1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20229

OBP 50/8-C

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

NOV 2 1 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR: All Chief Patrol Agents (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
All Division Chiefs (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

FROM: Michael J. Fisher
Chief
U.S. Border Patrol

SUBJECT: Guidance on Providing Language Assistance to Other LEAs

Attached for your information is CBP Deputy Commissioner David V. Aguilar's memo, entitled *Guidance on Providing Language Assistance to Other Law Enforcement Agencies,* dated November 9, 2012. It details CBP requirements when personnel receive requests from other law enforcement agencies (LEAs) for language assistance. Also attached is a list of implementation highlights that are also mentioned in Deputy Commissioner Aguilar's memorandum. Please discuss this with your agents during the first available muster.

Questions regarding this guidance as it relates to U.S. Border Patrol operations may be directed to Associate Chief (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) of the Policy Branch in the Strategic Planning, Policy and Analysis Division at U.S. Border Patrol Headquarters, (202) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Attachments

1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20229

U.S. Customs and
Border Protection

Deputy Commissioner

NOV 2 1 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR: See Distribution

FROM: David V. Aguilar
Deputy Commissioner

SUBJECT: Guidance on Providing Language Assistance to Other Law Enforcement Organizations

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) offices across the Nation work together with Federal, state, local and tribal law enforcement partners to achieve a unity of purpose and maximize operational integration, along with providing for the safety of the public and our law enforcement partners. These partnerships exist by sharing resources needed to address threats or emergencies.

Law enforcement agencies routinely request CBP assistance with enforcement activities for various reasons, such as officer safety. CBP is committed to promoting targeted and risk-based operations, and CBP will continue to assist other law enforcement organizations when practicable, as we have done historically.

If a Federal, state, or local law enforcement organization, other than another Department of Homeland Security (DHS) component, requests CBP assistance based solely on a need for language translation, absent any other circumstances, those requests should be referred to a list of available local and national translation services such as those provided by the Interagency Working Group on Limited English Proficiency.[1] Nothing in this document should be construed to limit the authorities of an officer or agent when responding to other law enforcement requests for assistance.

DHS emphasizes the need for joint planning and actions across discrete elements of government and society in order to promote public safety and ensure border security. When called upon to assist other law enforcement organizations, officers and agents are reminded to always act in a professional and responsible manner, and ensure that all enforcement actions are within the scope of our authorities.

[1] *http://www.lep.gov/interp_translation/011211_State_and_Regional_Interpreter_Associations.doc*

This memorandum, which may be modified, superseded, or rescinded at any time without notice, is not intended to, does not, and may not be relied upon to create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law by any party in any administrative, civil, or criminal matter.

Distribution: Acting Chief Operating Officer
Assistant Commissioner, Office of Air and Marine
Assistant Commissioner, Office of Field Operations
Chief, Office of Border Patrol
Chief of Staff
Deputy Chief of Staff

Implementation Highlights
Guidance on Providing Language Assistance to Other LEAs

- Requests to U.S. Customs and Border Protection by agencies outside of the Department of Homeland Security, absent any other circumstances, must be referred to available local and national translation services.
- Those services, such as those provided by the Interagency Working Group on Limited English Proficiency, can be found at the following address online: www.lep.gov/interp_translation/011211_State_and_Regional_Interpreter_Associations.doc.
- Nothing in this document or Deputy Commissioner Aguilar's memorandum limits a U.S. Border Patrol agent's authorities responding to requests for law enforcement assistance.