

SAN DIEGO (AP) - The U.S. Border Patrol will begin wearing cameras this year at its training academy, a test to see if the technology should be used in the field to blunt criticism about agents' use of force.

R. Gil Kerlikowske, who has led the Border Patrol's parent agency since March, announced the plans Tuesday to a small group of activists who have pressed for cameras, according to a person who attended the briefing and spoke on condition of anonymity because the discussion was intended to be private. Testing will occur at the Border Patrol academy in Artesia, New Mexico.

The Customs and Border Protection commissioner didn't tell activists how many cameras were bought or discuss when or whether they would be introduced to any of the roughly 21,000 agents in the field, the person said. The meeting in Detroit was the latest discussion that Kerlikowske has held with some of his most vocal critics of the Border Patrol's use of force.

Another person briefed on the plans said testing will occur from October and December and that it was unclear if or when they would be introduced in the field.

Kerlikowske scheduled a news conference Thursday in Washington to discuss what his office said were "developments toward CBP's commitment to increase transparency and accountability." Michael Friel, a Customs and Border Protection spokesman, declined to comment on body cameras or the nature of Thursday's announcement.

The measure is a first step toward satisfying activists who have long demanded cameras as a way to keep a check on potential abuses. It is likely to meet opposition from the National Border Patrol Council, the union representing more than 17,000 agents, which has said cameras would be expensive and may cause agents to hesitate when their lives are threatened.

Shawn Moran, a spokesman for the agents' union, said the development came as no surprise after the White House said this week that requiring police officers to wear cameras was a potential solution for bridging mistrust between law enforcement and the public.

"We want to make sure these are used to back up agents, not to persecute them," Moran said. "If they're used correctly by the agency, they will offer an independent account in use-of-force incidents or any type of incident. We do have concerns management would use them to look for administrative violations."

The camera proposal gained traction under Kerlikowske, a former Seattle police chief who has moved more aggressively than his predecessors to address complaints that Customs and Border Protection is slow to

investigate incidents of deadly force and alleged abuses by agents and inspectors and lacking in transparency.

In May, Kerlikowske ordered the release of a highly critical Customs and Border Protection-commissioned report that raised questions about the deadly force. The agency's internal affairs head was replaced in June with a longtime FBI official who said last week that an initial review of cases involving use of force and alleged misconduct by agents and inspectors since 2009 found 155 that merit further investigation.

Kerlikowske told activists Tuesday that he wanted to change how authorities investigate possible criminal misconduct by Customs and Border Protection employees, a person who attended the briefing said. Under a longstanding arrangement within the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement investigates before Customs and Border Protection gets a turn

#### **President Obama says no to ground troops — again**

**To be clear:** President Obama reaffirmed Wednesday that the U.S. will not be sending ground troops in to fight the Islamic State militant group. "I want to be clear," the president said at an Air Force base in Tampa, near CENTCOM. "The American forces that have been deployed to Iraq do not and will not have a combat mission. They will support Iraqi forces on the ground as they fight for their own country against these terrorists." He added, "I will not commit you and the rest of our armed forces to fighting another ground war in Iraq." Vice President Joe Biden, though, in Iowa seemed to echo Joint Chiefs Chairman Martin Dempsey from a day earlier. When asked about Dempsey's remarks, Biden said that Dempsey's "conclusion is that it is not needed now." And he then seemed to leave the door open for troops being sent in eventually. "We'll determine that based on how the effort goes." Don't miss this Wall Street Journal story about how the president is keeping strict controls on airstrikes in Syria, "going so far as to require that the military obtain presidential signoff for strikes in Syrian territory."

**From one international crisis to another:** Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko is in Washington Thursday, and has a full agenda. He meets with Secretary of State John Kerry at 8 a.m. EDT at the State Department before addressing a joint session of Congress at 9:45 a.m. EDT. He and President Obama then meet at 2 p.m. EDT at the White House. (Expect Poroshenko to take questions from the White House some time around 3:30 p.m. EDT.) He then speaks before the Atlantic Council at 6 p.m. EDT after laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at 4 p.m. EDT. The Wall Street Journal

reports: "Russia praised a Ukrainian law granting self-governance powers to separatist-held areas of Ukraine, a measure that faces a challenge from some politicians in Kiev who call it a giveaway to Moscow." The law was passed during a ceasefire with Russian separatists. Despite the ceasefire, two more were killed yesterday. An estimated 3,000 have been killed since fighting began.

