

Mark Dannels
Sheriff

Tom Alinen
Chief of Staff

Office of the Sheriff Cochise County



SUBCOMMITTEE on Border Security, Facilitation and Operations

Introduction

Testimony of Mr. Mark J. Dannels, Cochise County Sheriff, Arizona before the Subcommittee on Border Security, Facilitation and Operations Hearing on "Examining Title 42 and the Need to Restore Asylum at the Border." The hearing will be held on Wednesday, April 6th, 2022 at 2:00 pm.

Chairwoman Nanette Barragan, Ranking Member Clay Higgins and Members of this Committee, thank you for the invitation to speak to you today on this very important subject reference; **Public Safety, National Security, Humanitarian and Health.**

History of Cochise County

With eighty-three miles of international border within its jurisdiction, Cochise County plays a significant role in combating drug and human trafficking organizations and the associated violent crime which adversely affects Arizona residents and other areas throughout the United States. In 1990 the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) designated Cochise County as a High Intensity Drug Trafficking area within southern Arizona. This designation is a direct result of overwhelming and sustained levels of illicit drug and human trafficking within Cochise County.

With 6,219 square miles, Cochise County is as large as the states of Rhode Island and Connecticut combined. The estimated population of the county in 2022 is approximately 125,000. The geography of the county consists of seven incorporated cities to include the historical town of Tombstone. Surrounded by vast areas of desolate uninhabited desert and mountainous terrain, the seven cities only represent a combined area of 215 square miles, leaving 6004 square miles of unincorporated area. These desolate areas are routinely exploited for smuggling routes by the drug/human traffickers and pose one of the greatest challenges to local law enforcements effort in establishing border security and interdiction efforts. Cochise County is the 38th largest land mass county in the United States, and is home to the United States Army base, Fort Huachuca. Throughout the history of the county ranching and farming has played a significant part in its legacy.

Unlike other border counties in Arizona, Cochise County is unique in that there are two cities in the Republic of Mexico situated on the international border within the county. The cities of Agua Prieta and Naco, with an estimated population of 80,000 and 10,000 respectively, are well know to U.S. Law Enforcement officials as staging and operational centers for one of Mexico's largest and most notorious drug cartels. The Sinaloa Cartel has long employed the use of local

Mexican Drug and Human Trafficking Organizations (DTOs) to carry out the Cartel's illegal distribution and transportation into and throughout the United States.

These international DTOs also utilize their established smuggling routes in Cochise County to transport the Cartels illicit profits such as U.S. currency, firearms, and ammunition into Mexico. A large portion of the profit is used to sustain control over the corridor through the use of violence against law enforcement, rival trafficking organizations, and bribes of government officials.

The Mexican drug trafficking organizations operating in Cochise County are highly sophisticated and innovative in their transportation methods. Aside from the normal use of human backpackers (mules), clandestine tunnels, and vehicles, the trafficking organizations have resorted to the use of ultra light aircraft which cannot be detected by normal radar, cloned vehicles appearing to be law enforcement or other legitimate companies and the use of catapults which hurl bundles of marijuana into the U.S. to awaiting co-conspirators. The organizations utilize sophisticated and technical communications and counter surveillance equipment to counter law enforcements interdiction tactics and strategies. Scouts or observers are strategically placed along smuggling routes to perform counter surveillance on law enforcement and report their observations to those controlling the drug/human smuggling operation so they may avoid and elude law enforcement. The use of cell phones and sophisticated two-way radio encryptions for communications are standard equipment, as are night vision and forward looking infra-red devices.

Violence against innocent citizens, public officials, law enforcement, and rival drug/human trafficking groups in Mexico continues to escalate. Cochise County's law enforcement and private citizen fears of it spilling into the county were realized in 2010 when a longtime Cochise County resident rancher was senselessly murdered while inspecting fences on his ranch. Further complicating the concerns is the potential for foreign terrorist to employ drug/human trafficking organizations to smuggle individuals and or weapons of mass destruction into the United States through Cochise County.

The adverse affects of the drug and human trafficking organizations operating in Cochise County not only have significantly diminished the quality of life of county residents, but also placed unbearable strain upon the budgets and resources of private and government agencies in the county.

Historically speaking, illegal border crossings into the United States are well known in southern Arizona and recognized as a part of everyday life within Cochise County and throughout the southwest border. Many years ago, Cochise County citizens were not overly alarmed when they observed a handful of undocumented aliens travelling through private or public lands in search of jobs. Unfortunately, over time these groups dramatically increased in size and became more reckless, aggressive, and violent, bringing unrest and fear to the citizens living on the border. Examples of this include reckless high-speed pursuits, assaults on citizens, rapes, kidnappings, murders and home invasions to steal one's private and personal possessions. It was apparent the search for the American dream was being over-shadowed by these smugglers, mules, coyotes, bandits, and transnational criminals preying upon our citizens.

Having the true-life experience to live and work as a law enforcement officer/deputy and now Sheriff in Cochise County since 1984, it has been an educational lesson for me reference border security. I have witnessed the escalation of violence by these careless assailants on our citizens

raising the question, who actually controls our borders? Cochise County has become known as the gateway to illegal activity for those unlawfully entering the United States.

History: Federal Government's Border Security Plan of the 90s

In the early 1990s, the federal government prepared a plan to address the unsecure, unsafe border. At a press conference in Tucson, Arizona, a Border Patrol spokesman announced their intent to secure the populated areas of the border, specifically San Diego, Yuma and El Paso and the International Ports of Entry. These targeted areas, which I call the "Ps = Ports and Population", would be the federal government's focus points. The second half of their plan was to reroute the illegal activity/disturbances into the rural parts of the southwest border with the thought that these cartel organizations and smuggling groups would be deterred by the rugged and mountainous regions along the border.

Since the release of the plan, many changes have taken place. Specifically, Cochise County initially increased their staffing of Border Patrol agents from a handful of agents to an estimated 1300 agents stationed within Cochise County. Currently, we are down to 400 – 500 Border Patrol agents. To add, an estimated 200 Custom agents working at the port of entries (Douglas and Naco) and within the Cochise County to secure and protect the estimated 83 miles of international border. Infrastructure, such as metal fencing, lightning, cameras, sensors, radars, etc. have been installed between both ports and some distance beyond bringing some needed relief to this area and those that live within. Unfortunately, upgrades were halted by President Biden's executive order on his first day of office leaving our border's infrastructure in disarray. Secondary immigration checkpoints were established on routes (roadways) 20 – 40 miles north of the border but due to staffing shortages, remains closed most of the time.

