

## Enhance Southern Border Security

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Theme: National Defense

# Overview

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## Goal Statement

- Improve security along the southwest border of the U.S. between ports of entry. By September 30, 2019, DHS will implement the Operational Control (OPCON) framework between ports of entry in 100% of U.S. Border Patrol Sectors along the southwest border as the means to enhance security.

## Challenge

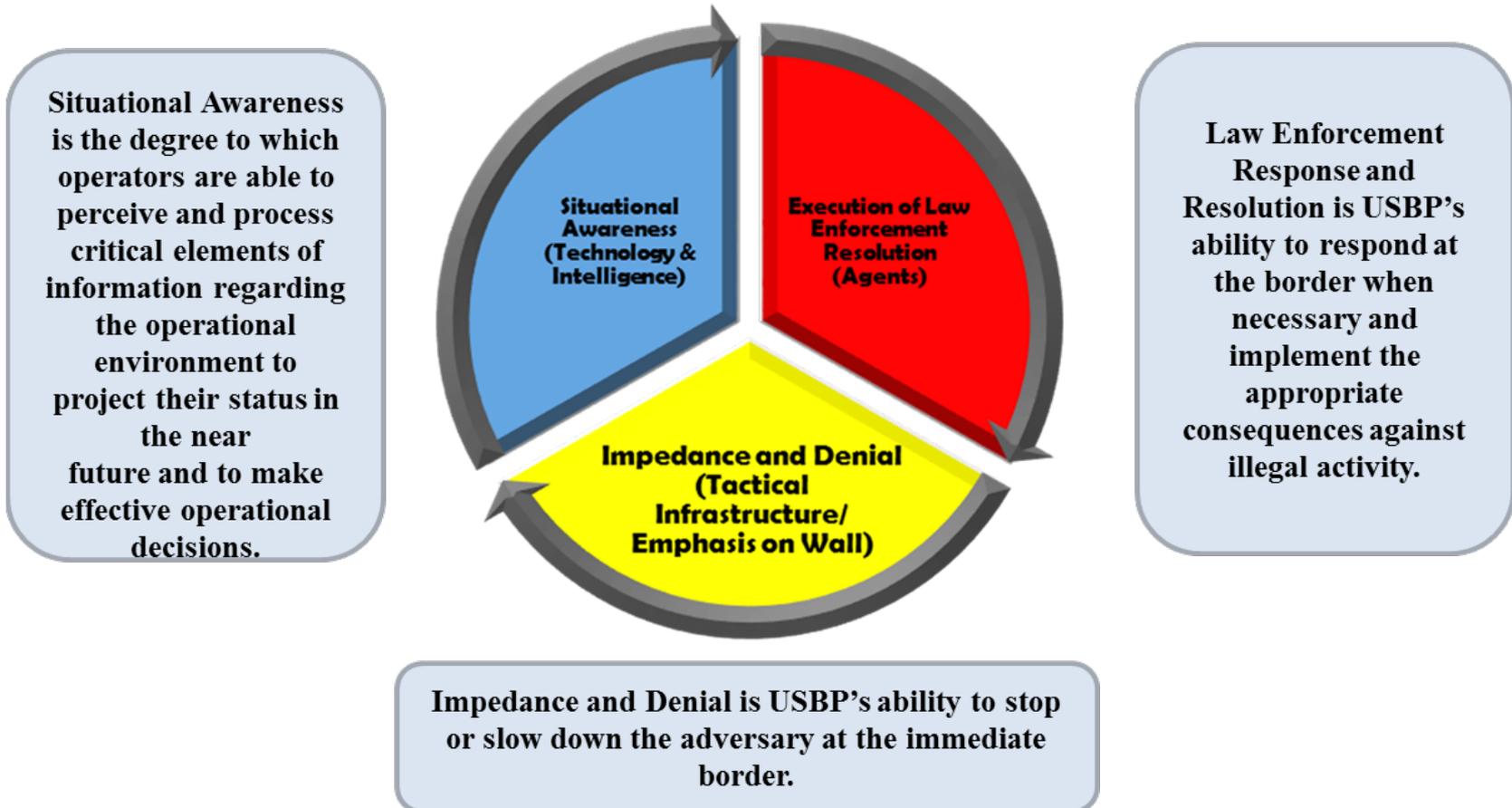
- United States Border Patrol (USBP) works in a dynamic environment with multiple and varied threats that are constantly changing and evolving
- Southern border environment consists of 1,993 miles of varied terrain including deserts, rugged mountainous areas, forests and coastal areas
- Partnerships with local, state, federal, tribal, and international law enforcement partners across the Southwest Border also vary by location, and much of the land along the southwest border is owned by local ranchers and other private citizens

