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# NEWS RELEASE

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## INS Deploys New Border Patrol Agents and Detention Positions

WASHINGTON – Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) Commissioner Doris Meissner announced today the agency's plans to deploy 616 new positions, including 430 new Border Patrol agents, to strengthen its efforts to deter illegal immigration while supporting legal immigration. This deployment focuses on enhancing the security of U.S. borders and removing illegal aliens.

"This marks the seventh year of progress in implementing INS' successful border enforcement strategy. Over these last seven years, we've seen significant improvements in border control in San Diego, El Paso and other areas where we've focused our resources. This deployment will allow us to replicate these successes in other border communities, most notably Arizona and southern Texas," said Meissner.

"This deployment of resources will allow INS to consolidate the gains made in previous years and to build on these successes," Meissner said.

INS is allocating 405 new agents to the most critical Southwest border operations and 25 positions to address northern and coastal border enforcement requirements as part of the FY 2000 deployment. With the 430 positions in FY 2000, the number of Border Patrol positions has grown by 123 percent since FY 1994. The agents will be on the ground once hired and trained.

The FY 2000 budget also provides additional resources to detain and remove criminal and other illegal aliens from U.S. prisons and workplaces. By adding 1,216 detention bed spaces and 186 new positions, INS expects to remove a record 187,500 criminal and other illegal aliens this year. This budget also includes resources for implementing and enforcing new detention standards, fulfilling INS' commitment to providing a safe, secure and humane environment for all detainees.

### Border Enforcement

- INS will build on the success of its national border enforcement strategy and bolster control of illegal immigration by adding 430 new Border Patrol agents. The majority of the agents, 405, will be deployed to support the most critical Southwest border operations. In addition, 25 positions will be deployed to the northern and coastal borders to address increases in illegal immigration.

(more)

**Removal of Criminal and Other Deportable Aliens**

- Congress provided 186 new positions for the detention and removal of criminal and other deportable aliens. INS estimates that it will remove 187,500 criminal and other illegal aliens in FY 2000, a 6 percent increase over FY 1999's record level of 176,980 removals.
- 176 of the positions will support detention and removal operations throughout the country. These positions also support an increase of 1,126 new beds, bringing the total number of beds to 18,535.
- Ten of the staff will be responsible for development of detention standards and to begin implementing those standards in INS Service Processing Centers, contract detention facilities, and local jails used by the INS to house detainees.

**FY 2000 Border Patrol Increases**

<b>Sector</b>	<b>FY 2000 Increase</b>
<b>McAllen</b>	100
<b>Del Rio</b>	95
<b>Laredo</b>	45
<b>Tucson</b>	100
<b>El Centro</b>	45
<b>Yuma</b>	10
<b>El Paso</b>	10
<b>Miami</b>	5
<b>Detroit</b>	4
<b>Swanton</b>	4
<b>Spokane</b>	3
<b>Buffalo</b>	3
<b>Grand Forks</b>	2
<b>Havre</b>	2
<b>Blaine</b>	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>430</b>