Over the last 15 months, our southern border has drastically changed, (see attached statistics). Additionally, addressing a health pandemic during a drastic change has negatively impacted our community's Quality of Life. Title 42 was enacted under President Donald Trump and remains today, providing Customs & Border Patrol and my communities some relief. I respect the decision/debate to cancel Title 42, but sadly with lack of a shared action plan or collective message, the concerns by my fellow Sheriffs, Police Chiefs and our federal partners, promotes great concern. Sheriffs from National, Western and Southwest Associations have tried tirelessly to work with this administration with little to no success. It would be an understatement to say Sheriffs are frustrated.

I have personally experienced our once manageable border become a crisis over the last 15 months supported by the attached statistics and increased criminal activity. The Covid health pandemic placed many restrictions on foreign travel, but the conversation regarding illegal entry at our southern border was neglected by our federal leaders. The health exposure and risk experienced by law enforcement officers, deputies and agents became secondary in public restrictions and concerns. In fact, the intellectual avoidance by this administration to actively engage and support our efforts has been absent. Certain members of U.S. Congress continue to ignore our immigration laws/crisis abandoning communities as they struggle to address these challenges. I would remind my fellow elected leaders, we share the same Oath of Office to protect this great country, not to be driven by personal ideologies, but by and for the People.

The existing border plan has been in place for over 26 years and the following are some thoughts regarding the plan in current time:

- An increase in illegal smuggling/activity between the protected areas (ports)
- Increase in larger groups of undocumented aliens between the protected areas (ports)
- Increase in illegal activity outside the protected areas (ports)
- Fear/Frustration increased in rural Cochise County/Southwest Border
- Ranch and Farmlands damaged due to increased illegal activity
- Property (fencing, livestock, waterlines, etc.) damaged
- Burglaries/Thefts increased in rural Cochise County/Southwest Border
- Violent Crimes increased i.e., Homicides, Assaults, Rapes, Drug and Human Smuggling, etc. in rural Cochise County/Southwest Border
- Transnational Cartels/Smuggling Organizations controlled and set up smuggling routes in rural Cochise County/Southwest Border
- Lack of Border Patrol Agents directly on border
- Secondary checkpoints were established as a secondary deterrent but remain closed due to staff shortages
- Lack of Re-Definition to the plan of the 90s (time erased history)
- Loss of recreational land use due to fear of criminal activity
- Economic decline (Cochise County largest decrease in population)
- Legacy Ranches being sold
- Lack of Federally elected leaders to address unsecure border/fears creating a lack of trust and anger by citizens
- Questionable consequences by federal government by those committing border crimes
- Undue pressure on local law enforcement/Sheriffs to address issues, fear, and consequences for those committing crimes
- Lack of funding for local law enforcement/criminal justice system/corrections in order to address border crimes at the local level due to federal government lack of intervention
- Border Security shall be a Mandate, not a Discretionary program
- Border Security v. Immigration Reform (two different programs not to be blended)
- Lack of Trust and Confidence in our Federal Government

Action-Based Solutions Local-State Government

Local Solutions and Programs are no longer a thought, but a reality for bringing relief to our citizens who consciously choose to live near our borders. No better example of the importance of local law enforcement during a national crisis was the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001. First responders from local police and fire were the first on scene to address this horrific threat. Local law enforcement is best suited to best understand community needs and solutions based on the expectations of their citizens. Community policing begins and succeeds at the local level first.

As the Sheriff of Cochise County, I felt it was my elected and statutory duty (oath of office to support the United States Constitution and the Arizona Constitution) to protect and secure the

Freedoms and Liberties of my citizens, with or without the help of our federal law enforcement partners/policy makers. No longer a debate by those that live in the rural parts of the southwest border, the rural parts of the Southwest Border are NOT secure and are vulnerable for ANY type of transnational criminal activity.

Working with limited budgets and staffing, Sheriffs along the southwest border struggle each and every day to find ways to enhance the quality of life/safety for those they serve and bring a general sense of deterrence for those choosing our border as a venue to promote their criminal enterprises. The following bullet points are action-driven solutions implemented in hopes of bringing some relief and sense of security for those living in Cochise County:

- **Balanced Community Policing (Education, Prevention, Enforcement)**
- **Transparency + Time = Community Trust**
- **Collaborated Efforts by all 3-levels of Government**
- **Creation of a Southwest Border Security Facility in Cochise County**
- **Law and Order Partnership between Sheriff and County Attorney**
- **Safe Street Enforcement Programs**
- **Private and Public Funding donations/grants to purchase upgraded equipment/communications**
- **Installation of New Radios/Towers/Consoles/Microwave**
- **Portable Radios to Citizens/Ranchers/Farmers/Schools**
- **Interoperability/Intelligence Sharing at all 3-levels**
- **Regional Application for Law Enforcement**
- **Financial Interdiction Unit**
- **Regional Border Team by Sheriff supported by Border Patrol, ICE, U.S. Forest**
- **Ranch Advisory Team**
- **Ranch Patrol**
- **Financial Crime Unit**
- **Consequence Driven Prosecution (all 3-levels)**
- **Local Trail-Cameras, Sensors, ATVs, Thermal Vehicle, Off-Road Vehicle, etc..**
- **Factual Situational Awareness for Media, Elected Officials, America**
- **Quarterly Law Enforcement Leadership Meetings**
- **Community Outreach Unit**
- **Community Meet & Greets within Communities**
- **Aviation Program (Helicopter & Drone)**
- **Positive-Interactive Use of Media and Social Media**

Recommendations Federal Government

The Federal Government (elected and policy makers) has been slow to react to the voices and concerns of those living on the southwest border. Cochise County and other counties along the border have become VIP attractions, venues for those seeking to make a difference or promising change only to become another faded high-hope.

