



SITC

Special  
Operations  
**Introduction**

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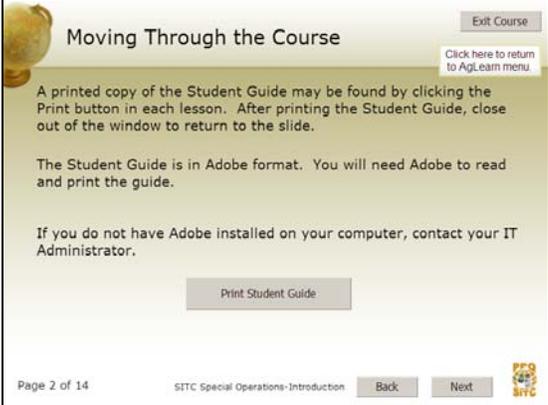
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U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
Plant Protection and Quarantine  
Professional Development Center

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**Moving Through the Course**

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Print Student Guide

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**Moving Through the Course**

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Click on the buttons on the screen to navigate through the course. **Keyboard Shortcuts** may also be used to navigate through the course.

<b>Button Navigation</b>	<b>Keyboard Navigation</b>
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### Purpose

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The purpose of this course is to provide you with an overview of a Smuggling Interdiction and Trade Compliance (SITC) Special Operation. This course serves as an introduction to help you:

- Plan a SITC Special Operation
- Coordinate resources for the Special Operation
- Facilitate operation briefings
- Perform the Post-Operation duties

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### Terminal Objective

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**Given the necessary equipment, the SITC Officer will be able to describe the process of planning, coordinating, and leading special operations in commerce sites, seasonal events, ports of entry, weigh stations, border patrol checkpoints, distribution centers, overnight couriers or mail facilities.**

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Why Conduct Special Operations?

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- Identify pathway of prohibited commercial products
- Confirm intelligence regarding a specific commodity or commerce site
- Conduct commerce site surveys where routine surveying is inadequate due to lack of personnel
- Gather more intelligence to see what is within the border of the United States
- Verify presence or absence of pathways

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Why Conduct Special Operations?  
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- Verify and document if prohibited commodities are entering and through which port of entry
- Increase industry awareness of APHIS regulations
- Provide feedback to SITC management, Veterinary Regulatory Service (VRS), and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) on products found in commerce



Photo - SITC Officers work with Florida Department of Agriculture Officers during a Special Operation.

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Definitions

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**Commerce Special Operations (also known as a blitz) -**  
A non-routine, SITC organized, intensively focused operation that occurs in commerce (retail/wholesale/weigh stations) that requires more than the usual number of locally assigned people to conduct the work.

- A blitz occurs over a specified period of time beyond routine hours and/or routine day to day activities; generally over a 3-7 day period and can include holidays, weekends and other official time hours.
- Staffing may include SITC personnel from other workstations and/or personnel from other federal, state, or county organizations or agencies.

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Examples of Blitzes Include:

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Commerce site sweeps	Chinese herbal medicine sweeps
	

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Another Example of a Blitz:

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Joint operations with state cooperators to check nursery stock for domestic quarantine compliance with programs such as imported fire ant and gypsy moth.



Photo by Jim Triebwasser

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Examples of Port of Entry Special Operations

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- Operations at an international mail and overnight courier facilities
- Targeting vehicles and trucks with CBP at port of entry
- Working with CBP at Border Patrol checkpoints



Photo - Operation Pathfinder in San Diego. SPHD Joe Messineo and SITC Officer Mike Swider inspect a vehicle in secondary. Photo by Gloria Manana.

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DHS developed specific guidelines that SITC must follow for Special Operations at CBP Ports of Entry and Border Patrol checkpoints. SITC Officers will receive additional information on special operations which involve personnel from Customs and Border Protection in the ports of entry during the training scheduled for delivery at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.

For the remainder of this course, we will focus on the commerce site special operations or blitzes that do **not** include personnel from Customs and Border Protection.

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