

OPINION

Border Patrol math just doesn't add up to safety

The Senate wants to spend billions on border security. Part of the proposal is 20,000 more Border Patrol agents bringing the total to 38,400.

Let's examine those numbers.

Assuming they ignore Canada, and send them all to our southern border from Tijuana to Brownsville, that will be 2,000 miles to defend. That means there will be 19 agents per mile.

If you were a military ground trooper could you imagine trying to cover a mile-long perimeter with 18 comrades — no matter how well armed?

But wait, there is more. Not all 19 will be available all the time. Even at shifts of 12 on, 12 off (which is debilitating after a week, and cannot be maintained), the number is cut in half.

Also, some of them will be supervisors. We can't expect those chiefs to be on the line. Plus, many agents will be unavailable on any given day because of sickness, vacation or federally mandated sexual harassment/diversity appreciation training.

By the time the math is done, the most we will have on duty at any one time is five per mile. Will that be enough to "secure our borders?"

Let's look at what history and experience tell us about this kind of operation elsewhere. What has happened previously when an attempt was made to stop determined people from crossing a border barrier?

The Berlin Wall was 96 miles long. It was made of 12-foot high concrete (not some easily scalable wire). There were ferocious guard dogs, multiple machine gun nests and 300 watchtowers.

Despite all that, hundreds got through.

Do those senatorial suits on CSPAN really think throwing billions at the border will stop the flow? Oh, wait a minute, that is how they think.

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