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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 2, 2008

08-26

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GPO PRINTS AND PERSONALIZES SECURE BORDER CROSSING CARDS FOR CBP

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO) is designing, printing, encoding, personalizing and mailing Trusted Traveler Program cards (NEXUS, SENTRI and FAST) for the Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection (CBP). These cards give the bearer faster service in crossing America's northern and southern borders. The card gives travelers convenience of expedited CBP processing through specially marked lanes at border crossings, similar to the E-Z pass on toll roads. The cardholder must go through a background check and only pre-approved, low-risk travelers receive a Trusted Traveler Program card.

These cards are one of the most secure federal identification cards ever. Numerous security features protect it from tampering or unauthorized use. These include those visible to the naked eye—such as optically variable ink, laser engraved data, micro printing, and an advanced hologram. Other features can only be verified by a border protection officer using special equipment. The services GPO provides in the development of the secure cards in the Trusted Traveler Program, guarantees secure government control of the supply chain, card design, personal data, personalization and mailing.

“GPO is the state-of-the-art provider in meeting the growing demand for secure federal credentials,” said Public Printer Robert C. Tapella. “GPO employees have been producing the nation's passports since the 1920s and now the agency will add a new line of business by not only printing the Trusted Traveler cards, but personalizing them too. I am honored Customs and Border Protection has placed their trust in GPO to develop this secure credential for the American public.”

“The new cards printed by the GPO have enhanced security features that make them more difficult to counterfeit,” said John Wagner, director of Trusted Traveler Programs at CBP. “The trusted traveler cards facilitate CBP's ability to expedite border crossing for low risk travelers while securing our borders.”

GPO's Secure Card Personalization Center in Washington, D.C. is staffed by career government employees. CBP provides GPO with approved information on the traveler; GPO employees then print, personalize and send the card to the traveler. GPO will produce more than 500 thousand cards. New North American travel documents requirements will go into effect June 1, 2009 under the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI). NEXUS, SENTRI and FAST are WHTI compliant documents.

Link to demo images of Trusted Traveler Program cards: <http://www.gpo.gov/news/images/index.html>
For more information and how to apply for CPB's Trusted Traveler Program, log on to:
http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/trusted_traveler/

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