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## **Commissioner Basham Speaks Before American Association of Exporters and Importers**

06/13/2006

Commissioner W. Ralph Basham visited New York on June 13 to speak before the American Association of Exporters and Importers, a key partner to CBP in the area of trade and supply chain security.

In his remarks, Commissioner Basham said that he sought to open a dialogue with this important group and reaffirmed his commitment to the “twin goals—security and facilitation,” stating “we must—and can—achieve both.” He supports innovative solutions that both improve security and increase the flow of legitimate trade and travel across the borders. Further, the Commissioner said that he believes “our partnership with the trade community is the critical element in achieving these goals.”

In addition, Commissioner Basham stated that he believes “the course [former] Commissioner Robert Bonner set for CBP is the right course,” and he sees no need for a “dramatic change.” Commissioner Basham made it clear that under his leadership CBP will continue to partner with the private sector and the global trade community to secure and facilitate trade and travel.

The Commissioner endorsed the current strategy for achieving the twin goals, which includes advance information on cargo and passengers headed to the U.S.; automated targeting for risk of terrorism; the Container Security Initiative (CSI); and the Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT).

Finally, the Commissioner noted that technology “plays a crucial part in all the initiatives I’ve mentioned and underpins our ability to achieve the twin goals.” He singled out the Automated Commercial Environment, or ACE, as “one of the major programs you have helped CBP develop,” which serves as “an outstanding example of business and government working together to build a system that supports our common requirements.”