

## DHS Releases Northern Border Strategy

In June the Department of Homeland Security released the 2012 Northern Border Strategy (NBS). The NBS, which is based on the 2010 National Security Strategy and the 2010 Quadrennial Homeland Security Review, is the first unified strategy for DHS operations along the U.S.-Canada border, and addresses many concerns that include trade, illegal trafficking, and security issues, such as terrorism.

The U.S.-Canada border is the world's longest common border. Because the U.S. and Canada have a strong relationship, the NBS focused on securing the U.S. northern border while expediting the flow of lawful travel, trade, and immigration.

The NBS identifies three main goals for the U.S.-Canada border: deterring and preventing terrorism, trafficking, and illegal immigration; safeguarding and encouraging lawful trade, travel, and immigration; and ensuring community resiliency before, during, and after a terrorist attack or other disaster.

The NBS proposes that these goals can be met through partnerships between U.S. and Canadian law enforcement and security agencies as well as other organized groups, information and intelligence sharing, along with enhanced technology and infrastructure. **IAJ**

## State-SOCOM Cyberterrorism Mission

The State Department and United States Special Operations Command (SOCOM) have undertaken a new counterterrorism mission that focuses on the relationships between organized crime, political or ideological extremism, and terrorism, and includes counter-cyberterrorism efforts.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton discussed the State/SOCOM partnership at a special operations conference in May, where she alluded to the Center for Strategic Counterterrorism Communications' (CSCC) operations in Yemen and Central Africa. The CSCC's Digital Outreach Team had recently countered al-Qaida propaganda on tribal Yemeni websites, posting pictures of coffins wrapped with the Yemen flag to counter the images of coffins covered by the U.S. flag. The CSCC's images were accompanied by Arabic messages regarding the human toll inflicted on Yemen by al-Qaida. The CSCC's team also responded to pictures posted by al-Qaida supporters on Yemeni discussion forums.

The CSCC's Digital Outreach Team is housed at the State Department, and is staffed by experts from the intelligence community, the Department of Defense, and special operations forces. The CSCC focuses on various forms of counterterrorism communications, and its Digital Outreach Team specializes in counter-cyberterrorism. **IAJ**