



Service and Leadership Award

John Wagner

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (Retired)

Since April 2014, John P. Wagner has been the Deputy Executive Assistant Commissioner for the Office of Field Operations at UCBP within DHS. In this role, Mr. Wagner oversees nearly 30,000 employees, including approximately 23,000 CBP Officers and over 2,400 CBP Agriculture Specialists who protect U.S. borders. An annual operating budget of \$4.8 billion provides for operations at over 330 ports of entry and many programs that support the national security, immigration, customs, and commercial trade-related missions of CBP.

With over 25 years of public service, Mr. Wagner has worked on a wide variety of operational and policy issues. Mr. Wagner has been a leader in developing many successful transformative efforts for the organization, including the development of the internationally acclaimed Global Entry program, Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative, and Automated Passport Control. One of Mr. Wagner's main priorities and most significant achievements has been the advancement of a biometric exit and entry system across the nation. The biometric exit mandate has been a long-standing challenge for DHS; nonetheless, when CBP received the mission in 2013, Mr. Wagner's innovative approach to CBP's use of its data, and his vision of expanding public-private partnerships to implement a facial biometric process that can be used wherever an identity check is required in air travel, has helped advance Entry/Exit to where we are today – over 50 million travelers being processed through facial biometrics at select air, land, and sea locations. The hygienic benefits of a "touchless" travel process are even more critical today in light of COVID-19.

Overall, Mr. Wagner is recognized as a driving force behind many of CBP's resource-saving and time-saving initiatives, while simultaneously enhancing security operations at the ports of entry.