

**Mark Dannels**  
**Sheriff**

**Tom Alinen**  
**Chief of Staff**

# **Office of the Sheriff**

## **Cochise County**



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### **United States House Committee on the Judiciary**

#### **“The Biden Border Crisis: Part I”**

**February 1, 2023**  
**10:00 a.m.**

#### **Opening Statement**

Good Morning: Mr. Chairman Jim Jordan, Ranking Member Jerrold “Jerry” Nadler and distinguished members of this committee. I appreciate the opportunity to address this committee regarding the status of our southern border from the optics of a community/local law enforcement perspective.

I have served our border communities for 38+ years and prior to that, as a member of our military serving in the U.S. Army stationed at Fort Huachuca located within Cochise County. I have always been a genuine believer in my Oath of Office to protect my Country, and now my County as the duly elected Sheriff for the past 11 years. I am the immediate past-President of the Arizona Sheriffs Association, Chair of the National Sheriffs Association Border Security, on the Executive Board for Western States Sheriffs and an active member of the Southwest Border Sheriffs.

All these associations share 3-Objectives:

#### **Public Safety, National Security and Humanitarian.**

In my submitted brief, I have shared with you all an overview of Cochise County and the history of our border. I have personally experienced the good, the bad and the ugly of being a border county. My office has always addressed border-related crimes, smuggling of both illicit drugs, humans, weapons and cash by our Transnational Organizations i.e. Criminal Cartels.

I am proud of our relationships with all our law enforcement partners that serve our communities.

To begin, I want to “Thank” our Customs & Border Patrol Officers and Agents who have worked tirelessly and diligently to protect this great nation. I want to “Thank” our Governor, Doug Ducey and our State Congressional Members for all their support. The men and women of the Cochise County Sheriff’s Office for their dedication and commitment in keeping our communities safe. To all my fellow Sheriffs that stand united for the Rule of Law in the protection of their communities. And, finally, I want to “Thank” my citizens for their patience and support in a time of crisis and disarray.

To best understand my presentation is to understand where we were over 2 years ago. My county was one on the safest border counties based on our collective governmental efforts, messaging and yes, enforcement efforts supported by the Rule of Law.

**The direct impact to my county/office:**

My citizens and law enforcement address mostly Got-Aways “Fight & Flight” in my County versus those giving up.

100% Camouflaged migrants being illegally smuggled by the Cartels, price tag per UDA begins at \$7000 and up.

These smugglers include juveniles being recruited via social media by the Cartels.

Border Related Booking (Detention) Costs in calendar year 2022 was \$4.3 million, absorbed by my local and state taxpayers.

Border-related Crime at an all-time high:

Death/Murder investigations, Aggravated acts against my citizens, Failure to Yields, Search and Rescue/Recovery and yes, assaults against law enforcement officials.

I have had my deputies being placed in life-threatening scenarios as the Cartels shows no regard for my citizens and/or those that wear a badge. Example: a Death Threat from the Cartel to kill one of my deputies.

Agents, Troopers, Deputies and Officers are addressing dangerous scenarios/criminals as a direct result of an “Open Border” exploited by these criminal cartels for Violence, Fear and Greed.

In calendar year 2022: 1578 Suspects booked into my jail for border-related crimes  
78 were foreign born

In 2021, over 5 million dosages of Fentanyl were seized on the Arizona border  
In 2022, over 12,000 pounds of Fentanyl was seized on the SW Border

Personal Tragedy I would like to share: a good citizen “Wanda” of my county was driving to her 65<sup>th</sup> birthday party when she was struck by a 16-year-old smuggler who had 3-UDAs in his vehicle drove through a red light at deadly speeds cutting her vehicle in half and killing her only moments later to have her son drive up on the scene.

**In closing**, my fellow Sheriffs and I have tried to partner with this administration to include the President of the United States with high hopes to share a **Collective Message, Collective Action Plan, Support the Rule of Law, Prioritize our southern border and provide updates reference Community Impacts and Concerns with little to no success.**

By allowing our border security mission and immigration laws to be discretionary, these Criminal Cartels continue to be the true winners, their exploitation of mankind is simply “Modern Day Slavery”; allowing thousands of pounds of illicit drugs into our country that continue to erode the core-values of families, schools and subsequently killing Americans on an average of 270 every day is completely unacceptable at any level. Experiencing migrant deaths without a reasonable process while U.S. Congress and this Administration intentionally avoids reality is gross negligence.

Our voice of reason has been buried during what I call an “Intellectual Avoidance” by this Administration and yes, members of U.S. Congress. Communities have been neglected and abandoned relying on our own local and state resources to address a border that is in crisis mode.

Our southern border, against all public comfort statements out of Washington D.C. is in the worst shape I have ever seen it. When one looks at Public Safety, National Security, and Humanitarian, our southern border is the largest crime scene in the country.

The morale of agents is extremely low and the collective frustration is very high amongst law enforcement at all levels and most important, our citizens.

With the recent efforts to cancel Title 42, this only serves to complex a border that needs immediate Immigration Reform by U.S. Congress, but most important, needs to be secured.

I am a true-believer that Customs and Border Patrol are the experts of Border Security while Sheriffs and Police Chiefs are the experts of community, together, this is a Recipe of Success for all communities!

I will leave you with this final statement, we all serve the priorities of Americans based on our shared Oaths of Office to keep them Safe, enhance their Quality of Life and Support the Rule of Law absent political affiliation or the concern of reelection; I ask each one of you to reflect on this statement as you make your next decision to vote.

Once again, I thank this committee for the invitation and opportunity and now, stand ready to answer any questions by members.

**Mark Dannels**  
**Sheriff**

**Tom Alinen**  
**Chief of Staff**

# Office of the Sheriff Cochise County



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## United States House Committee on the Judiciary

### Introduction

Testimony of Mr. Mark J. Dannels, Cochise County Sheriff, Arizona before the United States House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary reference a scheduled hearing on "The Biden Border Crisis Part I." The hearing will be held on Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 at 10:00 a.m..

Chairman Jim Jordan, Ranking Member Jerrold Nadler and Distinguished Members of this Committee, thank you for the invitation to speak to you today on this very important subject reference: **Public Safety, National Security, and Humanitarian.**

### 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 38<sup>th</sup> 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 to a sufficient number for the threat at that time. Over the last few years it has again decreased from a significant force to a scant number within Cochise County to secure and protect the 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 couple of years, our southern border has drastically changed. 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 24 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
- Social Media has become a venue for smuggling recruitment mainly focused on juveniles
- 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 the majority of the time 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 embrace 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 ALL types 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 community-public safety disappointment.

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,

*Mark J. Dannels*

Sheriff Mark J. Dannels

Attachments

- a. Sheriff Mark Dannels' Bio
- b. CCSO Annual Message 2023
- c. CCSO Annual Message 2022
- d. Forest Service Coronado National Forest Letter
- e. Western States Sheriffs' Association Letter October 7, 2022
- f. National Sheriffs' Association Letter August 1, 2022
- g. State of Arizona Legislative Proclamation May 25, 2022
- h. Cochise County Board of Supervisors Letter May 20, 2022
- i. State of Arizona Governor Douglas Ducey Letter May 10, 2022
- j. National Sheriffs' Association Letter May 9, 2022
- k. Arizona Sheriffs' Association Letter May 4, 2022
- l. Arizona Sheriffs' Association Resolution 2022-01
- m. National Sheriffs' Association Letter April 19, 2022
- n. Southwest Border Sheriffs' Coalition Letter April 19, 2022
- o. Texas Border Sheriffs' Coalition Letter April 19, 2022
- p. U.S. Senator Mark Kelly Letter April 6, 2022
- q. Western States Sheriffs' Association Resolution 22-1 March 3, 2022
- r. Arizona Sheriffs' Association Letter January 19, 2022
- s. Arizona Sheriffs' Association Letter January 19, 2022
- t. Western States Sheriffs' Association Position Paper
- u. National Sheriffs' Association Letter October 4, 2021
- v. National Sheriffs' Association Letter May 27, 2021
- w. 21-Photos reference Cochise County Border Crisis



### **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 26<sup>th</sup> 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"**

Mark Dannels  
Sheriff

Tom Alinen  
Chief of Staff

# Office of the Sheriff Cochise County



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## Sheriff's Annual Message

2023

Another Year has quickly passed, and the lessons and successes are now engrained within our legacy. The legacy of this office is rich with history brought forth by the plethora of talented men and women who have served our mission. That's where I would like to begin with this year's annual message.

In a time where organizations continue to face many challenges, leadership plays an instrumental role in addressing these complex times. Our leaders must understand that in today's workplace, there's not a single answer to motivate our team-members. We must maximize your talents in such a way that it collectively compliments the mission. The validation of our team-members is vital to the overall success of this office.

In this ever-changing workplace terrain, leaders need to think differently about how to motivate their teams. Leaders must be innovative, creative, and forward thinking. Diverting from the traditional ways of leading that have become too predictable and uninspiring are essential.

My cultural expectations begin with my senior leaders with transparent transition down to each one of you. These expectations include the following: Developing You, Leading Change, Navigating different Perspectives, Leading Teams and Career Confidence and Security. Leadership is simple, but never easy! I have great confidence with my leadership teams and will continue to empower and challenge them to adhere to the words within this annual message to promote our community message, mission and most important, you.

My priorities in 2023 are defined based on two words, **"Investment and Reputation."** I will begin with Investment.

The personal and professional investments you make every day enhances our abilities and opportunities. The countless educational, prevention and enforcement grants and programs, team-member market adjustments, recruitment and retention, state of the art equipment and technology, updated training and our continued community support come from your willingness to do what's legally, morally, and ethically "Right". We will always enforce the Rule of Law based on the facts, absent politics, opinions, social media, and emotions.

Secondly, our earned and respected reputation are integrated into our community culture. A culture that embraces and dictates our behavior supported by our public safety Oath of Office. We are Role Models and when we fail to fulfill this obligation, one must make that difficult decision, "Are able to serve others?" I am so proud of the men and women who without thought and unselfish

commitment place their lives in danger to help their fellow man. You truly are the strength and foundation to all our achievements promoting a continued legacy for this office.

In closing, your health, welfare, and safety are always paramount to me. Sadly, last year proved to be a year of uncertainty and great danger to the men and women of this office. As demonstrated over the last year and beyond, my leadership team and myself will “always” be there in your time of need to ensure you and your family have the support, resources, comfort, and structure to address these life-threatening scenarios. You’ll **never** be left alone!

Please be vigilant out there and Thank You for your Service to this Office and our Citizens!

With Great Pride and Honor,

*Mark J. Dannels*

Sheriff Mark J. Dannels

**Mark Dannels**  
**Sheriff**

**Thomas Alinen**  
**Chief of Staff**

## **Office of the Sheriff Cochise County**



### **Annual Message from the Desk of Sheriff Mark J. Dannels 2022**

Our law enforcement profession continues to be under a public microscope of scrutiny by those that possess a personal bias toward those that wear the badge. Unfortunately, political ideologies have infected our profession at all levels too. This general application of distaste directed at those that protect your communities and constitutional rights has created a negative impact on our profession.

