

## Mobile Response Capability

Given the dynamic nature of cross-border threats, the Border Patrol must ensure that it becomes more mobile to respond appropriately to the changing threat. This Mobile Response Capability provides the Border Patrol with the flexibility to deploy capabilities to the highest risk areas of the border. The Border Patrol also deploys scalable capabilities to areas – before they become a high risk – to maintain the highest possible levels of security in each border area. This capability builds on situational awareness, because the Border Patrol must know when, where, and to what extent to deploy its capabilities.



### Mobile Response Team

The Mobile Response Team (MRT) provides a national group of organized, trained, and equipped Border Patrol agents who are capable of rapid movement to regional and national incidents and events in support of priority CBP operations. The MRT also responds to intelligence-driven targets and shifts in local and cross-border criminal activity as deemed necessary by the sector's Chief Patrol Agent. The MRT provides a flexible, enhanced, tiered-response capability to counter the emerging, changing, and evolving threats along the operational areas of the Nation's borders.



### Special Operations Group

The Border Patrol Special Operations Group (SOG) is composed of two operational components: the Border Patrol Tactical Unit (BORTAC) and the Border Patrol Search, Trauma and Rescue team (BORSTAR), each with robust support and intelligence sections. SOG provides DHS, CBP, and the Border Patrol with specially trained and equipped tactical teams capable of rapid response to emergent or unusual law enforcement situations requiring special tactics and techniques, search, rescue, and medical response capabilities via land, air, and sea.

## Elements of Change Detection Capability



### Change Detection Capability

Mobile response ensures flexibility to deploy capabilities to identified high-risk areas but it does not fully address the Border Patrol's responsibility to be vigilant in continually evaluating identified low threat areas for any changes in threat levels. Change Detection Capability is a tactical strategy using various techniques to gather information and intelligence in low-threat areas. Change Detection Capabilities increase the level of situational awareness in all areas, including those areas currently assessed as lower risk.

This allows the Border Patrol to continue focusing capabilities on areas where the highest risk exists, but ensures that any threat adaptation can be identified quickly through information and intelligence, culminating in appropriate steps being taken to rapidly minimize any new risk. Periodic reconnaissance patrols, sign-cutting and tracking, Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) over-flights, and interaction with partners in the community are examples of programs and techniques that will be employed to determine if new threats are present in an area.





## Leverage Technology

Border Patrol agents' use of technology continues to be an important capability and force multiplier for the Border Patrol and its partners. The Border Patrol leverages various forms of technology to gain situational awareness to better detect, identify, monitor, and respond to threats to the Nation's borders. Without technology, the Border Patrol cannot operate in an effective, efficient, and risk-based manner. Examples of technology now in use include:

- Biometrics
- Mobile Surveillance System (MSS)
- Mobile Video Surveillance System (MVSS)
- Remote Video Surveillance System (RVSS)
- Vehicle and Cargo Inspection System (VACIS)
- Night Vision Devices
- Thermal Hand-Held Imaging Devices
- Unattended Ground Sensors (UGS)
- Personal Radiation Detectors (PRD)
- Radiation Isotope Identification Devices (RIID)
- Z Backscatter X-Ray Vehicles
- Integrated Fixed Towers (IFT)

The Border Patrol manages its requirements for existing and emerging technology at the Headquarters level, based on input from agents in the field. The Border Patrol assesses technological needs of the mission and capability gaps, then works with its CBP partners – including the Office of Information and Technology (OIT) and Office of Technology Innovation and Acquisition (OTIA) – to manage requirements through a mission-analysis process from beginning to end. This ensures that the Border Patrol's technological needs are addressed properly through documentation, prioritization, testing, and deployment. The Border Patrol also works to identify and develop potential emerging technologies that can support current and future operational needs.

