

Spotlight

Department of Homeland Security



Office of Inspector General

September 2013 OIG-13-114

Why This Matters

Following April 2012 media reports regarding the death of an undocumented immigrant while in the custody of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) in May 2010, Senator Robert Menendez and 15 members of Congress requested that we review the use of force within CBP. We reviewed allegations of the use of excessive force by CBP employees and determined what reforms CBP has implemented. We also examined what effect adding more agents and officers to the workforce has had on training and professionalism.

DHS Response

CBP concurred with the three recommendations.

CBP is updating Use of Force policy to institutionalize the formal process governing use of force training reviews. CBP is developing and formalizing a Standard Operating Procedure that provides guidance for evaluating field review results and implementing review recommendations.

In addition, CBP is developing the capability to conduct more robust quantitative and qualitative analysis of use of force incident reviews with the establishment of the Use of Force Center of Excellence.

For Further Information:

Contact our Office of Public Affairs at (202)254-4100, or email us at DHS-OIG.OfficePublicAffairs@oig.dhs.gov

CBP Use of Force Training and Actions To Address Use of Force Incidents

What We Determined

We determined that the August 2006 to December 2009 workforce surge within CBP did not negatively affect use of force training within CBP. Also, pre-employment polygraph examinations have improved the quality of the CBP workforce. CBP has taken several steps to address the number of use of force incidents involving CBP employees. All CBP law enforcement agents and officers are required to follow a new common use of force policy and complete the same use of force training.

What We Recommend

We made three recommendations. CBP should work with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to implement a method to identify excessive force allegations in its case management system, develop processes to incorporate information regarding assaults on agents that do not result in the use of force into its analyses of use of force incidents, and evaluate and act upon field audit results. The Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General will modify its case management system to identify in greater detail incidents involving excessive use of force allegations.