

## **62 New Guards Will Reinforce Arizona Border**

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### **Body**

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President Clinton today ordered **62** more **border guards** sent to Nogales, **Ariz.**, in response to a surge in illegal **border** crossings from Mexico, the White House said in a statement.

The increase in **border** crossings has been prompted by the economic turmoil in Mexico in recent weeks as the value of the peso has plummeted. The White House said it expected that the pressure on the **border** with Mexico would subside now that Mr. Clinton had taken action to stabilize the peso. Mr. Clinton offered Mexico \$20 billion in loans and loan guarantees last Tuesday as part of an international aid plan.

The White House said the agents being sent to **Arizona** were being reassigned from the Canadian **border** and from interior stations in **Arizona** and other parts of the United States. They **will** begin to report for work on Tuesday, increasing the **border** force by 17 percent.

The Administration, which had expected the number of illegal entries to increase in **Arizona** as a result of its crackdowns in California and Texas, is training 100 **new** agents to **reinforce** the **border** at Nogales, the statement said.

"But illegal crossings increased so dramatically in January in the wake of the peso devaluation that more agents are needed now," the statement said.

An earlier crackdown in the San Diego area was deemed successful. That \$25 million operation, begun in October, was an intricate, quasi-military combination of fencing, high-intensity lights, additional staffing and increased use of radios, night-vision devices and motion detectors.

On the first nights of the operation, the number of apprehensions increased 30 percent to 200 percent.

By the turn of the year, word had begun to spread among illegal immigrants that crossing at San Diego was no longer a breeze. Attempts at illegal entry there began to fall off, followed by a decline in apprehensions.

Last week, **Border** Patrol officials said apprehensions in January were down sharply, to 31,000, compared with 38,000 in the same month last year. San Diego had once been considered the easiest place to sneak into the United States.

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