## Goal 1: Secure America's Borders



### Objective 1.3

#### **Disrupt and Degrade Transnational Criminal Organizations**

Transnational criminal organizations represent a significant cross-border threat to homeland security. These organizations control most cross-border trafficking in guns and illegal drugs, as well as an increasing percentage of human smuggling. With efforts in place to understand the origin and magnitude of threats along the border, the Border Patrol can now focus on specific threats like TCOs, and work to disrupt and degrade their operations. The Border Patrol's response to this threat also will involve close collaboration within CBP and includes Federal, state, local, and tribal partners to advance the common goal of disrupting and degrading TCO activity.



#### **Targeted Enforcement**

To meet the ever-expanding and diverse threats to the Nation's borders, the Border Patrol has adopted a targeted enforcement posture to prevent and disrupt terrorist and transnational threats. Targeting threats between the POEs through intelligence and analysis translates organizational priorities into strategic, risk-based, operational plans with focused deployment of capabilities.

Due to the dynamic nature of the threats faced between the ports of entry, the Border Patrol has employed



coordinated efforts to strengthen security through targeted enforcement. Through joint interagency planning, design of operations, targeting, and execution, targeted enforcement methodologies within corridors will increase the ability to disrupt and degrade TCOs along the border. Integrating with Federal and state investigative units and operating with law enforcement entities at all levels, targeted enforcement operations will have an impact on criminal operations that threaten America. Furthermore, the Border Patrol supports CBP's National Targeting Center in its efforts to use intelligence and systems to screen potential threats through the use of advanced targeting systems; providing information in an integrated approach to rapidly address the threat.

### Consequence Delivery

Substantial investment in personnel, technology, and infrastructure along the Southwest Border with Mexico during the past several years has facilitated reduction of illegal cross-border activity to unprecedented levels. This reduction in traffic is now enabling the Border Patrol to manage, as opposed to simply react to, the volume of illegal traffic along our borders through the application of appropriate consequences to illegal entrants.

CBP has developed, with the support of its strategic partners, a new Consequence Delivery System (CDS) that guides management and agents through a process designed to uniquely evaluate each subject and identify the ideal consequence to break the smuggling cycle. The CDS applies effective strategies to disrupt and degrade TCOs and distribution networks. The CDS measures the consequences applied to persons illegally entering the country against defined alien classifications. CDS provides a process designed to uniquely evaluate each subject and apply the appropriate post-arrest consequences to that individual to break the smuggling cycle and end the subject's desire to attempt further illegal entry. The CDS is a means of standardizing the decision-making process regarding the application of consequences and provides for the evaluation of outcome effectiveness. Consequences delivered under this system that execute targeted enforcement techniques range from administrative, criminal prosecution, and programmatic elements that are designed to impact and change the way TCOs conduct business and stem the flow of illegal activity.

## Goal 1: Secure America's Borders



### Objective 1.4

#### **Whole-of-Government Approach**

The U.S. Border Patrol will continue to integrate targeting practices and joint operations with CBP's Office of Field Operations (OFO) and Office of Air and Marine (OAM) to better achieve its goals. The Border Patrol also will work with its Federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement partners to achieve a holistic approach to border security. This is accomplished by establishing a unity of purpose; advancing operational integration and jointly planned targeted operations; developing intelligence and accomplishing intelligence fusion;



and creating integrated partnerships. This whole-of-government approach, coupled with the application of the principles of targeted enforcement, consequence delivery, and operational discipline, provides the capability necessary to enhance the abilities of the Border Patrol and its partners to address threats or emergencies within a region.

#### **Operation Stonegarden**

Operation Stonegarden is a DHS-funded, CBP-facilitated operation designed to enhance border security by developing a multilateral enforcement effort between the Border Patrol and state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies (SLT). Border Patrol sectors coordinate operations based on enhanced border security through an increased SLT presence along the Southwest, Northern, and Coastal Borders.

#### **State, County, and Local Task Forces**

Members of the Border Patrol are assigned to various counter-narcotics and counter-crime/terrorism task forces at the local law enforcement level. These task forces work on drug and violent crimes associated with