



On May 15, President Bush addressed the nation regarding border security and immigration reform. As an immediate step to support CBP Border Patrol's efforts, the President called for up to 6,000 National Guard members to assist with surveillance, installing fences and vehicle barriers, as well as provide training. This support mission, Operation Jump Start, will provide significant assistance to securing the southern U.S. border.

Timeline

CBP Border Patrol and the National Guard will coordinate with the state governors and adjutants general, respectively, to deploy National Guard troops during June to support Border Patrol operations. The goal is to have up to 6,000 National Guard personnel deployed to the Southwest border by Aug. 1.

The initial 2,500 Guard members are expected to deploy to border locations in California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas by the end of June. Deployment numbers are based on operational need and threat. The initial National Guard deployment will focus on relieving Border Patrol agents of non-law enforcement duties, including mobile surveillance platforms and observation posts.

CBP's Operation Jump Start Task Force is established and operational. Interagency command and control elements are staffed. Elements of the Task Force include Office of Border Patrol, Office of Field Operations, Office of Air and Marine, National Guard Bureau, U.S. Coast Guard, Immigration Customs Enforcement's Detention and Removal Operations.

The two-year deployment supplements and supports CBP's current efforts while DHS hires and trains 6,000 additional Border Patrol Agents and implements the Secure Border Initiative and SBI-net.

Command and Control

National Guard units will assist CBP by executing logistical and administrative support, operating detection systems, providing mobile communications, augmenting border-related intelligence analysis efforts, building and installing border security infrastructure, providing transportation and conducting training.

The support of tactical infrastructure engineering and technology by the National Guard will be a force multiplier; therefore making law enforcement officials, and especially Border Patrol Agents more effective, freeing up additional current Agents who are performing some of these support tasks today.

Examples of how National Guard personnel can assist at the border:

- A number of Border Patrol agents are currently serving as vehicle mechanics maintaining the fleet of enforcement vehicles. National Guard personnel will be able to assume these duties, thereby allowing Agents to return to traditional law enforcement duties of arrest, search and seizure.
- Some Border Patrol agents are performing administrative duties, e.g., payroll processing, personnel management, etc. National Guard personnel will assume these duties allowing the agents to return to patrolling the border.
- Some agents are serving as electronics technicians maintaining the law enforcement communications network. National Guard personnel will be able to assume these duties, thereby allowing the Agents to assist with the law enforcement responsibility of securing the Nation's borders.
- National Guard personnel will be able to replace agents in some static and mobile observation posts. This will allow the agents to return to law enforcement work of arresting aliens illegally entering the country, an immediate enhancement to border security.