How You Can Help

All businesses that are involved in any aspect of high-technology research, development or production are potential targets and can be exploited. ICE-HSI solicits your assistance in providing information relating to any suspicious circumstances surrounding export transactions of high-technology items or services.

There are four major areas in which U.S. businesses can assist the government in stemming the illegal flow of equipment, technology and munitions to unauthorized destinations:

- Identifying inquiries and orders for production parts or technology that are likely to be shipped outside the United States, and ensuring that these transactions are reviewed by export specialists;
- Ensuring that your export specialists understand export controls and follow appropriate screening and licensing procedures;
- Making certain that employees—whether they live, travel or transmit information abroad, or merely come into contact with foreigners visiting the United States—fully understand that the U.S. government restricts the flow of certain technical data or know-how, whether in written, oral or visual form; and
- Ensuring that suspicious contacts are reported to ICE-HSI as quickly as possible (see back panel: *Indications of Potential Illegal Exports*).

Indications of Potential Illegal Exports

- **Customer pays in cash.**
- **Customer makes payments in excess of item's market value.**
- **Purchaser is reluctant to provide information about item's end-use.**
- **Item is incompatible with stated end-use.**
- **Item does not correspond with customer's line of business.**
- **Final consignee has no apparent connection to the purchaser.**
- **Item is inappropriately or unprofessionally packaged.**
- **Packaging is inconsistent with shipping mode, destination or product description.**
- **Order is placed by firm or individuals from foreign countries other than the country of the stated end-use.**
- **Shipping route is abnormal for the product and destination.**
- **A freight forwarding firm is listed as final destination.**
- **Customer declines routine installation, training or maintenance services.**
- **Customer has little or no business background or is unfamiliar with item.**
- **Transaction just does not make sense.**

Report Suspicious Activity:

1-866-DHS-2-*ICE*

1-866-347-2423

www.ice.gov

4/2011

Homeland Security Investigations

SHIELD America

Counter-Proliferation Investigations

Shield America

A Partnership to Protect America

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Shield America

Shield America is an industry outreach and enforcement initiative developed by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) to prevent the illegal export of sensitive U.S. munitions and strategic technology to terrorists, criminal organizations and foreign adversaries.

Led by ICE-HSI's Counter-Proliferation Investigations (CPI) unit, Shield America is an integral part of the ICE-HSI strategy to combat the trafficking in Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and their components, as well as the trafficking in conventional weapons and controlled technology. Working in partnership with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and U.S. companies that manufacture, sell or export strategic technology and munitions, Shield America is the first line of defense against those who compromise U.S. security or interests by violating export laws, sanctions or embargoes.

Why It's Needed

Since World War II, foreign adversaries of the United States have acquired large quantities of U.S. and western technology by various means, both legal and illegal. Such acquisitions have provided these countries with the fruits of U.S. research and strategic technology largely without cost, while compromising U.S. security and military superiority. In some instances, U.S. weapons and technology have been used against American soldiers, citizens and allies. In today's globalized world, enhanced communications technology and transportation mean that rogue states, criminal organizations and terrorist groups have greater potential to acquire and trade nuclear, chemical and biological weapons than ever before.

Illegal Exports: The Scope of the Problem

As with any illegal trade, the exact volume of illegal exports in strategic technology and munitions is difficult to measure or even to estimate. ICE-HSI criminal investigations and seizures indicate that such trade can be valued in the tens of millions of dollars annually. But the monetary value of these illegal exports is secondary to the potential strategic and military value of these products.

Some of the strategic technology most urgently desired by proscribed countries includes:

- modern manufacturing technology for the production of microelectronics, computers, digital electronic components and signal processing systems;
- technology for developing aircraft, missile and other tactical weapon delivery systems;
- all types of advanced signal and weapons detection, tracking and weapons monitoring systems;
- night vision technology;
- technology and equipment used in the construction of nuclear weapons and materials; and
- biological and chemical warfare agents and their precursors.

How Shield America Works

Shield America is a four-pronged program for export enforcement and industry outreach.

- **Inspection and Interdiction.** Specially-trained CBP officers inspect outbound shipments for violations of U.S. export laws and report violations to ICE-HSI for investigation.
- **Investigations.** ICE-HSI special agents investigate export violations, seize illegal shipments of controlled technology and munitions and pursue the arrest, prosecution and conviction of violators.
- **Industry Outreach.** ICE-HSI agents conduct outreach visits with industry officials to educate them about U.S. export laws and to solicit their assistance in preventing illegal foreign acquisition of their products.
- **International Cooperation.** ICE-HSI attachés in foreign countries enlist the support of their host governments to initiate investigative leads and to develop information in support of ongoing domestic investigations. ICE-HSI also supports the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI), which was formed to increase international cooperation in interdicting illegal shipments of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), their delivery systems, and related materials.

The efforts are all supported by the Exodus Command Center located in Washington, D.C. The center maintains contacts with the U.S. departments of Commerce, State, Defense and other agencies concerned with the export of strategic materials, technologies and services.

Shield America: A Partnership to Protect America