The following comprehensive recommendations are directly linked to our federal leaders:

- **Collective Message between Local, State and Federal**

- Shared Action Plan by Local, State and Federal Law Enforcement
- Remove “Politics” and Enforce the “Rule of Law”
- Hire more Immigration and Asylum Hearing Officers for all POEs.
- Re-evaluate the plan of the 90s and build upon successes
- Political-Will to make Border Security a Mandated Program
- Immediate need to address the Criminal Cartels (Transnational Organizations)
- Border Security First, Immigration Reform Second
- Maximize Allocated Resources such as Staffing
- Adequately Fund CBP
- Support and Embrace First-line Agents that work the border regions, they have a dangerous job and it’s no secret that their frustration is high based on the unknown complexities reference their assignments, they have great ideas to share
- Secondary Checkpoints only after Primary border interdiction is satisfied by stakeholders
- Quality in Life/Citizens living on border supported by Sheriffs and State Governors regarding improved security/safety
- Funding supplement for Local Law Enforcement/Prosecution/Detention/Criminal Justice in support of border crimes
- Continued Funding and Support for Stone Garden Program
- Empowerment with action to Border Patrol Leadership/PAICs (currently Cochise County has dedicated and solution-driven leaders that work well with local law enforcement)
- Enhanced Funding for Regional Communication and Interoperability with local law enforcement
- Bring Local Law Enforcement to Border Security and Immigration discussions

Summary

Our local efforts have proven to be beneficial in bringing over-due solutions to an unsecure border that has become a discretionary program by those federally elected leaders and policy makers that have been entrusted to protect our freedoms and liberties. As a Sheriff elected by the good people of my county, my biggest fear is another loss of life to one of my citizens and/or law enforcement officers/agents contributed to a border that is NOT secure. One would hope the priority of securing our border doesn’t become just about a price tag and/or political posturing, but rather the legal and moral requirement to safeguard all of America, which so many heroic Americans have already paid the ultimate price for.

Today’s opportunity to address this group instills fresh hope that our voice does matter and on behalf of the citizens of Cochise County, Arizona and beyond, we hope you won’t forget us and will do your Constitutional mandate to bring positive change to an over-due vulnerable situation.

I will leave each one of you with an open invitation to visit Cochise County along with a personal-guided tour and visit with our citizens to hear/see first-hand America’s true rural border.

Again, thank you very much for the opportunity to share this information with you. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MJD', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sheriff Mark J. Dannels

Attachments

- a. Sheriff Mark J. Dannels Biography
- b. Arizona Sheriffs Association Letter re Border Security
- c. Western States Sheriffs Association Letter re Position Statement on Border
- d. Governor Doug Ducey's Letter to Secretary of Homeland Security
- e. National Sheriffs Association Letter re Public Safety Challenges on our Border
- f. Photographs/Handouts (34)



Sheriff Mark J. Dannels

Since November 2012, Sheriff Mark J. Dannels has been elected by the good citizens of Cochise County to serve as their 26th Cochise County Sheriff since 1881. I continue to be Humbled, Honored and Dedicated to my oath of office for this incredible opportunity to serve you all with my personal commitment to sustain your Quality of Life as you would expect and your Freedoms and Liberties as scribed in the United States and Arizona Constitutions.

Sheriff Mark J. Dannels is a 38-year veteran of law enforcement. He holds a master's degree in Criminal Justice Management from Aspen University and is a Certified Public Manager from Arizona State University. He has over 3000 hours of law enforcement training in his portfolio. He attended Disney's Leadership and Executive Training programs and is a graduate of the Rural Executive Management Institute. He began his law enforcement career in 1984 after serving a successful tour in the United States Army. He progressed through the ranks with the Cochise County Sheriff's Office to the position of Deputy Commander after working numerous specialty assignments and leadership roles to include an appointment by the Arizona Governor for his dedicated efforts directed toward highway and community safety.

Sheriff Dannels is a long time member of the Fraternal Order of Police, past member of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Advisory Council, current member of the National Sheriffs Association where he serves as the Border Security Chairman, Southwest Border Sheriffs, Western Sheriffs Association Executive Board, Arizona Sheriffs Association where he serves as President, Chair of the Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training Board, Arizona Homeland Security-Regional Advisory Council, Alliance to Combat Transnational Threats, Border Security Advisory Council, High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area and serves on several community service groups; San Pedro Kiwanis, Just Kids Inc., CASA, Sierra Vista Elks, the Boys and Girls Club of Sierra Vista, the Varsity Wrestling Coach at Buena High School, and teaches at Wayland Baptist University and Cochise College. Sheriff Dannels participates in many community outreach programs such as Project Graduation, Sizzle, Stocking Stuffers, Community Haunted House, Men who Cook, Kars for Kids, Miss Sierra Vista and Shop with a Cop.

Sheriff Dannels has been recognized and awarded the Medal of Valor, Western States Sheriff of the Year, Outstanding Business Person of the Year, Marquis Who's Who, Sheriff's Medal, Deputy of the Year, Distinguished Service Award, Unit Citation Award, National Police Hall of Fame, Lifesaving Award and dozens of community-service awards from service groups and governmental organizations.

Sheriff Dannels is married to Nickie, a Registered Nurse. They have three sons, Justin, a Police Officer/Corporal with the City of Sierra Vista, Ryan a Firefighter/Paramedic with the City of Sierra Vista, and Corey, a Lineman with the Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative.

Sheriff Dannels has 3 primary objectives: Organizational Development, Border Security and Community Outreach.

"A Sheriff for All the People"



ARIZONA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION

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MARK DANNELS, COCHISE COUNTY SHERIFF, PRESIDENT
MARK LAMB, PINAL COUNTY SHERIFF, VICE PRESIDENT

THE ARIZONA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION IS THE ONE UNITED CREDIBLE VOICE REPRESENTING LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PUBLIC SAFETY FOR THE COUNTIES OF ARIZONA

March 19, 2021 - An Open Letter: Crisis at the Border

Arizona's Border Sheriffs are on the frontline of public safety issues involving our border with the Republic of Mexico. While semantical gamesmanship about what to call the current conditions on the border and endless theatrical politics of who is at fault may be of great interest in Washington, DC and in the media, they are of complete disinterest to sheriffs. The current conditions on the border are impacting public safety in our communities and by any reasonable measure constitute a humanitarian crisis. We are not far removed from these conditions. They are directly impacting our homes, our communities, our citizens, and our very way of life.