Rural policing makes up over 88% of all the policing in America leaving less than 12% of policing for urban communities. My 37-year law enforcement career has been enjoyed in rural communities where the layers of bureaucracy are limited, and neighbors still know you by first name. Rural policing is special to me for all the right reasons. But no one can debate that rural policing faces many challenges. Recruitment and retention supported by compensation parity continues to hinder rural policing. Cochise County is no exception.

Since being elected, I have prioritized our loyal team-members with high hopes we can retain and pay these dedicated members a fair and market-driven compensation package. I commend members of our Board of Supervisors and you for sharing our vision as we have sustained competitive salaries for rural Cochise County. My commitment remains steadfast that we must remain competitive to retain our talented and skilled team-members supported by a vigorous marketing and recruiting program. Recruitment and retention are supported by team-member recognition and reward for their public service. An effort I have instilled with all my leadership team. I am proud to showcase the high caliber of men and women that serve this office's community mission.

To refresh our office's 3-objectives; Education, Prevention (awareness) and Enforcement. These blended objectives continue to serve our office well with a focus on Education and Prevention. Any community bond requires a shared trust. The ingredients of trust include your Sheriff's Office embracing a culture of community support. Culture equals behavior that is acceptable to our citizens guided by a progressive training and legal update program. Finally, our primary written expectation will always be our "Oath of Office."

The success of any law enforcement agency rests with its community reputation. I accept, we own our decisions, but the community owns our reputation. I take this action very seriously which reflects the positive reputation we possess with you and throughout the state. Once again, I credit our team-members for this earned reputation.

Additional priorities in 2022 will be our aging jail, continued partnerships, innovative programs in securing our border communities, fiscal responsibilities, implementation of a traffic unit to address traffic concerns with a focus on the impaired driver and most important, the continued relationship we share with you. The role of government shall never be governed within, but by those that we govern for.

I look forward to leading your Sheriff's Office in 2022 and conclude by saying this, "If the past has taught us anything, our challenges have become our successes." Thank you again for this tremendous opportunity as we come together to safeguard our home, Cochise County!

Authored with Respect and Honor,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'MJD', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Sheriff Mark J. Dannels

Allen Clark, Director  
Arizona Division of Emergency Management  
5636 E. McDowell Road Bldg. M5101  
Phoenix, AZ 85008

Dear Mr. Clark:

As you know, on September 16, 2022, representatives from your office, the Arizona Department of Emergency Management (AZDEMA), emailed Coronado National Forest personnel seeking authorization "to place barriers on National Forest land in all areas that currently have gaps in the federal wall." While they did not identify the specific gaps that AZDEMA seeks to address, media reports indicate that the project may entail the placement of approximately 300 containers between 20 and 40 feet in length along an undisclosed extent of National Forest System (NFS) lands. Members of my staff and I communicated verbally over the last two weeks with you and other personnel from your office, advising of the federal regulatory approval process that governs NFS land use and occupancy and that prior approval would need to be obtained before the State could proceed. Your office was also encouraged to communicate its plans to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

On the afternoon of October 5, 2022, Forest Service personnel observed approximately 15 shipping containers and associated construction equipment at a staging area just north of the international border on NFS lands in Cochise County. As of October 6, 2022, at least 22 shipping containers, associated construction equipment, and private security personnel were located on the area. The Forest Service did not authorize this occupancy and use. It is my understanding that AZDEMA also intends to transport additional containers to the border and that it proposes to utilize existing roads to transport shipping containers to their intended destinations. Not only has the Forest Service not authorized the placement of any shipping containers on NFS lands, AZDEMA has not identified which roads will be used, how the proposed road use will impact NFS lands, or the extent to which excavation will be required to facilitate the placement of the containers.

As we discussed previously, the process for obtaining a permit is outlined in 36 C.F.R. 251.54. Please provide the requisite information required by this process at your earliest convenience to Adam Milnor, Recreation and Lands Staff Officer, Coronado National Forest, at [adam.milnor@usda.gov](mailto:adam.milnor@usda.gov). Upon receipt of the required information, the Forest Service will assess the information provided against initial screening criteria outlined in the regulations. If the proposal passes the applicable screening criteria, it will also have to be analyzed for effects on the environment in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and other federal law.

Meanwhile, please refrain from any further activity associated with the containers on NFS lands, including the use of any equipment, until such time as a proper authorization is secured. If you have any questions about how to comply with the special use authorization process, please reach out to me by email at [kerwin.dewberry@usda.gov](mailto:kerwin.dewberry@usda.gov), or by phone at (520) 262-1652.

Sincerely,

**KERWIN**

**DEWBERRY**

Kerwin Dewberry

Forest Supervisor

Coronado National Forest

Digitally signed by  
KERWIN DEWBERRY  
Date: 2022.10.07  
19:44:35 -07'00'



# WESTERN STATES SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

474 Rogers Canyon Road  
Laramie, Wyoming 82072  
Telephone: 307 760 4075  
[www.westernsheriffs.org](http://www.westernsheriffs.org)

## 2022 EXECUTIVE BOARD:

### PRESIDENT

Sheriff Brett Schroetlin  
Grand County, CO

### VICE PRESIDENT

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### TREASURER

Sheriff Ray Del Bosque  
Zapata County, TX

### SGT AT ARMS

Sheriff Mark Dannels  
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Sheriff John Gautney

#### South Dakota

Sheriff Fred Lamphere

#### Texas

Sheriff Chris Kirk

#### Utah

Sheriff Steven White

#### Washington

Sheriff Dave Brown

#### Wyoming

Sheriff Danny Glick

October 7, 2022

President Joseph R. Biden

The White House

1600 Pennsylvania Ave.

Washington D.C. 20500

***Re: Western States Sheriffs' Association (WSSA) support of Southwestern Border Sheriffs' Coalition and Arizona Sheriffs' Association expressed No Confidence in Chris Magnus as CBP Commissioner***

Dear President Biden,

The Western States Sheriffs Association represents the Sheriffs across 17 states west of the Mississippi River. Our association works closely with the Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California border Sheriffs as well as all of the Sheriffs in the State of Arizona.

The WSSA is aware of the communications sent to you, by the Arizona Sheriffs and the Southwest Border Sheriffs, expressing No Confidence in Chris Magnus in his role as Commissioner of the Customs and Border Patrol.

We as an association concur with both the Arizona Sheriffs as well as the Southwest Border Sheriffs in stating that Commissioner Magnus has failed to build the necessary relationships to effectively curb the influx of illegal immigrants and illicit drugs that are crossing our southern border. State and local law enforcement are carrying the burden of the crisis at the border. The border counties are feeling the weight of the legal ramifications in their local criminal justice systems while simultaneously addressing the humanitarian crisis as well.

We stand in agreement with both organizations that Commissioner Magnus does not see these issues as a priority and also lacks the experience to effectively address the problems that have arisen due to the absence of the enforcement of the rule of law.

With Border security being a primary core mission of the CBP, it has become evident that the lack of effort being put forth by the CBP, under the direction of Commissioner Magnus, to achieve the mission is a disservice to the local communities, law enforcement and the safety and security of the American people.

We stand together with our member Sheriffs in Arizona and across the Southwest Border in expressing no confidence in Commissioner Magnus and agree he is not fit to lead the CBP.

Respectfully,

Sheriff Brett Schroetlin

Grand County, Colorado

President, WSSA



# NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

Jonathan F. Thompson  
Executive Director and CEO

August 1, 2022

President Joseph R. Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA), Major County Sheriffs of America, Western States Sheriffs' Association, and the Southwest and Texas Border Sheriffs Coalitions, I wish to invite you to join our leadership Summit on Wednesday, September 14, 2022 through Thursday, September 15, 2022 in Sierra Vista, Arizona.

The Summit will be a closed meeting where the leaders of these respective groups will convene to discuss the myriad of issues crucial to our nation's public safety. Given the gravity and breadth of issues confronting our members, we would be honored to have you join any portion of the frank, but off-the-record, discussions.

For decades you have seen the challenges law enforcement faces on a daily basis. I know you will find this an excellent opportunity to talk directly with these 50 leaders about your vision for protecting their communities and your efforts to better fund local law enforcement.

The Office of Sheriff is an important and unique tradition in America's law enforcement history. As you know, Sheriffs, with few exceptions, are elected officials who serve as the chief law enforcement officer in their respective jurisdictions. Our members represent 100% of the U.S. population and manage 87% of the nation's jails. The 3,080 sheriffs serve demographically and geographically diverse communities; however, the challenges they face collectively are becoming issues of paramount concern to the nation.

Please note, this event would require all security costs be assumed by The Secret Service and the White House.

I thank you for your consideration of this invitation and, in advance, for your prompt reply. Finally, for more information and logistical details about the conference, your staff can contact NSA's Director of Government Affairs, Loren Hoekstra, at (703) 946-0578 or [lhoekstra@sheriffs.org](mailto:lhoekstra@sheriffs.org).

Sincerely,

Jonathan F. Thompson  
Executive Director and CEO

*State of Arizona*



*Legislative Proclamation*

DENOUNCING THE CURRENT CRISIS WITH RESPECT TO THE SOUTHERN BORDER

Whereas, the United States-Mexico border consists of 1,954 miles of varied terrain, including deserts, rugged mountainous areas, forests and coastal areas; and

Whereas, officially established in 1924 by an act of Congress in response to increasing illegal immigration, the United States Border Patrol has primary responsibility for securing the border between ports of entry; and Whereas, Border Patrol agents patrol international land borders and waterways to detect and prevent the illegal trafficking of people, narcotics, and contraband into the United States; and

Whereas, on March 7, 2022, the Western States Sheriffs' Association unanimously passed Resolution 22-1, which outlines the alarming issues facing our nation due to the unchecked illegal immigration crises at our southern border; and

Whereas, the southern border of the United States is currently experiencing an unprecedented number of people attempting to enter the country illegally, with the past fiscal year seeing a 379% increase of border encounters as compared to the previous fiscal year. These 1.7 million individuals represent 164 countries, including countries with suspected terrorist ties, and 63% of them are from countries other than Mexico; and

Whereas, there has likewise been a major increase in apprehensions, expulsions and "gotaways" on the southwest border, with one million encounters and 300,000 getaways between October 1, 2021, and April 11, 2022; and

Whereas, in the past fiscal year, the number of illegal drugs seized has skyrocketed, including 10,000 pounds of fentanyl, 180,000 pounds of methamphetamine, 86,000 pounds of cocaine, 5,000 pounds of heroin and 311,000 pounds of marijuana. Likewise, criminal activity has soared, with law enforcement documenting 60 homicides, 1,178 assaults, 2,138 drug-related or drug trafficking arrests, 825 burglaries, 1,629 DUIs, 336 weapons arrests and 488 sexual assaults; and

Whereas, in a new effort to boost their operations, criminal cartels are using social media platforms as a recruiting tool for human smuggling. Drivers are lured by social media posts promising payment of \$1,500 to \$2,000 for every migrant a person can transport by vehicle to Tucson or Phoenix. Known as "load-car drivers," these individuals are mainly young people, some as young as fourteen years old, who are enticed to pick up undocumented migrants at the border and ferry them to their destinations in exchange for money. Arizona Governor Doug Ducey has called on four social media giants to better monitor their platforms and ban these recruitment posts on their sites; and

Whereas, for individuals who are smuggled into the United States by Mexican and South American cartels, their arrival marks the beginning of years of drug distribution, modern-day slavery, and sex trafficking to pay back the criminal cartels to which they are indebted; and

Whereas, an estimated 8% of the 1.7 million encounters last fiscal year were unaccompanied minors; and

Whereas, tragically, the prior year saw 162 migrant deaths in Southern Arizona; and

Whereas, an uncontrolled border is a security and humanitarian crisis, and the increased violence and the smuggling of illegal drugs, weapons and human beings poses a direct threat to our communities and innocent Americans; and

Whereas, the current administration has halted construction of a southern border wall, and there are numerous unfinished sections in Arizona; and

Whereas, this administration is not working collaboratively or in good faith with local law enforcement agencies and other state leaders to address the serious issues related to the border; and

Whereas, in April 2021, Arizona Governor Doug Ducey declared a state of emergency at Arizona's southern border; and

Whereas, in February 2022, Arizona Attorney General Mark Brnovich issued a legal opinion determining that the current crisis at Arizona's southern border with the violence and lawlessness of cartels and gangs legally qualifies as an "invasion" under the United States Constitution.

