



The mission of CBP Air and Marine, the world's largest civilian law enforcement air force, is to protect the American people and critical infrastructure by using an integrated and coordinated air and marine force to detect, interdict, and prevent acts of terrorism arising from unlawful movement of people, illegal drugs and other contraband moving toward or crossing the borders of the United States.

On October 1, 2005, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) integrated its aviation assets, programs and personnel. With over 500 pilots and 250 aircraft, including the use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), CBP Air and Marine is the largest law enforcement air force in the world.

Air mission

- Provide support to CBP's anti-terrorism mission at U.S. borders. This includes air-to-ground interception of people and vehicles illegally crossing land borders, air-to-air interception of aircraft, and air-to-water interception of transportation vehicles.
- Provide support for CBP's traditional work, such as border interceptions unrelated to terrorism, and other DHS missions as well.
- Conduct air operations in support of other federal, state and local needs, such as disaster relief.

Marine mission

- Detect, intercept, track, and apprehend unauthorized vessels attempting to penetrate our borders. These vessels often carry contraband and/or illegal aliens on board.
- Oversee marine training, safety and standards, equipment, and vessel procurement and maintenance
- Employs a sophisticated armada of more than 200 vessels including blue water, Midnight Interceptors, and two models of utility vessels. These assets combined with state of the art intelligence, communications and highly mobile

tactical enforcement units, are used to conduct strategic operations in high-risk entry areas.

- Work in conjunction with other federal, state, local and tribal law enforcement agencies and military forces of other nations in support of their law enforcement efforts and especially in their counter-narcotic programs.

Enforcement statistics

During FY05, the CBP-Air P-3 aircraft program contributed in the seizure of 8,856 pounds of marijuana, 210,779 pounds of cocaine, 58 aircraft, vehicles and vessels, 164 arrests and the capture of 122 undocumented aliens. For their outstanding efforts, the CBP P-3s were awarded the U.S. Interdiction Coordinators FY05 Award.

During calendar year 2005 the small boat interdiction program disabled 57 boats that failed to respond to warnings to stop and tried to "make a run" and land on U.S. soil. For this same time period, there were 90 arrests made for infractions including smuggling of narcotics or illegal aliens.

