

CC: First of all welcome, and thank you for taking time out of your schedules to be with us here today...This is the third in a series of town hall meetings on border security, hosted by the Laredo Border Patrol Sector. And they will continue throughout the year... It is our hope that you will find this town hall on border security both informative and educational....I will open the meeting with a brief overview of the national border patrol strategy, followed by an overview of the Laredo Sector area of operation...I will then conclude my presentation with a snapshot of the local area and follow with an open forum of question and answer, where you will be able to direct your questions to a panel of federal, county and local government and other law enforcement subject matter experts that I will introduce to you shortly.....(go into powerpoint).....The United States Border Patrol is comprised of 20 Sectors...Laredo Sector being between Del Rio and McAllen/RGV Sectors....We have 8 northern sectors, 9 sw border sectors and three coastal sectors, N.O., Miami and Ramey...Of course we see quite a diversity of types of terrain that we patrol, different challenges that we face...as demonstrated by these pictures...the middle picture being the great lakes...the great lakes being one of the biggest challenges that we face....quite frankly, many residents are not even aware of... The primary strategic goal of the border patrol is to establish and maintain operational control of the border...detect entries when they occur, identify what the entry is and classify it's level of threat...effectively and efficiently respond to the entry and bring the situation to the appropriate law enforcement resolution...when we are able to detect and identify, classified, respond, and resolve entries on any stretch of the border, we classify that area as being under operational control...the strategy to defend America is based on three dynamics...to gain incremental control of the border, maintain that level of control once we gain it and then re-deploy our assets so that we can expand that operational control laterally...some people have referred to it as gaining operational control by inch, by foot, by mile...it requires that we apply available resources in the following manner, so that we can get the greatest value or so that we can go after the highest value targets...One of the biggest challenges that we face is illegal immigration....**The border patrol is not equipped to stop illegal immigration...illegal immigration is obviously much bigger than the border patrol** (0630 into video)..We have the national...we have the push pull or push draw dynamics of illegal immigration...Employment draws people to this country...the economies that they are leaving pushes them toward us....the local draws are the transportation levels that the smuggling organizations require to be able to facilitate their ingress into the country, and the smuggling infrastructure that they require as they approach the country and make their decisions as to where their going to cross...the blue dots here represent the decision points...as the smuggler proceeds north or toward the United States, the smuggling corridor begins to narrow....At that point, that's when they decide are they going to go toward Laredo, the rio grande valley, are they going to go to Arizona...Are they going to go to El Paso...a lot of that has to do with what they perceive to be the posture of border enforcement at that time...that's where deterrence becomes a great force multiplier into what the border patrol does...one thing that is a given, is a constant, no matter what decision that they make, their going to be drawn to these red dots, what we depicted as these urban centers...because again, smuggling, crime, any type of activity of this nature, Requires facilitating infrastructure...someplace where they can stage, re-supply, communicate and plan their next step...once they cross the border, they of course want