Therefore, Representative Gail Griffin and the following members of the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona denounce the continued breach of our nation's southern border and support safe communities, immediate, decisive action to secure the border and alleviate the security and humanitarian crises associated with illegal immigration.

*Dated this 25th day of May 2022*



*Gail Griffin*

Representative Gail Griffin

*Rusty Bowers*

Speaker of the House Rusty Bowers

*Ben Toma*

Majority Leader Ben Toma

*Leo Biasiucci*

Majority Whip Leo Biasiucci

*Travis Grantham*

Speaker Pro Tempore Travis Grantham

*Brenda Barton*

Representative Brenda Barton

*Walter Blackman*

Representative Walter Blackman

*Shawnna Bolick*

Representative Shawnna Bolick

*Judy Burges*

Representative Judy Burges

*Frank Carroll*

Representative Frank Carroll

*Neal Carter*

Representative Neal Carter

*Joseph Chaplik*

Representative Joseph Chaplik

*Regina Cobb*

Representative Regina Cobb

*David Cook*

Representative David Cook

*Lupe Diaz*

Representative Lupe Diaz

*Tim Dunn*

Representative Tim Dunn

*John Fillmore*

Representative John Fillmore

*Mark Finchem*

Representative Mark Finchem

*Jake Hoffman*

Representative Jake Hoffman

*Joel John*

Representative Joel John

*Steve Kaiser*

Representative Steve Kaiser

*John Kavanagh*

Representative John Kavanagh

*Teresa Martinez*

Representative Teresa Martinez

*Quang Nguyen*

Representative Quang Nguyen

*Joanne Osborne*

Representative Joanne Osborne

*Jacqueline Parker*

Representative Jacqueline Parker

*Kevin Payne*

Representative Kevin Payne

*Beverly Pingerelli*

Representative Beverly Pingerelli

*Michelle Udall*

Representative Michelle Udall

*Jeff Weninger*

Representative Jeff Weninger

*Justin Wilmeth*

Representative Justin Wilmeth



## Cochise County Board of Supervisors

*Public Programs...Personal Service*  
[www.cochise.az.gov](http://www.cochise.az.gov)

**ANN ENGLISH**  
Supervisor  
District 2

May 20, 2022

The Honorable Kyrsten Sinema  
United States Senate  
317 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mark Kelly  
United States Senate  
Dirksen Senate Office Suite B40B  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Sinema and Kelly:

As Chairman of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors and Supervisor for Cochise County District 2, I am writing to express my support for the "Public Health and Border Security Act of 2022". District 2 in Cochise County encompasses both the Douglas (Port Code 2601) and Naco (Port Code 2603) Ports of Entry. I also serve on the Arizona Border Counties Coalition.

With the lifting of Title 42 on May 23, 2022, I fear that federal enforcement agencies and border communities like Cochise County will be overwhelmed by what is anticipated to be a significant increase of migrants attempting to cross into the United States.

According to U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) data, the Tucson sector, which includes Cochise County, had 191,232 encounters with individuals from dozens of countries in FY 2021. This volume is already causing significant stress on the limited resources that are currently available to support enforcement activities and provide humanitarian relief for those seeking to cross into our country.

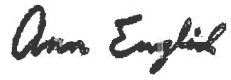
Border communities, non-profit organizations, and the principal enforcement and federal support agencies, which include CBP and the Department of Health and Human Services, need additional resources. I applaud CBP personnel on the ground for doing the best with what they have, but that is not the way to protect our border, our communities or our nation. There needs to be a firm commitment to providing the necessary resources so that the response is up to the task. This is critical for the safety of the enforcement personnel as well as the welfare of all migrants.

For Cochise County, it is essential that trade and tourism continue without interruption. I fear that starting on May 23rd, CBP will be forced to pull staffing and resources out of day-to-day operations at the ports of entry, including Douglas and Naco, in order to respond to the anticipated influx of migrants at the border. At a time when we are finally seeing our border crossing volumes return to pre-pandemic levels, the potential economic loss to border communities is unacceptable.

1415 Melody Lane, Building G  
Bisbee, Arizona 85603  
520-432-9200  
520-559-3768 cell  
520-432-5016 fax  
[aenglish@cochise.az.gov](mailto:aenglish@cochise.az.gov)

It is imperative that decision makers in Washington, D.C. consider the impact of their decisions on the border and those of us who have to live with the consequences. I am grateful for your continued advocacy for the interests of our county and the border region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ann English". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Ann" and last name "English" clearly distinguishable.

Ann English  
Chairman, Cochise County Board of Supervisors



DOUGLAS A. DUCEY  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF ARIZONA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

May 10, 2022

Parag Agrawal  
Chief Executive Officer  
Twitter, Inc.  
1355 Market Street, Suite 900  
San Francisco, CA 94103

Shou Zi Chew  
Chief Executive Officer  
Tik Tok, Inc.  
5800 Bristol Parkway, Suite 100  
Culver City, CA 90230

Evan Spiegel  
Chief Executive Officer  
Snap, Inc.  
2772 Donald Douglas Loop North  
Santa Monica, CA 90405

Mark Zuckerberg  
Chief Executive Officer  
Meta Platforms, Inc.  
1 Hacker Way  
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Dear Mr. Agrawal, Mr. Chew, Mr. Spiegel, and Mr. Zuckerberg:

It's no secret that our southern border is a mess. As a result of misguided policies and a lack of action by the federal government, a humanitarian crisis and public safety crisis has developed. Last month, an average of 7,800 migrants were apprehended at the Southwest Border each day. Fentanyl is pouring across the border and filling Arizona communities' bloodstreams. Fentanyl overdoses have replaced car accidents as the leading cause of death for people 19 and younger in Pima County. And in 2021, when overdose deaths hit a record high, fentanyl was involved in more than 77% of adolescent overdose deaths. Human trafficking and drug trafficking is rampant — with cartels preying on those seeking refuge for a better life, and facilitating the flow of drugs into American communities. **And — these criminals are using your companies' social media platforms to make it happen.**

Law enforcement at the state, local, and federal levels have seen social media recruiting by the cartels and traffickers increase since 2019, and skyrocket during 2021 and 2022<sup>1</sup>. Our law enforcement authorities have tracked countless social media posts and messages which glamorize the money and lifestyle attainable by smuggling. Messages are exchanged between the account operator who posted the content and the interested viewers who engage with the content. Apprehended smugglers share how they get recruited through enticing social media content in interviews with authorities. These are also visible to the public viewer. Offers of \$1,500 - \$2,000 are being made for young people to travel from Phoenix to the border to assist in human trafficking.

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<sup>1</sup> Examples of this activity can be found in the attached article from the Sierra Vista Herald. Additional information may be obtained from Arizona law enforcement agencies working on these criminal investigations.

May 10, 2022

Parag Agrawal, Shou Zi Chew, Evan Spiegel, Mark Zuckerberg

Page 2 of 2

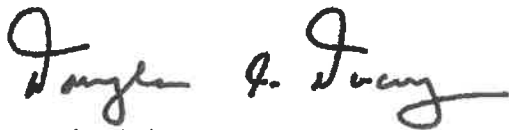
The state has directed a great deal of resources towards this problem - declaring an emergency, deploying the national guard, increasing police interdiction and partnering with other states to help with sharing of information. **But we need your help.**

Kids are being lured with the promise of quick cash to aid the cartels in their smuggling operations, break traffic laws to evade police, endanger themselves, passengers, and innocent occupants of other cars and ultimately jeopardize their future all because they responded to an ad on social media. Your companies have established reporting mechanisms for criminal behavior, but we need stronger action to prevent this activity that is drawing our young people into a life of crime. Inaction only enables cartels to victimize countless youth and families. **This crisis presents a real opportunity for you and your companies to take action and make a difference.**

Just as your companies work to protect youth from obscenity and violence on your social media platforms, it's time to protect them from criminal solicitation as well. In screening these ads, your companies can increase the safety of our communities while also protecting these kids from enticement into activity that will ultimately result in their involvement with the judicial system and all the consequences that come with that.

I urge you to stop letting your social media platform be used as a tool for criminal activity, and I welcome your partnership to address this issue. **It's time for the entire social media industry to put a stop to this activity and prevent the exploitation of our youth.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas A. Ducey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Douglas" being the most prominent.

Douglas A. Ducey  
Governor  
State of Arizona

Attachment



# NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

VERNON P. STANFORTH  
President

JONATHAN F. THOMPSON  
Executive Director and CEO

May 9, 2022

The Honorable Doug Ducey  
Governor of Arizona  
1700 West Washington Street  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Re: The National Sheriffs' Association Supports the *American Governors' Border Strike Force*

Dear Governor Ducey:

On behalf of the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA), we write to applaud you for your leadership, and the 26 Governors across the United States, in establishing the *American Governor's Border Strike Force*. Border Sheriffs are on the front-lines of the deteriorating border situation, and all across America, Sheriffs are also well aware of how the dire situation on the border is impacting interior communities nationwide.

The border crisis is a national security crisis, a humanitarian crisis, and a public health crisis as it fuels an increase in crime, including human trafficking; the spread of Covid-19; and out-of-control opioid, fentanyl, and other illicit drug deaths in every state.

Accordingly, it is our hope that the *American Governors' Border Strike Force* will generate the leverage needed to target the cartels, both operationally and financially. We believe the *Strike Force* can do this by: increasing collaboration amongst all levels of government; improving intelligence gathering and investing in analysis; targeting human smugglers and traffickers; and stopping the flow of illicit drugs across the border and into America's local communities.

In closing, we thank you for working collaboratively with local law enforcement to secure this country's southern border; and, be assured, the National Sheriffs' Association supports the *American Governors' Border Strike Force* as this country's Sheriffs stand ready to enforce the Rule of Law in safeguarding our communities, our counties, our states, and our nation.

