## Extent

23 folders, approximately 982 pages

## Summary

This collection consists of records related to US Border Patrol's San Diego Sector border control plan at Imperial Beach Station called Operation Gatekeeper. The plan was introduced on October 1, 1994 with the purpose of stemming the flow of illegal immigrants crossing the border from Mexico into the United States and to shift the remaining traffic eastward. The collection contains National Security Council cables and email, as well as records from the Domestic Policy Council and the Chief of Staff Office.

## Scope and Content Note

The materials in FOIA 2011-0376-F are a selective body of documents responsive to the topic of the FOIA. Researchers should consult the archivist about related materials. This collection consists of cables, emails, reports, remarks, press releases, and backgrounders concerning the Border Patrol’s Operation Gatekeeper, including reporting on illegal alien crossings and drug trafficking. On October 1, 1994, the Border Patrol's San Diego Sector introduced a new border control plan at Imperial Beach Station called Operation Gatekeeper. The San Diego Sector, one of 21 sectors patrolled by the Border Patrol, covers a 66-mile portion of the 2,000 mile United States and Mexico border. The purpose of the new plan was to stem the flow of illegal immigrants crossing the border from Mexico into the United States and to shift the remaining traffic eastward. The new plan changed from one of apprehension to deterrence and prevention. The traffic did move to the east into mountains and desserts that resulted in more deaths of would-be crossers due to the harsh conditions. Operation Gatekeeper is considered a success by the Border Control, but has been widely criticized by the media, and was the topic of Congressional Hearings on the border control in 1995.

**Record Type**

Textual

**System of Arrangement**

Records that are responsive to this FOIA request were found in these collection areas— Clinton Presidential Records: WHORM Subject Files, Clinton Presidential Records: White House Staff and Office Files, Clinton Presidential Records: ARMS Emails and Clinton Presidential Records: NSC Cable, Email, and Records Management System. The White House Office of Records Management (WHORM) contains a variety of series created to organize and track documents and correspondence. The WHORM Subject file was compiled by the White House Office of Records Management and is a series of categories designated by a letter/number combination. Staff and Office files were maintained at the folder level by staff members within their individual offices and document all levels of administration activity. WHORM files are processed at the document level; whereas, Staff and Office files are processed at the folder level, that is, individual documents are not selected and removed from a folder for processing. While this method maintains folder integrity, it frequently results in the incidental processing of documents that are not wholly responsive to the subject area. The Automated Records Management System (ARMS) is a database that contains email records of the Executive Office of the President. This system maintained unclassified Presidential email. The ARMS dataset is comprised of 6 sub-series of email records called “Buckets.” The buckets include NPR, OPD, POTUS, WHO, CEA, and Default. ARMS emails are arranged chronologically by creation date. FOIA 2011-0376-F includes WHORM records from these subject codes: FG017-03 Immigration and Naturalization Service IM Immigration- Naturalization1 PU001-07 Clippings to the President

**Access**

Collection is open to all researchers. Access to Clinton Presidential Records is governed by the Presidential Records Act (PRA) (44 USC 22) and the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 USC 552 as amended) and therefore records may be

restricted in whole or in part in accordance with legal exemptions.

### Copyright

Documents in this collection that were prepared by officials of the United States government as part of their official duties are in the public domain. Researchers are advised to consult the copyright law of the United States (17 USC, 101) which governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material.

### Provenance

Official records of William Jefferson Clinton’s presidency are housed at the Clinton Presidential Library and administered by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) under the provisions of the Presidential Records Act (PRA).

### Subject Headings

Operation Gatekeeper (U.S.)
United States. Immigration and Naturalization Service
Emigration and immigration
Noncitizens
Mexico
California--San Diego
U.S. Border Patrol

### Processed by

Staff Archivist, 2011. Previously restricted materials are added as they are released.

### Container List

The following is a list of documents and folders processed in response to FOIA 2011-0376-F:

Box 1

Clinton Presidential Records: WHORM: Subject File

Category Case Number

FG017-03 134696SS

FG017-03 135124SS

IM 103930

IM 184822SS

PU001-07 202383SS

Clinton Presidential Records: White House Staff and Office Files

Chief of Staff

Emanuel, Rahm

[Operation Gatekeeper – Landmark Progress] [loose] [OA/ID 12893]

Clinton Presidential Records: White House Staff and Office Files (cont.)

Domestic Policy Council

Warnath, Stephen

Operation Gatekeeper – Landmark Progress [OA/ID 9574]

[Operation Gatekeeper] [1] [OA/ID 9887]

[Operation Gatekeeper] [2] [OA/ID 9887]

[Operation Gatekeeper] [3] [OA/ID 9887]

Box 2

Clinton Presidential Records: Automated Records Management System [Email]

OPD [OA/ID 250,000]

[Operation Gatekeeper]

[09/22/1994 – 07/08/1996]

WHO [OA/ID 500,000]

[Operation Gatekeeper]

[09/21/1994 – 09/26/1995]

[09/27/1995 – 07/08/1996]

[08/05/1996 – 06/06/2000]

Default [OA/ID 1,100,000]

[Operation Gatekeeper]

[04/03/1995 – 08/25/1997]

NSC [OA/ID 1200000]

[Operation Gatekeeper]

[06/07/2000]
Clinton Presidential Records: NSC Cable, Email, and Records Management System
NSC Cables
Jan 1993-Dec 1994
[Operation Gatekeeper]
[09/27/1994 – 12/03/1994] [OA/ID 505000]
Jan 1995-Dec 1996
[Operation Gatekeeper]
[01/12/1995 – 12/21/1995] [OA/ID 510000]
[06/05/1996 – 11/13/1996] [OA/ID 510000]
Jan 1997-Dec 1998
[Operation Gatekeeper]
[01/27/1997 – 12/15/1997] [OA/ID 520000]
[01/22/1998 – 11/13/1998] [OA/ID 520000]
Jan 1999-Dec 2000
[Operation Gatekeeper]
[01/08/1999 – 07/11/2000] [OA/ID 530000]
NSC Email
MSMail-Record (Sept 94-Sept 97)
[Operation Gatekeeper]
[02/07/1995 – 10/15/1996] [OA/ID 590000]
MSMail-Non-Record (Sept 94-Sept 97)
[Operation Gatekeeper]
[10/27/1994] [OA/ID 605000]