Nowhere else in the civilized world would we tolerate literally thousands of children (emphasis children) unaccompanied by a parent coming to an international border for refuge. This would be correctly viewed as an international humanitarian crisis. Our federal partners, at no fault of theirs, are completely ill-equipped to care for these children. Anywhere else in the world massive resources would be summoned to the border and relevant policies/politics would be under scrutiny. Yet, here today we have a posture that appears to tacitly encourage this, and we remain immersed in politics rather than solutions. We urgently need solutions, not politics.

Undocumented migration to this country is not a harmless activity. No matter how compassionate policy and posture on the northside of the border, we can do nothing to ameliorate the realities on the southside of the border. Migrants must interact with transnational criminal organizations (TCOs) to be shepherded to the border. They fully control the southside of the border. Some seek to enter the country undetected, which requires interaction with "coyotes." Migrants are being victimized criminally, sexually, and financially. TCO's profiteer nearly as much from trafficking humans as they do from drugs. Estimates are this may be a multi billion-dollar enterprise for them (source: Human Smuggling and the Associated Revenues. Rand Corporation. 2019). There are vast desert/mountain areas to be traversed in a harsh environment. Every year, Sheriffs find hundreds of bodies in the remote areas of border counties. Many will never be identified and what befell them will never be known. Tragically, a family somewhere will never know what happened to a loved one. To encourage this activity through policies and political rhetoric is not compassionate public policy. In fact, it is exactly the opposite.

We are learning about a record number of undocumented persons swarming the border and being taken into custody by federal law enforcement. This is potentially a small fraction of those coming into the country. In Cochise County, Arizona they have a sophisticated camera system along migrant routes across the border. These cameras detect significantly more traffic than our federal partners report capturing. In fact, our estimates are that only about 28% of the people crossing illegally are taken into custody. While the scope of the known crisis is enormous, we believe it may be underreported by close to 300%. While some will argue these are good people simply coming here for a better life, to not acknowledge that among them are dangerous criminals and persons who potentially pose national security concerns is either ignorant or willfully disingenuous. How is this not to be considered a crisis?



WESTERN STATES SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION

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POSITION STATEMENT ON BORDER CRISIS 26 MARCH 2021

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The Western States Sheriffs' Association has engaged in discussions with its member Sheriffs who are in the midst of the crisis on the southwest border. What is certain at this point is the portrayal of the crisis by the media and its focus on issues surrounding family units, unaccompanied children, and sheer numbers. What has been ignored, yet can be verified as reality, is the safety to American communities along the southern border coupled with the everyday and real threats to the safety of local, state, and federal law enforcement officers who are on the front line. From the outside it appears the overarching dilemma is how our government can adequately care for thousands of illegal aliens who seek to cross our southwest border. Border Patrol agents have been reduced to daycare providers and transportation coordinators, all at the expense of a lack of enforcement on the border.

In consultation with our membership on the southwest border, it has become evident, based on information learned, that local law enforcement is a verified target of illegal aliens and drug smugglers crossing into the United States. Not reported in the national media is the countless violent interactions between local law enforcement and illegal aliens that are resulting in injury and death.

It is the position of the leadership of the Western States Sheriffs' Association that those counties and States across our southwest border are in desperate need of assistance to shore up their capabilities to safeguard their own communities and ensure the safety of their local law enforcement providers. WSSA leadership is prepared to call on the assistance of its membership to commit resources and time to assist our southwest border Sheriffs.

It is our sincere hope that this offer of assistance will be recognized by local county officials and State leaders and that the necessary declarations can be implemented that will provide the legal ability for outside assistance to be utilized.

There is a clear precedent for the massing of resources across this country as witnessed in response to natural disasters on an annual basis. The history of wildfire in the west and the ability to bring people and equipment to suppress the threat has shown the ability of interstate governmental agencies to work together.

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Sheriff Tony Mace

North Dakota

Sheriff Pat Rummell

Oklahoma

Sheriff Shannon Smith

Oregon

Sheriff John Gautney

South Dakota

Sheriff Fred Lamphere

Texas

Sheriff Chris Kirk

Utah

Sheriff Steven White

Washington

Sheriff Dave Brown

Wyoming

Sheriff Danny Gluck

RESOLUTION 2021- 3

WHEREAS; the Western States Sheriffs' Association Border Security Committee represents Sheriffs from seventeen states west of the Mississippi River; and

WHEREAS; all member Sheriffs of the Western States Sheriffs' Association take seriously our oath to uphold the law, support and defend the Constitution against all enemies foreign and domestic, and protect the safety our respective county's citizens; and

WHEREAS; the current lack of security on our border with the Republic of Mexico presents a clear national security concern as we do not know who is crossing the border undetected that might be an international bad actor wishing our citizens harm; and

WHEREAS; the current lack of security on our border with the Republic of Mexico presents a compelling public safety danger as extreme amounts of illegal drugs are being trafficked into our country leading to addiction and overdose deaths; and

WHEREAS; the current lack of security on our border with the Republic of Mexico presents a compelling public safety danger as hardened criminals and gang members exploit the lack of security to enter the country to further victimize our citizens; and

WHEREAS; the current lack of security on our border with the Republic of Mexico presents a human rights crisis as unaccompanied children cross, or attempt to cross, into our country and our victimized by the cartels, the environment and our inability to properly care of them once inside the United States; and

WHEREAS; the presentation at an international border by unaccompanied children trying to cross into another country with no adult oversight and without proper documentation to do so would be considered a crisis requiring immediate action anywhere else in the civilized world; and

WHEREAS; the Border Security Committee of the Western States Sheriffs' Association demands immediate action from Washington, DC to recognize the conditions we face, partner with Border Sheriffs in reaching community-based solutions, cease with the political blame-game, and restore policies/practices that will secure our border; and

WHEREAS; the Border Security Committee of the Western States Sheriffs' Association holds no animus toward any person, group of persons or nationality. Our desire for border security is grounded in three unimpeachable reasons they are national security, public safety and human rights; and

RESOLVED; the Western States Sheriffs' Association Border Security Committee recommends the following:

1. The current administration should acknowledge with absolute clarity of language that a national security, public safety and humanitarian crisis exists on the border to galvanize our national efforts to address it in a manner completely devoid of politics.
2. Federal policies must be changed to affirmatively address the crisis we face on the border.
3. Federal policies/practices must adhere to Federal Law.
4. Zealous federal pursuit, and prosecution, of transnational criminal organizations that are profiting by facilitating illegal immigration.
5. The Office of Health and Human Service take over the care of ill and/or minor illegal immigrants and allow Homeland Security personnel to return to their appropriate duties.
6. A re-deployment of federal law enforcement personnel to the border to enhance enforcement of current law.
7. Appropriations in sufficient amounts for Homeland Security and the sub-divisions under the umbrella of Homeland Security to address the crisis at the border.
8. The agencies under Homeland Security work in conjunction and active collaboration with the Border Sheriffs to combat the humanitarian and public safety crisis that has been created at the border.
9. Actively engage and communicate with our member Sheriffs to ensure proper captioning of the problems faced by border counties and ensure that solutions are effectively reached.



