

sure that the BEST unit under consideration does not duplicate the efforts of other existing interagency task forces or centers within that jurisdiction.

**(d) Operation**

After determining the jurisdictions in which to establish BEST units under subsection (c)(2), and in order to provide Federal assistance to such jurisdictions, the Secretary may—

(1) direct the assignment of Federal personnel to BEST, subject to the approval of the head of the department or agency that employs such personnel; and

(2) take other actions to assist Federal, State, local, and tribal entities to participate in BEST, including providing financial assistance, as appropriate, for operational, administrative, salary reimbursement, and technological costs associated with the participation of Federal, State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies in BEST.

**(e) Report**

Not later than 180 days after the date on which BEST is established under this section, and annually thereafter for the following 5 years, the Secretary shall submit a report to Congress that describes the effectiveness of BEST in enhancing border security and reducing the drug trafficking, arms smuggling, illegal alien trafficking and smuggling, violence, and kidnapping along and across the international borders of the United States, as measured by crime statistics, including violent deaths, incidents of violence, and drug-related arrests.

(Pub. L. 107–296, title IV, §432, as added Pub. L. 112–205, §3(a), Dec. 7, 2012, 126 Stat. 1488; amended Pub. L. 117–159, div. A, title II, §12004(j), June 25, 2022, 136 Stat. 1332.)

**Editorial Notes**

AMENDMENTS

2022—Subsec. (d)(2). Pub. L. 117–159 inserted “salary reimbursement,” after “administrative.”

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

RULE OF CONSTRUCTION

Nothing in amendment made by Pub. L. 117–159 to be construed to allow the establishment of a Federal system of registration of firearms, firearms owners, or firearms transactions or dispositions, see section 12004(k) of Pub. L. 117–159, set out as a note under section 922 of Title 18, Crimes and Criminal Procedure.

FINDINGS AND DECLARATION OF PURPOSES

Pub. L. 112–205, §2, Dec. 7, 2012, 126 Stat. 1487, provided that: “Congress finds the following:

“(1) The Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) overriding mission is to lead a unified national effort to protect the United States. United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is the largest investigative agency within DHS and is charged with enforcing a wide array of laws, including laws related to securing the border and combating criminal smuggling.

“(2) Mexico’s northern border with the United States has experienced a dramatic surge in border crime and violence in recent years due to intense competition between Mexican drug cartels and criminal smuggling organizations that employ predatory tactics to realize their profits.

“(3) Law enforcement agencies at the United States northern border also face challenges from transnational smuggling organizations.

“(4) In response, DHS has partnered with Federal, State, local, tribal, and foreign law enforcement counterparts to create the Border Enforcement Security Task Force (BEST) initiative as a comprehensive approach to addressing border security threats. These multi-agency teams are designed to increase information-sharing and collaboration among the participating law enforcement agencies.

“(5) BEST teams incorporate personnel from ICE, United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP), the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATFE), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the United States Coast Guard (USCG), and the U.S. Attorney’s Office (USAO), along with other key Federal, State and local law enforcement agencies.

“(6) Foreign law enforcement agencies participating in BEST include Mexico’s Secretaria de Seguridad Publica (SSP), the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA), the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP).”

**§241. Prevention of international child abduction**

**(a) Program established**

The Secretary, through the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (referred to in this section as “CBP”), in coordination with the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, and the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, shall establish a program that—

(1) seeks to prevent a child (as defined in section 1204(b)(1) of title 18) from departing from the territory of the United States if a parent or legal guardian of such child presents a court order from a court of competent jurisdiction prohibiting the removal of such child from the United States to a CBP Officer in sufficient time to prevent such departure for the duration of such court order; and

(2) leverages other existing authorities and processes to address the wrongful removal and return of a child.

**(b) Interagency coordination**

**(1) In general**

The Secretary of State shall convene and chair an interagency working group to prevent international parental child abduction. The group shall be composed of presidentially appointed, Senate confirmed officials from—

(A) the Department of State;

(B) the Department of Homeland Security, including U.S. Customs and Border Protection and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement; and

(C) the Department of Justice, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

**(2) Department of Defense**

The Secretary of Defense shall designate an official within the Department of Defense—

(A) to coordinate with the Department of State on international child abduction issues; and

(B) to oversee activities designed to prevent or resolve international child abduction cases relating to active duty military service members.