Sincerely,

Vernon P. Stanforth  
President

Jonathan F. Thompson  
Executive Director & CEO



## ARIZONA SHERIFF'S ASSOCIATION

1910 W. JEFFERSON • PHOENIX, ARIZONA • 85009  
TELEPHONE: (602) 252-6563 • FACSIMILE: (602) 254-0969

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

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

May 4, 2022

The Honorable Doug Ducey  
Governor of Arizona  
1700 W. Washington Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: Arizona Sheriffs Support American Governor's Border Strike Force

Dear Governor Ducey:

On behalf of the Arizona Sheriff's Association, we write to applaud the creation of the 26-state American Governor's Border Strike Force. As Arizona's elected law enforcement leaders across the state, we continue to see the border situation deteriorate and it is having real impacts on all of our communities.

The American Governor's Border Strike Force can hopefully generate the leverage needed to target the cartels both operationally and financially by increasing collaboration amongst all levels of government, improving intelligence gathering, investing in analysis, targeting human smugglers, and stopping the flow of illicit drugs into communities all across the nation.

The border crisis is a clear national security concern, humanitarian crisis, public health crisis, and it's fueling the drug epidemic in every state. Thank you for your leadership in bringing 26 states to the table to address this nationwide issue and working collaboratively with local law enforcement to secure our southern border.

We stand ready to enforce the rule of law in Arizona and remain committed to protecting our counties, state, and nation.

Sincerely,

Mark Dannels  
President Arizona Sheriff's Association  
Cochise County Sheriff

Mark Lamb  
Vice-President Arizona Sheriff's Association  
Pinal County Sheriff



# ARIZONA SHERIFF'S ASSOCIATION

1910 W. JEFFERSON • PHOENIX, ARIZONA • 85009  
TELEPHONE: (602) 252-6563 • FACSIMILE: (602) 254-0969

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

## **RESOLUTION 2022 - 01 ARIZONA SHERIFF'S ASSOCIATION EXPRESSES NO CONFIDENCE IN VICE PRESIDENT HARRIS**

**WHEREAS;** the Arizona Sheriffs Association (ASA) is an organization comprised of elected county sheriffs who have sworn to maintain the public trust through open, honest, and ethical administration of their respective offices and exercising integrity and professionalism in the use of their constitutional powers and authority; and

**WHEREAS;** Arizona's Sheriffs work together with our federal partners to secure our communities and country amidst the ongoing crisis at the border. Over the past 12 months we have witnessed the continued breach of the border by illegal immigrants who seek to find refuge in the United States. Many are hoping to reach our homeland in search of a life of freedom. Yet, many will come here with a debt owed to the transnational criminal cartels of Mexico and South America. For some, reaching the United States marks the beginning of years of drug distribution, modern-day slavery, and sex trafficking to pay back the criminal cartels for the privilege of being smuggled into the United States; and

**WHEREAS;** this is not a new phenomenon. This has been occurring for decades. This is the reason our dedicated officers and agents from Customs and Border Patrol and our nation's Sheriffs are coming together to share a common mission to secure our borders and communities. A collective effort to deter the northward flow of illegal immigrants and drugs continues to be a priority for these law enforcement professionals. Over the last year, the problem at our southern border has continued to get worse with an increase in illicit smuggling and criminal violence challenging every community within our nation; and

**WHEREAS;** today, we are witnessing a complete and total breakdown of policies compared to past years including over a 379% increase of border encounters compared to the previous fiscal year. The getaway numbers are staggering and result in dangerous criminals flowing into our communities leaving innocent Americans vulnerable; and

**WHEREAS;** Vice President, Kamala Harris was appointed and sworn into her position under oath to protect the rule of law and Americans. As our nation's Vice President, she is responsible for carrying out those public safety responsibilities delegated to the United States. Since her appointment, we have seen her policies enacted that only serve to dismantle the security of our country and the enforcement efforts of the hard-working federal officers assigned to an extremely difficult task; and

**WHEREAS;** Arizona's Sheriffs have watched in disbelief as the southern border has turned into an invisible line in the sand. Border Patrol agents have been relegated to daycare supervisors at housing units and when they do attempt to act, they are scrutinized, placed on administrative leave, and investigated for political gain. The tragedy of an invisible border is being realized across the United States as massive amounts of drugs are moving across interstate highways and small rural roads throughout the nation. American citizens continue to die from overdoses in this country at an



## ARIZONA SHERIFF'S ASSOCIATION

1910 W. JEFFERSON • PHOENIX, ARIZONA • 85009  
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MARK DANNELS, COCHISE COUNTY SHERIFF, PRESIDENT  
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THE ARIZONA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION IS THE ONE UNITED CREDIBLE VOICE REPRESENTING LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PUBLIC SAFETY FOR THE COUNTIES OF ARIZONA

alarming rate every day. Current statistics show that more people have died in the United States from fentanyl overdoses than from COVID in the past 20 months. Fentanyl is coming across our southern border and into the interior of the United States at an alarming and unacceptable rate. Violent crime is increasing throughout the United States and examples of the atrocities carried out by illegal immigrants are beginning to surface in the media.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED;** after witnessing this disaster over the past year and listening to the continued rhetoric and intellectual dishonesty from Vice President Harris, the Arizona Sheriff's Association, must emphatically state our position of having no confidence in the ability of Vice President Kamala Harris, and her leadership within the office of Vice President, to affect any positive outcome on this matter.

**FURTHERMORE;** we call on President Joe Biden to take the appropriate steps to remove Vice President Kamala Harris from her leadership position and appoint a new leader who can recognize, respect, and enforce the rule of law for the safety and security of our nation along its borders. We demand, and America deserves, a leader who will work collectively with our nation's Sheriffs and the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol to regain control of our nation's southern border. Finally, a decision to make this change must come immediately. If there is a legitimate "matter of national security" for this nation, at this time, this is it. Arizona's Sheriffs, and specifically our border Sheriffs, stand united and ready to work with our federal administration to restore security and safety on our nation's southern border.

Signed the 29<sup>th</sup> day of April 2022

Mark Dannels  
President Arizona Sheriff's Association  
Cochise County Sheriff

Mark Lamb  
Vice-President Arizona Sheriff's Association  
Pinal County Sheriff



# NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

April 19, 2022

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
322 Hart Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
317 Russell Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leaders:

On behalf of the National Sheriffs Association and the Border Sheriffs of this Nation, we write today to lend our voice to keeping Title 42 authority for Customs and Border officers intact. Title 42 is a public health authority used by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to protect against the spread of communicable disease. The CDC is affirmatively seeking to rescind this policy on May 23, 2022. Title 42 is the only policy provision left since January 2022 that helps to stop the unhealthy (no COVID testing) border crossings by millions of illegal entrants to our Country.

We simply have no border left in Arizona, New Mexico, Texas or Southern California. The Administration since day one, phased out remain in Mexico (overturned by courts), reversed asylum restrictions, implemented 100 day pause on deportations and stopped building the barrier which defines our border. Now, the Administration is ending one of our most effective health measures, Title 42, which seeks to return illegal immigrants to their home country during this pandemic. Today, there are thousands of immigrants in the jungles of the Darien gap headed to the US border. We simply don't know their health status and implore you to keep Title 42 as the last policy we have to keep Americans safe from COVID and a host of other communicable diseases carried by these immigrants.

We have already reached the million-illegal immigrant mark in just 6 short months. This letter addresses Title 42 so we won't speak about the amount of fentanyl, cocaine, methamphetamine, ghost guns, ammunition and other deadly substances flowing across our border at this very moment.

We the undersigned Sheriffs call for the Congress to keep Title 42 and help save American lives.

Respectfully,

Jonathan F. Thompson  
Executive Director/CEO

**State Sheriff Associations:**  
Florida Sheriffs Association  
Idaho Sheriffs' Association  
Illinois Sheriffs' Association  
New York Sheriffs' Association  
Oregon State Sheriffs' Association  
Southwestern Border Sheriffs' Coalition  
Texas Border Sheriffs' Coalition  
Western States Sheriffs' Association

**Arizona**

Sheriff David Clouse, Navajo County  
Sheriff Mark Dannels, Cochise County  
Sheriff Joseph Dedman, Jr., Apache County  
Sheriff David Rhodes, Yavapai County  
Sheriff Leon Wilmont, Yuma County

**Colorado**

Sheriff Brett Schroetlin, Grand County

**Florida**

Sheriff Kevin Rambosk, Collier County

**Idaho**

Sheriff Kieran Donahue, Canyon County  
Sheriff Dave Kramer, Boundary County

**Illinois**

Sheriff Ken Briley, Grundy County  
Sheriff Karl H. Groesch, Brown County  
Sheriff Shawn Kahl, Macoupin County  
Sheriff Kerry Loncka, Henry County  
Sheriff Trenton Masterson, Lawrence County  
Sheriff J. Derek Morgan, Wabash County  
Sheriff Michael Ringhausen, Jersey County  
Sheriff Wayne Strawn II, Marshall County  
Sheriff Bennie Vick, Williamson County  
Sheriff Richard Watson, St. Clair County

**Indiana**

Sheriff Brett Clark, Hendricks County  
Sheriff Jamey Noel, Clark County

**Kansas**

Sheriff Tim Morse, Jackson County  
Sheriff Jeffrey Richards, Franklin County

**Maryland**

Sheriff Jeffrey Gahler, Harford County

**Massachusetts**

Sheriff Tom Hodgson, Bristol County

**Missouri**

Sheriff Brad Cole, Christian County

**Nevada**

Sheriff Mike Allen, Humboldt County  
Sheriff Jesse Watts, Eureka County

**New Mexico**

Sheriff David Black, Otero County

**New York**

Sheriff Todd Baxter, Monroe County  
Sheriff Brooks Bigwarfe, St. Lawrence County  
Sheriff Ernest Cutting, Chenango County  
Sheriff Richard J. Devlin, Jr., Otsego County  
Sheriff Thomas Dougherty, Livingston County  
Sheriff Carl DuBois, Orange County  
Sheriff Michael J. Filicetti, Niagara County  
Sheriff John Garcia, Erie County  
Sheriff Richard Giardino, Fulton County  
Sheriff David Harder, Broome County  
Sheriff Mark Helms, Courtland County  
Sheriff Don Hilton, Oswego County  
Sheriff Todd Hood, Madison County  
Sheriff Peter Kuminsky, Greene County  
Sheriff W. Timothy Luce, Seneca County  
Sheriff Robert Maciol, Oneida County  
Sheriff Kevin McConville, Putnam County  
Sheriff Robert Milby, Wayne County  
Sheriff Kevin Mulverhill, Franklin County

**New York (continued)**

Sheriff Philip Povero, Ontario County  
Sheriff James Quattrone, Chautauqua County  
Sheriff Gregory Rudolph, Wyoming County  
Sheriff Patrick A. Russo, Rensselaer County  
Sheriff Brian Schenck, Cayuga County  
Sheriff Scott Scherer, Herkimer County  
Sheriff William Schrom, Chemung County  
Sheriff William Sheron, Genesee County  
Sheriff Jeffery T. Smith, Montgomery County  
Sheriff Ronald Spike, Yates County  
Sheriff Rickey Whitney, Allegany County  
Sheriff Michael Zurlo, Saratoga County

