies at the border. p.20

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#### INDUSTRY NEWS



Latest news, views and innovations from the industry. p.30



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Border Security Report is a bi-monthly electronic magazine and is the border management industry magazine delivering agency and industry news and developments, as well as more in-depth features and analysis to over 20,000 border agencies, agencies at the borders and industry professionals, policymakers and practitioners, worldwide.





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#### **Every Cloud Has a Silver Lining**

They say every cloud has a silver lining, but you would be hard pushed to convince anyone in the UK that the Brexit cloud has one right now. Political deadlock in parliament means we are no closer to a deal and the recent poor showing by the established parties in the European elections is likely to result in a harder line from any future Conservative Prime Minister, making a hard Brexit much more likely.

Clearly a hard Brexit is in nobody's interest but in it lies just a possibility of a silver lining.

But whatever version of Brexit there is, Britain will be forced to deliver on the seamless smart border of conservative Brexiteer dreams.

Now I'm not one of those that believes that we have the technology as Brexiteers claim, but I do believe that necessity is the mother of invention and that given enough time and resources, there are enough existing and emerging technologies, including AI, big data and biometrics, to make that aspiration a realistic goal, at least in part.

In fact, if any future UK government is sensible, it could develop the blueprint and technology for the border management system of the future. Which expertise and technology is then exportable; so that's the silver lining!

But whilst I believe technology can deliver on the movement of people, when it comes to the movement of goods, big questions remain. Such as; how does technology really help with the import and export of agricultural goods and foodstuffs, which of course need inspections if regulations don't match. And no matter how much the UK spends on technology and whatever systems it puts in place, to work effectively that technology and those systems have to be matched by our trading partners in the other 27 EU nations. There are benefits in being able to utilise big data and Al, but not if you're not receiving big data.

Hard or soft Brexit, what is certain, is that there will be a cost to both importers and exporters and ultimately to UK consumers and the UK economy. Certainly, in the short to medium term. Nobody knows if there will be long term economic benefits, but I have my doubts.

Only time will tell if the British public think the obvious sovereignty benefits are worth the price!

Later in this issue Matt Wiles of Leidos UK looks at this issue in much more detail

Tony Kingham Editor

#### READ THE FULL VERSION

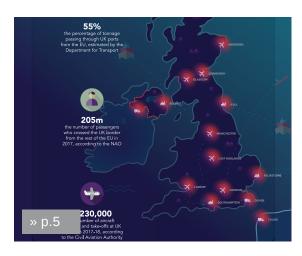
The digital version of Border Security Report contains all the additional articles and news listed in the contents page below. The full digital version is available for download at

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#### Blitz on reptile smuggling nets great results

The Australian arm of a three-week, international operation targeting the illegal trade of reptiles, involving surprise raids, compliance inspections and random airport checks, resulted in the seizure of 69 reptiles.

Australia and 13 other INTERPOL-member countries participated in Operation Blizzard, an INTERPOL-coordinated campaign to increase enforcement and surveillance activities around suspicious reptile trading. The operation ran from 22 April to 12 May.

Wildlife authorities executed seven search warrants against suspected illegal traders across Australia, and conducted 51 wildlife compliance inspections, resulting in 17 detections of non-compliance.

Operation Blizzard was coordinated by the Department of the Environment and Energy's Office of Compliance. The operation involved the Australian Border Force, the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, and environmental agencies from every state and territory in Australia joining forces to combat wildlife trafficking at a national level.

The Department of the Environment and Energy's Chief Compliance Officer, Monica Collins, said, "Operation Blizzard shows what can be achieved when our federal, state and territory agencies work collaboratively to disrupt wildlife crime. Officers from all agencies are working tirelessly to thwart this illicit trade."

In Tasmania, wildlife rangers from the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment executed two search warrants, seizing 25 live and dead animals, including a large carpet python.

The Queensland Police Major and Organised Crime Squad (Rural) worked closely with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service to jointly tackle reptile crime throughout the state. Queensland authorities executed five search warrants resulting in the seizure of 13 animals.

"This operation has sent a clear message that the Queensland Government has a zero tolerance approach to the illegal trade of wildlife. We take this type of crime very seriously and we will continue to work in conjunction with federal authorities beyond the conclusion of this operation", said a Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service spokesperson.

In South Australia, wildlife officers from the Department for Environment and Water undertook inspections of commercial licence holders. Australian Border Force officers in South Australia engaged with local community groups to raise awareness and encourage reporting of suspicious behaviour.

Victoria's Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) are committed to tackling the illegal wildlife trade head on. This involves swift action on identified illegal exports or proactive inspections of licenced collections. As part of Operation Blizzard, DELWP focused on inspections of commercial and private licence holders to ensure the legal trade in Victoria is monitored appropriately.

DELWP continue their investigations, working collaboratively with other agencies, into five unsolved cases, where 12 live lizards were posted to China late last year. The suspects have been captured on CCTV, but to date have not been identified.

At Melbourne airport, Australian Border Force (ABF) officers arrested a 27-year-old Japanese national with 17 shinglebacks and two blue-tongued lizards concealed in her checked-in luggage. The woman is suspected of being involved in an international wildlife trafficking syndicate. The animals were seized and are currently being cared for by DELWP.

ABF Superintendent Operations Andrew Dawson said the ABF will continue to work closely with our partner agencies to share intelligence to identify and prevent attempts to illegally export native Australian wildlife.

"This is an incredibly cruel trade and the ABF will continue to do whatever we can to stop it," said Superintendent Dawson. "Operation Blizzard was an excellent example of what can be achieved when state and federal agencies come together to protect our native Australian wildlife."

In Western Australia, wildlife officers conducted thirteen inspections and attended a WA Police warrant. Officers from the Western Australia Parks and Wildlife Service seized two live pythons and a bearded dragon that was successfully returned to the wild. Officers issued two infringement notices totalling \$5000.

The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources is investigating the detection of nine live turtles in an international mail parcel imported from Hong Kong.

"Illegal reptile imports pose a significant biosecurity risk, as they could introduce pests and diseases that can impact on human and animal health, as well as the environment," said Chief Environmental Biosecurity Officer at the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources Ian Thompson.

# BREXIT WILL PUSH UK BORDERS TO THE BRINK... UNLESS WE GET SMARTER WITH DATA

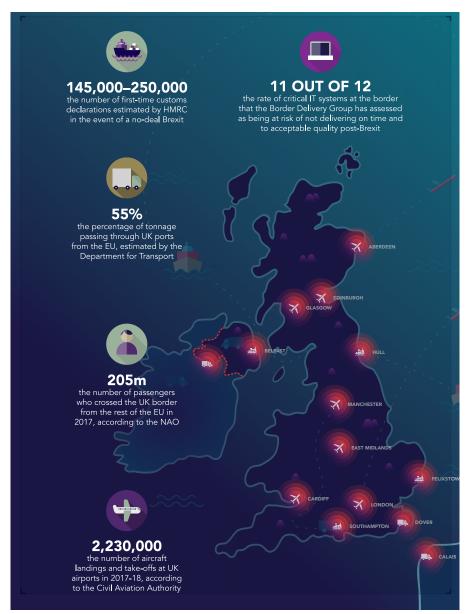
by Matt Wiles, Chief Executive at Leidos UK

One of the biggest issues posed by Brexit is the impact that it will have on the UK's borders. While the most well-documented concern is of course the lack of consensus over the Irish backstop, a more fundamental crisis looms once we actually leave the EU. The organisations controlling our borders, already stretched under layers of legacy systems, are about to be pushed to the brink as the amount of time it takes to process EU nationals and goods rises exponentially.

To meet this challenge, the

government is already diverting considerable funds towards boosting manpower, infrastructure and technology at our borders. Rightly so - if we are to cope with the changes to come, we need to revisit and revitalise the country's border and customs infrastructure. However, arguably the most costeffective way of doing this is to adopt a new approach, with datasharing at its heart.

To give you an idea of the challenge we face, when Brexit finally happens, a country that's spent four and a half decades



within the EU must figure out how to handle a tripling in border crossings. Currently, around two thirds of the 36 million people who visit UK shores every year come from EU countries. In an instant, these 27 countries will effectively become foreign nations, with their 440 million citizens turning into foreigners. All will become subject to customs and immigration requirements as they cross UK

land, sea and air borders, and will have to be processed just like citizens from the rest of the world are today. This huge increase in the numbers requiring visa and security checks will almost certainly slow down the process for everyone. Currently, UK Border Force officers strive to admit EU nationals into the country in under 25 minutes and for non-EU nationals, the target rises to 45 minutes. In all likelihood,

processing times will increase to more than 45 minutes for all visitors in the future unless something is changed.