(Pub. L. 107–296, title IV, §433, as added Pub. L. 113–150, title III, §301(a), Aug. 8, 2014, 128 Stat. 1822.)

**§ 242. Department of Homeland Security Blue Campaign**

**(a) Definition**

In this section, the term “human trafficking” means an act or practice described in paragraph (9) or (10)<sup>1</sup> of section 7102 of title 22.

**(b) Establishment**

There is established within the Department a program, which shall be known as the “Blue Campaign”. The Blue Campaign shall be headed by a Director, who shall be appointed by the Secretary.

**(c) Purpose**

The purpose of the Blue Campaign shall be to unify and coordinate Department efforts to address human trafficking.

**(d) Responsibilities**

The Secretary, working through the Director, shall, in accordance with subsection (e)—

- (1) issue Department-wide guidance to appropriate Department personnel;
- (2) develop training programs for such personnel;
- (3) coordinate departmental efforts, including training for such personnel; and
- (4) provide guidance and training on trauma-informed practices to ensure that human trafficking victims are afforded prompt access to victim support service providers, in addition to the assistance required under section 7105 of title 22, to address their immediate and long-term needs.

**(e) Guidance and training**

The Blue Campaign shall provide guidance and training to Department personnel and other Federal, State, tribal, and law enforcement personnel, as appropriate, regarding—

- (1) programs to help identify instances of human trafficking;
- (2) the types of information that should be collected and recorded in information technology systems utilized by the Department to help identify individuals suspected or convicted of human trafficking;
- (3) systematic and routine information sharing within the Department and among Federal, State, tribal, and local law enforcement agencies regarding—
  - (A) individuals suspected or convicted of human trafficking; and
  - (B) patterns and practices of human trafficking;
- (4) techniques to identify suspected victims of trafficking along the United States border and at airport security checkpoints;
- (5) methods to be used by the Transportation Security Administration and personnel from other appropriate agencies to—
  - (A) train employees of the Transportation Security Administration to identify suspected victims of trafficking; and
  - (B) serve as a liaison and resource regarding human trafficking prevention to appropriate State, local, and private sector aviation workers and the traveling public;

(6) developing and utilizing, in consultation with the Blue Campaign Advisory Board established pursuant to subsection (g), resources such as indicator cards, fact sheets, pamphlets, posters, brochures, and radio and television campaigns to—

- (A) educate partners and stakeholders; and
- (B) increase public awareness of human trafficking;

(7) leveraging partnerships with State and local governmental, nongovernmental, and private sector organizations to raise public awareness of human trafficking; and

(8) any other activities the Secretary determines necessary to carry out the Blue Campaign.

**(f) Web-based training programs**

To enhance training opportunities, the Director of the Blue Campaign shall develop web-based interactive training videos that utilize a learning management system to provide online training opportunities. During the 10-year period beginning on the date that is 90 days after December 27, 2021, such training opportunities shall be made available to the following individuals:

- (1) Federal, State, local, Tribal, and territorial law enforcement officers.
- (2) Non-Federal correction system personnel.
- (3) Such other individuals as the Director determines appropriate.

**(g) Blue Campaign Advisory Board**

**(1) In general**

There is established in the Department a Blue Campaign Advisory Board, which shall be comprised of representatives assigned by the Secretary from—

- (A) the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties of the Department;
- (B) the Privacy Office of the Department; and
- (C) not fewer than four other separate components or offices of the Department.

**(2) Charter**

The Secretary is authorized to issue a charter for the Blue Campaign Advisory Board, and such charter shall specify the following:

- (A) The Board’s mission, goals, and scope of its activities.
- (B) The duties of the Board’s representatives.
- (C) The frequency of the Board’s meetings.

**(3) Consultation**

The Director shall consult the Blue Campaign Advisory Board and, as appropriate, experts from other components and offices of the Center for Countering Human Trafficking of the Department regarding the following:

- (A) Recruitment tactics used by human traffickers to inform the development of training and materials by the Blue Campaign.
- (B) The development of effective awareness tools for distribution to Federal and non-Federal officials to identify and prevent instances of human trafficking.
- (C) Identification of additional persons or entities that may be uniquely positioned to

<sup>1</sup> See References in Text note below.