

# Securing Our Nation

In the last two years, Senator John Ensign has worked with his colleagues to make significant progress to strengthen and improve the security of our nation. Congress has focused on the greatest threats we face: to **Increase Border Security**, to **Prevent and Prepare for Weapons of Mass Destruction**, and to **Improve and Streamline Intelligence Capabilities**. With the anticipated passage of the Fiscal Years 2007 Homeland Security Appropriations bill and Department of Defense Appropriations bill and the Department of Defense Authorization bill, major accomplishments over the past two years (fiscal years 2005, 2006, and 2007) include:

## BORDER SECURITY

- Added **3,736** new **Border Patrol Agents**, for a total of **14,555**. Senator Ensign was the author of the amendment to the 9/11 Intelligence Reform bill that was the first step to ensure these agents would be hired. He has since worked very hard to ensure that the promise of the 9/11 bill were kept and that there would be funding to recruit, hire, train, and equip these agents.
- Provided that **6,000 National Guard** troops would be sent to the border to support of the activities and operations of the Border Patrol. Senator Ensign offered the amendment making this possible and this amendment has significantly increased our presence on the border.
- Added **9,150** new **Detention Beds** for a total of **27,500** beds. This provision will make it possible to end the “catch and release” policy by ensuring that there is sufficient detention space to hold immigrants who are awaiting deportation.
- Added **370 miles** of **Border Security Fencing** and added **461 miles** of **Vehicle Barriers** along the Southwest Border. Senator Ensign voted in favor of the amendment that would make construction of this fence possible and voted in favor of funding this fencing.
- Added **\$682 million** for Border Tactical **Infrastructure and Facilities** Construction.
- Added **1,373** new **Detention Personnel** for a total of more than **5,500**.
- Added **460** new **Customs and Border Protection Officers** for seaport inspections for a total of **18,321** CBP officers at all ports of entry.
- Added **\$7.5 billion** for the **Coast Guard maritime border security**, including \$4 billion for Coast Guard Port Security and \$2.1 billion for deepwater assets.

### **BORDER SECURITY (CONTINUED)**

- **Coast Guard Surface Assets:** added **\$786 million** for the National Security Cutter Program and added **\$50 million** for the Fast Response Cutter Program; extended the service of 12 medium endurance cutters; funded the purchase of 5 patrol board, 16 medium response boars, and 2 maritime patrol aircraft.
- **Coast Guard Air Assets:** Armed **71 helicopters**, over 50% of fleet; extended the service life on **18 HC-130 airplanes**; re-engined the entire **HH-65 helicopter** fleet; and missionized **2 HC-130J airplanes**.

### **WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION**

- Provided **\$774 million** for the **Domestic Nuclear Detection Office** to deter nuclear and radiological threats within the United States.
- Of that total, **\$303 million** is for Radiation Portal Monitors to be located throughout the United States and overseas for use in **cargo inspection**.

### **INTELLIGENCE CAPABILITY**

- Added **\$552 million** for Department of Homeland Security for Analysis and Operations, including **intelligence activities**.
- Supported a new **Chief Intelligence Officer** at the Department of Homeland Security.
- Supported a Department of Homeland Security **Intelligence Council** to integrate intelligence across the Department.
- Funded a **State and Local Fusion Center program** that places Department of Homeland Security intelligence professionals in state and local fusion centers.