Similar delays can be expected to slow down the movement of goods, which currently move freely across the border between the UK and the rest of the EU, but which will soon become goods imported from abroad, subject to all of the tariffs, customs declarations and paperwork that comes with this. Indeed, while border crossings are 'only' expected to triple after Brexit, customs declarations could jump five-fold, with the National Audit Office indicating that we could be dealing with as many as 260 million customs declarations a year, up from 55 million. This would undoubtedly swamp the current customs system, leading to delays at crossing points, increased risk of non-compliance and queues of lorries, for example, trying to cross onto the European continent at Dover and Folkestone in Kent.

The twin problems of a massive jump in regulated visitors to the UK, and an even greater increase in regulated imports could be tackled in a number of ways. To handle the influx of passengers needing security checks, we could develop our immigration infrastructure by adding dozens more kiosks at ports and border crossings, along with new admission lines at airport terminals. Alongside this, the UK could greatly increase staffing of its Border Force, providing new officers to operate all of the new admissions points. The problem with this strategy is that it requires a huge outlay of money and a continued increase in annual spend



on border controls.

An alternative, cheaper solution, however, would be to leverage emerging technologies and increase the sharing of data among agencies to fix problems before they become unmanageable. The current systems for immigration and customs control were built up over nearly half a century and as such, organisations were established with their own siloed solutions, layering legacy software system upon legacy software system, all of which were designed to support the EU. While it might be ideal to wipe these away and begin afresh, such a wholesale revamp isn't practical. Instead, it will be faster and more economical to bridge divides among legacy systems by creating interfaces that permit easy sharing of information, so that data in one department can be easily accessed by another. This approach would enable us to more efficiently handle the increase in traffic and customs declarations without needing to make vast investments in infrastructure and manpower.

The first element of this datafocussed strategy lies in biometrics, which I believe is the single most effective way of increasing the efficiency with which Border Force officers can check travellers' identities. For decades, the passport has been the traditional method of establishing who a person is at the border. If the photo on the passport matches the face of the person carrying it, and the name in the passport matches the name that the bearer gives, they are probably who they say there are. The issue with this is that passports can be stolen, altered or forged.

To eradicate these issues, identification could be enhanced with biometrics, using fingerprints, facial recognition and retinal scans to confirm a person's identity. Indeed, rather than depend on just one or two forms of ID, multiple forms of biometrics can be layered to give increased confidence of a person's identity. Adopting this approach would mean that with the touch of a finger, or a single glance at a scanner, anyone could unquestionably prove their identity, simplifying the immigration official's task. The more biometrics match, the greater confidence Border Force officials will have, making the admission of people far more efficient.

Such technology has been met with reticence in the past and viewed as overly intrusive, but as Caroline Flint MP recently pointed out during a Leidos roundtable on this subject: "Think of all the data Facebook has on millions of citizens - 39 million in the UK alone. It collects far more personal information than the state would ever ask for, that is far more intrusive and won't help an ambulance to find your blood type in a road accident. Why are we more afraid of the government than poorly regulated global internet giants?" The growing positive sentiment around biometrics has been demonstrated by its recent deployment at Heathrow airport in what's been described as 'the biggest single deployment of biometric technology in the world'.

A similar philosophy can be applied to expediting the clearance of goods at customs. When a shipper sends a shipment to the UK, packed within a cargo container, the usual practice is to file a shipping manifest describing the cargo's contents. But how do you know for sure that what's on the manifest matches what's in the box? The time and labour-intensive answer to this question is to conduct regular spot checks, opening up cargo containers and examining their contents by hand. But with customs declarations growing five-fold post-Brexit, that approach will no longer be effective. Here too, technology and data sharing can help to solve the problem.

Already, the UK is using X-ray vision technology to reveal the contents of cargo containers without having to open them. Such X-ray vision is useful, but where it really helps with speeding up customs clearance is when X-ray images are merged with data from customs manifests to search for discrepancies. When a container's X-ray reveals goods matching those described in a cargo manifest, HMRC officials can have greater confidence in the reliability of the data contained on that manifest. Conversely, in the case of discrepancies, HMRC will know that these are the containers they must devote most attention to, applying more hands-on verification. Once software is designed to fuse data in this way, the need for physical inspections of cargo upon arrival in port declines greatly.

On a smaller scale, data from customs declarations by individuals can be similarly fused with X-ray data on luggage to accelerate travellers' passage through airport customs. By permitting data to do more 'heavy lifting' and sharing this intelligence across departments, the potential for cost saving across organisations such as HMRC and



Border Force is great. Border Force officers and HMRC must have easy access to both this information, and to the analytics that make sense of it, to facilitate customs and immigration decisions regardless of which 'silo' the information was created in.

With any conversation around increased automation, a common concern is how such increased automation could affect the prospects of workers - in this case, the 10,000 people currently employed as border agents, as well as many others working elsewhere in the customs and immigration sector. Arguably, far from the dramatic fears often expressed about 'job-killing' technologies the mainstreaming of automation would allow for border staff to be deployed on more rewarding tasks, which make better use of investigatory skills. This could even have beneficial knock-on effects on crime reduction.

Another important aspect of border control must be securing the border itself. Along the border and at points where goods and people cross it, the UK already possesses multiple layers of sensors for security, from CCTV and motion detectors to satellite, aerial surveillance and drone coverage. Monitoring data feeds from each of these sensors individually, however, requires vast amounts of manpower. In a scenario that we are understaffed, certain data feeds could be left unmonitored, creating dangerous gaps in coverage.

A way of improving this system is through artificial intelligence and predictive modelling. This would allow data feeds from multiple sensors to be merged into one unified feed that will monitor a given area in a variety of ways, and permit tracking of a single object of interest as it moves across multiple sensors. Such an approach has the potential to dramatically cut down staffing costs, freeing up resource that will be needed elsewhere post-Brexit. One single staffer could monitor such a unified feed or. reducing manpower requirements even further, the process could be largely automated. With AI and predictive modelling, feeds can be monitored automatically, with a human brought into the loop only when something happens to set off an alert indicating a need for closer examination.

What all these solutions have in common is that they propose harnessing tools which the UK already has at its disposal and data already produced for the most part, to apply them in tandem creating a whole that's greater than the sum of its parts.

Biometric fingerprints, retinal scans and facial recognition records can enhance accuracy of the photographic and printed data contained in a passport to better confirm the identity of the bearer - just as cargo manifests can be compared to X-ray images of cargo containers to improve confidence about what is inside containers. Likewise, sharing data from multiple sensor feeds allows technology to work as a force multiplier, not just cutting down the number of employees needed for monitoring, but actually enhancing the quality of data by creating a more complete picture.

The better that we become at sharing the data that the UK is already creating, the more we can reduce the need to spend more and hire more to manage the surge in regulated people and goods crossing the border after Brexit. There's a staggering amount of work to be done in a short time, but the task is neither insurmountable. nor should it come at a proportionately greater expense to the UK taxpayer. On the contrary, it is a chance to do things better. As John Vine, former Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration put it: "Brexit is a great opportunity to look at an overarching whole government plan to border control."

By taking full advantage of biometrics, in non-intrusive methods for examining persons and cargo to and most crucially, in data sharing among government agencies, it is possible to enhance the security of border crossings, accelerate processing time, and deal with the new influx of traffic – and all at a reasonable cost.



#### ICE Homeland Security Investigations returned looted Greek artifacts to rightful owner



Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Deputy Special Agent in Charge Jerry Templet repatriated 10 Greek coins to the Government of Greece, Tuesday, during a reception at the San Francisco Greek Consulate.

"Homeland Security Investigations is the 'investigative arm' for the Department of Homeland Security, and we work closely with our international law enforcement partners to combat the illegal trafficking of cultural artifacts."

The 10 coins were allegedly smuggled out of various Aegean islands such as the Island of Samos. The island of Samos is not covered by modern structures and has a lot of open, unprotected fields. These unexcavated archaeological sites are subject to the illegal use of metal detectors by collectors who remove artifacts, such as coins, for unlawful sale and profit.

