



XXII BORDER GOVERNORS CONFERENCE

**AUGUST 9-10, 2004
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO**

State of New Mexico *Office of the Governor*

Bill Richardson
Governor

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Contact: Billy Sparks
(Santa Fe) 505-476-2299

New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson Announces Historic Bi-national Border Security Agreement

22nd Border Governors Conference Kicks off in Santa Fe

SANTA FE- New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson, chairman of the 22nd Border Governors' Conference being held in Santa Fe, N.M., today announced border states in the US and Mexico have reached an historic agreement to work together on key security issues. The agreement is the result of the first year of work of the Border Security Worktable, part of the ongoing efforts of the Border Governors Conference.

“To say we live in challenging and dangerous times is an understatement,” said Governor Richardson. “The need for global communication and cooperation has never been greater. One of the best ways to secure our individual homelands is by working together- sharing information, technology, and personnel with the common goal of preparedness, security, and the smooth and continued flow of goods, services, and people.”

The agreement reached by the Border Security Worktable included several important accomplishments:

- The *creation of liaison units* - criminal justice agencies from every border state will now have a partner to call for assistance to further their policing efforts. The border will no longer serve as a shield for those who have no regard for human life.
- As a result of the Border Security Worktable meetings the *Exchange of Criminal Justice Information* has already begun through the liaison officers.



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- *Radio Interoperability* has been tested and proven successful between two states to improve communication between the Border States. This concept will serve as a model for other states to consider in assessing their communication needs.
- The Border States have begun to take advantage of *Training Programs* offered by each of the states. Law Enforcement Officers from both countries have participated in training initiatives that include crime scene processing, dignitary protection, liaison officer training and others. This training benefits the citizens of both countries as it will ultimately better prepare officers on both sides of the border in their fight against crime
- The need to improve *Critical Incident Preparedness* has been recognized. Joint exercises along the border will improve responding to critical incidents such as natural disasters, weapons of mass destruction or other terrorist acts. These exercises will focus on identifying issues that would otherwise hinder a swift, efficient and effective response from both sides of the border. The series of border exercises will test and evaluate existing early warning and response capabilities and will encourage interagency and bi-national cooperation. This partnership ultimately empowers the citizenry on both sides of the border to participate as full partners in the war on terror, narcotics, and all crimes, which threaten the existing quality of life.

The Border Security Worktable is co-chaired by Carlos Maldonado, Chief of the New Mexico State Police, and Manuel Diaz Lerma, Cabinet Secretary, the Department of Public Safety of Baja California and consisted of representatives from participating Mexican and American border states.

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