



## **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"**



# ARIZONA SHERIFFS 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

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

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

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

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

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



# WESTERN STATES SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION

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

**2020 EXECUTIVE BOARD:**  
**PRESIDENT**  
Sheriff Fred Lamphere  
Butte County, SD

**1<sup>st</sup> VICE PRESIDENT**  
Sheriff Leo Dutton  
Lewis & Clark County, MT

**SECRETARY**  
Sheriff Steve Rogers  
Wallowa County, OR

**TREASURER**  
Sheriff Brett Schroetlin  
Grand County, CO

**SGT AT ARMS**  
Sheriff Corey Helton  
Lea County, NM

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**North Dakota**  
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Sheriff Fred Lamphere

**Texas**  
Sheriff Chris Kirk

**Utah**  
Sheriff Steven White

**Washington**  
Sheriff Dave Brown

**Wyoming**  
Sheriff Fred Lamphere

## POSITION STATEMENT ON BORDER CRISIS 26 MARCH 2021

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

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

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

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

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



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South Dakota  
Sheriff Fred Lamphere

Texas  
Sheriff Chris Kirk  
Utah  
Sheriff Steven White  
Washington  
Sheriff Dave Brown  
Wyoming  
Sheriff Danny Glick

## RESOLUTION 2021- 3

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



DOUGLAS A. DUCEY  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF ARIZONA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