"Today, we have [present some of] our good friends from Homeland Security Investigations of San Francisco, who closely worked with their counterparts in Athens for the last two year, to make possible the patriation of 10 Ancient Greek coins," said San Francisco Consul General of Greece in San Francisco, Antonios Sgouropoulos.

Sgouropoulos hosted this reception to welcome Haris Lalacos, the Ambassador of Greece to the United States, during his first official visit to the Bay Area.

In late August 2016, HSI detained a FedEx package with the assistance of U.S. Customs and Border Protection at the FedEx facility in Memphis, TN. The shipment originated from a Munich-based, online coin dealer with previous violations for selling suspicious antiquities. This shipment contained five coins. According Sotiriou's analysis of data collected by the Customs and Border Protection Laboratory in San Francisco, the coins were determined to be authentic Ancient Greek artifacts.

In September 2016, Keller interviewed the buyer of the intercepted package. During this interview, the buyer informed Keller that he made a purchase from the same seller a few months earlier for five other coins. Subsequently, the previously purchased coins were also evaluated and found to be Greek artifacts.

"The seller never provided any documentation showing the coins were acquired and sold legally," Keller said. "The buyer cooperated with our investigation and ultimately surrendered all 10 coins to HSI to be forfeited and repatriated to the Government of Greece."

Also an archeologist in Athens, Sotiriou reported that all 10 coins are estimated to be dated as early as 600 BCE and were minted in various locations throughout the Aegean Islands.

According to Greek Cultural Heritage Law, artifacts in the ground within Greece are the property of the Government of Greece and are not allowed to be removed for reasons other than Archaeological study. The lack of provenance documents and the low price of the coins were facts that supported the assessment that the coins were smuggled out of Greece.

In July 2011, The U.S. and Greece entered in to a Bilateral Agreement or Memorandum of Understanding with Greece to restrict the importation of carious cultural property from the Upper Paleolithic Period (approximately 2,000 B.C) through the 15th century A.D. This treaty, along with the U.S. "Convention on Cultural Property Implementation Act" and Customs Laws, are the authorities used by Special Agent Keller to conduct this and other similar investigations.

On May 10, 2019, the Office of International Trade-Regulations & Rulings issued a decision to transfer the forfeited coins to HSI for the purpose of repatriation to the Government of Greece.



#### Action Week Against Human Trafficking: 323 Victims Identified, 46 Arrested

23 EU Member States, Iceland, Norway and Switzerland, supported by Europol, conducted an extensive operation targeting trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour exploitation. This coordinated action is part of the EMPACT operational action plan on trafficking in human beings for 2019.

Experts from law enforcement agencies, labour inspectorates, immigration services, tax authorities, social inspections services and other competent authorities joined forces to identify and investigate the labour exploitation of vulnerable workers. The action targeted different business sectors, such as transportation, agriculture, construction, food processing, catering and care provision. Participating countries adopted a multidisciplinary approach at national level that resulted in the identification of cases of trafficking in human beings,

as well as violations of the labour legislation, use of forged documents and other offenses.

This extensive and targeted mobilization of resources involved the checking of more than 50.000 individuals, over 17.000 vehicles, as well as the visit of 5000 business premises and other locations. The action week resulted in the arrest of 46 suspects and the identification of 90 individuals suspected of human trafficking. A further 227 persons were detained or arrested for other offenses, including illegal immigration and forgery of documents. In total, 323 potential victims of trafficking were identified. This intense operational activity has led to the launch of 100 new investigations, aiming at the identification of other suspects and victims linked to human trafficking cases across the EU.

#### Multi-Million Euro Cryptocurrency Laundering Service Taken Down



Dutch Fiscal Information and Investigation Service (FIOD), in close cooperation with Europol and the authorities in Luxembourg, clamped down on one of the world's leading cryptocurrency mixing service Bestmixer.io.

Initiated back in June 2018 by the FIOD with the support of the internet security company McAfee, this investigation resulted in the seizure of six servers in the Netherlands and

Luxembourg.

Bestmixer.io was one of the three largest mixing services for cryptocurrencies and offered services for mixing the cryptocurrencies bitcoins, bitcoin cash and litecoins. The service started in May 2018 and achieved a turnover of at least \$200 million (approx. 27,000 bitcoins) in a year's time and guaranteed that the customers would remain anonymous.

A cryptocurrency tumbler or cryptocurrency mixing service is a service offered to mix potentially identifiable or 'tainted' cryptocurrency funds with others, so as to obscure the trail back to the fund's original source.

The investigation so far into this case has shown that many of the mixed cryptocurrencies on Bestmixer.io had a criminal origin or destination. In these cases, the mixer was probably used to conceal and launder criminal flows of money..

#### **Task Force Dismantles Prolific Crime Group Behind €680m Operation**

A highly professional and dangerous international organised crime group was dismantled last week after a complex investigation carried out in the framework of a Joint Operational Task Force, established at Europol, between the Lithuanian Criminal Police Bureau, the British HM Revenue and Customs, the Polish Police Central Bureau of Investigation, the

Estonian Central Criminal Police under the Police and Border Guard Board and the Spanish Guardia Civil and Policia Nacional.





#### Drug trafficking and terrorism focus of INTERPOL European Regional Conference



Increased drug flows into Europe and the threat of returning foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) are two key security concerns being addressed at an INTERPOL conference for the region.

The liberation of all Daesh-held population areas in Syria

means FTFs are now likely to scatter around the globe, to other conflict zones, their countries of origin, or to carry out attacks such as the Sri Lanka bombings.

Ensuring frontline officers have access to information contained in INTERPOL's global databases, including details of more than 50,000 FTFs and 86.2 million lost and stolen travel documents, is key for enhancing national and regional security.

Opening the 47th INTERPOL European Regional Conference, Poland's Undersecretary of State Renata Szczęch said, "With criminal networks often the early adopters of technological solutions, we need to do our best to stay one step ahead, and INTERPOL has a key role to play in this regard.

"The need to further strengthen our cooperation persists and keeping this in mind, we commit ourselves to making another step on the way to a more secure Europe," said Undersecretary Szczęch.

#### Kenya first African country to connect to the International Child Sexual Exploitation database

Kenya has become the first African country to connect to INTERPOL's International Child Sexual Exploitation (ICSE) database, bringing the total number of connected countries to 60.

ICSE is a powerful victim identification tool, which helps specialized investigators analyse and compare child sexual abuse images. So far, it has led to the identification of 19,481

victims of child sexual abuse worldwide.

Officers from INTERPOL's Crimes Against Children unit worked with the Kenyan Police Service's Child Online Cyber Centre on an operation targeting online child sexual exploitation in the greater Nairobi area. Three suspected abusers were identified, and one child was removed from harm. A number of further investigations are ongoing.

#### Tackling South American organized crime



South American Police leaders have concluded an INTERPOL summit with a call to boost the region's collective response to transnational organized crime and terrorism.

The three-day meeting in the Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay tri-border area concluded with police chiefs endorsing a number of conclusions aimed at improving regional police performance, particularly in the areas of corruption, terrorism, drug and firearms trafficking and the increased use of INTERPOL databases.





#### Criminal justice practitioners explore how to effectively counter cybercrime and cyber-enabled crime



More than 140 criminal justice practitioners and representatives of the OSCE participating States, OSCE Partners for Co-operation and international organizations explored how to effectively counter cybercrime and cyber-enabled crime at a conference in Vienna organized by the Strategic Police Matters Unit of the OSCE Secretariat's Transnational Threats Department, in co-

operation with the 2019 Slovak OSCE Chairmanship and the Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior.

The panelists highlighted the achievements, challenges and lessons learned from implementing the two-year project in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia. They also discussed broader topics related to criminal justice responses to the growing role of digital technologies in conducting or facilitating criminal activities, key elements of effective capacity building in this field and future trends such as the development of artificial intelligence.

The effective retention of digital evidence, adapting legislative frameworks to match the latest technological innovations, and reducing the knowledge gap among many criminal justice practitioners in this field were some of the key issues raised.

### Bosnia and Herzegovina hosts sub-regional training on role of information and communication technologies in international security



A two-day training course on the role of information and communication technologies (ICT) in the context of regional and international security, which gathered some 40 participants from seven countries of South-Eastern Europe started today in Sarajevo. The training course is jointly organized by the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), the OSCE Transnational Threats Department and the OSCE Mission to BiH.

