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**STATEMENT BY
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**“Northern Ice: Stopping Methamphetamine Precursor Chemical Smuggling
Across the U.S. - Canada Border”**

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Good morning Chairman Souder and members of the Committee.

Welcome to Detroit, and thank you for this opportunity to testify regarding U.S. Customs and Border Protection’s role in interdicting narcotics at the U.S. – Canada Border.

The priority mission for CBP is homeland security. Although nothing can diminish the importance of detecting and preventing terrorists and implements of terrorism from entering the United States, CBP also preserves its collective history of protecting the homeland by:

- Seizing illegal drugs and other contraband at the U.S. Border.
- Apprehending people who attempt to enter the United States illegally.
- And, by protecting our agricultural interests and the public health from harmful pests and diseases.

In order to uphold these responsibilities, CBP deploys a layered defense that essentially employs enforcement strategies, technologies, inspection processes and facilitation programs simultaneously. These interdependent layers reinforce each other and increase our capacity to detect threats to the homeland.

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I would like to focus on the people, technology, and law enforcement partnerships that support the Detroit Field Office and the Detroit Border Patrol Sector's efforts to interdict narcotics and their precursors at the U.S. – Canada Border.

For CBP, success begins with our people and our efforts to achieve One Face at the Border. CBP places great importance on cultivating a highly skilled workforce. CBP is responsible for deploying approximately 42,000 employees and preserving the traditional missions of our predecessor agencies, and our ranks are growing. We have trained 864 newly hired CBP Officers under a unified, integrated curriculum since October of 2003.

CBP is responsible for over 11,000 Border Patrol agents and has significantly increased the number of personnel assigned along the northern border. Prior to September 11, 2001, there were only 368 Border Patrol agents stationed along the entire northern border. In FY04, that number has increased to over 1,000 agents.

Customs and Border Protection National Targeting Center

The National Targeting Center is the hub for CBP targeting efforts, setting the standards and defining processes. The NTC staff includes personnel with customs, agriculture, immigration, and Border Patrol law experience as well as liaison personnel from other agencies such as the Transportation Security Administration, the U.S. Coast Guard, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Department of Energy, and the Food and Drug Administration.

This co-location of enforcement and regulatory subject matter experts allows the NTC to support field elements, including the Container Security Initiative personnel stationed around the world, with additional research assets for passenger and cargo examinations.

Automated Targeting System

CBP continues to develop new modules and rule sets to further enhance targeting capabilities of the Automated Targeting System (ATS). Although nationally directed, support from field locations is critical to the evolution of ATS. Analysts and inspectors in the Detroit Field Office have played an important role in developing and continuing to refine the ATS targeting rules for truck and rail cargo on the Northern Border. Their expertise in risks associated with smuggling activity and knowledge specific to the Northern Border trade patterns have been integrated into ATS targeting rule sets specific to truck and rail cargo on the Northern Border. This integration significantly enhances the ability of ATS to be used to detect unusual shipments that might conceal narcotics or pose threats to homeland security.

Non Intrusive Inspection and Radiation Detection Technologies

Our CBP and Border Patrol Officers are also utilizing Non-Intrusive Inspection and Radiation Detection Technologies. In combination with our layered enforcement strategy, these tools provide CBP with a significant capacity to detect and deter nuclear or radiological materials, narcotics, and other contraband.

CBP has consistently demonstrated its commitment to staying current with the latest advancements in these technologies, and working to deploy them to the best advantage. There are currently 3 large-scale imaging systems, and 44 Radiation Portal Monitors deployed throughout the Detroit Field Office area of responsibility.

U.S. – Canada Cooperation

Close and constant coordination with our Canadian counterparts is the last layer of our defense that I would like to introduce. CBP continues to work closely with Canadian law enforcement personnel including the Canada Border Service Agency and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) to address the mutual threat of narcotics smuggling on our shared border. The Smart Border Action Plan provides the framework for these efforts.

Our Border Patrol Agents work side-by-side with Canadian law enforcement officers on Integrated Border Enforcement Teams (IBET) and Integrated Marine Enforcement Teams (IMET). IBET teams are bi-national law enforcement entities comprised of federal, state and local law enforcement agencies and the RCMP. The teams were established to facilitate U.S./Canada law enforcement agency involvement in the disruption and dismantling of criminal organizations involved in the smuggling of people and contraband along the U.S./Canada border.

These teams target cross-border criminal activity by maximizing the use of existing enforcement personnel and resources and simultaneously avoiding the duplication of enforcement and investigative efforts. There are currently 14

separate IBET teams operating across the northern border. The Detroit-Windsor IBET is jointly managed by the Border Patrol and RCMP.

