

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
Memorandum

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
UNITED STATES CUSTOMS SERVICE



Date: January 29, 1990
FILE: SEC-1-IA:TU

To: Regional Director (Internal Affairs)
Southwest Region

From: Special Agent in Charge (Internal Affairs)
Tucson, Arizona

Subject: Proposal to Establish Arizona Multi-Agency Task Force

THE PROBLEM:

At the present time it is an accepted fact among Federal Law Enforcement agencies and the U.S. Attorney's Office (Tucson) that law enforcement corruption in the border communities of Arizona has reached a crisis state. It is the opinion of the SAC/IA Tucson that attacking only the Customs corruption is like putting a bandaid on cancer.

THE SOLUTION:

The solution is the establishment of a multi-agency Task Force, to be co-located with Customs Internal Affairs, Tucson, Az., to deal directly and immediately with all aspects of law enforcement corruption on the Arizona border.

JUSTIFICATION:

The President's National Drug Control Strategy (NDCS) for the Southwest Border relies heavily on cooperation between Federal, State and local law enforcement. If we expect to accomplish any further success in this effort, we must address the law enforcement corruption problems that now exist in areas such as Douglas and Nogales, Arizona.

These two communities have long been recognized as major drug trafficking routes into Arizona for major drug organizations

EXHIBIT

1
EEEE

operating in Sonora, Mexico with connections in Colombia.

The Presidents NDCS identifies the Treasury Department as the lead agency for the Southwest border. Customs IA has already taken the lead in dealing with Customs Border employee corruption. The SAC/IA, Tucson is now the largest Internal Affairs operation in Arizona. Our investigative activities during the past two years have continuously and routinely developed cross-jurisdictional intelligence information indicating local police and judicial corruption. To deal effectively with this problem, a comprehensive approach should be taken. Housing this Task Force within Customs Internal Affairs allows all the other law enforcement entities to work together without the perception of being investigated by a brother agency.

Current investigative information in this office indicates heavy involvement, in the corruption of two Customs Employees, by an organization in Cochise County which is believed to include Law Enforcement and Court Officials. There are strong indications of the same type of activity in Santa Cruz County which, like Cochise County, is adjacent to the Mexican border. Other Federal agencies in Arizona implicate the same organizations as being part of the drug smuggling problem. The members of these organizations include:

Chief of Police, Douglas, Arizona

Officers of various rank, Douglas, Arizona

Justice of the Peace, (Douglas) Cochise County, Az.

City Magistrate, Douglas, Arizona

Sheriff, Santa Cruz County, Nogales, Arizona

Deputies of various rank, Santa Cruz County,
Nogales, Az

Chief of Police, Nogales, Arizona

Officers of various rank, Nogales Police Department

Cochise and Santa Cruz Counties are both adjacent to the Mexican border and are the sites of five of the eight Arizona border crossing ports. There are also approximately 150 Customs employees working in those counties and immigration officials are not included in this figure. The current assumption which can be made about the target organizations is that they have already corrupted Customs employees and continue to corrupt other Customs employees.

LOGISTICS:

I suggest the following agencies provide full time representation to this proposed Task Force, with all travel/related costs for their representative to be borne by that agency:

- 1) U.S. Attorney's Office, Tucson Division
- 2) Customs Internal Affairs, SAC, Tucson, Az.
- 3) DEA, RAC, Tucson, Arizona
- 4) FBI, RAC, Tucson, Arizona
- 5) IRS, RAC, Tucson, Arizona
- 6) Department of Justice IG/OPR, Tucson, Az.
- 7) Arizona State Attorney General's Office

In order to diminish the political impact, the inclusion of the Arizona AG Office will preclude the appearance of the "Feds" harrasing state and local law enforcement. The current political conditions in Arizona would indicate that we strike now. This

may be the best opportunity we will ever have to accomplish our objective.

I suggest that we house this Task Force in the existing Tucson IA conference room space. This would allow interaction with the Task Force and allow a free flow of intelligence information between Task Force members and the Tucson IA office staff.

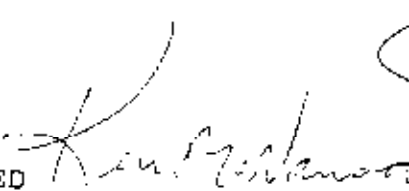
TASK FORCE SUPPORT:

The equipment necessary to start up this operation should be minimal and is listed as follows:

- 1) Seven desks and chairs - to be obtained thru GSA excess property.
- 2) Cypher lock for task force door. Purchase
- 3) Seven additional telephones and appropriate lines to be purchased above the additional lines and phones needed by the office expansion. - purchase
- 4) Three multi drawer combination lock safes. - purchase
- 5) A high quality alarm system for the SAC/IA, Tucson, office space. - lease or purchase

This project should be initiated within the next sixty days to stay ahead of the proposed NDCS operations.


John W. Juhase
Special Agent in Charge (IA)

APPROVED 

DISAPPROVED _____