

# Immigration and Customs Enforcement

## Department of Homeland Security

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U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement



# *Challenges between private port authorities and enforcement officials*



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# Port Investigations

- Advantages
  - The port is usually confined to a specific area
  - Most people know each other
  - Most of the evidence is located within the port (contraband, documents, etc.)
  - Controlled environment/access



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# Port Investigations

- Advantages
  - Most events are planned in advance (ships and aircraft arrivals)
  - Able to develop sources
    - Ticket agents
    - Freight forwarders
    - Shipping clerks



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# Port Investigations

- Disadvantages
  - The port is usually confined to a specific area – no privacy
  - Most people know each other – everyone talks in a port. No secrets in a port!!!
  - Most people have worked in the port for years. Everyone knows each other's vehicle and schedule. Surveillances are difficult.



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# Port Investigations

- Disadvantages
  - Port staff know when law enforcement arrive and depart the port.
  - Moving/opening containers
    - Port staff is notified
    - Electronic/computer trail is established
  - Opening suitcases in airports
    - Airline staff and baggage handlers are notified
    - Overt vs. Covert baggage checks



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# Port Investigations

- Enforcement actions in a port
  - Arresting port employees
    - Effects on your relationship with port employees
    - What message does that send to port employees
  - Surveillance in the port
    - Can it be done?
    - Cameras
    - Who is monitoring the cameras
  - Counter-surveillance
    - Who is doing it?
    - How can you tell when it is being done?



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# Port Investigations

- Enforcement actions in a port
  - Initiating a controlled delivery from a port
    - Difficulties
    - Preparing the container
    - Maintaining the integrity of the investigation
  - Interviewing port employees
    - Target interviews
    - Witness interviews
    - Using the correct interviewing techniques at the correct time



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# Port Investigations

- Other port investigative considerations...
- Do port employers conduct background checks before hiring
- Do port employers have policies about cooperating with law enforcement
- Obtaining documents
  - Electronic documents (emails)
  - Privacy issues



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# The Exodus Command Center

- Established in October 1981
- Part of ICE's Arms and Strategic Technology Investigations Unit in Washington, DC
- Single point of contact for ICE Special Agents and CBP Officers for:
  - Export licensing checks and verifications
  - Port detentions/seizures of licensable exports



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# The ECC's Functions

- Communicates with the U.S. Government licensing authorities through dedicated liaison officers
- Utilize various agency contacts to develop investigative leads
- Obtaining certified licenses/records for presentation in court



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# Liaisons To Other Agencies

- U.S. Department of State
- U.S. Department of Commerce
- U.S. Department of Energy
- U.S. Department of Treasury
- U.S. Department of Defense
- U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration



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# Port Investigations

## Discussion

What are your advantages and disadvantages.....



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