**Obama's plan to arm Syrian rebels heads to Senate:** House lawmakers voted 273 to 156 Wednesday to support the president's strategy for confronting the Islamic State. The proposal fractured both parties, with 159 Republicans and 114 Democrats backing the training and equipping of Syrian rebels. Still, that was a majority of both parties with 85 Democrats and 71 Republicans opposing the legislation. The House also approved a measure to fund the government through Dec. 11 on a 319 to 108 vote, which included the amendment dealing with Syria. The president welcomed House passage, calling it "an important step forward" in dealing with the Islamic State. He urged the Senate to act on the plan "without delay." A vote in the upper chamber is expected Thursday, with debate scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. EDT that could stretch into the late afternoon or early evening. Some of that time could be given back, especially with lawmakers preparing to leave town for the remainder of the campaign season. On the House side Thursday, members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee will hear from Secretary of State John Kerry on the administration's strategy for dealing with Islamic State militants, while Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel will testify Thursday before the House Armed Services Committee.

#### **Scott Walker, Mary Burke remain neck-and-neck**

Republican Gov. Scott Walker and Democratic challenger Mary Burke remain neck and neck in a campaign that has been close for months, according to state polling.

Walker and Burke are tied 46 percent to 46 percent among registered voters, results from a new Marquette Law School Poll show. But Walker now leads 49-46 among likely voters, after trailing two points among the closely watched group three weeks ago in the same poll. Walker had a three-point lead among registered voters last month.

"The main point is: Still inside the margin of error, still no evidence for the fourth poll in a row of a clear frontrunner," poll director Charles Franklin said.

Likely voters represent the three-quarters of responding registered voters who say they are absolutely certain to vote on Nov. 4. Even though the sample size of registered voters is larger, Franklin said as Election

Day nears, the result from likely voters is a better predictor of the outcome.

The latest poll also found Jefferson County District Attorney Susan Happ's earlier lead over Waukesha County District Attorney Brad Schimel has vanished between the two polls. Happ led 39-38 among registered voters, but Schimel led 42-41 among likely voters.

The last poll showed Happ with a 10-point lead among likely voters. However, 82 percent said they hadn't heard enough about Happ to form an opinion and 87 percent said the same about Schimel. The latest poll continued to show 87 percent didn't know enough about Schimel, while 73 percent said they didn't know enough about Happ.

Happ campaign manager Joshua Lease said in response to the poll that "we have always expected this to be a close race, and, like the governor's race, one that will stay close until election day."

Schimel campaign manager Johnny Koremenos said "as the race comes into focus and voters begin to examine the candidates, they are making the same determination that Democratic and Republican law enforcement officers have made."

Franklin noted it was the first poll in 24 Marquette polls since 2012 in which more respondents identified as Republicans than Democrats. Among registered voters, 29 percent said they were Republicans, 28 percent said they were Democrats and 41 percent said they were independents.

Among likely voters, 32 percent identified as Republicans, 28 percent identified as Democrats and 38 percent identified as independents. In the August poll, when Burke led among likely voters, 34 percent identified as Democrats, 28 percent identified as Republicans and 34 percent identified as independents.

The August poll found 54 percent of respondents saying the state was heading in the right direction, while 42 percent said it was on the wrong track. Those numbers were unchanged in the poll released Wednesday.

Other results among registered voters:

A majority support raising the minimum wage (52.3 percent), requiring a photo ID to vote (61.2 percent), accepting a federal Medicaid expansion (60.8 percent) and keeping marijuana use illegal (51.1 percent).

