

INTERVIEW: NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO
February 8, 2016

Overview:

- You will interview with (b)(6) for NPR to discuss border security.
 - This interview will be taped **ON THE RECORD**

Flow of Show:

- You will interview at NPR Studio Headquarters in Washington, D.C.
- The interview will last approximately 20 minutes, eventually cut down to approximately 12 minutes for air.

Background:

- The interview will focus on issues pertaining to border security as it relates to the implementation of the Executive Orders that impact Department operations.
 - Specifically, (b)(6) is expected to discuss risks situated at the border and how construction of the wall will impact our current security.
- (b)(6) may also ask for you to speak about your first three weeks as Secretary and your bigger picture goals and objectives now that you are in office.

Participants:

Secretary Kelly

(b)(6)

Attachment:

A. Q&A Toplines

Staff Responsible for Briefing Memo: (b)(6) OPA, (b)(6)

(b)(6)

**INTERVIEW: NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO
TOPLINE MESSAGING**

Southwest Border Security

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers and agents enforce all applicable U.S. laws, including against illegal immigration, narcotics smuggling, and illegal importation.

CBP's border security mission is led at ports of entry by CBP officers from the Office of Field Operations and along U.S. borders by agents from the Office of Border Patrol.

The Department of Homeland Security and its interagency partners continue to closely monitor immigration trends.

In FY 2016, total apprehensions by the U.S. Border Patrol nationwide between ports of entry numbered 415,816. This represents an increase over FY 2015, but was lower than FY 2014 and FY 2013, and a fraction of the number of apprehensions routinely observed from the 1980s through 2008.

The characteristics of illegal migration across our southern border have changed significantly over the last 15 years – far fewer Mexican nationals and single adults are attempting to cross the border without authorization, while far more families and unaccompanied children are fleeing poverty and violence in Central America.

Q: Can you comment on the latest apprehension numbers?

- In January 2017, apprehensions by the Border Patrol on our southwest border—an indicator of total attempts to cross the border illegally—decreased from December and November 2016.
- Of the overall 31,575 total Border Patrol apprehensions on the southwest border reported in January 2017, 4,421 were unaccompanied children and 9,304 were members of family units traveling together.

Q: What are the criteria for illegal aliens targeted for removal?

- Our borders are not open to illegal immigration, and we will continue to enforce the immigration laws and secure our borders consistent with our priorities.

Q: How does the recent Executive Order on Border Security and Immigration Enforcement Improvements affect CBP operations?

- The Order directs executive departments and agencies to deploy all lawful means to secure the Nation's southern border; to prevent further illegal immigration into the United States; and to repatriate illegal aliens swiftly, consistently, and humanely.
- The Executive Order recognizes the critical importance of security our border to the national security, and also recognizes the importance of the DHS team of agencies' role in this work.
- It focuses on all aspects of immigration enforcement – from using barriers to secure the border, hiring the right number of personnel, operating effective immigration courts systems to removing those with final orders efficiently.

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- Taken together all the aspects of the Executive Order will allow Departments and Agencies to deploy all lawful means to secure the nation's border and to prevent and deter further illegal immigration to the U.S.

Executive Order: Border Security and Immigration Enforcement Improvements

Federal immigration law both imposes the responsibility and provides the means for the Federal Government, in cooperation with Border States, to secure the Nation's southern border.

The Order directs executive departments and agencies to deploy all lawful means to secure the Nation's southern border; to prevent further illegal immigration into the United States; and to repatriate illegal aliens swiftly, consistently, and humanely.

As defined by the Executive Order, a wall is a “contiguous, physical wall or other similarly secure, contiguous, and impassable physical barrier.” This wall will be located along the southwest border.

CBP is currently evaluating the inventory of existing border infrastructure on the southern border, which was defined as a fence, by the Secure Fence Act of 2006 and the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996.

