

SOUTHWEST BORDER SECURITY TECHNOLOGY NEW PATH FORWARD

Results of the Department-wide Assessment of the SBInet program

- Since its inception, SBInet has had continued and repeated technical problems, cost overruns and schedule delays, raising fundamental questions about SBInet's ability to meet the needs for technology along the border.
- Soon after she became Secretary of Homeland Security, Secretary Napolitano asked U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) for an analysis of the SBInet program. Based on the findings from this analysis, in January 2010, Secretary Napolitano ordered a Department-wide assessment of the SBInet program that incorporated an independent, quantitative, science-based "Analysis of Alternatives" to determine if SBInet was the most efficient, effective and economical border security technology strategy available.
- DHS has completed the first phase of the assessment, focused on the Arizona border where half of all illegal border crossings currently occur.
- This assessment—which combines the science based review with the input of U.S. Border Patrol agents on the front lines and the Department's leading science and technology experts—made clear that SBInet cannot meet its original objective of providing a one size fits all border security technology solution.

New Path Forward for Southwest Border Security Technology

- As a result of the assessment, Secretary Napolitano has directed CBP to end SBInet as originally conceived and instead implement a new border security technology plan, which will utilize existing, proven technology tailored to the distinct terrain and population density of each border region, including commercially available Mobile Surveillance Systems, Unmanned Aircraft Systems, thermal imaging devices, and tower-based Remote Video Surveillance Systems. Where appropriate, this plan will also incorporate already existing elements of the former SBInet program that have proven successful, such as stationary radar and infrared and optical sensor towers.
- The new plan will utilize funding previously requested for SBInet and provided in the continuing resolution. CBP intends to acquire all the technologies in the new plan, including the integrated fixed towers, through full and open competition.
- Independent, quantitative, science-based assessments will continue along each sector of the Southwest border in 2011 to determine the optimal combination of technology for each region.
- Secretary Napolitano's decision recognizes that there is no one size fits all solution to meet our border technology needs, but rather we must effectively deploy a wide range of proven technology along the Southwest border.

- The new plan provides better coverage, more effective balance between cost and capability and is tailored to the unique needs of each area along the border. The plan will also result in faster deployment of technology and better linkage between operations and technology, complementing the Administration's unprecedented investments in manpower, infrastructure and resources to secure the Southwest border.

Unprecedented Deployment of Resources to the Southwest Border

- Over the past two years, DHS has dedicated historic levels of personnel, technology, and resources to the Southwest border.
- Today, the Border Patrol is better staffed than at any time in its 86-year history, having nearly doubled the number of agents from approximately 10,000 in 2004 to more than 20,500 in 2010.
- Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has increased the number of federal agents deployed to the Southwest border with a quarter of its personnel currently in the region – the most ever.
- Since 2009, DHS has doubled the number of personnel assigned to Border Enforcement Security Task Forces; increased the number of ICE intelligence analysts working along the Southwest border focused on cartel violence; quintupled deployments of Border Liaison Officers; and begun screening 100 percent of southbound rail shipments for illegal weapons, drugs, and cash – for the first time ever.
- DHS has also deployed additional canine teams trained to detect drugs and weapons and non-intrusive inspection technology that helps to identify anomalies in passenger vehicles at the Southwest border.
- Further, President Obama has deployed 1,200 National Guard troops to the Southwest border to contribute additional capabilities and capacity to assist law enforcement agencies.

Fewer Apprehensions and Increased Interdiction of Drugs, Weapons, and Currency

- In fiscal years 2009 and 2010, CBP seized more than \$104 million in southbound illegal currency – an increase of approximately \$28 million compared to 2007- 2008.
- Further, in fiscal years 2009 and 2010, CBP and ICE seized more than \$282 million in illegal currency, more than 7 million pounds of drugs, and more than 6,800 weapons along the southwest border – increases of more than \$73 million, more than 1 million pounds of drugs and more than 1,500 weapons compared to 2007-2008.
- Nationwide Border Patrol apprehensions of illegal aliens decreased from nearly 724,000 in FY2008 to approximately 463,000 in FY2010, a 36 percent reduction, indicating that fewer people are attempting to illegally cross the border.