Interdiction

Now I would like to turn to some of the successes in narcotics interdiction that have resulted from our layered approach.

On March 25, 2004 CBP Officers, with the assistance of Canada Border Service Agency information, initiated an inspection that led to the discovery and seizure of 166 kilos of marijuana and 10,224 tablets of ecstasy entering the U.S. via a commercial truck trailer. A large-scale imaging system confirmed suspicions about anomalous packages co-mingled with a commercial shipment. This success is particularly important because it represents the convergence of several components of our layered defense: international coordination and information sharing, technology, and skilled officer personnel.

Over the past three years the Detroit Field Office has increased marijuana seizures in excess of one pound from 4 seizures in Fiscal Year 2001, to 19 in Fiscal Year 2002, and with another significant increase to 44 in FY 2003. Twenty such seizures are recorded for this fiscal year to date.

The Field Office's largest marijuana seizure on record occurred on September 24, 2003 at the Blue Water Bridge at Port Huron Michigan. Non-intrusive and physical examination located 1910 pounds of marijuana secreted in a shipment of municipal solid waste.

From April of 2001 to May of 2003 the Detroit Field Office affected seizures of pseudo-ephedrine totaling over 150 million tablets or the equivalent;

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however I will only highlight some of these seizures this morning. Major pseudo smuggling attempts have been thwarted by CBP seizures in Detroit and Port Huron. The seizures have led to multi-agency investigations involving Chicago and California organizations in a conspiracy to convert the pseudo into methamphetamines and distribute it nationally. 57% of all pseudo seizures have been in commercial vehicles.

The largest seizure of pseudo-ephedrine in Michigan occurred on April 11, 2001. A tractor-trailer arrived at the Detroit Fort Street Cargo Facility, lane 4 where the subject stated that he was empty. Inspectors conducted a check for merchandise on primary and asked to the subject to open the doors, revealing several pallets, some marked "pseudo-ephedrine." The truck was taken to secondary for further examination. Inspectors confirmed that the trailer contained 22 pallets with a total of 1431 cases of pseudo-ephedrine or approximately 42,000,000 tablets. The subject was arrested for Federal prosecution.

In March and April 2002 inspectors seized approximately 70,000 tablets of pseudo being shipped into the U.S. from Canada via an express consignment courier. Examination of the manifest by an Import Specialist showed two packages from the same address going to the same consignee in Oklahoma. Within days two more parcels containing approximately 35,000 tablets were discovered.

On December 15, 2002 at Detroit Windsor Tunnel a Ford F-150 pick-up was referred for inspection based on a lookout for possible smuggling. A dump-

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truck style device was discovered in the rear of the bed. When lifted, 174,250 tablets that field tested positive for pseudo ephedrine were discovered.

The most recent seizure of pseudo ephedrine was in May 2003. Inspectors in Port Huron seized an estimated 795,040 tablets of a powdered substance that tested positive for pseudo ephedrine. The subjects and the contraband were turned over to ICE agents for Federal prosecution.

I would like to conclude with highlights of recent interdiction activities conducted by CBP's Office of Border Patrol, which is tasked with the responsibility of detection and interdiction along the border between official ports of entry.

The Detroit Sector routinely seizes quantities of illicit drugs during the course of its routine interdiction duties.

On February 21, 2004, agents assigned to the Port Huron, Michigan station seized 207 lbs. of high-quality hydroponics marijuana, which is commonly referred to as "BC Bud". The marijuana was valued at \$1,035,000.

On February 12, 2004, Border Patrol Agents of the Trenton, Michigan station seized 37.35 pounds of Cocaine, which is valued at \$1,192,000.00. The cocaine was discovered in a vehicle after a Monroe County Sheriff's Department canine alert.

On November 18, 2003 Detroit Station agents were conducting train check and located 61.69 pounds of abandoned BC Bud marijuana. The marijuana, valued at \$30,845, was concealed in duffel bags and hidden on an inbound train from Canada.

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On November 21, 2003, Detroit Station agents conducting train check operations seized 165 pounds of BC Bud marijuana valued at \$825,000.00.

These samples of CBP's interdiction activities on the Northern Border illustrate that CBP continues its narcotics interdiction mission while moving rapidly to improve the personnel, technologies and partnerships that allow us to meet the challenges to homeland security.

Conclusion

Thank you again for this opportunity to testify regarding our ongoing efforts to interdict narcotics and their precursors on the U.S. – Canada Border. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.