Over the course of two days, security experts will explore ways in which international cyber/ICT policy tools can be used to mitigate the impact of major cyber incidents

and improve the resilience of national ICT systems. It will also be an opportunity to exchange information and experience in the application of practical measures for enhancing regional cyber/ICT security.

A particular focus will be placed on the role of the OSCE cyber/ICT confidence-building measures (CBMs), which were jointly agreed upon and adopted by the OSCE participating States to improve security in cyberspace and prevent unnecessary inter-state tensions stemming from the use of ICTs. These CBMs offer concrete tools and mechanisms to reduce the risks of misperceptions, misunderstandings and conflict stemming from the use of ICTs in inter-state relations..





#### Human Trafficking Takes Centre Stage in Bangladesh



Bangladesh is boosting efforts to combat human trafficking with a 2018-2022 national plan of action

to improve enforcement through better inter-agency coordination, improved training of officers and harmonization of existing laws.

The plan, developed with technical support from the IOM, was presented to local officials and counter trafficking specialists at a conference in Cox's Bazar this week. It follows legislation passed in 2012 to counter human trafficking in this South Asian country of 160 million.

IOM has a multi-pronged approach based on prevention, protection and prosecution of counter human trafficking that includes supporting the government's efforts for stronger legislation and enforcement and victim assistance.

### Improving Migrants' Access to Justice: IOM Trains Brazilian Judges on International Migration Law



The IOM completed a four-day course on International Migration Law held for a delegation of federal judges from the Brazilian judiciary.

This is the result of active collaboration between IOM

Brazil and the International Migration Law (IML) Unit in Geneva.

The aim of this and similar IOM tutorials are to increase judges' technical capacity in applying relevant migration legal standards, thereby enhancing migrants' access to rights. Special attention is paid to women and vulnerable migrants in Brazil.

IOM courses are organized annually to bring diplomats and practitioners together to discuss legal aspects of migration and governance and the latest trends in migration law. International legal experts present on human rights law, refugee law, labour law, transnational criminal law and the crimes of smuggling and trafficking. Legal issues related to migration detention, internal displacement and environmental migration, also are covered.

#### Using Data to Inform Migration Management in Central Asia

Reliable and harmonized data are needed to tackle some of Central Asia's key migration challenges and should be included in the future regional agenda on migration, according to government officials attending a regional consultative forum.

Key regional challenges discussed at the forum include providing healthcare services to migrants and refugees, brain drain due to emigration of youth and high-qualified workers, and border management.





# BORDER THREAT DETECTION — THE PATH TO ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

By Paul Hollingshead, Regional Director at Rapiscan Systems | AS&E

As global trade has become more interconnected, the movement of people and goods between countries has greatly increased and detecting threats to national security at the border has become more complex. As a result, every border security agency's modernization agenda addresses the use of technological innovation to improve their ability to protect society. The drive to modernize is partly driven

by the rapidly evolving nature of the threat landscape—use of new technology is critical to ensure agencies are ahead of, or at least keeping up with, their adversaries' adaptability. It can also reflect political and budgetary pressures the perennial push for agencies to do more with less.

As part of this innovation mix, the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in scanning and automatic threat detection is a hot topic. The possibility of automating some decisions on what constitutes a threat could improve both the effectiveness and governance of border checks, reducing human error and opportunities for corruption. Regardless of where an agency is on its path to technological advancement, it must have the right foundations to achieve the intended benefits of Al. There are five key areas to address:

#### 1 – Set clear operational goals for the technology

Around the world, border security agencies share the same overarching mission to protect their society from external threats. However, each are impacted by political, financial and physical influences unique to that country. They are also faced with adaptable adversaries, who are constantly developing methods to exploit their weaknesses. An agency's awareness of its specific situation and its understanding of, and sensitivity to, an ever-changing threat environment are paramount. Only with a clear understanding of its adversaries, environment and mission, can an agency identify and apply the right technologies to achieve their goals. To that end, a clear operational direction must be the foundation of a successful path towards AI.

#### 2 – Capture all the data obtained from the detection platforms

The selection and acquisition of detection systems will be driven by threat factors, physical environments, stakeholder issues (such as desired throughput rates) and budgets. As a starting point,



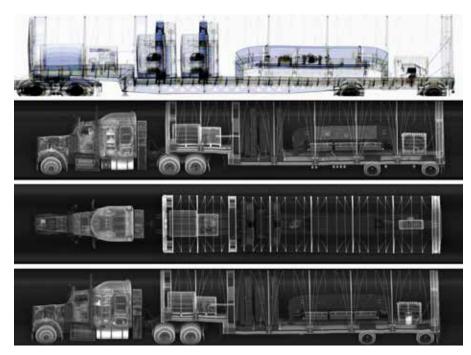
The new Eagle® P60 ZBx from Rapiscan Systems | AS&E is a drive-through, multi-technology cargo and vehicle inspection system that provides four X-ray images in a single scan, giving border agencies more data at the platform level.

agencies require hardware devices that are effective at detecting specified threats. The complexity lies in understanding how a specific threat could be detected under varying conditions of concealment and whether a detection platform requires other devices to support it. A layered, multi-modal solution is often the most effective approach.

These days, security devices like cargo scanners are powerful data capture platforms; the specific hardware and associated technology all impact the volume, variety and value of the data obtained from a target. As the industry continues to improve hardware and software, combining technologies at the platform level, the resulting data are also improving.

#### 3 - Standardize the data

The greatest problem facing agencies when it comes to managing data collected at the borders is the volume and variety. While data-gathering capabilities have improved, the implementation of technology that effectively processes and analyzes the resultant volume for actionable intelligence is also critical. If the data sets are disorganized, pinpointing a threat becomes far more challenging, and the operational picture is unclear. To effectively analyze data and identify patterns, anomalies or relationships, the data from all devices must be standardized on one platform. This requires a vendor-agnostic solution that can enable a holistic, common operational picture.



The Eagle P60 ZBx provides a high-energy transmission image with material discrimination to help the image analyst with determining the contents of cargo and vehicles. The Z Backscatter® X-ray images highlight organic threats to aid operators with the detection of drugs, currency and explosives. This complementary information gives the operator a more comprehensive view of the contents of the vehicle.

#### 4 – Automate security workflows and leverage data analytics

With a common operational picture, an agency can decide how a series of processes are sequenced from initiation to completion. Threat detection activities can be mapped as to when and how they happen in relation to each other to supply actionable intelligence for threat interdiction.

Centralized data can enable detailed investigations. An agency can use the harmonized data to explore how well or poorly a specific process is performing; investigate anomalies or confirm relationships; and identify trends,

provide forecasts and quantify risks. To gain effective, actionable insight, operational leaders can use their experience to decide which workflows to automate and which processes to measure. The combination of their field expertise with the right software solution will result in process improvements, increased efficiency and greater border security.

#### 5 – Understand the limits of Artificial Intelligence and keep investing in humans

Artificial intelligence is any technology that enables a computer to demonstrate humanlike intelligence. Machine learning is a type of artificial intelligence that uses mathematical models based on data to make decisions. With better data, machine learning models can make better decisions, predicting likely outcomes, detecting previously unseen patterns.

While such models may eventually transform certain data-led processes, from a cargo or vehicle scanning perspective, the scope and variety of data are simply too broad to be able to fully hand over the image adjudication process to software today. The range of potential threats, concealment methods, angles and orientations of hidden contraband, etc., is currently too varied and complex for even the most advanced threat detection algorithms currently available. As a result, automatic detection tools may still set off many false alarms, making border checks slower and less efficient as a result. Alternatively, operators may become over-reliant on software tools that are intended to indicate a threat and ignore logic or underutilize their image analysis training when the software fails to alert.

So, while some software available today can augment image analysis by flagging anomalies for consideration or doing repetitive low-value analysis, the onus remains on humans as the ultimate decision-makers. To ensure image analysts are operationally effective, agencies must employ an ongoing threat-specific training program and maintain sound operational governance.

#### A work in progress

The future may well belong



to AI-driven automated threat detection, but for now, both industry and border security agencies are still at the beginning of the journey. There is a lot of work to be done before agencies can leverage AI to significantly improve the performance of their non-intrusive inspection technology. Regardless of when or if a fully-automated

security solution becomes available, agencies must focus on the foundational elements of operational excellence: set clear operational goals relevant to their specific threat environment; improve operational effectiveness by acquiring detection systems that enrich the veracity and variety of data; and introduce software

platforms that can effectively collect and standardize the data for more effective analysis and automated workflows. Finally, agencies must continue to invest in the talents of the men and women who are on the front lines to protect our borders.

