207 West Del Mar Boulevard
Laredo, TX 78041

LRT 150/2

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

May 8, 2014

MEMORANDUM FOR: See Distribution

FROM: (b)(6) (b)(7)(C)
South Texas Campaign Commander (b)(6) (b)(7)(C)
Laredo Sector Chief Patrol Agent

SUBJECT: Juvenile Referrals Standard Operating Procedure

The South Texas Border Intelligence Center (STXBIC) has identified numerous juvenile smugglers and guides independently responsible for thousands of illegal alien entries, to include special interest alien (SIA) entries. Juveniles are regularly recruited by Transnational Criminal Organizations (TCOs) to engage in smuggling activity because it is difficult to prosecute or effect any consequence on these young offenders. This situation significantly hinders U. S. Customs and Border Protection's (CBP's) ability to impact the cross border smuggling of undocumented aliens and narcotics. It also encourages TCOs to exploit this vulnerability. This is the beginning of these juveniles' involvement into higher ranks of the TCO network. Early positive influence can break this cycle of criminalization of these young offenders.

In an effort to further degrade and disrupt TCO activity throughout the South Texas Corridor, as well as to positively impact exploited juveniles, the attached Juvenile Referrals Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) institutes guidance for utilizing established prosecutorial and administrative removal guidelines to remove juvenile guides and smugglers. As part of that guidance, and as established in the Homeland Security Act, juvenile smugglers and guides who are declined prosecution will immediately be referred to the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR). This process further enables CBP to protect the welfare of juveniles, removing them from a dangerous and criminal atmosphere and into a positive and secure environment.

Please direct questions to Division Chief (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) or email to (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Attachment

Distribution: Chief Patrol Agent, Laredo Sector, Office of Border Patrol
Chief Patrol Agent, Del Rio Sector, Office of Border Patrol
Chief Patrol Agent, Rio Grande Valley Sector, Office of Border Patrol
Chief Patrol Agent, New Orleans Sector, Office of Border Patrol
Director, Laredo Field Office, Office of Field Operations
Director, Houston Field Office, Office of Field Operations
Director, Laredo Air Branch, Office of Air and Marine
Director, Houston Air Branch, Office of Air and Marine