**Texas**

Sheriff Roy Boyd, Goliad County  
Sheriff Danny C. Dominguez, Presidio County  
Sheriff Benny Martinez, Brooks County  
Sheriff Jospeh Frank Martinez, Val Verde County  
Sheriff Jim Skinner, Collin County  
Sheriff Donald G. Sowell, Grimes County



# Southwestern Border Sheriff's Coalition

P.O. Box 821 ★ Junction, TX 76849

Tel: (325) 215-2403

April 19, 2022

**Whereas**, the Southwestern Border Sheriff's Coalition represents Sheriffs from 4 states whose counties are within 25 miles of the Southern Border or contain a permanent federal checkpoint,

Our membership works together with our federal partners to secure our communities and country amidst the ongoing crisis at the border. Over the past 12 months we have witnessed the continued breach of the border by illegal Immigrants who seek to find refuge in the United States. Many are hoping to reach our homeland in search of a life of freedom. Many will come here with a debt owed to the transnational criminal cartels of Mexico and South America. For some, reaching the United States marks the beginning of years of drug distribution, modern-day slavery, and sex trafficking in order to pay back the criminal cartels for the privilege of being smuggled into the United States And,

**Whereas**, this is not a new phenomenon. This has been occurring for decades. This is the reason our dedicated Officers and Agents from Customs and Border Patrol and our Nation's Sheriffs are coming together to share a common mission to secure our borders and communities. A collective effort to deter the northward flow of illegal immigrants and drugs continues to be a priority for these law enforcement professionals. Over the last year, the problem at our southern border has continued to get worse with an increase in illicit smuggling and criminal violence challenging every community within our nation And,

**Whereas**, Today, we are witnessing a complete and total breakdown of policies compared to past years. Over a 379% increase of border encounters compared to the previous fiscal year. The getaway numbers are staggering resulting in dangerous criminals flowing into our communities leaving innocent Americans vulnerable. What is significantly concerning is the fact that these are individuals from over 160+ countries and some from countries of special interest with terrorist ties. The Vice President, Kamala Harris was appointed and sworn into her position under her Oath of Office to protect the Rule of Law and Americans. As our nation's Vice President, she is responsible for carrying out those public safety responsibilities delegated to the United States. Since her appointment, we have seen her policies enacted that are focused on her personal and political ideologies that only serve to dismantle the security of our country and the enforcement efforts of the hard-working federal officers assigned to an extremely difficult task And,

**Whereas**, America's Sheriffs have watched in disbelief as the southern border has turned into an invisible line in the sand. Border Patrol agents have been relegated to daycare supervisors at housing units and when they do attempt to act, they are scrutinized, placed on administrative leave and investigated for political gain. The tragedy of an invisible border is being realized across the United States. Massive amounts of drugs are moving across the interstate highways and small rural roads to a town near you. American citizens continue to die from overdoses in this country at an alarming rate each and every day. Current statistics show that more people have died in the United States from fentanyl overdoses than from COVID in the past 20 months. Fentanyl is coming across our southern border and into the interior of the United States at an alarming and unacceptable rate. Violent crime is increasing throughout the United States and examples of the atrocities carried out by illegal immigrants are beginning to surface in the media.

**Clint McDonald**  
Executive Director

**2020-2022**  
**SWBSC Officers**

**Sheriff Eusevio Salinas**  
Chairman  
Zavala County, TX

**Sheriff Eddie Guerra**  
1st Vice Chairman  
Hidalgo County, TX

**Sheriff Mark Dannels**  
Secretary  
Cochise County, AZ

**Sheriff David Black**  
Treasurer  
Otero County, NM

**Sheriff Joe F. Martinez**  
Director  
Val Verde County, TX

**Sheriff Leon Wilmot**  
Director (PC)  
Yuma County, AZ



**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOUTHWESTERN BORDER SHERIFF'S COALITION**

After witnessing this disaster over the past year and listening to the continued rhetoric and intellectual dishonesty from Vice President Harris, The Southwestern Border Sheriff's Coalition, and its membership must emphatically state our position of having **NO** confidence in the ability of Vice President Kamala Harris, and her leadership within the office of Vice President, to affect any positive outcome on this matter.

**Furthermore**, we call on President Joe Biden to take the appropriate steps to remove Vice President Kamala Harris from her leadership position and appoint a new leader who can recognize, respect, and enforce the rule of law for the safety and security of our nation along with the southern and northern borders. We demand, and America deserves, a leader who will work collectively with our nation's Sheriffs and the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol to regain control of our nation's southern border. Finally, A decision to make this change must come immediately. If there is a legitimate "matter of National Security" for this nation, at this time, this is certainly one. America's Border Sheriffs, and specifically our southwest border Sheriffs, stand united and ready to work with our federal administration to restore security and safety on our nation's southern border.

**PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOUTHWESTERN BORDER SHERIFF'S COALITION AT THE BUSINESS MEETING IN EL PASO, TEXAS ON APRIL 12, 2022**

William C. McDonald  
Executive Director  
Southwestern Border Sheriff's Coalition



# Texas Border Sheriff's Coalition

P.O. Box 821 ★ Junction, TX 76849

Tel: (325) 215-2403

April 19, 2022

**Whereas**, the Southwestern Border Sheriff's Coalition represents Sheriffs from 4 states whose counties are within 25 miles of the Southern Border or contain a permanent federal checkpoint,

Our membership works together with our federal partners to secure our communities and country amidst the ongoing crisis at the border. Over the past 12 months we have witnessed the continued breach of the border by illegal Immigrants who seek to find refuge in the United States. Many are hoping to reach our homeland in search of a life of freedom. Many will come here with a debt owed to the transnational criminal cartels of Mexico and South America. For some, reaching the United States marks the beginning of years of drug distribution, modern-day slavery, and sex trafficking in order to pay back the criminal cartels for the privilege of being smuggled into the United States And,

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---

**Chairman**

Sheriff Brad Coe  
Kinney Co.

**First Vice-Chair**

Sheriff Eusevio Salinas  
Zavala Co.

**Second Vice-Chair**

Sheriff Tom Schmerber  
Maverick Co.

**Secretary/Treasurer**

Sheriff Joe Frank Martinez  
Val Verde Co.

**Sergeant-at-Arms**

Sheriff Urbino Martinez  
Brooks Co.

**Director**

Sheriff Ray Del Bosque  
Zapata County, TX

**Director**

Sheriff Danny Dominguez  
Presidio Co.

---



The tragedy of an invisible border is being realized across the United States. Massive amounts of drugs are moving across the interstate highways and small rural roads to a town near you. American citizens continue to die from overdoses in this country at an alarming rate each and every day. Current statistics show that more people have died in the United States from fentanyl overdoses than from COVID in the past 20 months. Fentanyl is coming across our southern border and into the interior of the United States at an alarming and unacceptable rate. Violent crime is increasing throughout the United States and examples of the atrocities carried out by illegal immigrants are beginning to surface in the media.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOUTHWESTERN BORDER SHERIFF'S COALITION**

After witnessing this disaster over the past year and listening to the continued rhetoric and intellectual dishonesty from Vice President Harris, The Southwestern Border Sheriff's Coalition, and its membership must emphatically state our position of having **NO** confidence in the ability of Vice President Kamala Harris, and her leadership within the office of Vice President, to affect any positive outcome on this matter.

Furthermore, we call on President Joe Biden to take the appropriate steps to remove Vice President Kamala Harris from her leadership position and appoint a new leader who can recognize, respect, and enforce the rule of law for the safety and security of our nation along with the southern and northern borders. We demand, and America deserves, a leader who will work collectively with our nation's Sheriffs and the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol to regain control of our nation's southern border.

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**PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOUTHWESTERN BORDER SHERIFF'S COALITION AT THE BUSINESS MEETING IN EL PASO, TEXAS ON APRIL 12, 2022**

**William C. McDonald**  
**Executive Director**  
**Southwestern Border Sheriff's Coalition**

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0309

COMMITTEES  
AGING  
ARMED SERVICES  
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS  
JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

April 6, 2022

Honorable Merrick B. Garland  
United States Attorney General  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Attorney General Garland:

I write to you deeply concerned about the increase in drug trafficking and human smuggling and trafficking activity along the southern border. More must be done by the Department of Justice as Arizona continues to bear the brunt of this criminal activity.

Your agency plays a key role in the effort to combat the transnational criminal organizations operating drug and human trafficking and smuggling operations, and provides much needed support to dismantling these criminal groups. However, something I hear from our local law enforcement is that the efforts to hold criminals accountable for these crimes is falling on local prosecutors. This means that our state and local communities are fronting the cost of these crimes. Given the transnational nature of the criminal rings committing these offenses and the Federal government's duty to stop drug and human trafficking and smuggling, the Federal government should take on the obligation of also prosecuting those individuals. Yet, that is not what is being experienced by our local law enforcement. Your support is needed to help secure the border and strengthen our local border economies by taking a lead on the prosecutorial efforts to combat these criminal groups.

I urge the Department of Justice to take a lead role in combatting and prosecuting these international criminal organizations carrying out drug trafficking and human smuggling operations throughout our border communities. The Joint Task Force Alpha puts the Department of Justice in the ideal place to combat not only the most prolific and dangerous drug and human smuggling and trafficking groups operating internationally in Mexico and Central America, but also the network of individuals that carry out their daily operations along the border and in the United States. With your office leading and working together with state, local and Tribal law enforcement, I believe we can secure the border and our communities from criminal elements without letting the cost of bringing these criminal groups to justice fall on our State and local governments.

Sincerely,



Mark Kelly  
United States Senator

cc: Gary M. Restaino, U.S. Attorney for District of Arizona



# WESTERN STATES SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION

474 Rogers Canyon Road  
Laramie, Wyoming 82072  
Telephone: 307 760 4075  
[www.westernsheriffs.org](http://www.westernsheriffs.org)

## 2022 EXECUTIVE BOARD:

### PRESIDENT

Sheriff Brett Schroetlin  
Grand County, CO

### 1<sup>st</sup> VICE PRESIDENT

Sheriff Corey Helton  
Lea County, NM

### SECRETARY

Sheriff Gary Bettencourt  
Gilliam County, OR

### TREASURER

Sheriff Ray Del Bosque  
Zapata County, TX

### SGT AT ARMS

Sheriff Mark Dannels  
Cochise County, AZ

### PAST PRESIDENT

Sheriff Leo Dutton  
Lewis and Clark County, MT

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

James Pond Sheriff Ret.

