



## U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney  
District of the Virgin Islands*

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*Ron de Lugo Federal Building & United States Courthouse  
5500 Veterans Drive, Suite 260  
Charlotte Amalie  
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00802-6424  
Voice: (340)774-5757  
Fax: (340)776-3474*

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### **PRESS RELEASE**

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### VI Federal Law Enforcement Agencies Adopt New Procedures to Control Illegal Immigrants

ST. THOMAS, U.S. Virgin Islands – Federal law enforcement agencies in the United States Virgin Islands have agreed on standardized procedures for the interdiction, investigation and prosecution of illegal immigrants. The new agreement was announced today during a signing ceremony in the Office of the U.S. Attorney on St. Thomas

The Caribbean Border Interagency Group (CBIG) Migrant Smuggling Prosecution Operating Procedures provide detailed guidelines with respect to detection, identification and investigation of offenses, processing arrests, detention, evidence gathering, suspect and witness disposition, and other procedures applicable to the prosecution of alien smuggling, illegal reentry and related offenses. CBIG was created in July 2006 to unify law enforcement efforts to protect Puerto Rico against illegal maritime traffic and control of their borders.

“This unified approach has proven successful in Puerto Rico, and we expect to have the same success here in the Virgin Islands,” United States Attorney Ronald W. Sharpe said. In the Western Corridor of Puerto Rico, the flow of illegal immigrants has decreased nearly 80 percent over the past three years.

In the USVI, members of CBIG include the three operational branches of Customs and Border Protection, the Office of Border Patrol, Office of Air & Marine, and Office of Field Operations; the U.S. Coast Guard, National Park Service, U.S. Marshals Service, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and the United States Attorney’s Office.

CBIG partners hope to create a structured interagency plan of action that aids in the prosecution of suspected smugglers and the expedited removal of undocumented aliens.

Through the safe utilization and effective coordination of assets from CBIG partners, the program is expected to strengthen law enforcement efforts in preventing and deterring illegal immigration in the Virgin Islands.

