



U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Bureau of Customs and Border Protection  
U.S. Border Patrol  
Office of the Chief Patrol Agent  
San Diego Sector

2411 Boswell Road  
Chula Vista, CA 91914-3519

August 8, 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR SECTOR STAFF  
PATROL AGENTS IN CHARGE  
ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT HEADS  
ALL AGENTS  
SAN DIEGO SECTOR

FROM: William T. Veal *[Signature]*  
Chief Patrol Agent

SUBJECT: City Patrol, Interior Patrol, and Area Control

Your attention is directed to the following agency policy and Sector guidance regarding city patrol, interior patrol, area control, and related issues.

Long-standing agency policy prohibits the Border Patrol from conducting random or reactive "area control" operations in residential neighborhoods; further, we have a continuing obligation to prevent any public perception that the Border Patrol may be conducting "neighborhood sweeps." Border Patrol Agents are not authorized to conduct any "interior enforcement" or "city patrol" operations in or near residential areas or places of employment, including immigration inspections at day labor pick-up locations or on city streets while agents are en route to assignments such as PD Transport or Transportation Checks. While consensual encounters with pedestrians at these public locations may be entirely legal, as a matter of policy, Border Patrol Agents are not authorized to initiate questioning in a "city patrol," "interior patrol," or "area control" mode.<sup>1</sup>

The operational priorities for the San Diego Sector are geared toward maximum containment at the border, to prevent the illegal entry of aliens, terrorists, and terrorist weapons. Authorized enforcement activities for uniformed officers generally include linewatch in the immediate border area, operation of traffic checkpoints at fixed locations, marine interdiction, aerial and other surveillance, intelligence, and related support functions. Transportation checks may only be conducted on board public conveyances or inside transportation terminals--not in surrounding neighborhoods, at places of employment, or on city streets--and they should target transportation lines or carriers which are likely

<sup>1</sup> There are similar policy restrictions involving law enforcement contacts at schools, churches, and funerals, as well as legal restrictions involving farm and ranch checks and roving patrol. Further, interior enforcement and worksite enforcement are now within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement; they are no longer Border Patrol functions.

to be used by recent entrant illegal aliens who are attempting to leave the border area. Such aliens should be thoroughly debriefed to determine when, where, and how they crossed the border, and line station operations should be modified to address any breaches in border security.

PAICs and Enforcement Department Heads are directed to provide a copy of this memorandum to all agents within your area of responsibility, and to take appropriate action to assure that all law enforcement operations comply with the above policy directives. If there is any doubt whether an operational activity is authorized within the above policy directives, do not engage in the activity until obtaining clarification and approval at a higher level.

The future of Border Patrol operations depends in part upon our utmost attention to the above policy directives when carrying out our important law enforcement mission, and I am depending upon every agent of the San Diego Sector to exercise the highest professional standards during this historic period of transition.