### State Representatives

#### Arizona

Sheriff Mark Dannels

#### California

Sheriff John D'Agostini

#### Colorado

Sheriff Tony Spurlock

#### Idaho

Sheriff Chris Goetz

#### Kansas

Sheriff David Groves

#### Montana

Sheriff Tony Harbaugh

#### Nebraska

Sheriff Bill Brueggemann

#### Nevada

Sheriff Ron Unger

#### New Mexico

Sheriff Tony Mace

#### North Dakota

Sheriff Pat Rummell

#### Oklahoma

Sheriff Shannon Smith

#### Oregon

Sheriff John Gautney

#### South Dakota

Sheriff Fred Lamphere

#### Texas

Sheriff Gerald Yezak

#### Utah

Sheriff Steven White

#### Washington

Sheriff Dave Brown

#### Wyoming

Sheriff Danny Glick

## Western States Sheriffs' Association

### Resolution 22-1

### Border Security Committee Resolution

### Submitted by Committee Chair Sheriff Mark J. Dannels

Unanimous Vote of Support by Committee Membership on 03/07/2022

### No Confidence in Vice President Kamala Harris

**Whereas**, the Western States Sheriffs Association represents Sheriffs from 17 states. Our membership continues to work together to assist our nation's southern border Sheriffs in the ongoing crisis at the border. Over the past 12 months we have witnessed the continued breach of the border by illegal Immigrants who seek to find refuge in the United States. Many are hoping to reach our homeland in search of a life of freedom. Many will come here with a debt owed to the transnational criminal cartels of Mexico and South America. For some, reaching the United States marks the beginning of years of drug distribution, modern-day slavery, and sex trafficking in order to pay back the criminal cartels for the privilege of being smuggled into the United States And,

**Whereas**, this is not a new phenomenon. This has been occurring for decades. This is the reason our dedicated Officers and Agents from Customs and Border Patrol and our Nation's Sheriffs coming together to share a common mission to secure our borders and communities. A collective effort to deter the northward flow of illegal immigrants and drugs continues to be a priority for these enforcement professionals. Over the last year, the problem at our southern border continues to get worse with an increase in illicit smuggling and criminal violence challenging every community within our nation And,

**Whereas**, Today, we are witnessing a complete and total breakdown of policies compared to past years. Over a 379% increase of border encounters compared to the previous fiscal year. The getaway numbers are staggering resulting in dangerous criminals flowing into our communities leaving innocent Americans vulnerable. What is significantly concerning is the fact that these are individuals from over 160+ countries and some from countries of special interest with terrorist ties. The Vice President, Kamala Harris was appointed and sworn into her position under her Oath of Office to protect the Rule of Law and Americans. As our nation's Vice President, she is responsible for carrying out those public safety responsibilities delegated to the United States. Since her appointment, we have seen her policies enacted that are focused on her personal and political ideologies that only serve to dismantle the security of our country and the enforcement efforts of the hard-working federal officers assigned to an extremely difficult task And,

**Whereas**, America's Sheriffs have watched in disbelief as the southern border has turned into an invisible line in the sand. Border Patrol agents have been relegated to daycare supervisors at housing units and when they do attempt to act, they are scrutinized, placed on administrative leave and investigated for political gain. The tragedy of an invisible border is being realized across the United States. Massive amounts of drugs are moving across the interstate highways and small rural roads to a town near you. American citizens continue to die from overdoses in this country at an alarming rate each and every day. Current statistics show that more people have died in the United States from fentanyl overdoses than from COVID in the past 20 months. Fentanyl is coming across our southern border and into the interior of the United States at an alarming and unacceptable rate. Violent crime is increasing throughout the United States and examples of the atrocities carried out by illegal immigrants are beginning to surface in the media.


**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE WESTERN STATES SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION,**

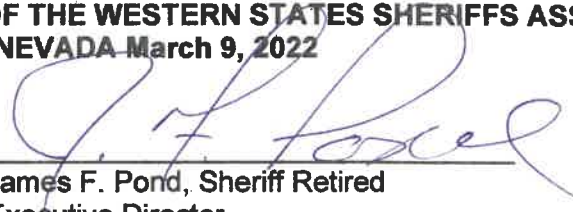
After witnessing this disaster over the past year and listening to the continued rhetoric and intellectual dishonesty from Vice President Harris, The Western States Sheriffs' Association, and its membership must emphatically state our position of having **NO** confidence in the ability of Vice President Kamala Harris, and her leadership within the office of Vice President, to affect any positive outcome on this matter.

**Furthermore**, we call on President Joe Biden to take the appropriate steps to remove Vice President Kamala Harris from her leadership position and appoint a new leader who can recognize, respect, and enforce the rule of law for the safety and security of our nation along with the southern and northern borders. We demand, and America deserves, a leader who will work collectively with our nation's Sheriffs and the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol to regain control of our nation's southern border.

**Finally**, A decision to make this change must come immediately. If there is a legitimate "matter of National Security" for this nation, at this time, this is certainly one. America's Western Sheriffs, and specifically our southwest border Sheriffs, stand united and ready to work with our federal administration to restore security and safety on our nation's southern border.

**PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE WESTERN STATES SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION AT THE 2022 GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING, RENO NEVADA March 9, 2022**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sheriff Brett Schroetlin  
President,  
Western States Sheriffs Association

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
James F. Pond, Sheriff Retired  
Executive Director  
Western States Sheriffs Association



# ARIZONA SHERIFF'S ASSOCIATION

1910 W. JEFFERSON • PHOENIX, ARIZONA • 85009  
TELEPHONE: (602) 252-6563 • FACSIMILE: (602) 254-0969

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

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

January 19, 2022

The Honorable Mark Kelly  
Arizona Senator  
516 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Arizona Sheriffs Demand Action to Address Border Crisis

Dear Senator Kelly:

As we enter a new year, we urge you to take action and not wait another day to address the border crisis in our home state. It is negligent to let another day, week, month, or year pass without Arizona's US Senators leading on a solution to solve the revolving door border policy that negatively affects our state.

As Arizona's elected law enforcement leaders across the state, we continue to see the border situation deteriorate and it is having real impacts on all of our communities.

The border crisis is a clear national security concern, humanitarian crisis, public health crisis, and it's fueling the drug epidemic in every state. We are sure you know the record-breaking statistics from this past year of failed border policies, but here are a few highlights to better understand the totality of the circumstances:

- This past year the US broke the record for most drug overdose deaths, with over 100,000 Americans dying of drug overdoses, an increase of 28.5% from the previous year. These drugs are coming through in massive quantities because of federal inaction.
- In FY21 CBP alone arrested illegal border crossers with dangerous previous convictions that include:
  - 1,178 people with previous convictions for assault,
  - 2,138 for illegal drug possession or trafficking,
  - 825 for burglary, 1,629 for driving under the influence,
  - 336 for illegal weapons possession,
  - 60 for homicide,
  - and 488 for sexual offenses.

Just how many records have to be broken before the US Senate takes action to protect our Arizona communities?

From the Yuma County farmers who have to throw away an entire field of crops due to illegal immigrants trespassing through their fields, to the parents in Pinal County dealing with the death

of their teenagers due to fentanyl overdoses, to the Cochise County family of a woman killed in a car crash which was caused by a human smuggler transporting people illegally, these heartbreaking consequences are preventable.

Governor Ducey has drafted federal legislation that the Arizona Sheriff's Association supports. We urge you to take immediate action to introduce it and work with your colleagues to get it to the President's desk. This legislation provides the minimal action that needs to be taken before any other effort to address our country's drug problem will be effective. It includes the following provisions:

- Completion of the border wall, physical barriers and virtual surveillance;
- A requirement that asylum seekers who have traveled through another country must have attempted to claim asylum in that country;
- A requirement for asylum seekers to claim asylum at a port of entry;
- An increase in immigration judges;
- Additional funding for local law enforcement and humanitarian efforts; and
- That the federal government or its representatives must make clear that the United States' borders are not open for immigration except through a port of entry and through legal means.

As the highest elected law enforcement leaders, we are calling on you for action. We have spent countless time briefing and giving tours to engaged congressional members from around the country who travel thousands of miles to learn from professionals about a border crisis, so we know there's genuine interest in solving this problem. Now we need to hear from our United States Senators that you're willing to engage and fix this problem. We need your support and we need it now!

We stand ready to enforce the rule of law in Arizona and committed to protecting our counties, state, and nation, and we want you to join us.

Sincerely,



Mark Dannels  
President Arizona Sheriff's Association  
Cochise County Sheriff



Mark Lamb  
Vice-President Arizona Sheriff's Association  
Pinal County Sheriff



# ARIZONA SHERIFF'S ASSOCIATION

1910 W. JEFFERSON • PHOENIX, ARIZONA • 85009  
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Arizona Senator  
317 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

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Sincerely,



Mark Dannels  
President Arizona Sheriff's Association  
Cochise County Sheriff



Mark Lamb  
Vice-President Arizona Sheriff's Association  
Pinal County Sheriff



# WESTERN STATES SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION

474 Rogers Canyon Road  
Laramie, Wyoming 82072  
Telephone: 307 760 4075  
[www.westernsheriffs.org](http://www.westernsheriffs.org)

## 2020 EXECUTIVE BOARD:

### PRESIDENT

Sheriff Leo Dutton  
Lewis and Clark County, MT

### 1<sup>st</sup> VICE PRESIDENT

Sheriff Brett Schroetlin  
Grand County, CO

### SECRETARY

Sheriff Corey Helton  
Lea County, NM

### TREASURER

Sheriff Gary Betencourt  
Gilliam County, OR

### SGT AT ARMS

Sheriff Ray Del Bosque Jr  
Zapata County, TX

### PAST PRESIDENT

Sheriff Fred Lamphere  
Butte County, SD

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

James Pond Sheriff Ret.

### State Representatives

#### Arizona

Sheriff Mark Dannells

#### California

Sheriff John D'Agostini

#### Colorado

Sheriff Tony Spurlock

#### Idaho

Sheriff Chris Goetz

#### Kansas

Sheriff David Groves

#### Montana

Sheriff Tony Harbaugh

#### Nebraska

Sheriff Bill Brueggemann

#### Nevada

Sheriff Ron Unger

#### New Mexico

Sheriff Tony Mace

#### North Dakota

Sheriff Pat Rummell

#### Oklahoma

Sheriff Shannon Smith

#### Oregon

Sheriff John Gaudney

#### South Dakota

Sheriff Fred Lamphere

#### Texas

Sheriff Gerald Yezak

#### Utah

Sheriff Steven White

#### Washington

Sheriff Dave Brown

#### Wyoming

## Western States Sheriffs' Association

### Position Paper

### No Confidence in DHS Secretary Mayorkas

The Western States Sheriffs' Association represents Sheriffs from 17 States. Our membership continues to work together to assist our nation's southern border Sheriffs in the ongoing crisis at the border. Over the past 10 months we have witnessed the continued breach of the border by illegal Immigrants who seek to find refuge in the United States. Many are hoping to reach our homeland in search of a life of freedom. Many will come here with a debt owed to the drug cartels of Mexico and South America. For some, reaching the United States marks the beginning of years of drug distribution, slavery, and prostitution in order to pay back the drug cartels for the privilege of being brought to the U.S.

This is not a new phenomenon. This has been occurring for decades. This is the reason our Border Patrol, southern border Sheriffs and Immigration and Customs enforcement exists. A concerted effort to curb the northward flow of illegal Immigrants has long been the focus of these enforcement officers. For the past several years, much effort and financial resources was focused on the southern border and a great deal of progress was made in limiting the number of illegal crossings.

