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**From:** Johnson, Kim R **On Behalf Of** NOC.State&Local  
**Sent:** Friday, April 20, 2007 7:11 PM  
**Cc:** Petera, Anne; Lunner, Chet; Tysarczyk, Eric; Swigart, Richard; Hagy, James; Cash, Edward; Chenault, Maya K; Johnson, Kim R  
**Subject:** DHS - Secure Border Initiative

Dear Texas Homeland Security Partner,

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has designated the locations along the southwest border where it is operationally necessary to construct pedestrian fence. The Administration is working towards establishing the right mix of vehicle barriers, personnel, and technology which will contribute to the goal of gaining effective control of the southwest border.

DHS, through Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the Army Corps of Engineers, will soon begin contacting landowners with property on the international boundary to discuss surveys, environmental assessments and land use for infrastructure projects in support of the Secure Border Initiative.

CBP is committed to a cumulative 370 miles of primary fence and 200 miles of vehicle barrier by the end of 2008. Of those 370 miles, California will have 76, Arizona will have 129, New Mexico will have 12 and Texas will have 153 miles of primary fence by the end of 2008. A majority of the 200 miles of vehicle barrier will be installed in Arizona and New Mexico. One important point is that we continue to monitor the operational environment and will make adjustments to infrastructure plans as necessary.

Please see the attachments for background on this issue, as well as a map of existing and planned fencing in your state. We ask that you please not publicly distribute.

Should you have questions regarding the provided information, please contact the Office of Intergovernmental Programs at (202) 447-3000.

Thank you for your support.

Anne Petera  
Assistant Secretary  
Office of Intergovernmental Programs  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

4/24/2007

## Background on Landowner Outreach for Southwest Fence

**SBI/SBInet:** The Secure Border Initiative is a comprehensive multi-year plan to secure America's borders and reduce illegal immigration. A critical component of the Secure Border Initiative is SBInet, the program that is deploying the technology and tactical infrastructure solutions to help U.S. Customs and Border Protection gain effective control of our nation's borders. The initial focus of SBInet will be on southwest land border investments at and between the ports of entry.

**Tactical Infrastructure:** One component of SBInet is the construction of tactical infrastructure (fencing, vehicle barrier, lighting, and access roads) needed as the foundation of the operational and technology response components. DHS Secretary Chertoff has committed to building 370 miles of fence by the end of calendar year 2008. Because of the scale and the timeline for this endeavor, DHS and CBP intend to use the flexibility of the SBInet program to use multiple contractors to leverage the experience and capability of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to execute substantial tactical infrastructure construction.

The Tactical Infrastructure Design Build contracts may include, but are not limited to: roads, low water crossings, drainage structures, bridges, cuts and fills, storm water pollution prevention measures, site restoration (hydro seeding/revegetation), cleanup, fencing, vehicle barriers, lighting, and possible environmental mitigation work.

**Landowner Outreach:** In late April, DHS, CBP and the Army Corps will begin reaching out to landowners to begin discussions for surveys, environmental assessments, construction and land use. The locations of property to build this infrastructure are based on operational assessments. Only the property absolutely essential for the successful completion of the project has been considered. The government will work cooperatively with landowners to proceed with construction projects that adequately accomplish national security goals while mitigating personal and environmental issues.

Building tactical infrastructure will improve security for landowners and communities along the U.S./Mexico border. New infrastructure will allow the Border Patrol to better patrol for and respond to illegal entries from illegal immigrants, possible terrorist threats, and the smuggling of illegal narcotics and contraband.

In those same project corridors, the level of illegal vehicle and foot traffic will be significantly reduced, which will reduce the level of damage caused by such traffic to the landscape (i.e., less debris, less impact to vegetation and cultural resources sites). The new infrastructure will also facilitate the reduction in the CBP's enforcement footprint by allowing the CBP agents to interdict and apprehend illegal aliens closer to the border and, in the long term, deterring attempts to illegally enter the U.S.

**Corps Background:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has an ongoing relationship with the Department of Homeland Security. Since 1997, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has performed over \$1 billion worth of work, primarily for CBP and ICE through current or legacy agencies.