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International Trade Data System

ITDS

Message From the Chairman

The momentum on the ITDS program has continued through the final months of 2007, and our Participating Government Agencies (PGAs) have had a very busy year. First, in response to OMB Deputy Director Clay Johnson, all PGAs have now designated a senior executive to work with the ITDS program. Additionally, all PGAs to date have outlined the steps they intend to take to complete each stage of their interface with the ACE system. These are key milestones for the ITDS program and demonstrate the continued importance ITDS plays in securing the borders of America. As our program continues to gain visibility, I look forward to a highly productive 2008.

This quarter the ITDS program welcomes the Department of Energy's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) as well as three Department of State Agencies: the Bureau of Ocean and Scientific Affairs (OES), the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and the Directorate of Defense Trade Controls (DDTC). Congratulations to Deborah Johnson (PHMSA), Clayton Stanger (OES), Denise Scherl (USAID), and Alexandra Frantz (DDTC), who have all been nominated by their respective agencies to serve on the ITDS Board of Directors.

We can expect the growth of the program to continue in 2008, and look forward to ongoing collaboration with all of our PGA's.

- Tim Skud, Chairman,

ITDS Board of Directors

To submit questions or comments, e-mail ask.itds@associates.dhs.gov

EPA Developing Innovative Approach to ACE Integration

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is currently working on a cutting edge proof of concept design to demonstrate a potential new approach for interoperating with the ACE system. Under the leadership of Mark Luttner, Director of Office of Information Collection, EPA plans to leverage current technology that the agency uses to exchange data with 50 states, 7 Indian tribes, and one territory. This technology uses an open source web service platform and provides for the efficient and timely transfer of information. EPA plans to start implementing their proof of concept in January of 2008. The implementation of this technology has the potential to be significantly more cost effective and faster to implement than current methods. For more information on the EPA proof of concept in development please contact Jonathan Jacobson at jacobson.jonathan@epa.gov.



PGA Spotlight: “ACE is the Place” - Cornelia Mueller of APHIS

The term subject matter expert does not do justice to the amount of experience that Cornelia Mueller has accumulated throughout her career at the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). In 1977, with a freshly minted Biology degree, Cornelia joined APHIS and began her career as an Animal Health Technician. Over the course of the next 30 years her career would entail everything from working side by side with customs officers at the port to working in the *Smuggling Interdiction Trade Compliance Program*. As a lead member on this program Cornelia would visit multicultural commerce sites that carry products that may not be found in any other place in the world and ensure all APHIS regulations were being followed. During her 30 year career Cornelia has spent time at almost every major port in the country, as well as served on several overseas assignments.

"Protecting American agriculture" is the basic charge of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) APHIS. APHIS provides leadership in ensuring the health and care of animals and plants. The agency improves agricultural productivity and competitiveness and contributes to the national economy and the public health. To aid in carrying out this mission,

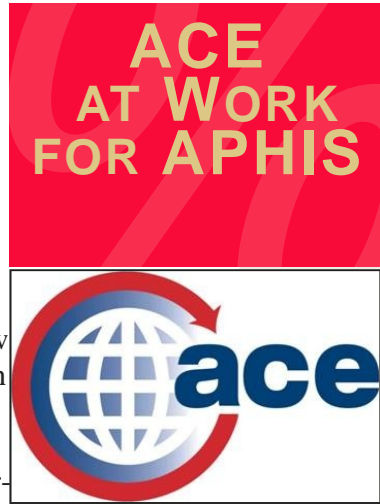
APHIS works in constant and close collaboration with customs officials at the port. Cornelia learned early on that the collaboration between CBP and APHIS is critical. As a member of the Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) unit Cornelia worked with customs officials to facilitate the success of the APHIS mission at the border. With the advent of the ACE program, this collaboration at the border between APHIS and CBP has been streamlined and taken great strides to increase field operations efficiency.

The ITDS program has drawn on Cornelia's vast experience and knowledge base to integrate APHIS business processes into the ITDS/ACE program. Cornelia has been an integral member of the ITDS team since early 2000 when she participated in assessing and defining how APHIS field operations currently interacted with existing CBP technology. Additionally, she has been vital in analyzing how APHIS looks at their service to all of their stakeholders and customers, and identifying touch points where the ACE system could streamline these operations. During the course of Cornelia's participa-

tion she has worked with over 100 potential ACE users to define how APHIS will interact with the ACE system. She has also served as a project champion and generated significant agency level support for the implementation of ACE.

Today, thanks much in part to Cornelia's participation, APHIS is reaping the rewards of the ACE system. Several APHIS employees have access to ACE and are able to view critical import information in a timely matter. As Cornelia stated "the time factor is one huge advantage of ACE! ACE will give you information in 1-2 minutes on queries of imports". Prior to ACE that 1-2 minute process could take potential hours sifting through mounds of paperwork. ACE has also helped APHIS identify potential dangerous shipments prior to port arrival and facilitated timely collaboration with CBP.

Looking to the future APHIS looks forward to continued close collaboration with CBP through the use of the ACE system. Some future benefits that they look forward to are the ability to house certificates of origins, statements, etc. in one place. This single system con-



Quotes from Cornelia Mueller

"ACE is the Place, we are able to get real time information in the system when we need it"

"ACE will give you information in 1-2 minutes that would have previously taken several hours sifting through paperwork."

cept will enable APHIS to increase their customer service to all of their various stakeholder groups. As the ITDS program evolves, the ITDS team will continue to rely on Cornelia's invaluable experience to further secure our borders.



PROGRAM UPDATES



Dates Are Filling Up! Register For Your Agency's Cargo Control and Release In-Depth Review Session

Starting January 2008, representatives from CBP's Cargo Control and Release Team and the ITDS support staff will begin their in-depth review meetings with selected Participating Government Agencies. *(If you are unsure if your agency should schedule a time, please contact your ITDS PGA Team Lead.)*

These meetings are mandatory in order to further define your agency's CCR Entry and Admissibility business rules and related technical aspects. These customized workshops require a significant amount of preparation prior to your agency's session and it is therefore requested that if you have not scheduled a session yet, to do so as soon as possible as dates are filling up fast! When considering your dates, please remember to make sure that all related stakeholders are available to meet with our teams. We are currently scheduling through the month of April. For a complete look at available dates, please visit the "PGA Resource Center" located on www.itds.gov and select the "CCR PGA Interview Schedule" located within the Events Calendar tab of the site.

Please contact Jan Kadela at Janis.Kadela@associates.dhs.gov or 703-336-4424 to schedule a time for your agency to participate in these sessions.

Accessing the CCR Interview Schedule

- Navigate to www.itds.gov
- Select 'PGA Resource Center'
- Select the "Events Calendar" tab on the left side
- Select "CCR PGA Interview schedule"