

U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service

three 24-foot Zodiacs, the Marine Unit has successfully intercepted a number of smuggling vessels and

The Border Patrol has established effective control of our border with Mexico in the San Diego area. Our illegal alien apprehensions in Fiscal Year 2000 were the lowest since 1974. We have secured areas of the border where six years ago illegal aliens entered our country with near impunity. We have shut down traditional illegal entry routes, forcing alien smugglers to lead illegal crossers to remote and rural regions. Illegal aliens and smugglers are now exposed to longer and more arduous entry routes and are subjecting themselves to greater risk of apprehension. In short, the Border Patrol has successfully raised the cost and difficulty of entering the United States illegally. These efforts have also disrupted former routes for importing illicit drugs. They have forced smugglers to attempt to utilize ports-of-entry and untraditional routes to further their illegal activity. Operation Gatekeeper has also pushed smugglers into increased marine smuggling efforts. The Operation Gatekeeper strategy has been implemented and is showing results in Imperial County and in Arizona and Texas as well.

Regaining control of our borders is an on-going task. No single initiative or program can achieve the goal. We appreciate the attention of this Subcommittee to the problems we face. Again, we thank the Congress for its support of our enforcement efforts.

This concludes my written testimony. I will be glad to answer any questions you may have.