

DHS Secretary Reviews 21st Century Border Security

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Jeh Johnson recently spoke at the Center for Strategic and International Studies on the subject of U.S. border security in the 21st century. His remarks were centered on the U.S. southwest border. In his address, Secretary Johnson voiced his commitment to increased transparency about U.S. border security, and reviewed expanded security measures along the southwest border. Johnson also discussed two major efforts aimed at curbing illegal entry into the U.S.

The risk-based strategy focuses on “risk areas” where larger numbers of illegal border crossings take place. Johnson stated that DHS and the agencies working to secure U.S. borders needed to be flexible enough to move as risk area locations change, saying “We need to go further in this direction, so that we can focus our resources where our intelligence and our surveillance tell us the threats exist.”

The Southern Border campaign plan is an initiative that coordinates the assets and personnel of Customs and Border Protection, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Citizenship and Immigration Services, the Coast Guard, and other resources within DHS to better address illegal immigration into the U.S. Included in the campaign goals are the effective enforcement and interdiction across land, sea, and air; the degradation of transnational criminal organizations; and to maintain the unimpeded flow of lawful trade, travel, and commerce across U.S. borders. The campaign also includes the establishment of three new DHS task forces that will enable more effective, efficient, and unified homeland security and border security efforts. **IAJ**

Johnson Encourages Further DHS/DoD Cooperation

On October 14, 2014, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Jeh Johnson spoke at the annual Association of the U.S. Army’s conference. Johnson spoke about past, current, and future collaborative efforts of the Departments of Defense and Homeland Security, and encouraged increased cooperation between all branches of U.S. government. Johnson stated that DoD and DHS have “intersecting missions,” and that “More and more, these missions need to align.”

In his remarks, Johnson noted that the American people were “anxious” about the current crises in the world, and that better collaboration in government could assuage these fears. Johnson also discussed the importance of keeping the American public informed of threats as well, saying that “...we owe the public responsible dialogue. We owe the public responsible messaging — the facts, not speculation and rumor that will feed the flame of anxiety and fear.”

Among the major threats discussed in by Johnson are the Ebola outbreak in West Africa and the actions of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant and other extremists. **IAJ**