

Additionally, the July 2010 completion of a *Joint Border Threat and Risk Assessment* (released publicly in March 2011) advances a shared understanding of threats to North America and strengthens DHS's commitment to mitigate such threats. At the same time, both the United States and Canada are working to ensure that our shared infrastructure is protected through the *Canada-U.S. Action Plan for Critical Infrastructure*, a comprehensive cross-border approach to critical infrastructure protection and resilience, released in July 2010.

DHS continues to enhance its partnerships with our Federal, state, local, tribal, territorial, and Canadian partners. For instance, DHS, along with Justice Canada, joined the U.S. Department of Justice and Public Safety Canada as co-chairs of the U.S.-Canada Cross Border Crime Forum (CBCF) in 2010 and met again in 2012. We are partnering to develop the next generation of integrated cross-border law enforcement (NxtGen), among other joint border and law-enforcement initiatives. DHS and the Department of State work cooperatively with Canadian counterpart agencies through the Emergency Management Consultative Group (EMCG) to improve the resiliency of communities that straddle the border and ensure they have clear and coordinated approaches to emergency management and response. The defense departments in both countries also participate in this forum given their role providing defense support to civil authorities. DHS also works cooperatively with the Department of Transportation and Transport Canada in areas ranging from developing accurate measurements of border wait times to enhancing international standards through the International Civil Aviation Organization. DHS collaborates with the Department of Defense through the U.S.-Canada Permanent Joint Board on Defense on issues with a security and defense nexus, such as cybersecurity, critical infrastructure protection, and emergency management and response.

DHS has also increased its engagement with northern border state and local officials through integrated law enforcement and senior table top exercises. This engagement includes increased and improved training for DHS partners, including northern border state, local, tribal, and territorial partners, through National Level Exercises, domestic campaigns such as "If You See Something, Say Something,TM" the *Blue Campaign* to combat human trafficking, and continued support of the national network of state and major urban area fusion centers and the National Suspicious Activity Reporting Initiative. While these efforts are not specifically northern border focused, applying this engagement and training at the northern border increases the benefit and success of the homeland security enterprise as well as specific DHS missions at the northern border.

Common Threats

A variety of common threats affect our unique northern land, air, and maritime borders.¹¹ The high volume of commerce and travel between the United States and Canada creates opportunities for criminals to conceal their cross-border activity. The potential for terrorists or violent extremists to attempt an attack or gain entry across the land, air, or maritime borders poses the single greatest security threat along the border.

Illegal migration occurs in both directions across our northern border. The overwhelming majority of those apprehended in the United States have no known links to terrorist organizations. Some illegal immigrants receive assistance from alien smuggling organizations that range from small local operations to large transnational smuggling networks that move aliens from places across the globe into North America.

Illicit drugs are the predominant form of contraband smuggled across the border. Canada is the primary source country for MDMA (Ecstasy) smuggled into the United States and is also a major source of high-potency marijuana. Cocaine and tobacco are the largest volume contraband smuggled from the United

¹¹ IBET annual threat assessments and 2010 *Joint Border Threat and Risk Assessment* conducted by U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the Canada Border Services Agency.

