



FedID Service and Leadership – Finalist



Steve Evans

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Steve Evans began his career as a U.S. Border Patrol agent in 1984. During his 31-year career, he was instrumental in establishing the USBP biometric capabilities, using his knowledge of the immigration process and the value of data exchange in identifying individuals attempting to gain entry into the United States.

After retiring from the USBP, Steve stayed with CBP as a project manager and senior advisor to the CIO. While in this role, he was responsible for the oversight of the Biometric Data Sharing Program (BDSP). His program-manager skills, along with his deep understanding of biometrics, resulted in the successful deployment of placing a robust biometrics technical infrastructure in Mexico and other Central American countries to establish interoperability between these countries and the United States.

Steve was instrumental in ensuring that foreign partner countries had the correct process and workflow for processing illegal-entry migrants. This education was vital to the adaptation of the program. A sub-goal was to advance biometric information sharing throughout the Western Hemisphere through technical assessments. Steve established bilateral communication with the DHS team working in Mexico, resulting in full and open communication between multiple agencies.

Steve also assisted the State Department with building its capacity to collect, store, and share biometric data on third-country nationals with donated facial recognition technology (FRT) equipment. This program has helped the U.S. interagency community—including our law enforcement, defense, and intelligence partners—to work with the Mexican National Institute of Migration, a collaboration that has augmented our ability to identify and stop known or suspected terrorists, special interest aliens, and criminals before they reach the United States, enhancing our shared ability to disrupt Transnational Criminal Organizations). The biometric data exchange also helps to track and respond to migration trends in real time.



Steve ensured that the program provided valuable data to CBP systems, intelligence systems, and trend analysis based on participating foreign partner country agreements. Today, BDSP has been fully established in Mexico, and Central American countries' interoperability will be established by the end of 2021. Steve's program management, as well as analytical support, has ensured that the United States is able to virtually extend the border and identify threats before they reach the homeland.