DOUGLAS A. DUCEY
GOVERNOR

STATE OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

February 17, 2021

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary of Homeland Security
MS 0525
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave SE
Washington, DC 20528-0525

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

Numerous mayors, sheriffs and non-governmental organizations across Arizona have contacted my office with serious concerns and questions surrounding recent policy changes occurring at the United States border with Mexico. It is my understanding that law enforcement, healthcare leaders, government officials, and community organizations and infrastructure have not been consulted throughout the planning process or before the announcement of these new policies. This policy decision has caused confusion and misinformation throughout Arizona communities. Arizonans deserve to understand what led to these changes and what steps are being taken to involve state government, law enforcement, community leaders, and non-profit organizations as this policy is implemented.

The hasty announcement repealing the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP) and the lack of details provided to crucial stakeholders in a border state during the development of this action is troubling.

My office has heard concerns from law enforcement and border communities that repealing MPP will result in a significant influx of unvetted individuals into the United States across the national border with Mexico. It is necessary and beneficial to consider the infrastructure and resources needed to monitor, care for and protect both the incoming individuals and surrounding communities — especially as our country and state are still combatting the COVID-19 pandemic.

In light of this, the repeal of MPP has raised numerous questions:

- How will individuals be monitored for health concerns and protected from COVID-19?
- How do the healthcare workers and facilities prepare and deal with this coming increase in cases and patients?
- Does the administration have a plan to keep migrants distanced from one another while



2021-03

**THE NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION RECOGNIZES THE CURRENT
PUBLIC SAFETY CHALLENGES OF A BORDER COUNTY**

WHEREAS, generally speaking, public safety and politics should not meet; and

WHEREAS, political debates over border security policies should instead be clear public safety discussions; and

WHEREAS, there are three clear and unimpeachable reasons to secure our international border with the Republic of Mexico:

- Public Safety,
- National Security,
- and Human Rights; and

WHEREAS, there is a compelling public safety interest in securing our border. The trafficking of drugs and humans through our southern border is an undeniable reality and clearly degrades public safety in border counties. The violence associated with drug trafficking impacts both sides of the border. The opioid crisis has led to the overdose deaths of thousands in the United States. Our deputies must now carry lifesaving NARCAN on their utility belts, because we are so often first on the scene and well trained in the use of the lifesaving medicine. The trafficking of humans results in higher crime in border communities and is facilitated by the drug cartels as another source of revenue. There is a clear public safety nexus to securing our international border; and

WHEREAS, due to the lack of security on the border we do not know who is crossing. Clearly, this could be exploited by foreign bad actors wishing to do harm domestically. It matters not whether it is one terrorist or dozens, as this is a strawman argument to detract from the reality of the terror threat in the U.S. One lone wolf foreign terrorist is a significant threat due to the changing nature of the terror threat we now face. We have seen ample evidence of this abroad with a lone terrorist using vehicles or crude weapons to inflict injury, death, and fear. There is a clear national security nexus to securing our international border; and

WHEREAS, the lack of security on the border serves as an incentive for undocumented immigration. This is not a harmless activity. Border Sheriffs recover hundreds of bodies a year in the remote areas of their counties. These are the result of migrant deaths at the hands of bandits or coyotes, or due to the harsh environmental conditions in the southwest. No matter how compassionate policy might be on the north side of the border, we will not impact the conditions on the south side of the border. Undocumented persons wishing to cross must interact with the drug cartels who control the plazas (entry points to cross the border). This interaction results in the financial, sexual, and criminal victimization of migrants. There is a clear human rights nexus to securing our international border; and

WHEREAS, politics should not, but unfortunately has, gotten in the way of thoughtful discourse on this issue and has done so at the detriment of public safety for border counties; and

WHEREAS, the rest of the Nation may see the issues along the border as being far removed from their communities and even fodder for political debate. However, the border impacts the entire Nation; and

NSA National Security initiatives

1. Direct CBP and ICE to enforce border related statutes. Cease all “no violation” decisions by CBP/ICE and allow them to pursue and stop illegal activity.
2. Strengthen border security enhancements, including, where appropriate, technologies, roads, cameras, structures, and aviation assets to deter significant openings utilized for human trafficking and drug cartel activities
3. Appoint a Border Federal Coordinating Officer (Czar) to be in located on the Border full time, similar to post disaster. Must have authority to move resources quickly and efficiently to combat the mass rapid movements. Must have the ability to hire, fire, budget, and have access to equipment and resources from San Diego to Brownsville.
4. Surge Air and Marine resources to place manned and unmanned surveillance along the Southern Border at designated zones seeing an increase of illegal activity.
5. Establish State Border State Safety Councils for every state to include: Law Enforcement, Community leaders, Feds, and stakeholders in attendance.
6. Direct the FCO and a Secretary’s senior advisor for Border security to attend each state, on their border, with Local, State and Federal Law Enforcement stakeholders for listening sessions.
7. Establish Border Safety Cooperative Agreements with states, local governments, social services entities, NGOs that includes cooperative agreements to work together for border stabilization. Permits Border states a voice in Federal security, interdiction, housing and transport actions. The federal government should match all expenditures by the border state involving manpower and infrastructure. Re appoint Sheriff stakeholders to DHS Advisory Council.
8. Recommend VP visit each Border state
9. Strengthen southern Mexican border with better intelligence and sharing of information with all US Federal agencies. Find a solution for narcotics information and operations sharing with the Government of Mexico.



