



April 18, 2013

**STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD  
SUBMITTED BY GENERAL BARRY R. McCAFFREY (USA, Ret.)**

**U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Homeland Security**

Chairman McCaul, Ranking Member Thompson, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on US border security requirements. I request that the attached presentation, which summarizes my principal conclusions, be included in the record for your projected hearing.

A critical question being asked as the Congress and the Administration propose to reform the nation's immigration laws is whether our borders are secure enough so that we can avoid repetition of what happened subsequent to the enactment of the Immigration Reform and Control Act in 1986. The end result of that legislation was the arrival of millions of additional illegal immigrants who now live throughout the United States.

By many measures, the U.S. – Mexico border is more secure than it has ever been. Some 700 miles of fences and barriers have been erected along the border. The number of Border Patrol agents assigned to the border has doubled since 2001. The number of illegal border crossers apprehended by the U.S. Border Patrol has plummeted by 78 percent since 2000. Border cities such as El Paso and San Diego are among the safest cities in the United States.

However, it is incorrect to suggest that our land borders are secure. Customs and Border Protection lacks the ability to detect cross-border tunnels, seizes just 5-10 percent of the illegal drugs smuggled across the border, and interdicts less than 1 percent of the \$20 billion laundered to Mexico each year. In 2010, the Border Patrol stated that it controlled just 129 miles of the 2,000 mile U.S. – Mexico Border and 32 miles of the 5,500 mile U.S. – Canada border. As a former military commander I do not believe that a Border Patrol that is only the size of a U.S. Army infantry division could possibly secure 7,500 miles of land borders. The CBP also clearly lacks the surveillance technology and fencing required to successfully confront cross-border U.S.-Mexico crime, terrorism, and illegal migration.

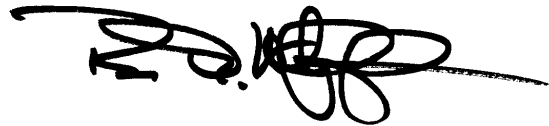
Also strongly suggest that the relative lack of “spillover violence” in U.S. border communities is principally the result of decisions by the Mexican drug trafficking organizations that operate in more than 1,000 U.S. cities to follow different rules of engagements within the United States. For now, these criminal organizations are intimidated and deterred by U.S. law enforcement. However, they clearly have the capability to act as violently in the United States as they do in Mexico. We do not have a secure border when Mexican transnational criminal organizations control smuggling across the U.S. – Mexico border and the distribution of heroin, cocaine, methamphetamines, and marijuana throughout the United States.

The center of gravity of the new border security efforts currently focuses on three Border Patrol sectors (Rio Grande Valley, Laredo, and Tucson) of the U.S. – Mexico border. These sectors

collectively accounted for approximately 74 percent of Border Patrol apprehensions along this border in FY 2012 and constitute about 30 percent of the 2,000 mile border. Clearly, additional resources should be applied where the need is greatest.

The U.S. needs to address the problem of “overstays” (individuals who entered legally but stayed beyond the authorized visit period) by requiring the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to capture exit data at air and sea ports. Finally, the U.S. must require all employers to use DHS’ E-Verify system in order to prevent unauthorized workers from obtaining employment. Collectively, these measures will certainly improve border security and our ability to prevent individuals from entering or remaining illegally in the United States and finding work.

We should define the U.S. goal for border security not for a narrow purpose of achieving and maintaining effective control in high risk border sectors along the Southern border. Our borders cannot be considered secure if we do not establish effective surveillance or fencing of the entire U.S. – Mexico border. Finally, Congress should establish effectiveness rates for an exit system to be employed by DHS at air, sea ports, and land ports of entry.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. R. McCaffrey', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Barry R. McCaffrey  
General, USA (Ret.)