

## **National Guard Support to Southwest Border**

### **What is it?**

In July 2010, the National Guard began enhanced support operations along the U.S. Southwest Border to support the Department of Homeland Security efforts to disrupt illegal cross-border activities and disrupt Transnational Criminal Organizations until additional Border Patrol agents and detection technologies were in place along the border. The Chief of the National Guard Bureau was directed by the Secretary of Defense to provide 1,200 troops in support of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) agencies, Customs and Border Protection (CBP), and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) for one year. This increased support to the Department of Homeland Security was extended through March 1, 2012 upon which time the National Guard support will transition to reduce in NG personnel and cost while adding aerial detection and monitoring platforms.

### **What has the National Guard done?**

The National Guard Soldiers and Airmen have served as a force multiplier for the U.S. Border Patrol by spotting border intrusions and providing technical support. In the last 18 months, the National Guard has provided entry identification and criminal analysis, allowing more agents to interdict illegal activities. The National Guard has provided time for Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to hire, train, and equip additional Border Patrol agents. The emergency border security supplemental law (Public Law 111-230) enacted by President Obama in August 2010 was designed to transition the significant National Guard presence on the Southwest border to a self-supporting CBP mission.

### **What continued program efforts are planned for the future?**

On 20 December 2011, the White House announced that DoD would support a DHS request for assistance (RFA) for CY12. The RFA reduced the personnel requirement from 1,200 Soldiers and Airmen to fewer than 300 personnel. The request included a transition to continue criminal analysis and reduced costs by replacing entry identification teams with aerial detection and monitoring. The request of NG capabilities and personnel is to continue this enhanced support through 31 December 2012. In addition to these enhanced support operations, the National Guard will continue to provide support to the U.S. Southwest Border through the Counterdrug Programs of CA, AZ, NM, and TX.

### **Why is this important to the National Guard?**

The National Guard is the nation's first military responder and has a long tradition of supporting civil authorities domestically. Under the command and control of the Governor, the National Guard is able to support the Department of Homeland Security, the lead agency for border security. The National Guard has built on effective working relationships with federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies through State Counterdrug Programs. National Guard members live in our communities and carry unmatched public confidence in domestic support operations. These Soldiers and Airmen provide expertise while gaining unique military experience, enhancing the national security posture while greatly assisting the efforts and duties of the Department of Homeland Security and its represented agencies.