## Opportunity

- Improve southern border security through the implementation of the OPCON framework, which will enable USBP's ability to impede or deny illegal border crossings, maintain situational awareness, and apply the appropriate, time-bound, law-enforcement response between the ports of entry as its contribution to DHS's overall border-security mission
- Once matured and deployed along the southern border, future efforts plan to expand the OPCON framework to the Northern Border and Coastal sectors

# Operational Control (OPCON) Framework

OPCON framework relies on the interconnectedness of the three pillars of OPCON: Situational Awareness, Impedance and Denial, and Law Enforcement Resolution



# Goal Structure & Strategies

## Communication

- Develop education and communication tools to inform all nine southwest border sectors on the OPCON framework
- Meet with Border Patrol sectors and stations to provide orientation and answer questions to prepare them to develop their implementation plans

## Gather Requirements

- Determine requirements for improved Situational Awareness
- Determine the number of agents needed for proper law enforcement resolution
- Develop and test wall prototypes and determine optimal placement for new wall systems along the southwest border
- Identify additional metrics for measuring OPCON implementation and effectiveness

## Develop OPCON Plans

- Southwest border sectors will develop Sector operational plans based on their unique terrain, threats, flow, and resources to indicate/record steps taken for each of the three elements of the OPCON framework (Situational Awareness, Impedance and Denial, and Law Enforcement Resolution) to achieve OPCON

## Implement OPCON Plans

- Report the status of approved Sector operational plans for achieving OPCON for the nine southwest border sectors including 75 stations within those sectors
- Results of the plans will be used to show progress in the overall border security along the southwest border

# Summary of Progress – FY18 Q2

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## Progress Update

- Traveled to all of the nine southwest border sectors as well as seven of the eight northern and coastal sectors to brief the Sector Chief and command staff, station leadership, intel, and field agents on the OPCON framework
- Began the process of linking operations to the three OPCON elements identified from the Capability Gap Analysis Process (CGAP) (which identifies requirements from the field) and discussed how sectors/stations could potentially address gaps through non-materiel solutions
- The field provided good feedback and information about their operational gaps in achieving the three OPCON elements
- Discussed preliminary work at HQ to build the new annual operations guidance process to integrate around achievement of OPCON, while uniformly adopting key measures that demonstrate the achievement of OPCON

