

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

From: (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)
Sent: Friday, July 11, 2008 12:36 PM
To: (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)
Subject: FW: Laptop TPs
Attachments: Laptop Searches TP 7-10-08.doc

Attached are some talkers we can share with surrogates as requested. I don't think there have been any asks for info though. Let me know if you have any input. Thanks.

From: (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)
Sent: Friday, July 11, 2008 12:16 PM
To: (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)
Subject: Laptop TPs

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)
Deputy Press Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

Laptop Searches

7-11-08

- Hiding behind the cry for civil liberty, a small minority is challenging that materials on digital media – for example, laptops and PDAs – should be exempt from search at our nation’s borders. These impassioned supplications conveniently brush aside the fact that, since the founding of the Republic, the government has broad – and constitutional – authority to conduct searches at the international border to prevent dangerous people and goods from entering the country.
- In the 21st century, the most dangerous items are often contained in laptop computers or other electronic devices – bomb-making plans, child pornography and stolen intellectual property. It is critical that this information not be treated differently than information a traveler may bring to the border in a suitcase or other container.
- U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP)’s longstanding search authority at the border has recently been upheld by the Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. In its decision, the court declared that the “[c]ourts have long held that searches of closed containers and their contents can be conducted at the border.”
- In the words of the Supreme Court, “Since the founding of our Republic,” the government has had “plenary authority to conduct routine searches and seizures at the border, without probable cause or a warrant, in order to prevent the introduction of contraband into this country.”
- CBP Officers are dedicated to protecting the civil rights of all travelers. It is not CBP’s intent to subject legitimate business travelers to undue scrutiny, but to ensure the safety of the American public.
- These searches have and do prove important to protecting our nation:
 - In September 2006, an individual arriving at Minneapolis St. Paul Airport on a flight from Amsterdam was selected for secondary inspection. A review of his laptop computer revealed numerous video clips of Improvised Explosive Devices being used to kill soldiers and destroy vehicles, as well as a video on martyrdom. Another file on the computer showed the individual reading his will and included pictures of high-level al-Qaeda officials. Based on this and further derogatory information uncovered by computer forensics, the individual was refused admission, convicted of visa fraud, and removed from the country.
 - More than protecting national security, laptop searches also have helped authorities uncover child pornography and even worse forms of child exploitation. In 2000, for example, a search at the U.S.-Canada border uncovered a computer and 75 disks containing child pornography, including one disk with a home movie of two children being sexually assaulted. In 2006, a border search of a vehicle in Maine turned up a laptop with numerous images of child pornography. Last year, at Del Rio, Texas, a border search of an external hard drive revealed more than 100,000 still images depicting child pornography and 890 videos depicting pornographic images of children.