Today we are witnessing a complete and total breakdown of efforts of the past several years. Over a million illegal crossings already this year. Hundreds of thousands of illegal Immigrants who we know for sure entered this country illegally and were never intercepted by law enforcement. What is significantly concerning is the fact that these are individuals from over 160+ different countries and some of those are from special interest countries with terrorist ties. The Secretary of Homeland Security, Alejandro Mayorkas was appointed and sworn into his position to follow the rule of law in securing our nation. Secretary Mayorkas is the head of the Department of Homeland Security and tasked with carrying out those public safety responsibilities delegated to the United States. Since his appointment we have seen his policies enacted that are personal and political ideologies that continue to dismantle the security of our country and the enforcement efforts of the hard-working federal officers assigned to an extremely difficult task.

America's Sheriffs have watched in disbelief as the southern border has turned into an invisible line in the sand. Border patrol agents have been relegated to daycare supervisors at housing units and when they do attempt to act, they are scrutinized, placed on administrative leave, and investigated for political gain. The tragedy of an invisible border is being realized across the United States. Massive amounts of drugs are moving across the patchwork of interstate highways and small rural roads to a town near you. American citizens continue to die from overdoses in this country at an alarming level each and every day. Statics now show that more people have died in the U.S. from fentanyl overdoses than from COVID in the past 20 months. Fentanyl is coming across our southern border and into the interior of the U.S. at alarming and unacceptable levels. Violent crime is increasing in major cities and examples of the atrocities carried out by illegal immigrants are beginning to surface in the media when the media exhibits the courage to report it.

After witnessing this disaster over the past several months and listening to the continued rhetoric and Intellectual dishonesty from Secretary Mayorkas, The Western States Sheriffs' Association, and its membership must emphatically state our position of having **NO** confidence in the ability of the Secretary Mayorkas, and his leadership within the Department of Homeland Security, to affect any positive outcome on this matter.

We call on President Biden to take the appropriate steps to remove Secretary Mayorkas from his leadership position and appoint a new leader at the Department of Homeland Security who recognizes, respects and will enforce the rule of law for the safety and security of our nation along with the southern and northern borders. We demand a new leader who will work, together with our nation's Sheriffs and the U.S. Border Patrol, to regain control of our nation's southern border.

A decision to make this change must come immediately. If there is a legitimate "matter of National Security" for this nation, at this time, this is certainly one. America's western Sheriffs, and specifically our southwest border Sheriffs, stand ready to work with our federal enforcement partners and the administration to restore security and safety on our nation's southern border.



Sheriff Leo Dutton  
President  
Western States Sheriffs Association



James F Pond, Sheriff Retired  
Executive Director  
Western States Sheriffs Association



# NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

October 4, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) is proud to represent the more than 3,080 men and women around the country who have been elected to serve as Sheriff of their county. With these men and women in mind, NSA writes to you regarding the nomination of Mr. Chris Magnus to lead the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). Unfortunately, it is after much deliberation that NSA must oppose this nomination.

NSA leadership had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Magnus and, while we appreciate his years of service as a law enforcement officer, he lacks the experience to be equipped to lead the nation's largest federal law enforcement agency, which is charged with securing the nation's borders.

The situation at the nation's southern border is more dire than ever and our communities there are in a crisis. Despite Mr. Magnus's time as the Chief of Police in Tucson, Arizona, he has shown inadequate interest and concern about the flood of crime surging into that state. He has declined numerous invitations by Sheriffs to visit the border.

NSA has supported many of the Administration's nominees but regrets that this one has met with our opposition. Should there be any questions regarding our position on this nomination, we would welcome the opportunity to further discuss it with the Administration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan F. Thompson".

Jonathan F. Thompson  
Executive Director and CEO  
National Sheriffs' Association



# NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

JONATHAN F. THOMPSON  
Executive Director and CEO

May 27, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing on behalf of the nation's 3,080 plus sheriffs requesting an appointment with you and staff to discuss the ever-increasing demands along our southern border.

Yesterday alone more than 530 persons crossed into Del Rio, Texas illegally, putting a burden on the local sheriff and his community, preventing them from doing their assigned duties of protecting, patrolling, and responding to local needs.

So far this fiscal year has recorded more than 200,000 individuals who have avoided local law enforcement and border patrol arrests, an average of 1,100 "get-aways" per day. 60,000 were in the Tucson Sector alone, making it the highest in the nation. In addition, April 2021 recorded 18,000 unaccompanied minors, the highest total ever. It is clear that the situation in these local communities is at or beyond the breaking point insofar that the Border Patrol has no resources or ability to respond to the surge without violating existing policies.

Our members are sworn to uphold the constitutions and laws of their states. However, unless cross-sworn with federal agencies they have no ability to support the CBP in apprehending and registering those crossing illegally into their communities. At this point they are merely watching (not detaining, arresting or preventing exit) without force border crossers who actively request asylum from our deputy Sheriffs. It is these deputies that are the front line law enforcement officers for these towns and communities along the border. Fortunately our relationships with the Border Patrol are close. However, we have become the de-facto holding agents for them until an authorized federal agent arrives and takes custody of these persons.

This situation has escalated to the point where our border communities are facing significant increases in crime and exorbitant costs to assist the federal government. Between overtime, shortfalls of deputies and officers, health risks, and now an apparently orchestrated effort to cross in locations where shortfalls of manpower of both the Border Patrol and local law enforcement is causing massive problems.

Crime along the border resulting from illegal border incursions is staggering. One example, from the New York Times, reports the death of nine-year-old girl drowned while trying to cross the Rio Grande into Texas with her family. At the same time we are seeing increasing brazen behaviors by Coyotes, dropping

President Joseph R. Biden  
May 27, 2021  
Page Two

individuals in the desert or from border fences. Directly related is the level of opioids and other illegal substances that continue to pour across the border – exacerbating an already epidemic plague in the nation's interior.

Equally troubling is the rise in violence against women – indentured servitude, prostitution, and human trafficking violence are increasing on the border. In March, USBP brought a 13-year-old girl to the Yuma County Sheriff's Office. She said she was raped two days earlier while walking through Mexico after leaving El Salvador. Law enforcement finds Plan B abortion pills near the border – a terrible sign of what young people go through as they walk to the border.

At the Del Rio USBP sector, arrests of migrants with sex offense records are up more than 2,500%. This region of the border, relatively quiet for the past decade, has become a major crossing point this year. We need a focused enforcement and federal prosecution strategy to target every high-crossing region. We remain troubled that more immigration judges are not available along the border and able to make decisions in hours and days not months and years.

Adding further concern are confirmed COVID cases of those crossing the border, or in detention facilities. For example, an Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility in Aurora, Colorado had a coronavirus outbreak that hit 94 individuals transported to the facility in April and May. It appears a lack of testing and vaccines has caused unneeded cases of the virus moving to the interior of the country. Yet when asked about COVID testing the Border Patrol says "suspected COVID-19 cases are referred to local health systems for appropriate testing, diagnosis, and treatment," leaving local governments to take on the added responsibility of care-giver for federal wards.

Your administration has prided itself upon seeking a laudable solution "at the source" of this border problem. However, that solution is years in the making and our communities, Sheriffs, and law enforcement are overwhelmed now. They need your help and commitment.

We request a meeting with you and Secretary Myorkas to discuss identifying a new approach to minimizing this dangerous and emergent problem. Our president, Sheriff Vernon Stanforth, the NSA's Border Security Committee chair Sheriff Mark Dannels, NSA's Government Affairs chair Sheriff Jim Skinner, and myself stand ready to meet at your earliest convenience to identify a mutually agreeable path forward.

Respectfully,



Jonathan F. Thompson  
Executive Director and CEO

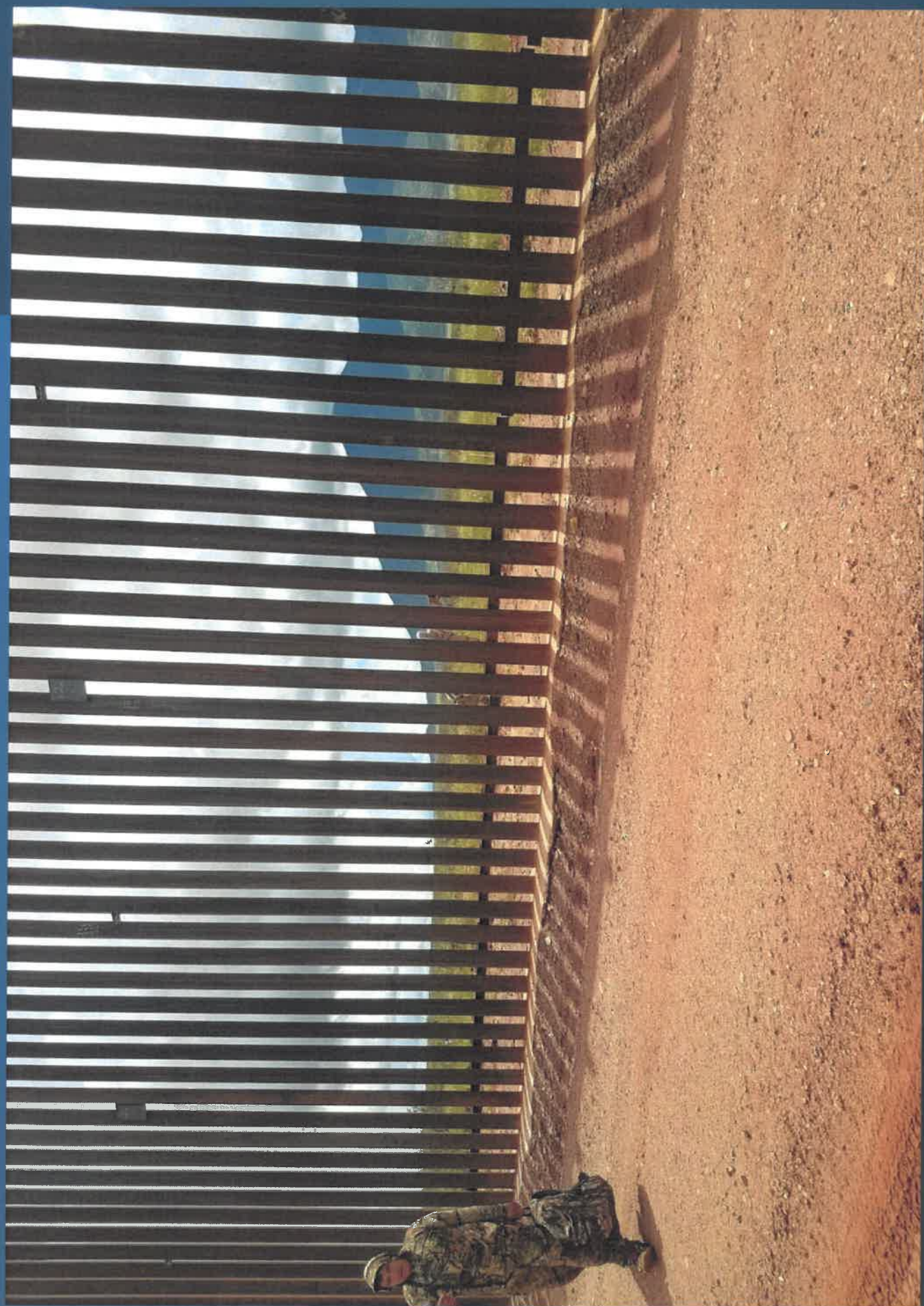
cc: Alejandro Mayorkas, Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Sheriff Vernon Stanforth, NSA President  
Sheriff Mark Dannels, Chair, NSA Border Security Committee  
Sheriff Jim Skinner, Chair, NSA Government Affairs Committee