Cochise County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Mark Dannels
Arizona Sheriffs Association President
Chairman of National Sheriffs Association Border Security
Executive Board of Western States Sheriffs Association

Cochise County 38th largest in US

6,300 square miles / 83 miles of Border



Sheriffs Objectives

- **Public Safety**
- **National Security**
- **Humanitarian**
- **Health (Covid-19)**

CBP SW Border Statistics 2021

- 1.7 million encounters
- 63% of them other than Mexican
- 37% were Mexican
- 8% unaccompanied minors
- 64% were processed under Title 42
- 164 Countries breached our SW Border
- 162 Migrants Died in Southern Arizona

2021 CBP Criminals

- 60 Homicides Suspects
- 1178 Assault Suspects
- 2138 Drug Suspects
- 825 Burglary Suspects
- 1629 DUI Suspects
- 336 Weapon Suspects
- 488 Sexual Assault Suspects

2021 CBP Drugs

- 10,000 lbs Fentanyl
- 180,000 lbs Methamphetamine
- 86,000 lbs Cocaine
- 5000 lbs Heroin
- 311,000 lbs Marijuana
- 270 Drug Overdose Deaths per Day

CBP October 1 2021 to January 2022

- Chief Raul Ortiz, Most Complicated Border in his 30 years.
- 690,000 encounters
- 190,000 Got Aways
- 47,000 Got Aways per month
- Assaults up 29%
- All 31 Border Counties Negatively Impacted

CBP SW Border February 2022

- 163,539 Encounters
- 11,670 Turn Backs
- 53,464 Got Aways
- 67 Deaths

CBP Tucson Sector (Cochise County)

