

**Mid Career Training Program (MCTP) 2013 - The value of Training - Part IV**  
**JUNE 30, 2013**

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**THE** last segment of our training was with the Canadian Customs, which is known as Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA). We crossed into Canada through the Peace Bridge.



Two new guides joined us at the U.S. Canadian Border - Ms. M. Holte McKenzie and Ms. P. Gabrielle of the Canadian Agri Team



These two charming, affable and humorous ladies were our guides for this last segment covering the cities of Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal.

At the Canadian end of the Peace Bridge, we got to interact with the Canadian Customs @ Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA).



The CBSA officers wore similar uniforms like their American counterparts, except for their insignia.



CBSA is a federal law enforcement agency that is responsible for border enforcement, immigration enforcement and customs services. They have a CBSA uniform Policy and Standards of Appearance!



CBSA is an organization with a multi faceted mandate including national security and public safety. All officers working at the borders are equipped with handcuffs, oleoresin, capsicum spray, batons and protective vests, as well as Use-Of-Force-Training. About 65% of border officers are armed. The Beretta Px4 storm 9 mm is the prescribed duty

firearm.



Like the Americans, the CBSA also uses Radiation Detection Portals and Cat-borne Mobile Radiation Screening Systems.



The Customs Examination Hall was even equipped with Emergency Radiation Shower System and Eye-Wash facility





The focus of the CBSA officers was on NBC weapon - Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Weapons entering their country. Next on the list were Narcotic drugs. It was embarrassing to know that most of the drug-seizures originated in India!

Canada is a multi-racial, multi-lingual country. There is substantial number of people from India, especially Punjab, Sri Lankan Tamils. We visited Toronto and the Capital city Ottawa.

The visit concluded with a tour of Montreal Harbor.



We again visited the customs office and witnessed their container scanner in action.



Later, we departed from Montreal Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport, for New York, from where we returned to India. Soon we were homeward bound.



Altogether, it was an enriching experience. I remembered the words of IBM Founder Thomas J Watson Jr.

***"There is no saturation point in education"***

**The series stands concluded - Editor**

**Also read [Part-I](#) , [Part-II](#) & [Part-III](#) .**

**(About the author - The author is Commissioner (Appeals), Customs and Central Excise, Goa and the views expressed are strictly personal.)**

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