# Do We Need a Better Barrier?





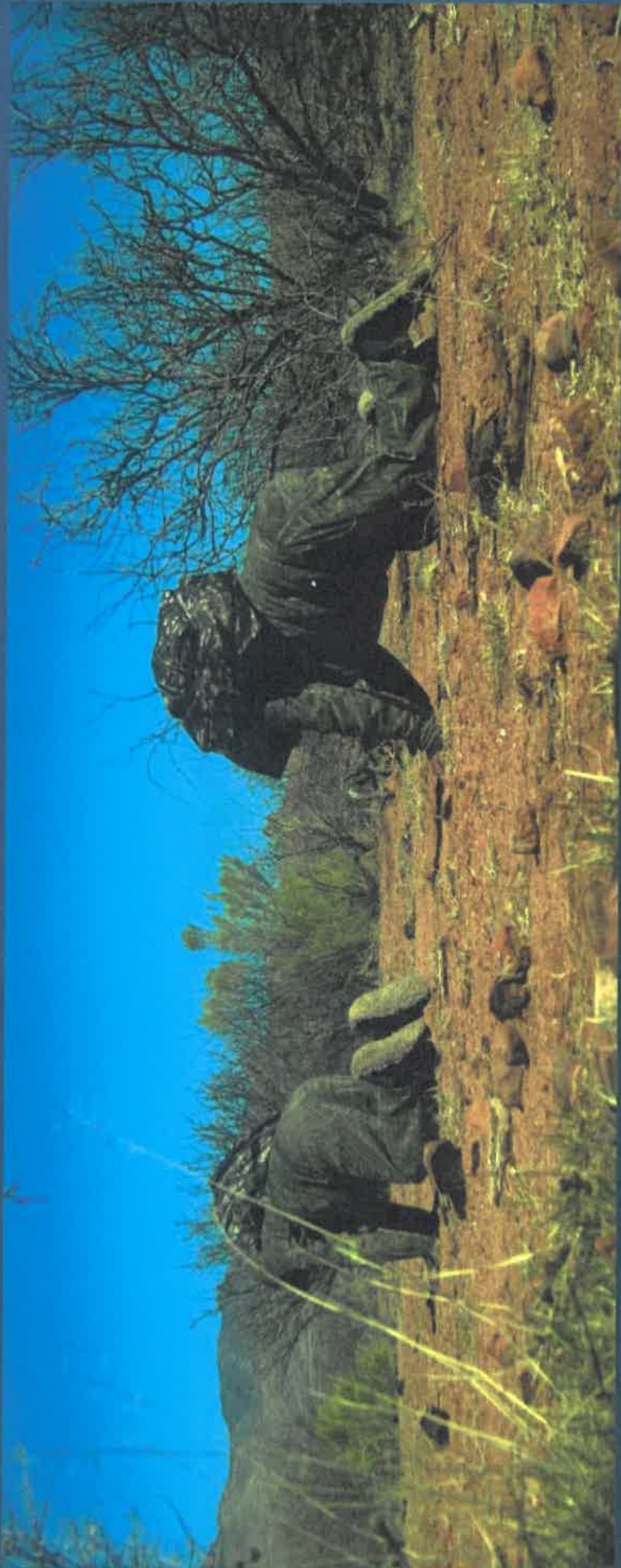












# Juvenile Smuggled Across Border











94 Lbs. of Meth

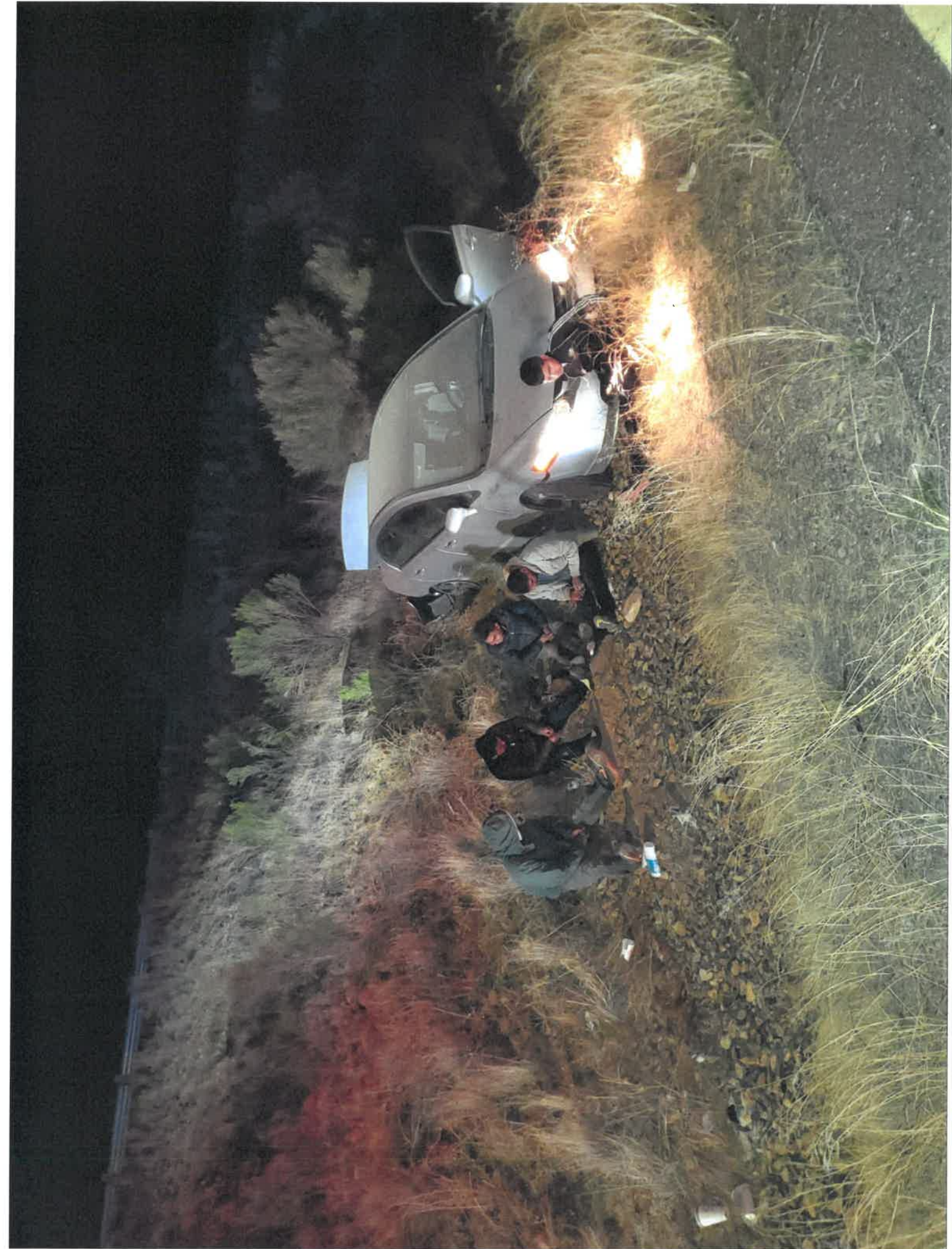
# OPERATION SAFE STREETS

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Reckless  
Driving

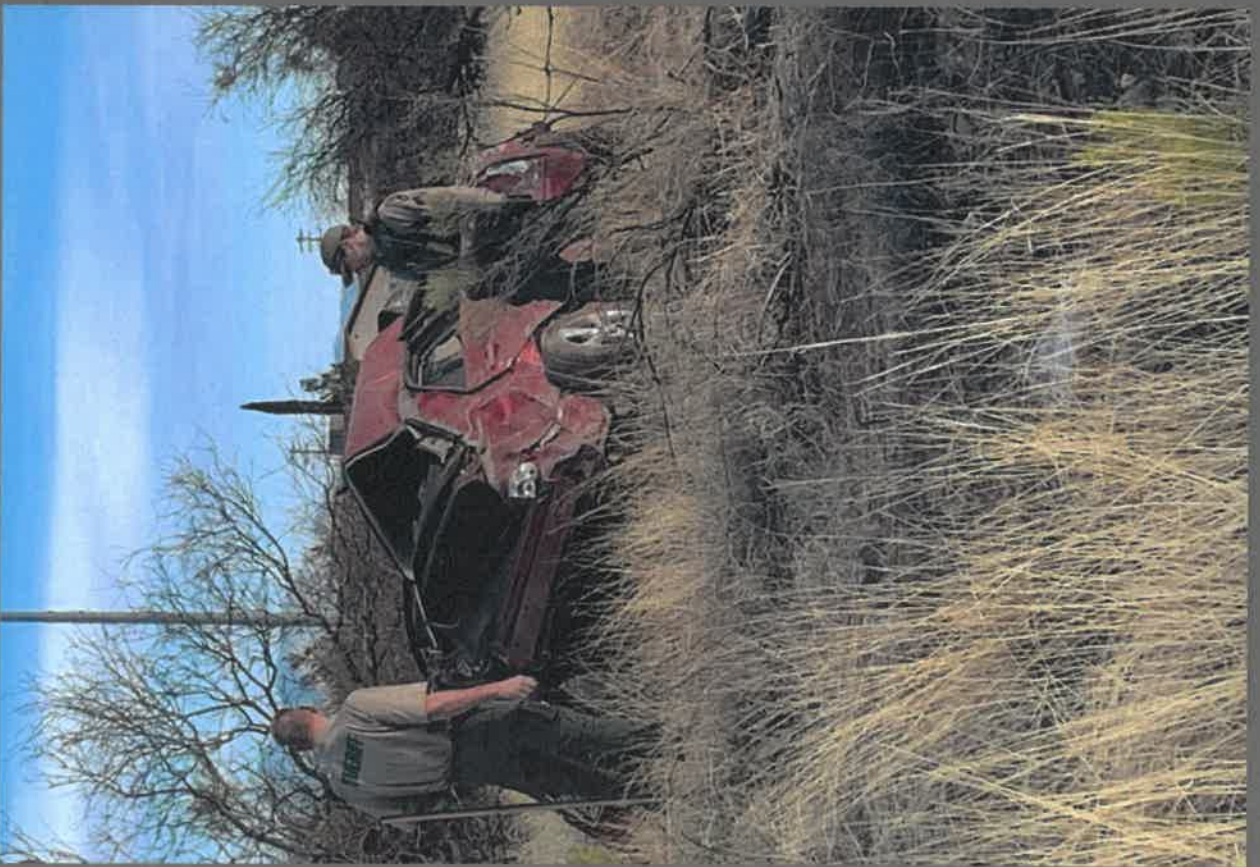
Smuggling  
Humans

Multi-Agency  
Task Force











# VIRTUAL RECRUITMENT

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- Snapchat
- Instagram
- TikTok
- WhatsApp
- Facebook
- Twitter