February 17, 2021

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

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

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

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

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

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

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



**2021-03**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## NSA National Security initiatives

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





# Cochise County Sheriff's Office

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

**Cochise County 38<sup>th</sup> largest in US**

**6,300 square miles / 83 miles of Border**

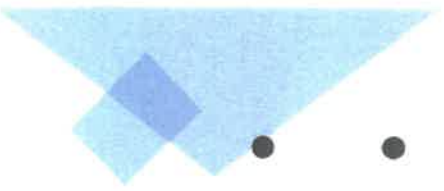


# Sheriffs Objectives

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

## CBP SW Border Statistics 2021

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



# 2021 CBP Criminals

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

# 2021 CBP Drugs

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

## CBP October 1 2021 to January 2022

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

# CBP SW Border February 2022

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



## CBP Tucson Sector (Cochise County)

February, 2022

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

Throughout 2021: Got-Aways 10,000/month



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

**43,229 encounters**

**51 Drug Smugglers**

**100 % Conviction Rate for Drug Smugglers**

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

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

**Average \$1000 per UDA**

**Almost 100% Got Aways within Cochise County**

**100% Camouflaged**

**Aggravated UDAs that can't give up**

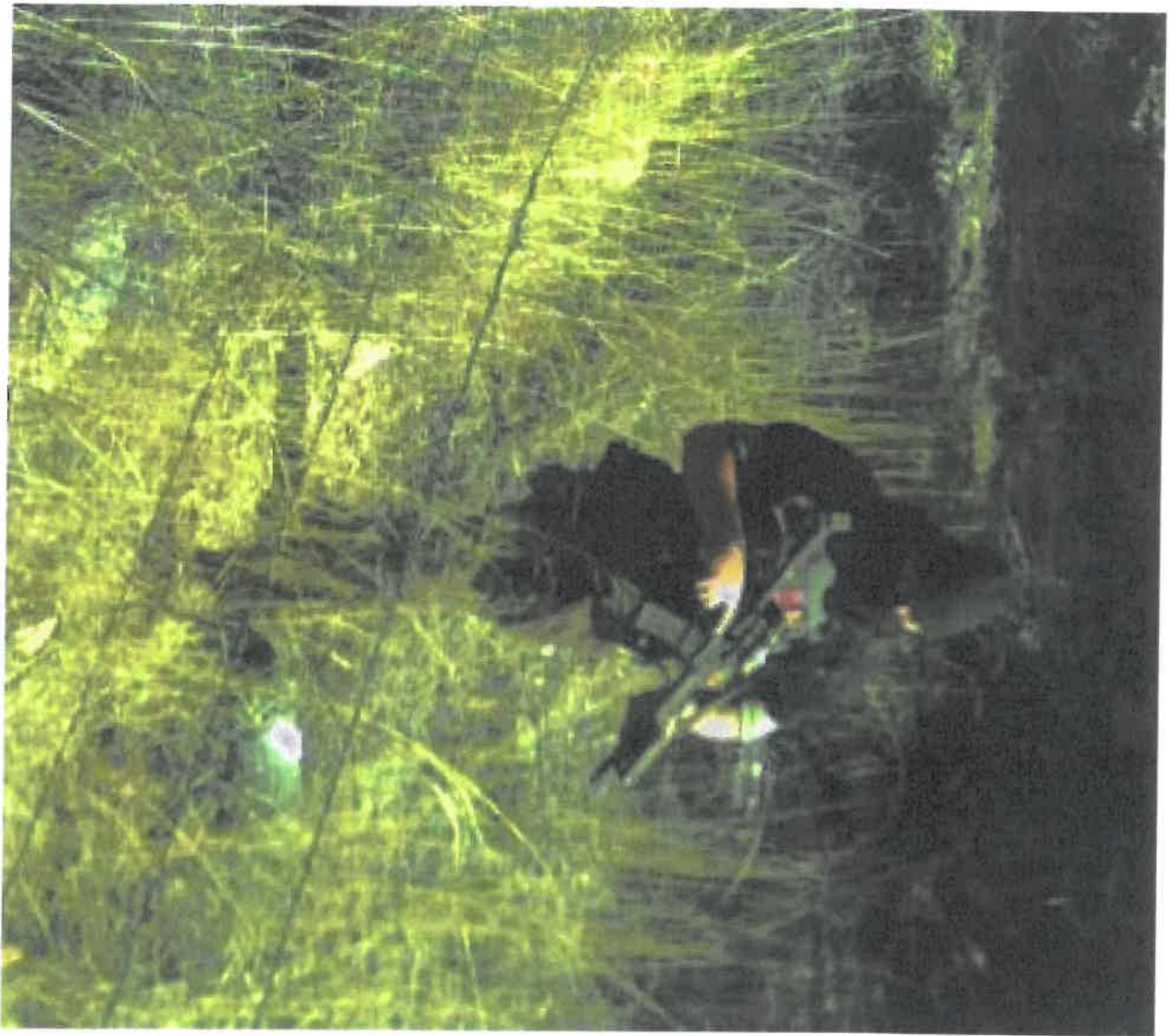
**Search & Rescue/Recovery Missions**

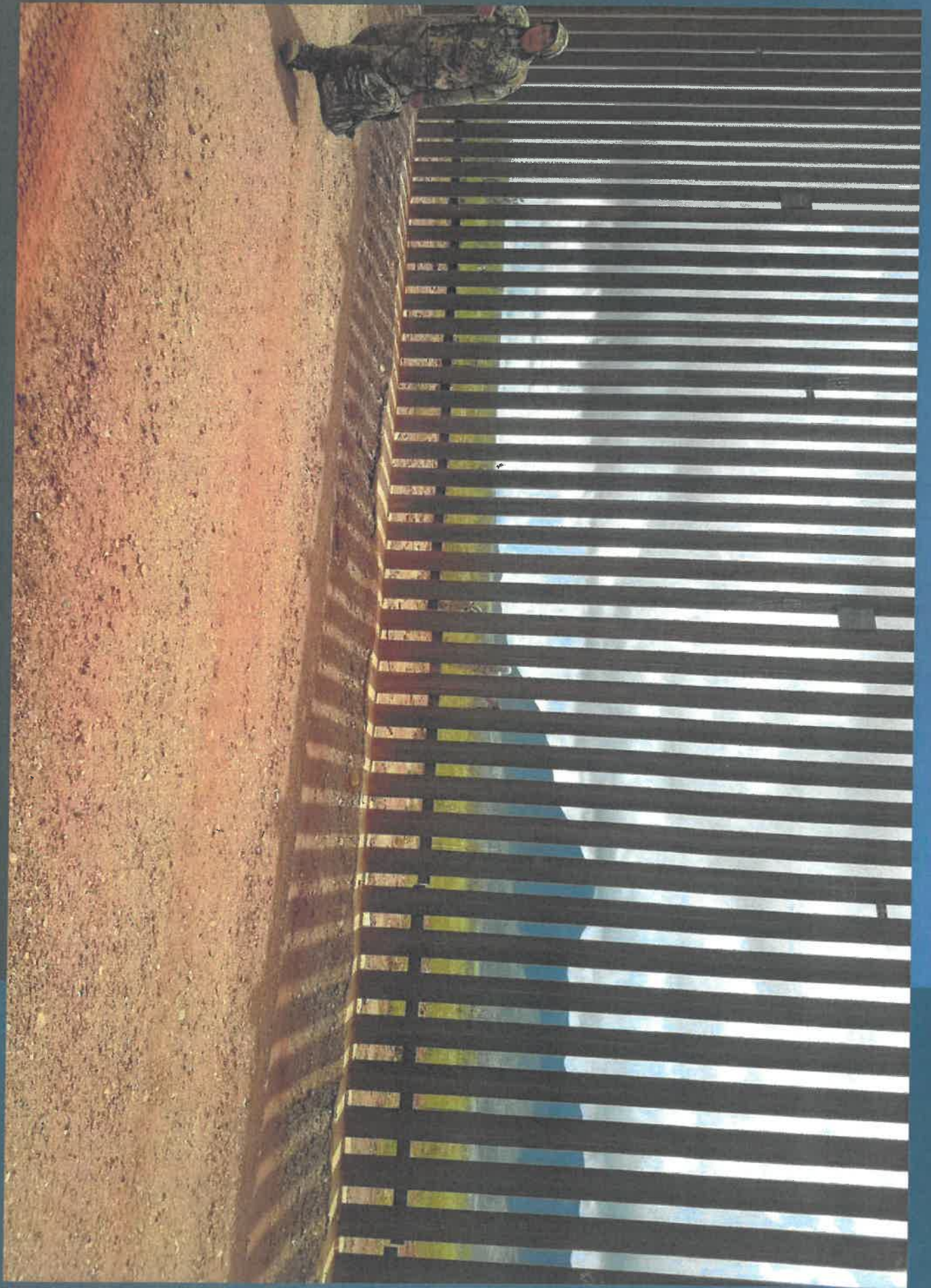
# SABRE



Do We Need a Better  
Barrier?

















# Juvenile Smuggled Across Border











94 Lbs. of Meth

OPERATION  
SAFE STREETS

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Reckless  
Driving

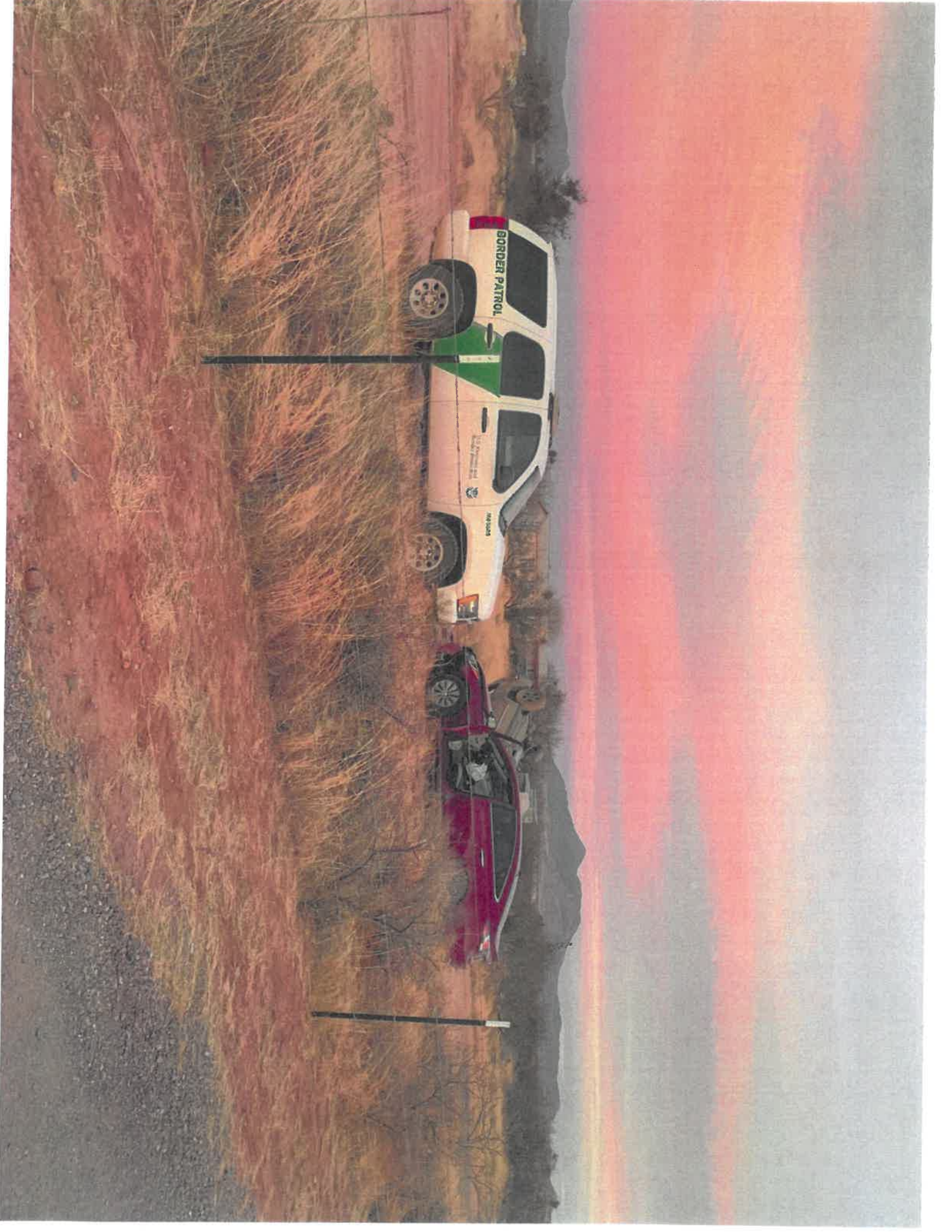
Smuggling  
Humans

Multi-Agency  
Task Force













# VIRTUAL RECRUITMENT

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



# Solutions

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



# Local/State Solutions

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