## Next Steps

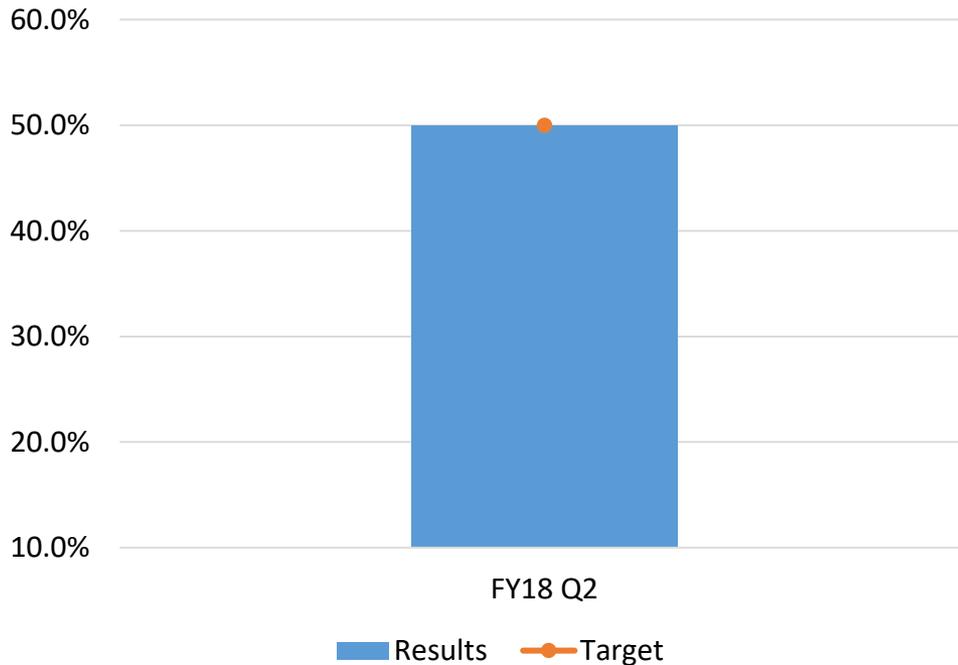
- Develop a draft operational plan template that will assist the field on expanding initial conversations held during the Roadshow meetings of their unique needs, such as illegal migrant flow and narcotics trafficking, terrain, and weather conditions. Stations will use the templates to document plans for operational activities to impact the three elements of OPCON.
- Establish initial index methodology for the OPCON framework by identifying mathematical tools to link measures to prioritized mission tasks and critical operations related to each OPCON element. The methodology will also accommodate developing and adding additional performance measures for the three elements of OPCON.
- San Diego Sector's Brownfield station will be the first pilot test station for implementing the OPCON plan and associated measurements in Q4.

# Key Milestones

Key Milestone	Milestone Due Date	Milestone Status	Comments
Develop OPCON Brief, socialize at USBP headquarters, and execute roadshow.	Q1, FY18	Complete	The Roadshow presentation presented to each sector in the field provided an overview of the OPCON approach and was a tool to discuss how it will assist in advancing existing operational efforts.
Establish initial measures index within each element for the southern border	Q2, FY18	Complete	Development of new measures to gauge the impact of operational activities moved forward with proposals developed for each element of the OPCON framework.
Develop an operational plan template for field use	Q3, FY18	On track	This template will expand on conversations during the Roadshow meetings for the stations to develop their unique OPCON implementation plans.
Establish initial index methodology for the OPCON framework	Q3, FY18	On track	Identify a series of mathematical tools to link measures to prioritized mission tasks and critical operations related to each OPCON element.
Pilot the measures used to gauge OPCON implementation for one station.	Q4, FY18	On track	The U.S. Border Patrol Planning Division will pilot the OPCON framework in one station (Brownsville) along the southern border. This information will be used to modify as needed the approach for developing OPCON plans and their measurement. These modifications will then be tested and further refined with deployment activities to other sectors during FY19.

# Performance Measures – FY18 Q2 Results

% of the southern border sectors with which the U.S. Border Patrol has coordinated to determine how Operational Control (OPCON) standards apply to the sectors' areas of responsibility