#### Europe Migration Data Portal Will Challenge Fake News With Facts



A focus on improved data will enable IOM to combat fake news and hate speech with solid facts and evidence, a UN meeting in Geneva heard.

A dedicated Europe section on the IOM Global Migration Data Analysis Centre website has just been launched, and it was presented today at a side event at the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Regional Forum on Sustainable Development.

Regional Director Argentina Szabados stressed the importance of the portal, noting that "in times of fake news, a rise of populism, spread of negative stereotypes and violent hate crime, there is greater need than ever for genuine facts and reliable figures to give a true picture of what migration is and how it shapes our world."

An audience of politicians, diplomats and UN officials attending the UNECE Regional Forum on Sustainable

Development heard that the portal highlights past and recent trends on migration in Europe, existing data sources, and strengths and weaknesses of those data.

Part of IOM's Global Migration Data Portal, launched in 2017, the new Europe section is designed to help policy makers, national statistics officers, journalists and the general public understand migration data. By making the evidence about migration issues accessible in one place and easy to understand, it contributes to a more informed public debate.

There are 78 million international migrants in Europe, more than one third of the global total. "Who are they? What age are they? What gender? What routes are they taking? Why are they on the move?" asked Ms Szabados. "The more we know about migration the more we can assist our member states, and help make migration voluntary, safe and rewarding for all implicated."

The new Europe section was authored by the Knowledge Centre on Migration and Demography, a European Commission initiative to provide scientific evidence for EU policymaking in migration and demography related fields

"Migration is a cross-cutting issue, relevant to all of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)," concluded Ms Szabados. "In fact, eleven of the Goals contain targets and indicators that are relevant to migration or mobility. Our principle to 'leave no one behind' most definitely includes migrants, and we need impeccable data to be able to serve their needs and the needs of our member states."

## SOUTH ASIA: CASE OF LEAST CONNECTED BORDERS

By Manoj Kumar, Second in Command, STC Chakur, India

Most of the borders in South Asia were evolved by colonial powers namely British, French and Russia. The borders of South Asia evolved during the great period of European empire building for Asia in 19th and early 20th century. With the end of colonial era the period of interest of colonial powers also waned but the newly evolved countries boundaries were exclusively delineated by colonial masters, in

process of cartography of borders the people of different nationalities were divided as per the diplomatic understanding of colonial powers and were based on revenue maps. South Asian nations like India, Myanmar, Pakistan and Afghanistan state boundaries are product of this process only. This artificial demarcation left open for future statesmen claims and counter claims on the areas inhabited by



people of common nationalities and which were not properly marked on the ground. Due to these reasons every country in this region became highly possessive and protective for its territories.

South Asia is now the fastest growing region in the world and has registered a rapid expansion in trade since the introduction of liberalization policies in the early 1990s. However, intra-regional trade has lagged behind the region's deepening engagement in global trade, with the effects of geopolitics and a legacy of mistrust leaving a mark on integration efforts. It is currently one of the least integrated regions in the world in terms of trade, infrastructure, water, and energy cooperation. Some progress has been made through regional arrangements such as the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), the agreement on the South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA), and several bilateral agreements, but trade connectivity is below what is necessary to unlock the region's potential for prosperity is reflected in comparative regional trade growth over the last quarter-century. SAARC's share of intra-regional trade remains at just 5 percent of total trade of the region today, having grown from approximately three percent in 1990. Other Asian trade blocs have performed better over the same period; ASEAN's intra-regional trade share has grown from approximately 17 to 25 percent, and ASEAN +3 has grown from 38 to 45 percent. Overall, intra-regional trade is less than 2 percent of the SAARC's GDP, compared to more than 20 percent

in case ASEAN.

The dismal state of affairs of such inter-regional connectivity and trade is due to lack of institutional and physical infrastructure. The over securitization of border for reason of support to terrorist and separatists groups especially in context of India and Pakistan where the border has become more restrictive in nature and after the recent terror attacks in Kashmir the withdrawal of Most Favored Nation (MFN) status to Pakistan by India has further alienated these two biggest South Asian neighbors. South Asia being part of 'Golden Crescent' which is notorious for drug smuggling starts from Afghanistan and it goes up to Myanmar; has been responsible for countries adopting more and more restrictive methods to counter the smuggling of drugs among these nations.

The South Asian borders in addition to installing physical barriers like 'border fence' are not equipped with modern surveillance equipments so that identification of 'friend or foe' is made simple and intra border movement becomes less cumbersome. Even the concerned border guarding forces do not have biometric data exchange system which now prevalent in European and other well connected nations. All these factors combined are affecting the day to day life of common man living in these areas but also leading to economic deprivation and poverty to border areas.

Speaking at SAARC Development Fund 2018 Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant said, "Politicians may say anything and politics of the region may do anything but South Asia as a region has been severely hampered and it will remain backward till we don't integrate and till we don't push for greater trade, greater investments and greater travel and tourism within the region,". Regional integration is also crucial to the development of South Asia. The only way to reach prosperity is for countries to form a union. If South Asia mirrored the European Union, the opportunities for growth within each nation is endless. This is a challenge, yet if international organizations, governments and the citizens of South Asia work tirelessly, they will surely reach their Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

For regional development of South Asia the border connectivity issue needs to be addressed without compromising on security. The goal of connectivity with security can be achieved through technology and adapting the best practices in border management from Europe and US where technology is helping border guarding forces for managing access control of citizens and goods which is achieved through close cooperation between government and corporate sector. The South Asian with having some fastest growing economies can even work better in making lives of its citizen better with better managed borders with support of technology.

## AGENCY NEWS AND UPDATES

ndocumented migrants apprehended at Slovenia-Croatia border

security officials said.



Slovenian authorities have stopped dozens of undocumented migrants who were trying to cross the border from Croatia, police said. Most of the foreigners were Afghan citizens.

Slovenian police stopped 74 migrants who were attempting to cross the south-eastern border with Croatia in the area of Ilirska Bistrica, according to a police statement. A reported 10 people were apprehended in Ribnica, on the south-eastern side, police said. Security officials said most of the foreigners were Afghan nationals, followed by Pakistanis, Algerians, Egyptians, Iraqis and a Libyan citizen. One of the migrants applied for international protection while the others will be handed over to Croatian authorities.

BP Officers Seize Heroin Valued More Than \$1 Million



U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Office of Field Operations (OFO) officers at the Laredo Port of Entry intercepted a significant narcotic load with an estimated street value of more than \$1 million in one enforcement action.

The seizure occurred at the Juarez-Lincoln International Bridge when a CBP officer referred a 2006 Ford pickup driven by a 29-year-old Mexican male citizen who resides in Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, Mexico for a secondary examination. During a canine and non-intrusive

imaging system inspection, CBP officers discovered 27 packages containing a total of 48 pounds of alleged heroin within the vehicle. The narcotics have an estimated street value of \$1,109,000.





U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Office of Field Operations (OFO) at the Hidalgo International Bridge arrested a woman from McAllen, Texas in connection with a failed child smuggling attempt involving a five-year-old boy.

A 26-year-old female United States citizen arrived at the Hidalgo-Reynosa International Bridge pedestrian walkway with a boy she claimed



as her U.S. citizen child. The adult woman presented a State of Texas issued identification card for herself along with a U.S. birth certificate for both her and the young boy. A CBP officer referred them to secondary for further inspection and it was there that officers discovered that there was no relationship between the two travelers. Officers further determined that the document presented for the child was not his and the he was in fact a citizen of Mexico without valid documents to legally enter or reside in the United States.

CBP OFO arrested the woman and presented her before a U.S. federal magistrate for alleged violation of U.S. immigration law..

#### igeria, Nigerien Security Forces Close Ties On Border Securit



Nigerian Security Operatives and their Nigerien counterparts deliberate modalities to further enhance and promote joint military/security inter border relations among the security agencies of both countries.

This took place when a Joint Security Team from 8 Division Nigerian Army (NA), comprising of representatives from the NA, Nigerian Police, State Security Services, Nigerian Immigration Service, Nigerian Customs Service and Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps visited their counterparts in Niger

Republic.

