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1. GOV. PERRY ANNOUNCES PHASE II OF STATE-LED BORDER SECURITY OPERATION

<u>GOV. PERRY ANNOUNCES PHASE II OF STATE-LED BORDER SECURITY</u> OPERATION

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Gov. *Rick Perry*, R-*Texas*, issued the following press release:

Today Gov. <u>*Rick Perry*</u> announced the launch of <u>*Operation Wrangler*</u>, a statewide expansion of highly successful border security surge operations. This statewide surge operation will be active for an undisclosed period of time in different areas across <u>*Texas*</u>.

"<u>Operation Wrangler</u> continues the state's steadfast efforts to prevent and disrupt criminal activity along the border region by expanding security measures statewide," Perry said. "An unsecured border affects the entire state of <u>Texas</u> and our nation as a whole. Until the federal government brings the necessary resources to bear, <u>Texas</u> will continue to do all we can to secure our border and protect our citizens."

Operation Wrangler is a coordinated interagency law enforcement surge effort intended to prevent and disrupt all crime and illegal international drug and human trafficking. **Operation Wrangler** will involve federal, state and local ground, air and water-borne assets, including more than 6,800 personnel, 2,200 vehicles, 48 helicopters, 33 fixed wing aircraft and 35 patrol ships.

In addition to the more than 1,700 *Texas* Army National Guard troops Gov. Perry activated for Operation Jump Start to support U.S. Border Patrol activities, he has activated an additional 604 troops, comprising 12 armed security platoons. These platoons will deploy to various traffic crossovers along the Rio Grande River to support *Operation Wrangler*, and each platoon will be accompanied by a Border Patrol agent and a local police officer.

Local, state and federal agencies involved in <u>Operation Wrangler</u> include up to 90 sheriffs' offices and 133 police departments; the <u>Texas</u> Department of Public Safety; the <u>Texas</u> Department of Transportation; the National Park Service; the <u>Texas</u> Parks and Wildlife Department; the U.S. Department of Homeland Security; the <u>Texas</u> Civil Air Patrol; the <u>Texas</u> Cattleman's Association; <u>Texas</u> Military Forces; <u>Texas</u> Task Force 1; the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agency; the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency; the Federal Bureau of Investigation; Immigration & Customs Enforcement; the Railroad Police; the U.S. Transportation Security Agency; the U.S. Postal Service; the U.S. Coast Guard; and the University of <u>Texas</u> Center for Space Research.

The Border Security Operations Center (BSOC) within the State Operations Center will serve as a central point of coordination for state, local and federal officials during <u>Operation Wrangler</u>. Joint Operational Intelligence Centers (JOIC) will be positioned throughout the state to provide real-time information and intelligence in support of these

surge operations. Five of the JOICs will be located at Border Patrol offices along the border and the others will be located along smuggling corridors around the state.

"We have proven that our strategy of increasing manpower and patrols along the border decreases criminal activity," Perry said. "We will continue to apply these methods of success across the state, and I will continue to urge Congress to meet its long-term responsibility by providing the necessary resources and manpower to secure our nation's borders."

Operation Rio Grande, launched February 2006, reduced all crime by an average of 60 percent in sheriff-patrolled areas of border counties during five surge operations last year. Perry will ask the <u>**Texas**</u> Legislature for an additional \$100 million during the legislative session to sustain border security efforts.

"This effort is about making our border more secure and our neighborhoods safer," Perry said. "This unprecedented effort is just the beginning of a long-term commitment to rid our state of drug trafficking and human smuggling."

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