

Fecha: 05 de Abril de 2019

Circular: TD 017/2019

Anexos: ninguno

Asunto: Actualización situación frontera Norte de México

**A NUESTROS CLIENTES Y AMIGOS:
P R E S E N T E**

Por medio de la presente y enviando un cordial saludo, les actualizamos la información respecto de la situación notificada en la circular TD 014/2019 de fecha 3 de abril de 2019 y que persiste en la frontera Norte del País a efecto de minimizar el impacto en nuestra operación.

La frontera no ha sido cerrada, pero trabaja con mucha lentitud, ya que los cruces están tardando más de 7 horas en promedio y los transportes deben esperar durante la noche; los tiempos de espera se van incrementado con el paso de los días debido a la disminución significativa de oficiales y el cierre de algunas líneas de cruce.

Anexamos el comunicado de actualización de la CBP.

PORT OF ENTRY OPERATIONS TRADE CALL UPDATE

In an April 4 conference call, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) provided the trade an update to the current state of southern border port operations.

Last week, CBP Commissioner Kevin McAleenan was in El Paso for a [press conference \(transcript here\)](#) announcing the agency's plan of redirecting CBP officers to the southern border to assist border patrol agents with the increase of border crossings into the U.S. According to CBP, border control resources are currently beyond capacity. In March, the number of illegal or between border crossings reached one-hundred three thousand, eclipsing the previous high-water mark of eighty-nine thousand set between March of 2008-2009. The demographics of those crossing our border has also changed. In 2008, Mexican citizens and single adults made up the majority of border crossings. Today, CBP says it is seeing predominately families and unaccompanied minors (in large groups of more than one hundred) who are entering the country. With at least three thousand detentions daily, CBP says that the agency is currently running out of detention space for these groups. The increase in detentions has led to more resources being expended and leaving migrant groups, including children, more susceptible to illness. Family units with no criminal history are either being released to NGO's or on their own recognizance.

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen has called for CBP's assistance in dealing with the crisis. As part of this support, CBP resources from south Texas (Rio Grande Valley), west Texas (El Paso), California (San Diego) and Arizona (Yuma)

are being deployed. To date, CBP has redeployed five hundred forty-five officers to assist. These officers are being deployed for an initial thirty days and the breakdown of officers is as follows: three hundred from Laredo (twelve percent of the workforce); one hundred ninety-four from El Paso (fifteen percent of the workforce); and fifty-one from San Diego (six percent of the workforce). As of now, there have been no deployments from Arizona, but the agency has stopped the temporary reassignment of roughly seventy-five officers (approximately eight percent of the workforce). During the question and answer portion of the call, CBP was asked if any other federal employees were supporting the agency. They responded by saying Secretary Nielsen has called for anyone that can be assistance if they have the proper skill set. Those that are not law enforcement may be able to help. They are looking to support the border patrol beyond CBP officers, but as of right now, that's all they have. If more assistance is needed, CBP has stated they will begin pulling from U.S. airports. If this extends beyond thirty days, some officers will be "refreshed" from the border and some will be "refreshed" from the airports." As for airports that would be affected, CBP said the largest percentage of their officers are in international airports and that all gateway airports would be impacted. Another question was raised asking if there would be northern border redeployment. CBP responded by saying they'll be looking at airports and all of their operations if this continues throughout the summer. CBP's guiding decision making of which airports they pull from depends on current staffing levels and what they can afford but every airport will feel the impact.

These deployments mean both passenger and cargo wait times are significantly increasing all along the border. In cargo operations at the Bridge of the Americas yesterday, the peak wait time was seven hours, compared to fifty minutes the same time last year. In Otay Mesa, wait times were doubled yesterday. In Hidalgo, the wait time is approximately one hundred twenty-five minutes versus thirty-five last year. In Brownsville, the wait times are currently sixty minutes versus fifteen last year. In San Luis, two out of eight lanes are closed. Cargo wait times were minimal and passenger was higher. San Diego should also expect longer wait times. (For up to the minute wait times, CBP has created an app that lets you [check wait times in real time](#).) As for the impact the deployments could have for rail, CBP said there are currently no delays as staffing there is already at a bare minimum. Seaports are also not yet affected.

After cargo hours shutdown, there was an increase in trucks waiting in the overnight queue which meant the next day, they started behind schedule. According to CBP, the wait times will continue to lengthen. As stated before, passenger wait times are also much longer than normal, and with Holy week so near, a significant spike is expected. CBP will be adjusting the number of lanes that are open based on the staffing they have. In regard to CTPAT/FAST, CBP stated that the agency is trying to maintain fast lanes at the ports, but with the length of wait times, they do not have a way to control the queue on the Mexican side. CBP says that their field officers are working hard to maintain the best benefits of FAST and CTPAT to their partners.

In Mariposa, Sundays will no longer be open to allow for the reallocation of twenty officers to the weekday. In El Paso, the Bridge of the Americas will be closing on Saturday. The Ysleta port of entry, however, will still be open for Saturday crossings. CBP acknowledged that all southwest cargo ports are being impacted. The option is available to direct to other ports, but all will see an expected wait time increase. This deployment will affect outbound as well, as there is far fewer staff overall. This will continue until border crossings decrease. CBP pointed out that "no narcotics exams will be sacrificed." CBP said that they are aware of the economic impact, but they must manage the immigration situation.

Exams are also taking longer because fewer officers are available.

At the completion of the call, CBP said they are planning to possibly hold bi-weekly calls with the trade to inform us of the situation.

En cuanto contemos con nueva información o cambios en la situación en comento, lo haremos de inmediato de su conocimiento.

Sin más por el momento, agradecemos su atención a la presente y nos reiteramos a sus órdenes.

A T E N T A M E N T E

MONTALVO CONSULTORES INTERNACIONALES, S.C.