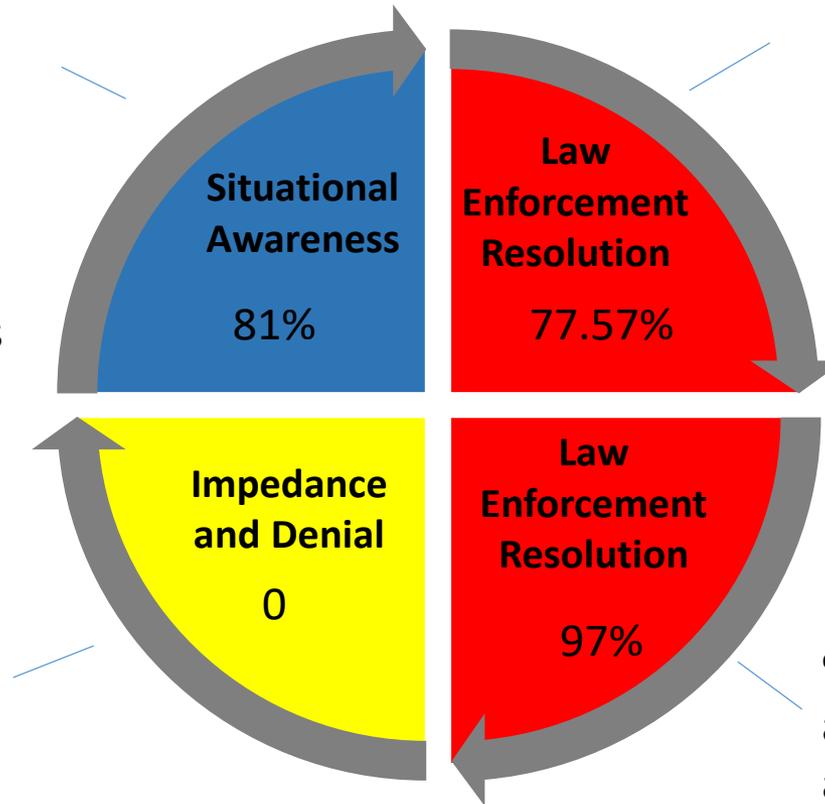
% of southern border sectors that have implemented the operational control framework

*This measure will begin reporting in FY19 as the APG makes progress through a phased rollout.*

Additional information on the performance measure data accuracy are available at: [DHS FY17-19 Annual Performance Report Appendix A](#)

# Performance Measures – FY18 Q2 Results

% of time the U.S. Border Patrol reaches a detection site in a timely manner to assess the nature of detected activity in remote, low-risk areas of the southern border **(Target 96%)**



Rate of interdiction effectiveness along the southwest border between ports of entry **(Target 81%)**

