threats in a way that not did not limit, but rather improved, trade.

The plan has "four pillars": the secure flow of people, the secure flow of goods, secure infrastructure, and information sharing and coordination.

The two initiatives in the Smart Border Action Plan that most affect trade are NEXUS, part of the secure flow of people pillar, and FAST (the Free and Secure Trade Program), part of the secure flow of goods pillar.

NEXUS is designed to allow Canada and the United States to identify people who are seen as security risks, while expediting the movement of low-risk travellers. NEXUS has obvious ramifications for trade in services, there are thousands or people who travel North or South for work each day, and for tourism (in 2000, a total of 489 million people passed through border inspection systems[17]). An identification card is issued to "pre-approved, low-risk" travellers who are then able to benefit from a dedicated lane to cross the border and are subject to little or no questioning from customs officials (although they can still be subjected to random checks by customs officials). To qualify for a NEXUS card, people must give an electronic scan of their index fingers for comparison against a joint database of immigration violators. Other initiatives related to the secure flow of people include developing a common approach for the screening of international air passengers and co-ordination of refugee/asylum processes.

Even more momentous a change for trade is the Free and Secure Trade (FAST) program. Now operating at six high-volume land border crossings between Canada and the United States, this initiative, designed for commercial shipments, promises to improve *both* security and cross-border efficiency by offering advance clearance for low-risk commercial traffic

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[16] Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, "A Strong Partnership: The Canada-U.S. Smart Border Declaration," pamphlet.

[17] Flynn, "America the Vulnerable," 64.