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**ATTORNEY GENERAL ANNOUNCES ENHANCED BORDER SECURITY,
CRIMINAL ALIEN LAW ENFORCEMENT AND IMMIGRATION SERVICE**

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Attorney General William P. Barr today announced a series of steps to increase border security, deal with criminal aliens, and improve service to legal immigrants and travellers. The enhancements include 300 new Border Patrol Officers and 200 additional criminal investigators to combat illegal immigration and violent crime by criminal aliens, the creation of a National Criminal Alien Tracking Center, and the hiring of over 700 additional INS workers to improve services to legal immigrants and travellers. The initiatives will be achieved this year through the use of asset forfeiture proceeds, reprogramming of existing funds, and use of funds from fees and fines.

Attorney General Barr said, "This initiative intensifies our current efforts to enforce and implement U.S. immigration laws. This will be accomplished by strengthening enforcement against illegal immigration and violent crime by illegal aliens, and by enhancing our service in the area of lawful immigration."

The new resources and initiatives for border related and criminal alien law enforcement will include:

- 300 new Border Patrol officers to interdict illegal aliens and drugs at the border;
- 200 additional Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) investigators, 150 of whom will be assigned to locate and deport criminal aliens and to work on special anti-violent crime and street gang task forces in target cities including New York; Los Angeles; Miami; Newark, N.J.; and Chicago, and 50 of whom will bolster employer sanctions enforcement cases to help deter illegal immigrants by enforcing the laws against hiring illegal aliens;
- As a further step to deter illegal immigrants, the establishment of a National Criminal Alien Tracking Center, funding in the first year with \$1.5 million of fines collected by INS, to permit law enforcement agencies to contact INS 24 hours a day to identify, locate and track criminal aliens;
- \$5 million from the Department's Asset Forfeiture Fund to purchase new lighting, sensors, vehicles and other interdiction equipment (The Department of Defense has been providing valuable surplus equipment to INS and efforts will be made to maximize use of these resources to free up as much money as possible for other enforcement purposes.);
- \$3.6 million for detention space to house exclusion cases interdicted in New York's Kennedy Airport; and

- an initiative to combat document fraud by reissuing counterfeit resistant green cards and improving the counterfeit resistance of the Employment Authorization Document.

With regard to the service of legal immigrants and travellers, Barr announced that the enhancements include:

- 250 additional temporary workers to relieve the backlog of applications;
- a \$27 million (23%) increase in funding for INS adjudications;
- 100 new Immigration Information Officers to reduce lines at INS officers;
- improvements of information systems and other support to more fully automate the application process;
- 100 new positions in refugee and asylum adjudications to reach more persons fleeing persecution;
- 240 new airport inspectors to reduce lines at airports;
- and
- a pilot program to extend the hours for public service of INS offices.

A large part of the initiative announced by the Attorney General, including personnel increases, will be funded by reallocating existing resources and by reducing the current subsidization of the costs for adjudicating applications. This reduction will free-up funds for law enforcement purposes.

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