



Fact Sheet

A 21st Century Border Vision

Border crossings by undocumented immigrants have declined sharply over the past decade. With more Border Patrol agents on duty than ever before, apprehensions of would-be immigrants along the 2,000-mile border have dropped from a peak of 1.8 million in fiscal 2000 to 556,000 in fiscal 2009.

Mexico and the United States have a shared interest in creating a 21st century border that promotes the security and prosperity of both countries and each will commit to signing a joint Declaration of Principles focusing on securing and facilitating the flows of people and cargo, strengthening public security, and engaging the border communities in the creation of this new border vision. A Bi-national Executive Steering Committee comprised of senior interagency leaders will oversee, prioritize, and shepherd critical projects that promote the economic well-being, global competitiveness and safety of our countries.

Achievements:

Securing Flows/Expediting Legitimate Travel and Trade:

- **1st New Port of Entry in a Decade** – The Anzalduas International Bridge opened in December 2009, the first new border crossing in ten years. The port of entry is secure and fully operational, and seizures of arms, drugs, and currency are being made.
- **Non-Intrusive Inspection Equipment (NIIE)** – The U.S. has provided a variety of NIIE equipment to assist Mexico's effort to increase detection of illicit goods at the border and within Mexico, including 45 ion scanner vapor tracers (30 under Merida and 15 pre-Merida), 38 ZBV Backscatter Vans (23 under Merida and 15 pre-Merida), 10 mobile X-Ray Minivans and 2 Railroad Vehicle and Cargo Inspection Systems (VACIS).
- **Biometric Equipment** – Biometric equipment has been installed and is in use at three checkpoints along Mexico's southern border. All biographic and biometric information collected will be stored in a database, serving as a powerful tool to support judicial proceedings and counter terrorism efforts.
- **Creation of the Joint Security Program for Travelers** – A formal agreement was signed in March 2010, between the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Secretariat of Government which places Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and National Migration Institute officers in select airports working cooperatively to secure the flow of air travelers between the two countries.
- **Fraudulent Document Training** –U.S. and Mexican officials provided training to detect fraudulent travel documents to Mexican agencies and air carriers on a quarterly basis. The training includes personnel at Mexican air and land ports of entry. More than 1,100 people received training during 2009 and 2010.
- **Search and Rescue Training** – In 2009 Border Patrol agents from the Search and Rescue Team (BORSTAR) conducted training in Texas for 44 INAMI "Grupos Beta" Agents. The course included training in trauma, swift water and technical rescues, and navigation through rural, mountainous and desert terrain. Such training makes the border safer and reduces the loss of life resulting from human trafficking.
- **New Border Crossings and Permits** – An important new commercial crossing between San Luis, Arizona and San Luis Rio Colorado, Sonora was inaugurated November 2010, expediting the flow of trucks, reducing congestion, and cutting hazardous diesel emissions.

Strengthening Public Security:

- **Mexican Law Enforcement between Ports of Entry** – In December 2009, DHS and the Secretariat of Public Security (SSP) signed a Declaration of Principles that allows coordinated law enforcement actions in dangerous sections of the border. SSP has assigned two hundred officers, CBP has conducted basic patrol training for the officers, and each agency has placed exchange officers in the other's command posts.
- **Arrests Fall and Border Control Increases**– Arrests between the ports of entry have dropped 10 per cent to date, while CBP has increased operational control of the border by 26 per cent by adding man power, technology, and border infrastructure. Border security mechanisms are more efficient than ever and fewer people are attempting to cross the border illegally leaving officials to concentrate on those who would do us harm.
- **Strengthening the Customs Academy** – CBP is providing training to Mexican Customs trainers to strengthen the Mexican Customs basic Academy.

- **K-9 Teams** - In April 2010, ten Mexican law enforcement officials graduated from the National Canine Training Operations Center's canine handler course in Front Royal, Virginia, which teaches new handlers and canines to search for more than 19,000 explosives odors. Fourteen Mexican Customs officers graduated from the Border Patrol Canine Academy in El Paso, Texas with canine capable of detecting drugs, weapons and ammunition, and currency. Additionally, the K-9 project with Mexican Customs has produced 46 K-9 teams to date, and the K-9 project with the Federal Police (SSP) has produced 60 K-9 teams to be deployed to Ciudad Juarez.
- **Southbound Operations** –Beginning October 2009, U.S. CBP officers began conducting targeted, intelligence-driven inspections of southbound vehicles for the first time. They have:
 - Conducted over 3.47 million inspections of vehicles going into Mexico.
 - Seized over \$50 million in illicit currency.
 - Interdicted 238 illegal firearms.
 - Made 293 arrests.
 - Additionally, 100% of southbound rail cargo is screened.
- **Engaging Border Communities** – The participation of all levels of government is essential to collaborative and effective border management. The U.S. and Mexico will continue to engage border communities, as well as state, local, and tribal governments in bi-national strategy development, law enforcement, and communications. U.S. and Mexican agencies are expanding bilateral cooperation with border state governors, border state legislators, state attorneys general, universities and community colleges, business groups, and civil society groups.
- **Increasing Investigative Capacity** – ICE investigators trained 24 Mexican Customs officers in June 2010 to develop and increase investigative capacity.

Future Directions:

- **Securing Flows/Expediting Legitimate Commerce and Travel**
 - **Internal Ports and Cargo Pre-Clearance** – The US- Mexico Executive Steering Committee will review and assess potential locations for cargo preclearance with the goal of moving some inspections away from the physical border to relieve congestion at crowded crossing points and intercept threats as far from the physical border as possible.
 - **Trusted Traveler/Shipper Programs** – The Global Entry program, which allows air travelers who have undergone appropriate background checks to pass through customs in a matter of minutes, will be expanded to vetted Mexican participants. Both countries will also work together to expand trusted shipper programs such as the Customs-Trade Partnership against Terrorism (C-TPAT) and FAST program for shippers, as well as increase the number of expedited travel (SENTRI) lanes through the ports of entry.
 - **Expedited Electronic Certificates of Health** – The movement of plants and animals across the border will be expedited with the introduction of Electronic Certificates of Health through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Mexican counterparts.
 - **“Single Entry”** – The Executive Steering Committee will oversee the development and implementation of a system for standardized collection of trade data so that importers and exporters from both nations are asked for a piece of information only once.
- **Strengthening Public Security/ Increased Capacity Building**
 - DHS and the State Department are expanding Operation No Refuge, a program that denies admission into the U.S. to known traffickers and their associates through the application of immigration law, denial of visas, and denial of adjustment of status.