the benefit of the same type of facility or infrastructure on this side of the border. ....they are attracted to the routes of egress away from the border to the transportation hubs where they can continue their trek into the United States....the success of the national strategy is based on applying the appropriate number of well-trained personnel, proven infrastructure, technology and rapid response capability....rapid response capability being that many cases where we have the outlying areas, infrastructure may not be the answer....But tactics and technology, or the different approaches that are at the foundation of our strategy, is a more well-trained flexible nationally trained border patrol...specialized teams and rapid-response capabilities, intelligence driven operations....intelligence being the greatest force multiplier that we benefit from, by working with other federal agencies, state and local....infrastructure, facilities and technology support is also what is going to be the underlying foundation of our success...strategies to address the areas of threats, to establish the substantial probability of apprehending terrorist and their weapons as they attempt to enter the country illegally...At this point, I feel that I need to share this with you that...I've said it before and I'll say it again....**The border patrol's job is not to stop illegal immigrants! (10 minutes in) The border patrol's job is not to stop narcotics...or contraband or narcotics....The border patrol or should I say the border patrol's mission is not to do any of those things....The border patrol's mission is not to stop criminals...The border patrol's mission is to stop terrorists and terrorist weapons from entering this country....NOW, in the course of doing that, we will encounter illegal aliens, we will encounter criminal aliens, we will encounter narcotics....The United States Border Patrol "just as an example" I need to share these statistics with you....just in the last 10 months....these statistics are not for the last several years, these statistics are for just the last 10 months of this last fiscal year...from October of last year thru the first couple of weeks of this month...The Border Patrol to date, has apprehended over 790,000 illegal aliens, over 112,000 criminal aliens...The Border Patrol in the last 10 months has already seized....Now this is not our job, but in the course of our job, we will encounter this....The Border Patrol has already seized, in the last 10 months, over 843 tons of narcotics, with a wholesale value of over 1.8 billion dollars....Now, that in itself supports our position that improved border security improves the quality of life for American citizens....Because that's 843 tons of narcotics that didn't make it to the streets....That's 1.8 billion dollars of wholesale value, that the narco-traffickers did not benefit from...This is an example of what some folks have called border calculus, urban environment deployment tactics....in an urban environment, you have seconds to minutes, or if you have someone that's attempting to enter the country illegally has seconds to minutes to get lost in the facilitating infrastructure represented by the urban centers....in fact, just anecdotally this is my home town here, this is Calexico and this is Mexicali and there is actually a fence here, that has been there for about 50 years....the deployments in these areas, have to be extensive....because of course, keeping in mind that we don't have but seconds to minutes to act...this is a picture of San Diego....then we have the rural environment deployment, that does not require the same level of urban tactical infrastructure....but we know that the criminal element, the terrorist, the person that wants to cross our borders illegally will attempt to outflank our heavy deployments...we know that it takes them hours now, not seconds to minutes...the deployments to these areas take on a little bit different scheme...It's an RVS site here**

locally, that's a skywatch tower with a scope on it...of course we use Normandy barriers that are used in the desert areas to keep vehicles from driving across the border, while this is here locally and this is here locally...then we have the other dynamic, the remote environment deployment...these are areas that are for all intents and purposes are two remote even for the illegal trafficker...but we can't even take it for granted that they are not going to cross...in fact, we see in many parts of the country where we've been...because of the successes we've realized in these areas, and the successes in these areas, that the criminal element is going out to these areas with more frequency...so we need to respond to the threat...and these are some examples we've been talking about...the air and mobile capability where there aren't any roads where we can't get there, we'll come out of a helicopter...there's signcutting operations... (sic) this is out at falcon...this is on foot, old traditional signcutting operations...this is a forward operating base out in the middle of the desert, probably a good 1 1/2 hours from the closes town...we have agents that are literally living and working there for 2 weeks at a time...they sleep and eat there and operate from these forward operating bases from certain locations across the country, or across the SW desert...and of course where we don't have roads or any other manner to access these lands, then we'll use horseback....Now, the indicators of our effectiveness...it's not just us saying we're being more effective...of course we're using our statistics and our comparable data to indicate to us whether we're having an impact or not...third party indicators, domestic...that's the community...that's other law enforcement agencies...there's the press if you will...they're telling us whether we're being successful or not...the other agency or citizen's phone calls that we get at the station...they indicate to us, a level of impact...whether we're being successful or not being successful and they also indicate to us where we may need to re-deploy or need to respond...third party indicators are foreign...they are like the casas de huespuedes...the houses that the smugglers will use to stash "if you will" their human cargo...the Mexican press, Mexican government officials, neighbors, cousins, I mean members of the community, bi-national members of the community will also talk with us and tell us how we are doing....this picture here, this is in San Diego, this is TJ, I worked in this area in the early 80's....this is know as the soccer field area, the famous soccer field area....this is a border out of control, this is 25 years ago....anyone who has ever read Joseph Wambaugh's "Lights and shadows" it was based on these areas...I worked on the border crime prevention units, and there was a lot of robbery, rapes, assaults, drug trafficking....it was out of control...the response was to provide some (sic) mark up of tactical infrastructure from this to this....this is very rudimentary infrastructure....it's aligning that fence, but it's not that torn down hurricane type of fence that was there before, where some of the fence didn't even exist....this is much more substantial....we were able to get our agents in there to patrol....and this was probably in 1986...87...but then to take it a step further....I believe this is here....this is basically the same perspective only in 1992....where the patrol roads have now been put in...the cameras have been put in...lights....we have more tactical infrastructure....we've gained more control....look at this hillside here....this hillside extended for probably five or six miles....with nothing but trails and smuggling and uh, things of that uh nature....I used to work in this area....so that I know the area...But this is in 2004....where we've added secondary fence, lights and sensors...basically where we've established a secure barrier for the population that lives north of the border....This is TJ and this border here,

