Frequently Asked Questions

(11/13/2009)

Q: Where is the Border Patrol located? I see Border Patrol agents throughout San Diego County, where are they stationed?
A: The San Diego Sector encompasses 86 miles of international border and over 7,000 square miles of total terrain. The San Diego Sector begins at the international border with Mexico and stretches to the Orange County line, the Riverside County line, and the Imperial County line. The San Diego Sector is comprised of seven individual Border Patrol stations and two substations. The Border Patrol stations are situated throughout San Diego County. Each station is responsible for a geographical area.

Q: What is Operation Gatekeeper?
A: On October 1, 1994, a bold and far-reaching initiative to restore integrity and safety to the nation's busiest border was launched. Called Operation Gatekeeper, the former Immigration and Naturalization Service, the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of California, and the Executive Officer for Immigration Review committed unprecedented resources and implemented innovative strategies to reverse decades of neglect along the San Diego border.

Now, 10 years later, Operation Gatekeeper's achievements are clear. New resources have deterred and shifted illegal alien traffic, the volume of apprehensions has decreased dramatically since the implementation of Operation Gatekeeper. Individuals arrested by the Border Patrol are predominately illegal aliens, though it is not uncommon for a United States citizen or legal resident to violate his / her immigration status becomes an illegal alien and is subject to removal from the United States.

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Operation Gatekeeper's ambitious goal was and remains to reduce illegal immigration across the San Diego border by providing Border Patrol agents with the tools they need in order to do the job. Federal agencies, working together, set out to strategically deploy new personnel, equipment, technology and tactics across the nation's most vulnerable border region.

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Q: What happens to a person arrested by the Border Patrol?
A: Border Patrol agents patrol the border on foot, on horseback and in vehicles and aircraft suitable for the terrain and patrol area. The San Diego Sector encompasses 86 miles of international border and over 7,000 square miles of total terrain. The San Diego Sector begins at the international border with Mexico and stretches to the Orange County line, the Riverside County line, and the Imperial County line. The San Diego Sector is comprised of seven individual Border Patrol stations and two substations. The Border Patrol stations are situated throughout San Diego County. Each station is responsible for a geographical area.

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Q: How do I contact the Border Patrol? How do I report illegal activity / immigration violations / suspected illegal smuggling activity?
A: You can report suspected illegal activity by contacting the San Diego Sector Communication Center at (619) 498-9900.