Miles of southern border with additional pedestrian wall **(Target 74 miles)**

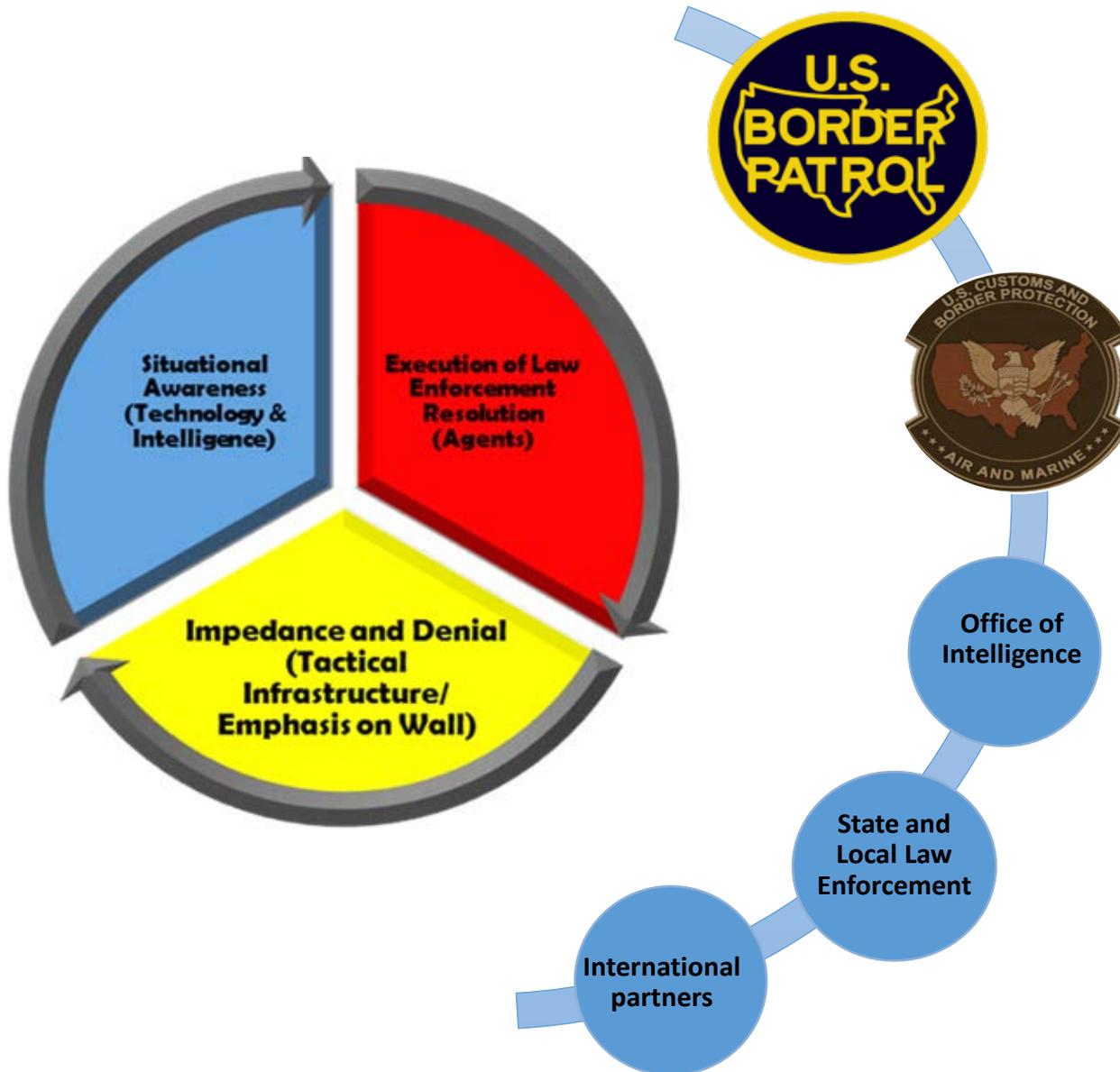
% of U.S. Border Patrol agent workforce who are trained and certified to perform enforcement actions **(Target 94%)**

Additional information on the performance measure data accuracy are available at: [DHS FY17-19 Annual Performance Report Appendix A](#)

# FY18 Q2 Measure Explanations

Performance Measure	Explanation
<b>OPCON Implementation</b> Sector Coordination	Completed the coordination via the OPCON Roadshows with all nine southern border. The roadshow facilitated a unique understanding of the concerns of each sector and brought awareness of how OPCON standards will need to be tailored to each environment and helped sectors gained grater understanding on how to implement OPCON through their operational plans.
<b>Situational Awareness</b> Timeliness to Assess	Response rate improved from FY18 Q1 as a result of leadership communication of the importance and refocusing field agent's efforts towards low risk areas of the southern border.
<b>Law Enforcement Resolution</b> Interdiction Rate	Interdiction rate improved compared to FY18 Q1, but will likely not meet the 81% target due to continued staffing shortages and increasing situational awareness. Despite increased situational awareness, with fewer agent resources the program is not available to respond to all known entries.
<b>Law Enforcement Resolution</b> Agent Readiness	Continued to maintain focus on excellent agent training. Ensuring adequate levels of basic and advanced training to agents exponentially improves the U.S. Border Patrol's capability to perform all mission-essential tasks critical to ensuring a law enforcement response to cross-border incursions.
<b>Impedance and Denial</b> Additional Border Miles	Due to funding issues and associated delays, U.S. Border Patrol will not meet the 74 miles of additional wall as targeted by FY18 Q4. However, several projects have started to build primary wall replacement and vehicle barrier conversion to primary wall along the Southern border.

# Contributing Programs



# Stakeholders

- DHS Joint Task Forces (JTFs)
- Department of Justice, Executive Office of Immigration Review
- Ranchers
- Office of Management and Budget (OMB)
- Congress
- GAO
- The American public