February, 2022

- 22,289 Encounters
- 995 Turn-Backs
- 16,516 Got-Aways
- 7 Deaths

Throughout 2021: Got-Aways 10,000/month



**2021 Cochise County Sheriff's Office
Border Cameras:**

**43,229 encounters
51 Drug Smugglers**

100 % Conviction Rate for Drug Smugglers

**July 2021 to February 2022 Border Related Booking Costs were \$1.1
million in Cochise County**

**900 to 1000 Smugglers per month enter Cochise County to pick up
UDAs**

Average \$1000 per UDA

Almost 100% Got Aways within Cochise County

100% Camouflaged

Aggravated UDAs that can't give up

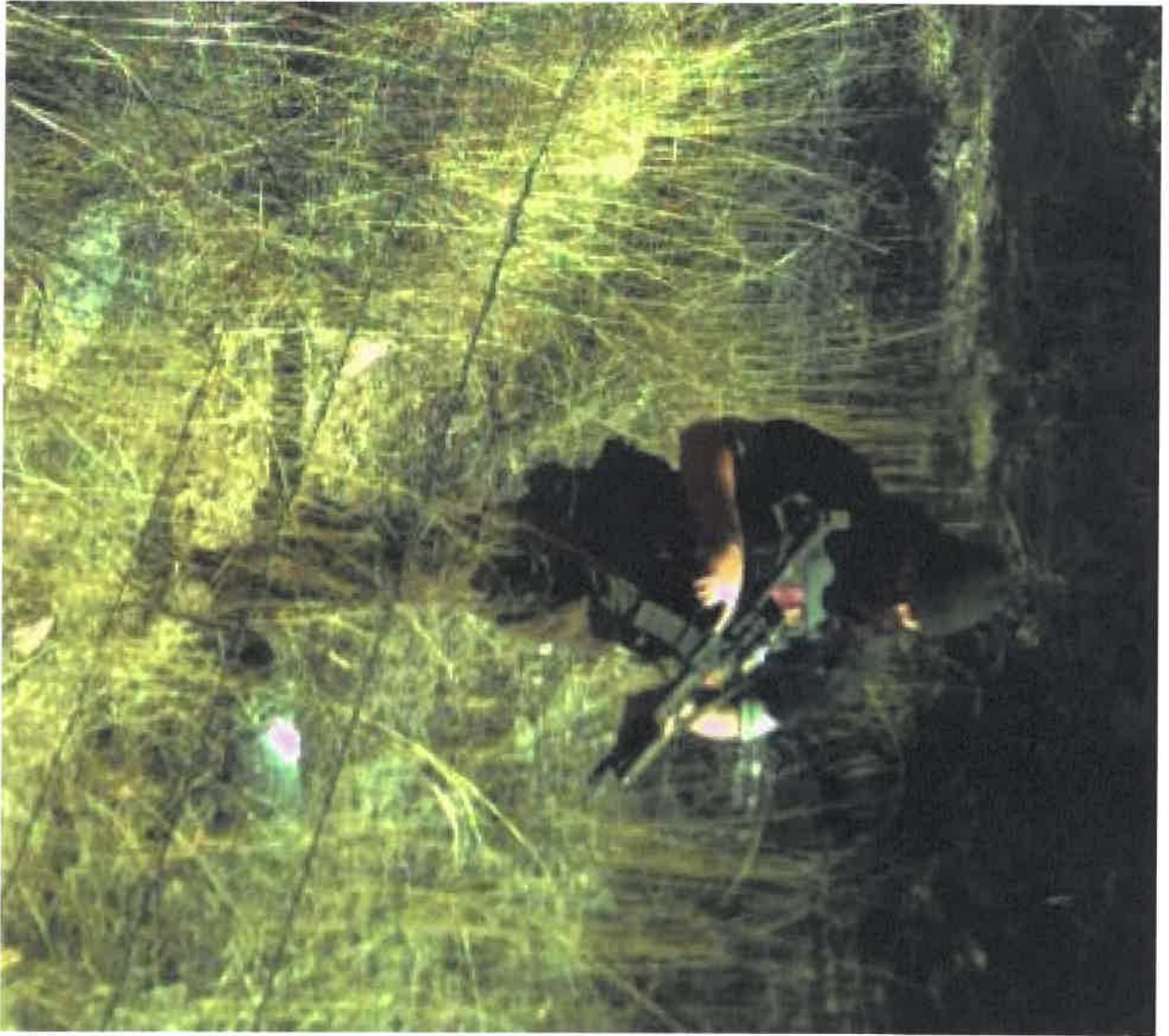
Search & Rescue/Recovery Missions

SABRE



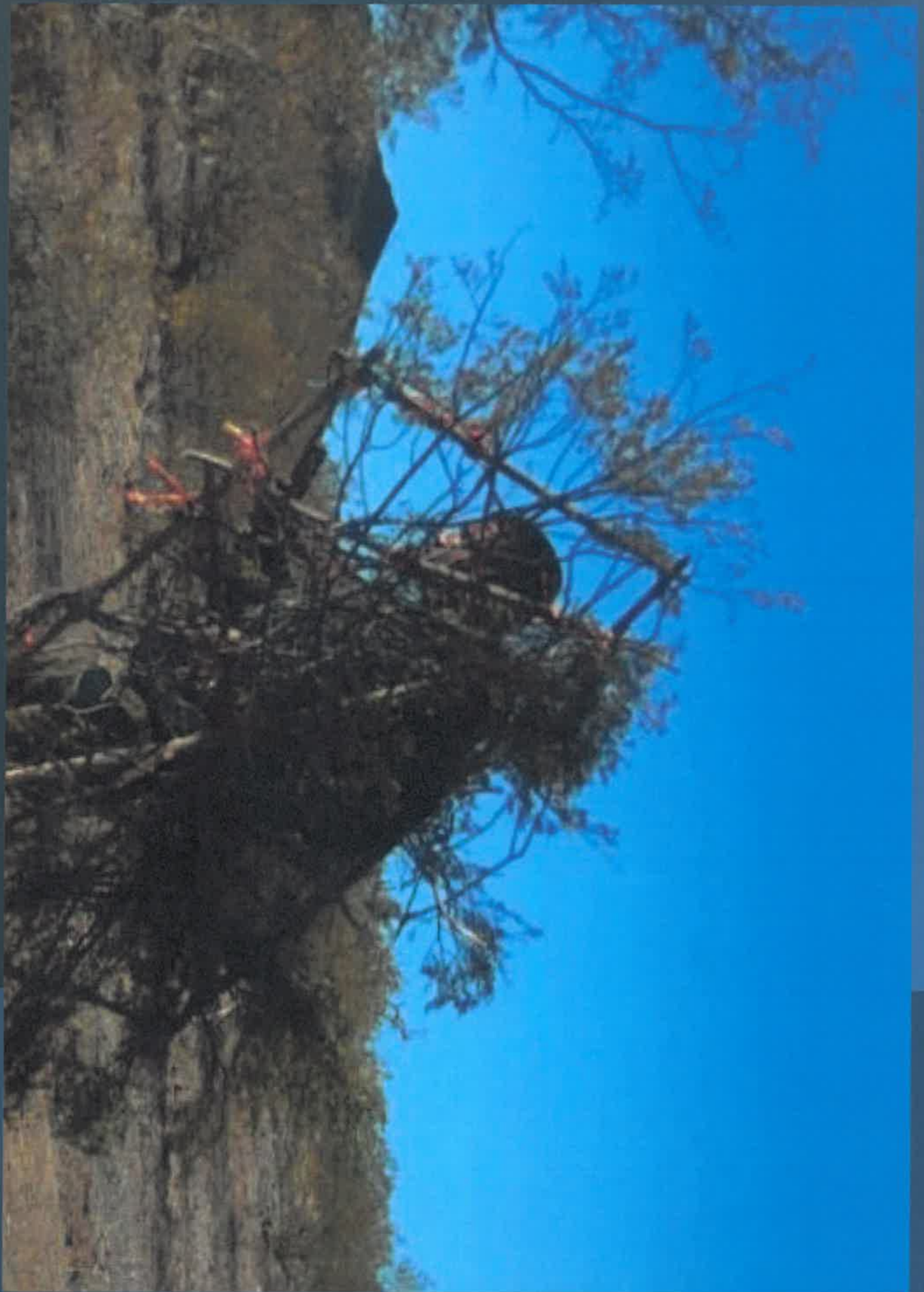
Do We Need a Better
Barrier?