DHS will take all appropriate steps to immediately plan, design, and construct a physical wall along the southern border, using appropriate materials and technology to most effectively achieve complete operational control of the southern border;

Project and develop long-term funding requirements for the wall, including preparing Congressional budget requests for the current and upcoming fiscal years.

DHS will also produce a comprehensive study of the security of the southern border, to be completed within 180 days of this order to include the current state of southern border security, all geophysical and topographical aspects of the southern border, the availability of Federal and State resources necessary to achieve complete operational control of the southern border, and a strategy to obtain and maintain complete operational control of the southern border.

Q: What will the wall look like?

- Exact materials and style of the wall are still under consideration. However, the type of geography, access needs, and environmental concerns will all play a part in making those determinations.

Q: Are you building just the wall or are you also adding technology??

- The Executive Order “Border Security and Immigration Enforcement Improvements” does not specifically call for technology as part of the overall deployments. However, DHS utilizes a risk-based, layered approach to border security and technology, as well as personnel, have always played significant roles.

Q: Are you on track to build the Wall in two years?

- The intent is to construct the wall in areas of the border where it is necessary and appropriate in two years. As a whole, the procurement and construction process will ultimately determine the final timeline.

Q: How many miles of wall are currently at the border?

- Currently, there is approximately 650 miles of infrastructure on the southwest border.

Q: When will you begin building the Wall?

- Construction on the wall will be dictated by the procurement and construction process.

Q: Are there any other agencies involved in this project?

- With the Secure Fence Act of 2006, the Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Interior played key roles in fence construction.

Q: Will regular building requirements/regulations be waived due to the Executive Order?

- All standard building requirements and regulations will be followed in the construction of the wall. Safety and security will not be compromised.

Q: What Materials will be used to build the Wall?

- Material determination will be made as plans advance detailing the exact locations and geography where infrastructure will be built.

Q: What companies will build the Wall?

- Per Federal Acquisition Regulations, a full and open competition will be held to determine what companies will be contracted to build the new infrastructure.

Q: How will you select the companies to build the Wall?

- Per Federal Acquisition Regulations, a full and open competition will be held to determine what companies will be contracted to build the new infrastructure.

Q: Are you using the same companies that built the current fence?

- Per Federal Acquisition Regulations, a full and open competition will be held to determine what companies will be contracted to build the new infrastructure.

Q: At what stage is the construction?

- Currently, U.S. Customs and Border Protection is developing a plan to prioritize areas of the border where infrastructure is needed most. Construction has not begun at this point.

Q: CBP has reported in the past that there are 654 miles of fencing if that considered part of the Wall?

- The 654 miles of fencing already in place was constructed as part of the Secure Fence Act of 2006. This legacy infrastructure will be considered as part of the overall conversation in determining where additional infrastructure will be built as part of President Trump's Executive Order.

Q: Who will pay for the Wall?

- Several options are under consideration to determine the exact funding source to build the wall.

Q: Can you explain the appropriations and acquisitions process that will be used to build the Wall?

- With regard to acquisitions. The Federal Acquisition Regulations System is established for the codification and publication of uniform policies and procedures for acquisition by all executive agencies. The Federal Acquisition Regulations System consists of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR), which is the primary document, and agency acquisition regulations that implement or supplement the FAR.
- With regard to appropriations. Congress annually considers several appropriations measures, which provide discretionary funding for numerous activities—for example, national defense, education, and homeland security—as well as general government operations. Congress has developed certain rules and practices for the consideration of appropriations measures, referred to as the congressional appropriations process.
- The annual appropriations cycle is initiated with the President’s budget submission, which is due on the first Monday in February. This is followed by congressional consideration of a budget resolution that, in part, sets spending ceilings for the upcoming fiscal year.
- The target date for completion of the budget resolution is April 15. Committee and floor consideration of the annual appropriations bills occurs during the spring and summer months and may continue through the fall and winter until annual appropriations are enacted.
 - Floor consideration of appropriations measures is subject to procedural rules that may limit the content of those measures and any amendments thereto.