The acting director, Army Public Relations, Col Sagir Musa, in a statement said the meeting was held in Dakana in Niger Republic, where Nigerian delegates extensively and fruitfully brainstormed with their Nigerein counterparts on the unfolding security challenges in Sokoto State and environs. He recalled that security threats along the international boundary between Niger Republic and Nigeria, necessitated the establishment of a joint military border patrol in September 2018.

## N tells Italy proposed decree violates migrants' rights



The Italian interior ministry vowed to press ahead with a new decree formalizing the closure of Italian ports to aid groups that rescue migrants, even after U.N. human rights investigators said it violated international law.

Ministry officials said the security decree was "necessary and urgent" and was expected to be approved at a Cabinet meeting.

In a May 15 letter to Italy's government recently released, the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights urged Italy to withdraw the decree, calling it "yet another political attempt to criminalize search and rescue operations."

The decree "further intensifies the climate of hostility and xenophobia against migrants," said the letter, which was signed by several U.N. human rights rapporteurs.

It was issued as a ship carrying more than 40 migrants from the German aid group Sea-Watch remained off the island of Lampedusa waiting for a port to disembark its passengers. Sea-Watch said it had flouted Italy's ban and entered Italian territorial waters on Saturday for humanitarian reasons.

#### anadian border guards seize 4,000 kgs of smuggled cheese, issue \$30,000 fine



Border guards in Ontario issued a \$30,000 fine after seizing nearly 4,000 kilograms in smuggled cheese.

In a release issued Monday, the Canadian Border Security Agency said Haissam Azaar, 50, was caught smuggling eight skids of undeclared cheese on January 10.

Azaar was convicted of smuggling under the Customs Act and must pay a \$30,000 fine for 3,990 kilograms of undeclared cheese.

He must pay the entire fine within five years, with a minimum payment of \$1,000 per year.



#### olice seize over 20kg meth in border province Yunnan

Police in southwest China's Yunnan Province detained two drug trafficking suspects and seized over 20.7kg of methamphetamine, local authorities said.

Police in Changning County under Baoshan City received a tip-off that drug dealers planned to transport drugs to Kunming, capital of Yunnan, for sale. A task force was set up to investigate.

Police arrested a suspect in Zhenkang County and seized 136 bags of methamphetamine from his vehicle. Another suspect was caught at home on the same day, when 2 pieces and 5 bags of methamphetamine were seized.

Yunnan is a major front in China's war on drugs, as it borders the Golden Triangle known for drug production and trafficking.

#### U's Frontex deploys border guard teams in Albania

Teams of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, or Frontex, are joining Albania's police to patrol its land and sea borders for migrants and crime.

European Union Migration Commissioner Dimitris Avramopoulos and Frontex head Fabrice Leggeri were in Tirana to launch "the first ever joint operation on the territory of a neighbouring non-EU country."

Avramopoulos said the agreement is "a milestone in the EU co-operation with the region."

Fifty officers, 16 patrol cars and 1 thermo-vision van from 12 EU member countries will deploy along the Albania-Greece border.

Similar agreements have been signed with North Macedonia, Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Montenegro.

#### order guards prevent 100,000 crimes on Russia's borders in 2018

The Border Guard of Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB) prevented nearly 100,000 crimes on the country's borders in 2018, FSB Border Guard Chief Vladimir Kulishov said in an interview with Rossiyskaya Gazeta.

"I can say that the Border Guard has been successful in protecting state borders. In 2018, about 97,000 crimes were prevented on the border and in border areas. More than 89,000 foreign and Russian nationals were detained and subjected to administrative punishment," he said.

According to Kulishov, border guards stopped more than 25,000 foreign nationals holding invalid documents from entering Russia. In addition, over 6,100 persons on the wanted list were identified.

#### efugee found hidden in car glove box by Spanish border police



A refugee travelling from Morocco was found cramped into a car glove box attempting to travel to Europe.

Shocking pictures emerged showing a man in his twenties hiding behind the car's dashboard at the border in Beni-Enzar, Morocco.

The car was stopped by border police whilst trying to enter Spain's North African enclave of Melilla.

Spanish Guard officers said three vehicles carrying stowaways were stopped in the space of three hours and found a total of four Moroccan migrants hidden in four vehicles.

#### omeland chief cuts deal to stop historic flow of illegal immigrants from Guatemala

Guatemala, which has lost over 1% of its population to the United States via illegal immigration since just September, has signed a deal with President Trump's Homeland Security chief to stop the surge.

At the start of a series of meetings in Guatemala, acting Homeland Security Secretary Kevin K. McAleenan "formalized" an agreement also aimed at stopping human and drug trafficking and snuff out the "push factors" that draw illegal immigrants to the U.S.

In a statement, McAleenan said, "Through our continued collaboration and partnership, the U.S. and Guatemala are formalizing a number of initiatives to improve the lives and security of our respective citizens by combating human trafficking and the smuggling of illegal goods, helping to limit 'push' factors that encourage dangerous irregular migration to the



U.S., perpetuating the ongoing crisis at or border."

The administration has put a new focus on the so-called Northern Triangle of Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras that are the biggest source of illegal immigrants trying to enter the U.S. They hope to help those nations curb migration.

## order Patrol seizes \$1 million in cocaine after vehicle crashes through gate



Laredo Sector Border Patrol agents and Laredo Police Department seized more than a \$1 million worth of narcotics following a vehicle pursuit.

The incident occurred after agents observed possible narcotics being loaded into a red sedan by the riverbanks near the Mines Road area.

Agents attempted to pull over the vehicle but it failed to yield and a pursuit ensued. The vehicle broke through a gate near a property by the Rio Grande River.

## ore than 2,200 migrants apprehended in El Paso Border Patrol sector on Memorial Day

Border Patrol agents were busy taking into custody more than 2,200 migrants



who entered the U.S. illegally.

Officials said Memorial Day was the busiest recent day of enforcement activity for El Paso Sector Border Patrol agents during the ongoing influx. The 2,200 apprehensions included two large groups and many smaller ones.

They said the busy day began in the bootheel of New Mexico with a large group of more than 200 migrants taken into custody at the Antelope Wells Port of Entry in New Mexico around 2 a.m.

A second group was one of the largest in the El Paso sector thus far with over 430 people, said officials. This group crossed the border just west of Bowie High School at around 7 a.m.

By the end of the day, the El Paso Sector agents had apprehended over 2,200 undocumented aliens with 1,850 of those being taken into custody in the geographic area between Executive Boulevard and Midway Street in El Paso.

## igarette smuggling costs Perth man close to \$20,000

A 32 year-old man who was caught by Australian Border Force (ABF) officers trying to smuggle 45 cartons of cigarettes through Perth International Airport has been ordered to pay fines and costs totalling almost \$20,000.



The Perth Magistrates Court heard the man bought the cigarettes at a duty free shop in Dubai on his way home from Europe, in what was described as an unsophisticated, but deliberate, attempt to avoid paying duty of over \$6,200.

#### earch warrants executed after more than \$140 million worth of MDMA and cocaine intercepted from Spain

A joint-agency investigation has commenced after MDMA and cocaine worth more than \$140 million was intercepted by law enforcement at the border.

Australian Border Force (ABF) officers at the Sydney Container Examination Facility targeted a sea cargo container which had recently arrived from Spain after a BorderWatch referral.

The container, which was declared to contain shampoo, was taken to the ABF's Sydney Container Examination Facility for x-ray and officers noted inconsistencies.

The consignment was deconstructed and found to contain 258 boxes. 49 of the boxes were found to contain bags of a brown crystalline substance and blocks of a white powder, with presumptive testing returning a positive indicator for MDMA and cocaine.

#### 12,000 Illegal Foreign Cigarette Packs Seized



Gendarmería Nacional, a subsidiary of the Ministry of National Security, SEIZED 12,000 illegal foreign cigarette

packs as a result of a procedure carried out in El Bañero (Formosa).

Staff of the Nucleus Section dependent on the 5 "Pirana" Squadron, while conducting night patrols on Provincial Routes Nos. 23 and 9, observed approaching a VW Golf vehicle, whose driver ignored the signals of the uniformed men and made a rapid getaway.

Immediately, the gendarmes, with support of the Group "Subteniente Peran", initiated a controlled follow-up by the Provincial Route N° 9 and an intense chase.

When stopping the vehicle, officials discovered inside a cargo of 12,000 illegal foreign cigarettes.