Juvenile Smuggled Across Border











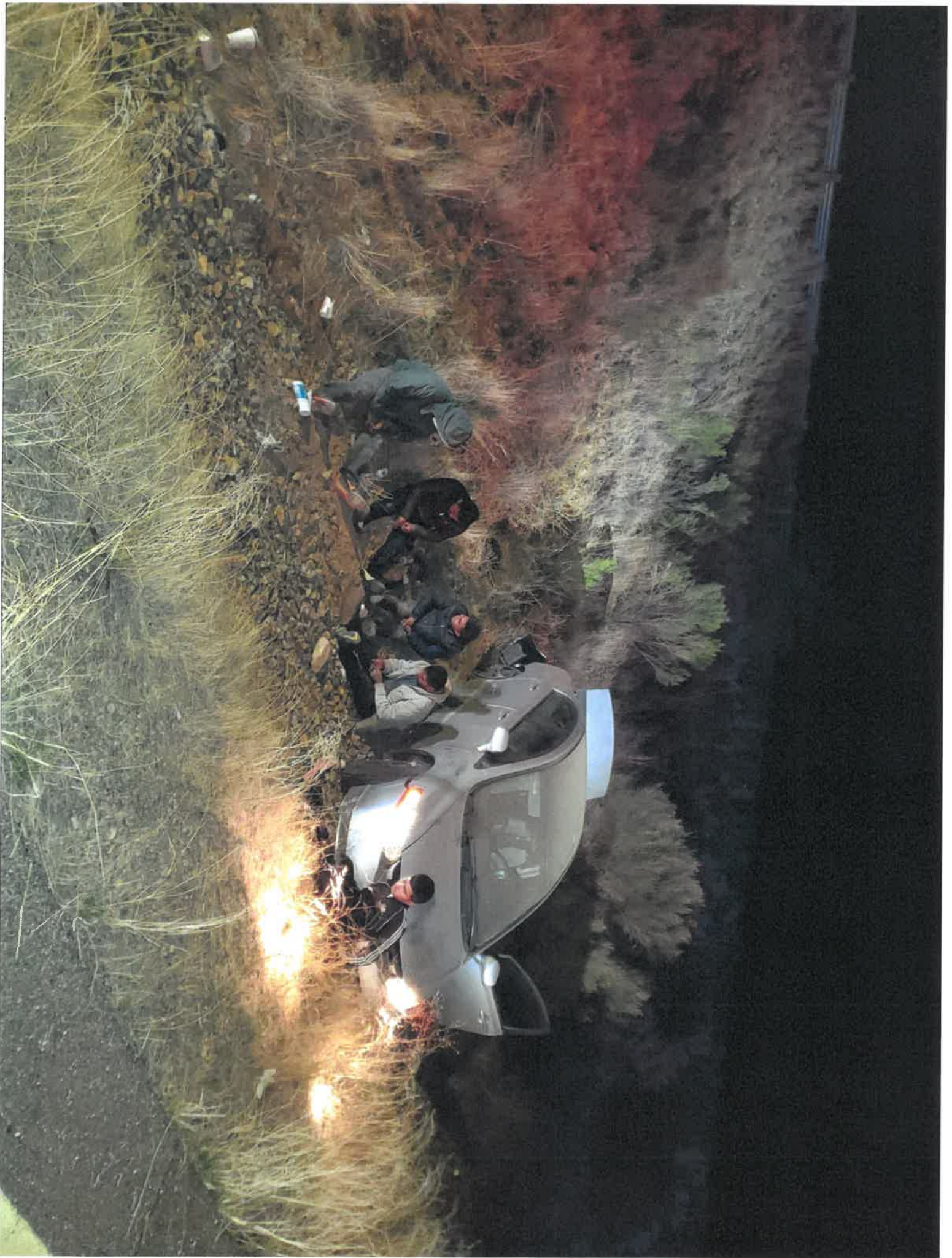
94 Lbs. of Meth

OPERATION
SAFE STREETS

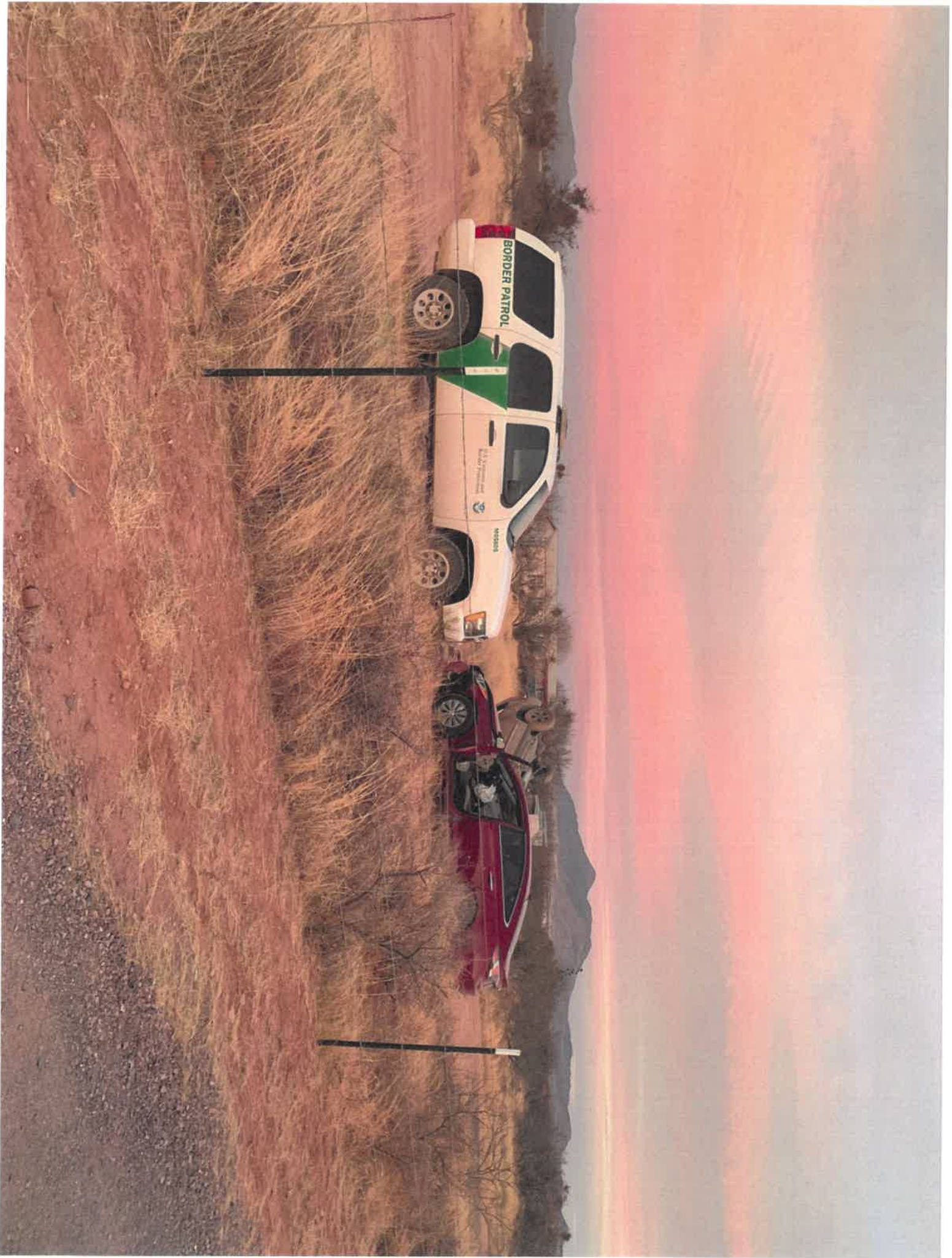
Reckless
Driving

Smuggling
Humans

Multi-Agency
Task Force











VIRTUAL RECRUITMENT

- Snapchat
- Instagram
- TIKTOK
- WhatsApp
- Facebook
- Twitter



Solutions

- **Collective Message (Local, State & Federal)**
- **Shared Action Plan**
- **Oath of Office for all Elected Officials**
- **Support the Rule of Law at all Levels**
- **Remove the Politics**
- **Address the TNOs (Cartels)**
- **Fund CBP (U.S. Congress reduced their budget \$960 million)**

Local/State Solutions

- Border Strike Force
- Supplemental Funding from State to Counties
- Virtual Camera System Support
- National Guard
- Equipment and Personnel
- Border Criminal Interdiction Team
- Border Operational Center
- Sex/Human Trafficking Unit

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

- Sheriff Mark J. Dannels
- #520-732-0930 cell
- #520-432-9505 office
- SGT Tim Williams
- #520-353-5627 cell
- #520-432-9508 office
- **QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**