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Jayson P. Ahern Announced as Next CBP Deputy Commissioner

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Washington — U.S. Customs and Border Protection Commissioner W. Ralph Basham today announced the appointment of Jayson P. Ahern as CBP's next deputy commissioner, adding that Ahern will assume the position in August upon the retirement of current Deputy Commissioner Deborah Spero.

Ahern most recently served as assistant commissioner of field operations, overseeing operations at U.S. air, sea and land ports.

"Since the creation of the Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Jay has had a pivotal role in shaping the identity of our new agency," said Commissioner Basham. "I have the utmost confidence in his leadership abilities and I know that he looks forward to working with all employees at U.S. Customs and Border Protection to further our common interest in securing America from those who seek to do us harm."

As deputy commissioner, Ahern will be responsible for providing leadership and direction for the daily operations of the 42,000-person agency.



Since the launch of the Department of Homeland Security, Ahern has been a key executive directing the CBP merger and unification of personnel at the ports of entry. Ahern has 31 years of experience with CBP and its predecessors, beginning his career on the frontlines in San Ysidro, Calif., the nation's busiest land port.

Currently as assistant commissioner for field operations, Ahern manages an operating budget of \$2.5 billion, directs the activities of more than 24,000 employees and oversees 20 field operations offices, 326 ports of entry, 50 operational Container Security Initiative ports worldwide and 15 pre-clearance stations in Canada, Ireland and the Caribbean.

Previously he was assigned as the director of field operations for Southern California, where he was in charge of all Customs activity at the Southern California ports of entry. Prior to that, he was the principal field manager of Customs port operations in Los Angeles and Miami. Ahern also has completed two tours of duty at CBP headquarters where he was the director of the anti-smuggling division and senior advisor to the acting commissioner of customs, where he developed narcotics interdiction programs and initiatives throughout Latin America.

Recently, President George W. Bush conferred the rank of Distinguished Executive on Assistant Commissioner Ahern for sustained extraordinary accomplishment in the management of programs in the United States government and for leadership exemplifying the highest standards of service to the public.

Ahern, a career member of the Senior Executive Service, is a graduate of Northeastern University and was a senior executive fellow at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection is the unified border agency within the Department of Homeland Security charged with the management, control and protection of our nation's borders at and between the official ports of entry. CBP is charged with keeping terrorists and terrorist weapons out of the country while enforcing hundreds of U.S. laws.

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