

## **2010 National Guard Deployments to the Southwest Border**

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### **How many and where?**

As requested by President Obama, federally-funded National Guard troops will be deployed starting August 1, 2010 to Arizona, Texas, New Mexico, and California. According to National Guard Bureau Chief General Craig McKinley, approximately 1200 total troops will be fully trained and in place by September 1. Ultimately, we expect deployment levels of:

- 524 to Arizona
- 250 to Texas
- 224 to California
- 72 to New Mexico
- 130 in “command and control” and other support positions<sup>1</sup>

However, 340 troops are already on the southwest border, working on the State Counter-Drug Program,<sup>2</sup> in which approximately 2,500 National Guard troops assist state agencies around the country with drug demand reduction, information sharing, and training.<sup>3</sup>

### **What is the mission and what are the rules of engagement?**

National Guard troops deploying in August will be supporting the Department of Homeland Security, and will only be armed for self-protection.<sup>4</sup> However, unlike prior National Guard border missions, such as Operation Jump Start in 2006, during which Guard troops built roads and fences, the most clearly identified task in 2010 is to monitor the border for illicit crossings. General McKinley said the Guard at the border would be working on “Entry Identification Teams (EITs),” i.e. surveillance on the border, as well as on criminal and intelligence analysis.<sup>5</sup> Although they do not have authority to make arrests, General McKinley has stated that Guard troops will “play a variety of roles, depending on the situation” to assist the Border Patrol in monitoring illegal border crossings and smugglings, as well as in intelligence gathering.

Guard troops will be under the command and control of state governors and state adjutants general. However, although Guard troops will be nominally accountable to the state, CBP Commissioner Alan Bersin described their work as fundamentally a CBP function. “They work with Border Patrol agents in this case to provide additional eyes and ears on the border so that they are at predetermined places along the border to be able to assist in identifying attempted entries and communicating to Border Patrol agents that would then take efforts at apprehension.”<sup>6</sup> ICE Assistant Secretary Morton added: “The criminal intelligence analysts are

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.dhs.gov/ynews/releases/pr\\_1279557825445.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/ynews/releases/pr_1279557825445.shtm)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=127220258>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.army.mil/standto/archive/2009/03/09/>

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.laindependent.com/news/national\\_world/National-Guard-Border-Troops-98786734.html](http://www.laindependent.com/news/national_world/National-Guard-Border-Troops-98786734.html)

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.laindependent.com/news/national\\_world/National-Guard-Border-Troops-98786734.html](http://www.laindependent.com/news/national_world/National-Guard-Border-Troops-98786734.html)

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.globalsecurity.org/security/library/news/2010/07/sec-100719-dod02.htm>

the individuals who will be assisting ICE, and that's with investigations of the criminal networks that are bringing people across the border.”<sup>7</sup>

The Guard will provide a one-year bridge in border coverage while CBP hires additional Border Patrol agents and CBP Officers at ports of entry, and deploys more technological assets.

### **Who pays for the National Guard?**

When the President calls for the National Guard to be deployed, as in this case, the troops are funded by the federal government, through the Department of Defense. A state governor has independent authority to deploy troops from their own state, a cost which is covered by the state budget. Both Governor Richardson and Governor Schwarzenegger have deployed a small number of state National Guard troops to the border as well.<sup>8</sup>

### **What else is happening?**

In addition to National Guard presence at the southwest border, CBP will eventually receive an additional 300 Border Patrol agents and CBP officers, as well as more technological resources: mobile surveillance systems, additional aviation assets, including A Star helicopters and other utility aircraft.<sup>9</sup>

A new investigative office for the Border patrol will open in Ajo, Arizona and a border enforcement security task force jump team of specially trained agents will be based in Douglas, Arizona. Both Douglas and Ajo are Arizona towns along the U.S./Mexico border.

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<sup>7</sup> <http://www.globalsecurity.org/security/library/news/2010/07/sec-100719-dod02.htm>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.cnn.com/2010/US/07/16/california.national.guard/index.html>;

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2010/03/31/20100331new-mexico-orders-guard-to-border.html>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.globalsecurity.org/security/library/news/2010/07/sec-100719-dod02.htm>