and this is the secondary fence here....Now, the event, when we talk about a secure border environment provides improved quality of life...the next slide I think will...remember that area that I told you about, that was nothing but fields of trails and smuggling and what have you....this is probably no more than a half mile from the border....this is a multi-Billion dollar housing development and golf course that has gone in..In fact, since then, this is 2004....since then a new mall has gone in right here...My aunt and uncle live right here some place....I know this area well...but that, you couldn't of imagined that back then....so there is light at the end of the tunnel....It's just how do we agree to pursue that light...the operational challenges that we continue to face on a national basis are the vastness and the remoteness that we have to work in, the accessibility and mobility....the lack of roads...the continuing threat and vulnerabilities that we have to continue to assess...illegal immigration continues to be a problem...in fact, illegal immigration is the proverbial haystack in which that needle the terrorist is going to hide...Everything and anything that we can do to reduce the size of that haystack, increases the probability of addressing that (sic) high bounding target...that's why illegal immigration is such a big issue for us....the government of Mexico of course, they're reluctant to stop an exodus from their country....because really, it's not an illegal act for them, except that...uh....(sic) Consul Agundiz, he could probably verify that it is illegal to leave Mexico between the port of entry's...there's a law that requires them to leave at ports of entry, but it is not very well, it's not enforced...And of course the 20-billion dollars remittance that Mexico receives from their citizens working in the United States...that is a big safety valve for the government of Mexico...and then the chaos and clutter that illegal migration or illegal cross-border traffic creates for border communities on both sides of the border...not only on the U.S. side, but in Mexico where it continues to be a challenge...deployment challenges are improving... the hiring, when I came into the Border Patrol 25 years ago, we had less than 3000 agents for the entire country...On 9/11/2001, when the terrorist attack occurred, I think we were just under 6000 agents...So in 21 years, we doubled in size from 3000 to 6000...In the last 5 years, we have doubled again and even more to 14,400 presently...and by December of next year, we will be close to 19,000 agents...of course, recruitment and hiring is a big issue for us...all these agents need to be trained...we are currently sending 100 new trainees to the academy each week, to be trained...we will soon be graduating a hundred new agents from the academy every week...and we will maintain that pace throughout next year and probably beyond...of course, part and parcel with increasing the size of the border patrol at that rate, it requires us to build facilities, build stations to be able to house our agents operationally, out in the field....that's where the impacts to the communities come...both good and bad....we're going to see more infrastructure, but from a financial perspective that may be good, because that means construction, that means jobs, that money that comes into the different communities within the southwest border....quality of life issues...we had a town hall meeting in zapata last week, where I spoke to the community there...I intend to grow Zapata by about 130 mas or menos, more agents by the end of next year...that's quite an influx of new patrolmen for the Zapata community...my advise to them, start to build new houses now...because these new agents will need a place to live...they'll have wives, they'll have kids...they conservatively, about 10 agents bring a million dollars in goods and services to a community...if your talking over 130 agents, that's quite a boon to their local economy....and mayor Salinas will be happy to

