

OBP 100/3-C

OCT 04 2013



U.S. Customs and
Border Protection

MEMORANDUM FOR: All Chief Patrol Agents
All Division Chiefs

FROM: Michael J. Fisher
Chief
U.S. Border Patrol

SUBJECT: Alcohol Awareness and Michael V. Gallagher Project

The Border Patrol is averaging almost two alcohol-related arrests per week. This continued level and rate of alcohol-related arrests within our agency is alarming and detrimental to the overall well-being of our workforce. This simply cannot be ignored.

The Michael V. Gallagher (MVG) Project is a U.S. Border Patrol developed alcohol awareness initiative in honor of those who have lost their lives to the careless acts of people driving under the influence of alcohol and alcohol misuse. The intent and ultimate goal of the MVG Project is to reduce the number of alcohol-related arrests in the Border Patrol and CBP, as well as shed light on the personal and professional impacts these arrests and related issues alcohol misuse has on the lives of our employees and their families.

Beginning in early Fiscal Year 2014, the MVG Project training will be implemented throughout the sectors, the Border Patrol Academy, and eventually to other CBP components. Completion for this initiative, which will be mandatory training for all Border Patrol agents, will be accomplished 12-, 18-, and 24-months for small, medium, and large sectors, respectively. The training will also be available to all employees and their significant others, if they want to attend. Each sector will be required to set, track, and report monthly goals to ensure that all agents are trained within the specified time frames.

Training will include an eight-hour class combined with a continuing messaging campaign aimed at providing employees with information and testimony on the effects and associated risks of alcohol misuse and related arrests. The program will present positive tools and coping mechanisms relative to basic life skills. In the initial phase of the project, the program curriculum and materials were developed and honed by subject-matter experts. Since July 2013, MVG Project coordinators and presenters were trained in all Border Patrol sectors and at the Border Patrol Academy.

As these coordinators move forward in scheduling classes, you have my assurance they will be supported by Headquarters. Inasmuch as coordinators have been tasked with implementing this initiative, I also expect your support. A roster identifying the specific personnel who have been trained as coordinators will be forwarded soon to your sector training departments.

With the successful implementation of the Michael V. Gallagher Project and this significant investment in our people, it is my hope to further strengthen the Border Patrol, and reduce much of the devastation that is left behind in the aftermath of these incidents.