

**Highlights: National Southwest Border Counternarcotics Strategy**  
**July, 2011**

The *National Southwest Border Counternarcotics Strategy* is a key component of our comprehensive national response to the threat along the Southwest border. The strategy complements the Administration's unprecedented increases in technology, personnel, and resources to the Southwest border; our cooperation with Mexico through the Merida Initiative; and our national effort to reduce the demand for illegal drugs at home. The strategy guides actions focused on the following goal and ten strategic objectives.

**Strategic Goal**

Substantially reduce the flow of illicit drugs, drug proceeds, and associated instruments of violence across the Southwest border

**Strategic Objectives:**

**Enhance intelligence and information sharing capabilities and processes associated with the Southwest border**

- Enhance coordination of intelligence collection, analysis, and dissemination to all those, at the border and across the country, working drug issues.
- Expand the scope, quality, and timeliness of actionable information and intelligence that is shared with state, local, and tribal partners.
- Improve the coordination of information that is shared with Mexican partners.

**Interdict drugs, drug proceeds, and associated instruments of violence at the ports of entry along the Southwest border**

- Employ enhanced technology, resources, and training to support interdiction.
- Work with interagency partners, Mexican counterparts, and the private sector to increase the use of advance information to screen vehicles and cargo.
- Improve infrastructure and use of license plate readers at POEs.

**Interdict drugs, drug proceeds, and associated instruments of violence between the ports of entry along the Southwest border**

- Increase operational capabilities at or near the border.
- Improve the use of biometric identification systems between POEs and enhance information sharing with Federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement.
- Increase operational coordination among Federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies.

**Interdict drugs, drug proceeds, and associated instruments of violence in the air and maritime domains along the Southwest border**

- Sustain air and maritime detection and monitoring, intercept, tracking, and apprehension operations along the Southwest border.
- Increase cooperation with Mexican counterparts through the exchange of liaison officers and increased information sharing.
- Modernize airborne sensors and other information collection mechanisms.

- Improve coordination with state, local, and tribal counterparts.

### **Disrupt and dismantle drug trafficking organizations operating along the Southwest border**

- Broaden the presence and function of U.S. law enforcement liaisons in Mexico.
- Increase the focus of personnel and resources on the Southwest border.
- Increase the capacities of prosecutors and other criminal justice components.
- Increase judicial cooperation with Mexico.
- Target corruption on the U.S. side of the border.
- Counter corruption among foreign officials through visa denials and revocations.

### **Stem the flow of illicit proceeds across the Southwest border into Mexico**

- Stem the southbound flow of bulk cash out of the United States and into Mexico.
- Target illicit use of money services businesses and electronic payment devices.
- Employ targeted financial sanctions to disrupt drug trafficking organizations.
- Enhance cooperation with the Mexican Government's financial intelligence unit.
- Improve statistical measures of effectiveness for countering money laundering.

### **Stem the flow of illegal weapons across the Southwest border into Mexico**

- Improve intelligence and information sharing relating to illegal weapons with Federal, state, local, and tribal partners.
- Increase interdiction of illegal weapons shipments destined for Mexico.
- Enhance cooperation with international partners in weapons investigations.
- Strengthen domestic coordination on weapons investigations.
- Increase the likelihood of successful Federal prosecution of weapons cases.

### **Provide improved counterdrug technological capabilities and capacities for drug investigation and interdiction activities along the Southwest border**

- Employ state-of-the-art technology to interdict drugs and other contraband.
- Improve sensor, data fusion, and data sharing capabilities.
- Enhance communications and intelligence technologies to facilitate greater information sharing with State and local law enforcement agencies.
- Develop capabilities to detect, identify, track, and interdict small vessels, including self-propelled semi- and fully submersibles.
- Develop the capability to detect clandestine and infrastructure tunnels used for illegal activities.

### **Develop strong and resilient communities that resist criminal activity and promote healthy lifestyles**

- Develop strong, resilient communities that resist criminal organizations and develop a culture of lawfulness.
- Continue development and implementation of evidence-based treatment techniques and strategies.
- Continue to integrate substance abuse disorder services into mainstream medicine.
- Improve the quality of care available by ensuring providers are competent.

- Interrupt the cycle of drug use, violence, and crime.

**Enhance U.S. – Mexico cooperation on joint counterdrug efforts**

- Expand upon ongoing bilateral efforts to stem the flow of drugs, money and weapons across our shared border.
- Deepen local cooperation across our shared border.
- Enhance capacity building and training initiatives to strengthen Mexican agencies and institutions.
- Expand on existing bilateral mechanisms and create new ones.

**Tunnel Strategy**

- Pursue enhanced tunnel detection technology and capabilities.
- Improve interagency coordination on tunnel related activities and investigations.
- Utilize task forces for interagency tunnel operations.