#### Criminal Group Dedicated to Kidnapping Broken Down



In the framework under the Shock Plan Phase III, the GAULA and the Intelligence Section of the Police of Cundinamarca in coordination with the Attorney General of the Nation, carried out the dismantling of 'Los Muñetones' a gang dedicated to the kidnapping through the modality of deception.

Through registration and search procedures in the municipality of the school, the break up of this fearsome criminal group was achieved with the capture of 6 delinquents, who were dedicated to kidnapping their victims through the modality of deceit, where they quoted them to conduct business and subsequently disappeared, affecting especially the Farmers' Guild.

In the development of the operation were seized 4 revolvers, 4 shotguns, 3 pistols, 1 muffler, 9 suppliers for pistol, 587 cartridges of different calibers, 1 automobile, 20 cell phones, 14 Sim Card and 2 USB memories that were used to carry out the abduction and also the extortion of its victims.

#### 1,800,000 Pesos of Illegal Merchandise Seized

The Argentine Naval Prefecture seized more than 1,800,000 pesos in merchandise of illegal origin, in the Corrientes locality of Paso de los Libres, within the framework of the Safe Terminals operation designed by the Ministry of National Security by Patricia Bullrich.

The procedure occurred at kilometer 3.5 of National Route 117, when troops of the force mounted a vehicle control operation in order to find a bus that had left the local terminal bound for the City of Buenos Aires, and would be loaded with contraband merchandise.

#### Nearly 790 irregular migrants held across Turkey



A total of 787 irregular migrants were held across Turkey on Tuesday, security sources said.

In northwestern province of Edirne, which borders Greece and Bulgaria, gendarmerie forces rounded up 550 migrants, said a source on condition of anonymity due to restrictions on speaking to the media.

Separately, the gendarmerie forces held 14 irregular migrants, all of them Iraqi nationals, in northwestern

province of Kirklareli, another source said. Moreover, the Turkish Coast Guard intercepted 21 irregular migrants in a rubber boat off the coast of northwestern Balikesir province. Some 100 irregular migrants were also held in northwestern Canakkale province while they were preparing to sail for Greece. Six people were also arrested for alleged human smuggling.

In addition, the Turkish Coast Guard held 41 irregular migrants in a rubber boat off the coast of Aegean Mugla province. Some 31 irregular migrants were also held by the Turkish Coast Guard off the coast of Aegean Aydin province. The gendarmerie forces in Aegean province of Izmir also held 30 irregular migrants.

All the migrants were later referred to provincial migration directorates. Turkey has been the main route for refugees trying to cross to Europe, especially since 2011, the beginning of the Syrian civil war. Some 268,000 irregular migrants were held in Turkey in 2018, according to the Interior Ministry.



World Border Security Network (WorldBorderSecurity.net), a global network for agency officials at the bor ders.

The purpose of the netw ork is to encour age and facilitate inter-agency co-oper ation and communication.

Members of the netw ork will be able to:

- · communicate securely
- share information
- share documents
- share best practise

- view past presentations
- keep up-to-date with the latest technology de velopments
- share training opportunities
- and more...

WorldBorderSecurity.net is open to all World Border Security Congress government agency delegates past and present.

Access is restricted to go vernment and inter governmental personnel; border, customs, immigration agency officials and specialist law enforcement officers.

Non-delegate agency officials will also be welcome but by member invitation only.





## BORDER MANAGEMENTS ANNUAL GATHERING

**EVENT PREVIEW** 



March 31<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> April 2020 Athens, Greece www.world-border-congress.com The annual gathering of the international border management and protection community will take place in the historic city of Athens, Greece on March 31st to 2nd April 2020.

Supported by the Ministry of Citizen Protection & KEMEA (Center for Security Studies under the Ministry of Citizen Protection), the World Border Security Congress is delighted to be positioned in the heart of some of the most recent migration challenges.

Greece has been in the forefront of the global migration crisis since it started in 2015. 2015/16 saw the escalation of the global migration crisis, with mass movements of people fleeing the war zones of the Middle East as well as illegal economic immigration from Africa and elsewhere.

Whilst the so-called ISIS caliphate has been largely destroyed, there is little sign of peace and security in the Middle East, which means the flow of refugees is not likely to slow down anytime soon.



Porous borders between the Mediterranean and sub Saharan Africa continue to provide routes for refugees from conflicts there, as well as economic migrants making their way to what they suppose will be a better life in Europe. International organised criminal gangs and human and drug trafficking groups continue to adapt to exploit any weaknesses in the European external border.

Greece faces some particularly tough challenges. Greece's has 13,676 km of coastline, with somewhere around 1,200 to 6,000 islands, depending on the minimum size to take into account. The number of inhabited islands is variously cited as between 166 and 227 leaving hundreds if not thousands of islands unobserved.

These Greek islands face over two hundred Turkish Islands in the Aegean alone.

This makes the business of securing and policing the Greek coastline extremely difficult with plenty of places for small craft and people to land and hide unobserved.

But securing Europe's south eastern border is going to be an expensive

#### **CALL FOR PAPERS**

#### **Abstract Submittal Deadline – 19th July 2019**

#### Are you interested at speaking at the World Border Security Congress?

The World Border Security Congress Advisory Committee are inviting abstracts for consideration for inclusion in the conference.

If you are interested, you are invited to submit your abstract for consideration by the conference committee by submitting an abstract of approx 250-400 words. Your presentation should not be commercial in nature.

Although the programme will consider all aspects for discussion, and you are encouraged to submit your abstract for review, particular topics for discussion and focus to be considered will be:

- Latest threats from cross border cyber crime, returning foreign fighters, terrorism infiltration, illegal migration
- Challenges in the trafficking of illicit goods, artefacts, narcotics, small arms
- Trafficking in Human Beings by transnational criminal gangs has expanded not declined despite the billions that have been spent by national governments and institutions such as IOM, OSCE, INTERPOL
- Is it possible to enhance the protection and management of extended land borders? What are the solutions?
- How can border agencies enhance border security and improve results, whilst under increasing pressure of resources?
- Standardization of systems such as trusted traveller programs has not occurred despite lots and lots of talk at ICAO, IATA, etc.
- Identity management and biometric challenges
- Developments and challenges in implenting API/PNR and future opportunities
- How can border administrations better share information and data under increasing pressure from privacy laws?
- How can small country border administrations ensure their effectiveness against growing criminality and terrorist threats?
- Maritime, port and coastal border security: How can we best guard the coast and major ports from international organised criminal activities, including human trafficking and drug smuggling?
- Illegal migrant numbers and movements have not declined over the last 20 years they have actually increased despite a plethora of national and international agreements to manage the problem
- The costs of delivering and streamlining safety and security at airports, border points and seaports
- Countering border threats as a result of the so called "war on terror" & "the war on drugs".

To be considered for inclusion in this premier programm, submit your abstract online at www.world-border-congress.com/call-for-papers by 19th July.

smuggling of arms and illegal goods across North Africa also adds pressure on the governments and border security forces of the region.

The world is expected to see a continuation of the migration challenges for the border management and security community, as little sign of peace and security in the Middle East is apparent and porous borders in Africa continue to provide challenges.

International organised criminal gangs and human and drug trafficking groups exploit opportunities and increasingly use the internet and technology to enhance their activities.

Controlling and managing international borders in the 21st Century continues to challenge the border control and immigration agencies around the world. It is generally agreed that in a globalised world borders should be as open as possible, but threats continue to remain in ever evolving circumstances and situations.

Advancements in technology are assisting in the battle to maintain safe and secure international travel. The border security professional still remains the front line against these threats.

The World Border Security Congress is a high level 3 day event that will discuss and debate current and future policies, implementation issues and challenges as well as new and developing technologies that contribute towards safe and secure border and migration management.

Supported by the Organization for Security & Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the European Association of Airport and Seaport Police (EAASP), the African Union Economic, Social and Cultural Council (AU-ECOSOCC), National Security & Resilience Consortium, International Security Industry Organisation and International Association of CIP Professionals, demonstrating the World Border Security Congress remains the premier multi-jurisdictional global platform where ew ways through new challenges and treating those challenges as opportunities to do things better in the future.

Register your interest to attend the event at www.world-bordercongress.com/registration. We look forward to welcoming you to Athens, Greece on March 31st-2nd April 2020.





















#### Customs officers are on the front lines of securing ports of entry while preventing trade fraud and contraband smuggling.