hear that the payroll in zapata will be (sic) pouring into Laredo...environmental issues continue to be a challenge...this is what we see every day, on the river...that's why I'm so adamant that the Carrizo cane needs to be addressed...quite frankly, I'll share this with you now...I know it's going to be a hot ticket item once we open up this forum to questions...**before I can endorse building any kind of a fence, we need to address this...we need to get eyes on the river...the water is on the other side of this, believe it or not...but I can't see it...my agents can't see it...we need to insure that we have lateral patrol movement along the river...so that when we do see traffic jump into the river, we can get ahead of them...**these are some of the roads we have to work on right now...and of course, funding with congressional support...we continue to continue to receive that...if that stops...everything stops...Alright, Laredo Sector...very quickly, the United States Border Patrol Laredo Sector, the responsibility encompasses 116 square miles of Texas, 110 Texas counties, abuts borders with Mexico, Louisiana and Oklahoma and the primary mission here is to prevent terrorists, terrorist weapons from entering the country...our Border Patrol agents conduct 24/7 enforcement operations along the rio grande river to prevent the smuggling of persons and contraband...the principle strategic focus of our sector is this 171 miles of river...that comprise our border with mexico...the Laredo sector is comprised of 9 border patrol stations, as you can see here, Zapata, Hebbronville, Laredo south, Laredo north, these are the two stations that are principally responsible for taking care of Laredo...we have Laredo west, which is responsible for 53 miles of river, freer, Cotulla, san Antonio and we have a station in dallas. The Laredo sector also maintains a defense in depth posture with 6 permanent traffic checkpoints strategically located on I-35, we have hwy. 359, we have hwy. 59, fm 1017, hwy. 16 and hwy. 83 north...this year, the men and women of Laredo sector, **I said before that our mission now is not to stop illegal aliens, our mission is not to stop drugs, our mission is to keep this country safe...safe, from terrorists and terrorist weapons...nevertheless, as the result of doing that, the men and women of Laredo sector this year alone, in this last 10 months have already been credited with over 51,000 illegal aliens...almost 10,000 criminal aliens...and the seizure of over 62 tons of narcotics...that's just here in Laredo...in the previous five years, in just the Laredo sector...I'm not talking about national, just the Laredo sector, has made over 427,000 arrests....and over 5, 500 narcotic seizures with a value over over 1,652,000,000...so the men and women are hard at work, here in Laredo to make sure that we maintain a secure border environment...this here depicts Laredo north and Laredo south, which is the area that I'm going to focus on...and this depicts the Charlie 29, the Laredo north checkpoint, and the Laredo west checkpoint that used to belong to Laredo north...now it's Laredo west checkpoint...but this is the main corridor, the main thoroughfare or route of egress out of this area...Laredo Sector alien apprehensions, as you can see, they've held steady and actually increased a little bit...this is for just 10 months...we still have about two months to reach that, we're actually running about 24% below the rate that we were at last year...** Now, I want you to keep that in mind...as the sector continues to grow, are our agents doing less??? Or are they having a deterrent impact that we are looking for??? Are we shrinking the size of that haystack??? Are we becoming more effective, more efficient??? **I think the fact that we've seized already more drugs this year than we did in the ENTIRE YEAR OF FY06 speaks to the fact that we are getting better at being able**

**to go after these high value targets...because that haystack has shrunk just a little bit...and we're able to then focus on the narcotics...** Agent staffing. I think this where the community of Laredo should be very interested... These are staffing numbers for the entire sector... As you see, in FY06, **we had 925 agents...at the end of this year we will have 1196, almost 1200 agents...and by the end of September next year we should have almost 1600 agents...** Laredo north and Laredo south, the two stations that take care of Laredo, in FY06 we have 612, we should end this year with 698 and by the end of next year we should have 875 agents, which is quite a shot in the arm for the community of Laredo... each one of these numbers represents a good citizen, a trained federal law enforcement officer that I would certainly welcome into the community... and I believe part in parcel why the community of Laredo continues to be a secure border environment is per capita we have more federal law officers living in the city, than in any other municipalities along the southwest border... and regardless of whether your on duty or off duty, as my colleagues will tell you, we're always on duty... along with the growth of agents, we



**U.S. Customs and  
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# Media Advisory

## **Laredo Sector Announces Town Hall Meeting**

**LAREDO, TEXAS** - U.S. Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) Laredo Sector will be hosting a Town Hall Meeting next week in the city of Laredo, Texas. The gathering led by Laredo Sector Chief Patrol Agent, Carlos X. Carrillo, provides local residents the opportunity to learn more about Border Security, as well as the other duties and responsibilities of the U.S. Border Patrol within their community. The Town Hall will also give participating business, civic, religious and community leaders an inside look at the issues involving Homeland Security

- What:** Town Hall Meeting
- Who:** Laredo Sector Chief Patrol Agent  
Carlos X. Carrillo
- When:** Wednesday, August 15th 2007  
6:15 pm
- Where:** **Texas A & M International University Campus**  
5201 University Blvd.  
Bob Bullock Hall-Room 101