THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Cultural Antiquities Task Force

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Department of State

Department of Homeland Security

Department of Justice

Department of Defense

Department of the Interior

Department of the Treasury

PHOTO:
CATF members train Guatemalan Customs officers at an express air cargo facility.

Established by the U.S. Congress in 2004, the Cultural Antiquities Task Force (CATF) is led by the Department of State's Cultural Heritage Center and is a working group of the Cultural Heritage Coordinating Committee. CATF comprises federal agencies that share a common mission to combat trafficking in antiquities in the United States and abroad. Along with coordinating activities among member agencies, the CATF focuses on training law enforcement and customs officials, as well as supporting local governments, museums, and preservationists around the world in the protection, recovery, and restoration of cultural antiquities. Since its creation, the CATF has supported more than 75 international and domestic cultural property training programs.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

- Promote close law enforcement coordination among U.S. government member agencies
- Train U.S. law enforcement personnel on the application of U.S. laws and international agreements and the identification of looted and stolen antiquities
- Build capacity of foreign law enforcement and heritage managers to protect and preserve sites and objects
- Support the production and distribution of tools and products—such as Red Lists of Cultural Objects at Risk—designed to enhance the ability of law enforcement to combat theft, looting, and trafficking of historically and culturally significant objects

Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs
U.S. Department of State

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