A plurality (42.1 percent) support paying for transportation with money from other parts of the state budget, while 29.6 percent support raising taxes or fees, 13.2 percent support reducing construction and maintenance and 5.4 percent support continuing to borrow.

The public is split on expanding the statewide private-school voucher program, as 38.8 percent want it expanded, 37.5 want it eliminated, and 18.8 want it kept as is.

Of the three-quarters of respondents who have heard about the recent John Doe investigation into whether Gov. Scott Walker's recall campaign illegally coordinated with outside groups, 59.1 percent said it's "just more politics" and 37.4 percent said it's "really something serious."

Asked if Scott Walker or Mary Burke is "someone who cares about people like me," 46.8 percent said that describes Walker, while 48.5 percent said that describes Burke.

Asked if either candidate is "someone who is able to get things done," 64.3 percent said that describes Walker, while 43.8 percent said that describes Burke.

Asked whether Walker or Burke has clearly explained what they'll do if elected, 56.7 percent agreed Walker had, while 41.8 percent said Burke had.

The latest poll was conducted Sept. 11-14 among 800 registered voters and 589 likely voters. The margin of error was plus or minus 3.5 percentage points among registered voters and plus or minus 4.1 percentage points among likely voters.

### Groups appeal voter ID ruling, allege 'eleventh-hour' changes will disenfranchise thousands

An emergency appeal filed late Tuesday argues that reinstating the requirement to show a government-issued photo ID to vote in the Nov. 4 election "imposes a radical, last-minute change" to an election "that is already underway."

Plaintiffs challenging the revived voter ID requirement said during a press call Wednesday that the process announced by the state late last week to provide free identification to potentially thousands of voters does little to help those born outside of Wisconsin.

While the state has created an expedited process for the state Department of Health Services to provide free proof of birth to residents born in Wisconsin, there is no similar process for people born in other states or countries, the plaintiffs charged.

### Minority voters 'locked out'

As a result, the process disproportionately disenfranchises blacks and Latinos who are significantly less likely to have been born in the state, said Darryl Morin, Wisconsin director for the League of United Latin American Citizens.

Minority voters, Morin said, "will be locked out of the voting booth."

But James Miller, director of the Department of Transportation's Bureau of Field Services,

said late Wednesday afternoon that the state DHS will verify in-state births and has made arrangements with the other 49 states for verification.

### Contact with feds

Miller added that Wisconsin also now has a contact with the U.S. State Department to check on citizens born outside the U.S. And he said an electronic verification system also is available to verify which immigrants have become citizens.

"We will work diligently to get the customer an answer within two weeks," Miller said. But, he added, "Because we have no control over another state's vital records we cannot guarantee how fast they will respond."

Dana Brueck, spokeswoman for Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen, whose office defended the law, declined comment Wednesday on the appeal. The state has been ordered to provide a response to the petition for full court review by Tuesday.

### Doubt there's enough time

Dale Ho, the American Civil Liberties Union's voting rights director, charged that the state will be unable to fully implement voter ID in the less than seven weeks remaining until the general election. DMV offices in some parts of Wisconsin are only open a few hours a week, the appeal states, meaning some voters will have little opportunity to get the required identification.

The groups' challenge filed Tuesday notes that the original plan was to have an eight-month ramp up to the requirement before the low-turnout February 2012 primary, with full implementation another eight months later for the 2012 general election. But the law was halted by various court challenges after that first election.

In addition, voter ID opponents noted that the Government Accountability Board has no money for a public-information campaign to alert voters to the reinstated requirement and little time to retrain 1,852 municipal clerks.

On Tuesday, the Government Accountability Board announced that voters who had already cast absentee ballots for the general election must present valid government-issued identification for those ballots to be counted. More than 11,000 ballots had been sent out, GAB director Kevin Kennedy said, with possibly hundreds already returned.

Anyone who has not yet received an absentee ballot must first submit the proper photo identification — via fax, email, regular mail or in person — to the local clerk's office to request one, GAB spokesman Reid Magney said. The only exceptions to the voter ID requirement for absentee ballots are for military and overseas ballots and those cast by the "indefinitely confined," including those in nursing homes

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