



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL Department of Homeland Security

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Allegation of CBP Gun Incident With Boy Scouts Unsubstantiated

An exhaustive investigation by the Office of Inspector General (OIG), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), has so far determined that an allegation that a Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officer pulled a gun on a Boy Scout is unsubstantiated.

The allegation was made by the adult Scoutmaster of an Iowa-based troop, who claimed a CBP officer drew and pointed his firearm at a Scout while conducting a July 7th inspection at the Alcan Port of Entry, on the Canada-Alaska border.

The results of the investigation, conducted from July 25th through August 8th, were conveyed in an August 13th memo from DHS Inspector General John Roth to DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson.

"This very serious allegation against a CBP officer, which was widely reported in the media, required the immediate attention of my office," said Roth. "We have made a concerted effort to discern the facts." Roth noted that the OIG had so far spent more than \$19,000 investigating the incident.

OIG investigators, working in conjunction agents from CBP Internal Affairs, travelled to multiple states, including Alaska. They reviewed surveillance video of the incident, interviewed the Scoutmaster, Boy Scouts of America executive staff in Iowa, all other adults who accompanied the Boy Scout troop, CBP leadership, and the CBP Officers allegedly involved in the incident.

The Scoutmaster told investigators he did not view the alleged gun incident, but said he was told about it by several Scouts. He refused to identify those accusers for investigators or to make them available for interviews. Also, none of the other adults accompanying the Scouts that day reported witnessing – or being aware of - the alleged gun incident.

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CBP officers did conduct a search of some of the Scouts' belongings and made a Scout delete from his camera a photo he had taken of the Port of Entry. Federal law bans photography at such facilities. CBP officers also later assisted the Scoutmaster by patching a flat tire on one of the group's vehicles.

"All investigative leads have been pursued and exhausted," Roth concluded in his memo. "Based upon the investigation to date, we do not believe any CBP personnel acted inappropriately. The allegation appears to be unsubstantiated."

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