



U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Office of Air and Marine

FACT SHEET

The mission of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Office of Air and Marine (OAM) is to protect the American people and the nation's critical infrastructure through the coordinated use of integrated air and marine forces to detect, interdict and prevent acts of terrorism and the unlawful movement of people, illegal drugs and other contraband toward or across U.S. borders.

OAM is the world's largest aviation and maritime law enforcement organization, and is a critical component of CBP's layered enforcement strategy for border security. With more than 1,200 federal agents, 270 aircraft and 280 marine vessels operating from 80 locations throughout the United States, OAM uses its sophisticated fleets to detect, sort, intercept, track and apprehend criminals in diverse environments at and beyond U.S. borders.

This specialized law enforcement capability allows OAM to make significant contributions to Department of Homeland Security (DHS) efforts, as well as to federal, state, local, and tribal agencies. OAM is uniquely positioned to provide direct air and maritime support to multiple agencies and to ensure the success of border protection and law enforcement operations between ports of entry, within the maritime operating areas and within the nation's interior.

Air and Marine Mission

- Provide support to CBP's anti-terrorism mission at U.S. borders including, air-to-ground interception of people and contraband illegally crossing land borders, air-to-air interception of aircraft, and air-to-water interception of transportation vessels.
- Provide support for CBP's traditional work, such as border interceptions unrelated to terrorism and other DHS missions as well.
- Conduct air operations to support other federal, state and local needs, such as disaster relief.

Accomplishments During Fiscal Year 2010

- During almost 160,000 flight and underway hours, OAM operations contributed to the arrest of 1,975 drug smugglers, the seizure of 831,849 pounds of drugs and \$55.3 million in currency, and the apprehension of 62,338 illegal aliens.
 - Included in these figures, OAM P-3 aircraft operations accounted for the disruption and seizure of over 148,000 pounds of cocaine, with an estimated street value of \$1.8 billion, and intercepted three self-propelled semi-submersibles.
- OAM agents interdicted 155 pounds of methamphetamine and 10 pounds of cocaine off the coast of San Diego in August. Valued at more than \$3 million, this was the largest methamphetamine seizure at sea by CBP.
- OAM provided significant air security for the State of the Union address in January, the G-20 summit in Pittsburgh in November 2009 and for Super Bowl XLIV in South Florida.
- In support of Operation Deepwater Horizon, OAM P-3s flew over 600 hours providing air-space de-confliction, while the PA-42 aircraft flew close to 800 hours providing daily aerial mapping services for federal agencies to determine where to place critical assets in the Gulf of Mexico.

