



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

— APR 27 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR: All Special Agents in Charge

FROM: *for* James A. Dinkins (b)(6); (b)(7)(c)
Director of Investigations

SUBJECT: Border Enforcement Security Task Force (BEST) /
BEST Executive Board

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and its partner Department of Homeland Security (DHS) law enforcement components are committed to focusing their enforcement efforts toward the disruption of cross-border criminal activity related to contraband smuggling, human smuggling, money laundering, weapons trafficking and its associated violence. The Border Enforcement Security Task Force (BEST) was created in 2005 as a mechanism to address the threats of cross-border crimes and remains a proven flexible platform from which DHS and its partner agencies investigate and target not only transnational criminal organizations, but any emerging threats which exploits vulnerabilities at the nation's borders.

On February 17, 2010, the Office of Investigations (OI) issued a memorandum entitled, "Expansion/Reorganization of the Headquarters Financial, Narcotics & Public Safety Division / Creation of the National Border Enforcement Security Task Force Unit." This memorandum outlines the goal for the National Border Enforcement Security Task Force Unit (NBU) is to logistically and programmatically support the BEST as a DHS mandated ICE-led program with the goal of increasing its level of recognition within the law enforcement community, members of Congress and their staff, and the general public located domestically and abroad. Additionally, the NBU will ensure the concepts which have made the BEST program a success; intelligence driven investigative efforts, international and multi-agency collaboration, and co-location and shared resources, are maintained and more effectively supported.

To that extent, the current BESTs and their subsequent administration as it relates to interagency cooperation, transparency and coordination in the field will be conducted as follows:

- Each task force location must establish a local BEST Executive Board that will be co-chaired by executives from DHS law enforcement agencies (e.g. ICE, CBP Office of Field Operations (CBP-OFO), CBP Office of Border Patrol (CBP-OBP), and U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), as applicable). The local BEST Executive Board will also include representatives from the U.S. Attorney's Office, and other federal, state, local, tribal, and foreign law enforcement participants.
- The BEST Executive Board will meet quarterly to address specific issues and concerns that are particular to that BEST and its members. The meetings will ensure established priorities, mission implementations, and contributing agency requirements are being met by BEST participants. It is expected operational briefings and investigative successes will be shared with executive board members regularly and at board meetings. Please forward the quarterly agenda and minutes from these meetings to the NBU. Points of interest raised during these meetings that affect operational efficiency will be addressed, if needed, by the NBU and/or the headquarters level BEST Executive Steering Committee. It is anticipated annually a member of the NBU will attend and participate in a board meeting at each task force location.

At the Headquarters level is the BEST Executive Steering Committee, which is comprised of managers from the DHS headquarters component agencies participating in the BEST program; currently the participants are CBP-OBP, CBP-OFO, CBP-AMO, USCG, and DHS I&A. The BEST Executive Committee meets quarterly or as needed as a mechanism for executive coordination, oversight, and maintenance of the BEST program.

Any questions concerning this matter can be directed to ASAC (b)(6), (b)(7)(c) (A) National BEST Unit Chief, at 202-732-(b)(6), (b)(7)(c) or by email at (b)(6), (b)(7)(c)@dhs.gov.