



# Department of Justice

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**AG  
(202) 616-2777  
TDD (202) 514-1888**

## **JOINT US-CANADA STATEMENT ON NORTHERN BORDER PRIORITIES**

**OTTAWA, CANADA** - - Attorney General John Ashcroft, Solicitor General of Canada Lawrence MacAulay, and Canadian Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Eleanor Caplan, signed today a Memorandum of Cooperation that addresses common border security and immigration priorities along the U.S.-Canada border. The memorandum underscores the commitment of President Bush and Prime Minister Chretien to defend and protect the U.S.-Canada border and disrupt future terrorist attacks.

"This document is testimony to the ongoing cooperation and collaboration between the United States and Canada that was in place long before September 11, 2001," said Attorney General Ashcroft. "We hope to build on our past successes as we move forward on developing responses and strategies to ensure the continued prosperity of our independent economies."

The memorandum of cooperation focuses on deterrence, detection, prosecution of security threats and the disruption of illegal immigration. The agreement also includes:

- Expanding the Integrated Border Enforcement Teams (IBET) to include up to eight additional geographic locations to share information and technology, and maximize law enforcement activity in specific border regions;
- Supplying the Royal Canadian Mounted Police with equipment and training to access the FBI fingerprint data bank;
- Enhancing existing communication of intelligence and cooperation between U.S. and Canadian law enforcement under the direction of Project North Star;
- Integrating Canadian officials into the U.S. Foreign Terrorist Tracking Task Force and coordinating efforts to bar entry of future terrorists;
- Conducting a joint review of U.S.-Canada visitor visa policies and develop joint visa requirements to control unlawful migration from one country to the other;
- Establishing Joint Passenger Analysis Units to assess passenger information at key international airports in the U.S. and Canada;
- Increasing the number of Canadian and U.S. Immigration Control Officers overseas in order to intercept inadmissible passengers;
- Developing common biometric identification cards to increase rapid and positive identification of passengers who may require greater scrutiny; and

- Developing a Safe Third Country Agreement that supports the free exchange of asylum information to help determine the identity and background of asylum seekers.

"Canada since September 11, has embarked on an intensive \$280 million anti-terrorism plan to protect American citizens," said Solicitor General MacAulay. We are both committed to pulling together on security issues that affect the safety of all our citizens."

"The events of September 11, 2001 have cast a new importance on our relationship with the United States, particularly with respect to border security and the legitimate flow of people across our shared border," said Minister Caplan. "This statement reaffirms our long-standing commitment to make the US-Canada border a model of cooperation."

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2001  
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**AG  
(202) 616-2777  
TDD (202) 514-1888**

## **DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE PARTNERS WITH DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FOR NORTHERN BORDER SECURITY**

In an effort to strengthen security on the 4,000 mile border between the United States and Canada, Attorney General John Ashcroft announced today that the U.S. Border Patrol will be augmented by the National Guard on the Northern Border. The two phase program will include personnel, intelligence and air support.

In a letter to Defense Secretary Don Rumsfeld Attorney General Ashcroft said, "the terrorist attacks on the United State have sharply focused national attention on the security of this country's borders. However, since September 11, maintaining heightened readiness and security have required extraordinary efforts from limited staff resources. The INS is seeking to supplement its existing staff temporarily in order to maintain both heightened security and legitimate international travel."

For the initial phase, the Immigration and Naturalization Service is requesting 419 National Guard Bureau soldiers to augment the INS inspectors that have been operating at Threat Level One since September 11. This heightened level of security requires additional staffing of land border ports and enhanced procedures and processes at air, land and seaports to ensure all applicants for admission, vehicles, luggage, and cargo are thoroughly inspected.

The increased security has resulted in delays at some land border ports-of-entry and an increased burden on the existing staff on the Northern Border. The INS has already detailed 120 Border Patrol Agents to the Northern Border to assist with this effort. Twelve states have been identified to receive National Guard Bureau soldiers who will be deployed to 43 ports-of-entry to assist the INS.

The second phase will include aircraft, intelligence and additional personnel. The INS requested aircraft support to establish air capabilities to fulfill the law enforcement mission of the Border Patrol. Military support will provide intelligence analysis, threat assessments and intelligence training. This will enable the Border Patrol to focus and deploy its resources in areas to address the threat and achieve the highest impact.

Both phases are short term missions while the Border Patrol recruits and trains additional personnel and develops its air and intelligence capabilities. The operation will not be military in nature, its purpose is to fulfill the responsibilities of the Border Patrol.

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