We know Customs officers take pride in their mission. That's why we're proud to introduce the all-new Eagle\* line of cargo and vehicle inspection systems—a new class of high-energy and multi-technology scanning systems to help Customs officials around the world uncover threats and contraband, speed up legitimate cargo clearance, and ensure proper duties are paid.











## Eurotunnel rolls out facial recognition tech

The Eurotunnel is to become the first non-airport border crossing to deploy biometric technology at its terminal in anticipation of longer queuing times post-Brexit. Kicking off in April, facial recognition gates have started being installed at select terminals, with a wider launch to follow. How will the technology be rolled out, and where does it fit in the wider preparations Eurotunnel is making in anticipation of Brexit?.



The Channel Tunnel is set to become the world's first rail border crossing to take a leaf out of the aviation industry's playbook and introduce e-gates with automatic facial recognition technology. Paris-based transport company Getlink, which manages the continental rail link through its subsidiary Eurotunnel, has partnered on the project with French digital identity management firm IN Groupe (formerly Impremerie Nationale), which is supplying its PARAFE e-gate systems for the scheme. The e-gates

are intended to accelerate

the border crossing process for travellers with biometric passports.

"Allowing a single police officer to check five passengers simultaneously simplifies, facilitates and accelerates border control," said IN Groupe of its e-gate technology in promotional materials.

The facial recognition roll out at the Channel Tunnel is expected to kick off this year. The first stage is set to launch in early April for the 51,000 coach passengers, primarily tourists, who travel through the tunnel each year.

## How radar is supporting effective border security surveillance

Some remote locations require large areas to be protected, often with hundreds of miles of fence line, with protection requirements either side of the border.



For high security sites, operators often require long-range detection equipment that can detect a threat across greater distances, to enable interception well in advance of a border or fence line contravention. To meet this challenge, the use of visual imaging supported by radar has proved to be a valuable security asset.

360 Vision's awardwinning Predator Radar is a combined surveillance camera & radar unit that has been deployed effectively in many high-security border applications. "Predator Radar can track up to 40 targets simultaneously up to a range of 400m diameter, making it ideal to secure expansive border area environments," explains 360 Vision's Managing Director, Mark Rees. "Intelligent Time Share alarm handling also ensures that multi-object alarms can be handled proportionally or by priority. Using world-class radar technology, the stand-alone Predator Radar scans 360 degrees twice every second to detect and track objects, with alarms overlaid on-screen. The camera's advanced radar detection is unaffected by weather conditions, so detection and alarm functionality continues even within some of the most adverse weather and climate conditions experienced in the world's toughest border environments."

## YVR's Innovative Travel Solutions first to update border control solution to Canadian government biometric requirements

Vancouver International Airport's (YVR) Innovative Travel Solutions (ITS) announced that its industry-leading self-service border control solution, BORDERXPRESS, is the first in Canada to be updated to meet the Government of Canada's expanded biometric screening requirements, came into effect March 31, 2019.

"The Government of Canada has stated that the collection of biometrics is a critical aspect of their immigration program and one that allows for accuracy in establishing a traveller's identity," says Steve Hankinson, Vice President, Innovation and Planning, Vancouver Airport Authority. "Our **BORDERXPRESS Primary** Inspection Kiosks are the first to be adapted to accommodate the needs of the Canadian government while also providing a border control solution that unites security, efficiency and innovation to transform the passenger experience, which is ultimately what drives our team forward." **Under the Government** of Canada's biometric expansion, Primary Inspection Kiosks at major

Canadian airports will

now require fingerprint verification for all temporary resident visa, study and work permit applicants (excluding U.S. nationals), as well as all permanent residence applicants.

Biometrics, including fingerprints and photographs of the face, significantly increase the security of the border by collecting physical characteristics of an individual which when captured, can be used to verify the identity or check against other entities in the database. Biometrics also help airports by reducing passenger wait times, improving passenger flow and operational efficiency. More than 70 countries around the world use the collection of biometrics as part of their immigration programs.

#### Vision-Box to supply Bahrain International Airport with a state-of-the-art Automated Border Control platform

Located in Muharraq, Bahrain International Airport (BIA) serves as an important hub in the Gulf region. It is currently being transformed through the Airport Modernisation Programme (AMP), one of the biggest national projects in the Kingdom's history.



The AMP will elevate BIA's infrastructure, facilities, and services, transforming it into a world-class boutique airport and a key driver of national economic growth. The crowning jewel of the AMP is the new Passenger Terminal Building, which will increase BIA's capacity to 14 million passengers a year and offer users an improved travel experience.

The new Passenger Terminal Building will be equipped with advanced biometric technology to improve safety and security while offering passengers added convenience.

**Bahrain Airport Company** (BAC) Chief Executive Officer, Mohamed Yousif AlBinfalah, explains: "One of the Airport Modernisation Programme's most important objectives is to enhance the overall airport experience. The new Automated Border Control platform will play a key role in achieving this goal by giving passengers more control over their journeys and streamlining time-consuming immigration and security formalities. BAC is pleased to partner with Vision-Box to bring this state-of-theart technology to BIA. I am confident that the



new platform will help to reinforce our status as a friendly and efficient airport."

The Vision-Box-designed Automated Border Control platform will streamline border control monitoring and inspection for both Departures and Arrivals at BIA. In addition, 22 new eGates will enable travellers to pass through immigration checkpoints faster and with less staff involvement, while still maintaining a high level of security. The eGates

will verify passengers' identities, using biometrics including facial, iris, and fingerprint recognition.

The new Passenger
Terminal Building will
utilise a complete multimodal biometric identity
management solution,
catering for different
passengers' profiles.
Vision-Box continues
to support these
advancements in the
region, currently operating
more than 200 airport
solutions in the Middle
East.



This contract is estimated at more than \$1.4 billion and consists of a base year plus nine and a half option years.

DI will provide aircraft maintenance and logistics support services for CBP's diverse fleet of fixedwing and rotary-wing aircraft to ensure that the Government has the numbers and types of properly configured aircraft available to meet operational commitments. CBP's aviation assets consists of approximately 211 aircraft at multiple locations in the Western hemisphere. The fleet is a mix of military and non-military, fixed- and

rotary-wing, single- and multi-engine aircraft, including some modified and equipped with state-of-the-art, highly sophisticated sensor equipment.

"We are thrilled to have this opportunity to serve Customs and Border Protection," said Joe Ford, president of DynAviation. "DI is completely focused on providing the highest quality aviation maintenance support to the guardians of our Nation's borders."

#### DynCorp International Awarded Customs and Border Protection Contract

On May 31, the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), awarded DynCorp International (DI) a contract to provide National Aviation Maintenance and Logistics Services.

#### **ADVERTISING SALES**

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#### CALL FOR PAPERS

#### **ABSTRACT SUBMITTAL DEADLINE - 21ST JULY 2019**

Greece lies at the crossroads of East and West, Europe and the Middle East. It lies directly opposite Libya so along with Italy is the primary destination for migrants coming from that conflict zone and is a short boat trip from Turkey, the other principal migrant route for Syrians fleeing there conflict there.

Greece has over sixteen thousand kilometres of coastline and six thousand islands, only two hundred and twenty-seven of which are inhabited. The islands alone have 7,500 km of coastline and are spread mainly through the Aegean and the Ionian Seas, making maritime security incredibly challenging.

The sheer scale of the migrant crisis in late 2015 early 2016 had a devasting impact on Greek finances and its principle industry, tourism. All this in the aftermath of the financial crisis in 2009. Despite this, both Greece and Italy, largely left to handle the crisis on their own, managed the crisis with commendable determination and humanity.

With their experience of being in the frontline of the migration crisis, Greece is the perfect place reconvene for the next meeting of the World Border Security Congress.

The World Border Security Congress is a high level 3 day event that will discuss and debate current and future policies, implementation issues and challenges as well as new and developing technologies that contribute towards safe and secure border and migration management.

The World Border Security Congress Committee are inviting abstracts for consideration for inclusion in the 2020 Congress Programme. If you are interested in making a presentation submit your abstract at <a href="https://www.world-border-congress.com/call-for-papers">www.world-border-congress.com/call-for-papers</a>

We look forward to welcoming you to Athens, Greece on March 31st-2nd April 2020 for the next gathering of border and migration management professionals.

#### www.world-border-congress.com

for the international border management and security industry

To discuss exhibiting and sponsorship opportunities and your involvement please contact:

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