Good Morning! It is a pleasure to be here today representing U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the newly established United States Department of Homeland Security. As many of you are doubtlessly aware, the entire United States government underwent a massive reorganization on March 1, 2003 to enable the United States to be fully responsive to the need for enhanced Homeland Security. This reorganization brought together 170,000 employees from 22 different Federal agencies. As you can well imagine, establishment of the new Department of Homeland Security is a highly complex and difficult undertaking, requiring our leaders to make difficult decisions to bring about the necessary changes.

I mention our reorganization at the beginning of my remarks to illustrate for you the commitment of the United States government and the newly established Bureau of Customs and Border Protection to ensuring our world is a better and safer place. As you know, in the aftermath of the tragic events of September 11th the United States put into place significant measures to ensure the safety and security of the international trade supply chain. Just as the reorganization of my government forced the leadership within the United States to make significant and difficult decisions regarding Homeland Security, the aftermath of the events of September 11th, 2001 and the many terrible terrorist acts that have taken place in the intervening 26 months have necessitated the international trade community, governments, industry and international organizations to step up and make significant leadership decisions to ensure the security of the world trading system upon which each of our economies relies. And that is why we are here today in Geneva, to protect legitimate trade from terrorists. Simply put, that is the mission for each of us to focus upon today.

Each of you here today has probably heard of some of the United States government initiatives to improve the security of
the international trade supply chain. I am referring to our Container Security Initiative, known as CSI, the Customs Trade Partnership against Terrorism, known as C-TPAT and the 24 hour rule. In a moment I will provide you with a quick update on the status of each of these initiatives. First, however, I want to share with you the strategy behind these various initiatives.

The United States has taken a layered approach to Security and Interdiction within the International Trade Supply Chain which emphasizes the many partnerships we all share in our goal to facilitate the movement of legitimate cargo and keep it safe from terrorist activity.

We have engaged in partnerships with other countries and Customs Services from throughout the world to promote the exchange of information to facilitate the prescreening of shipments before they leave foreign ports and become a potential weapon on board an Ocean Carrier within the global supply chain. Similarly, we are very proud of our partnership with the World Customs Organization to implement the Resolution on Supply Chain Security which was unanimously adopted by the members of that organization in June of 2002. Similarly, we have engaged the private sector through our cooperative partnerships in C-TPAT. This layered approach attempts to bring together the many diverse entities and interests that touch upon the international trade supply chain.

What these various component parts of our overall strategy have in common is the reliance on partnerships within the peace loving world to focus on the task at hand, protecting legitimate trade from terrorists!

Let me now just take a minute or two to bring you up to date on our key Customs initiatives.
1. U.S. Customs and Border Protection continues to pursue partnerships with other Customs Services under the umbrella of the Container Security Initiative. We are working hard to put teams in place at the various ports where we have existing Declarations of Principles and we will aggressively pursue expansion of the CSI program in other ports and in other countries consistent with available resources. CSI is a resource intensive program, a key component of which is the placement of U.S. officers in foreign ports. CSI is a critical building block within our national security strategy.

2. The Customs Trade Partnership against Terrorism continues to thrive. We now have over 3000 participants from all sectors of the international trade supply chain – importers, manufacturers, Customs House Brokers and Freight Forwarders as well as international carriers, marine port authorities and terminal operators. We are in the process of hiring new employees to take on the difficult responsibilities of validations and verification of C-TPAT participants and to provide the necessary training and Supply Chain Security expertise to enable the private sector to effectively bring together security practices and procedures with the elements of production, transportation, importation and distribution.

3. Advance information continues to be a key component of our strategy to protect legitimate trade from terrorists. The well known 24 hour rule for advance manifest information was put into effect on February 2nd, 2003. Despite much concern in the international trade community, the rule was effectively implemented in cooperation and partnership with the trade and transportation
industry. The concept behind the 24 hour rule is now being expanded beyond the maritime mode to encompass all modes of transport – air, rail and land. A notice of proposed rule-making was published in our Federal Register in July, 2003 and comments are currently being considered to ensure smooth implementation of these new regulations.