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## US News

# Gaps Found in Northern Border Security

CBNNews.com

September 27, 2007

CBNNews.com - How secure are our borders? According to a new report, not as safe as they need to be.

The Government Accountability Office released a report to Congress Thursday that revealed many security gaps along the Canadian border.

Ninety-nine percent of illegal border activity happens in the south, but the radioactive materials that come into the U.S. from the north may pose an even greater threat to national security.

"Our work shows that a determined cross-border violator would likely be able to bring radioactive materials or other contraband undetected into the United States by crossing the U.S.-Canada border at any of the locations we investigated," the GAO report concluded.

The GAO, the investigative arm of Congress, described in a 13-page report to be given to Congress Thursday how easily they were able to breach the border at several spots.

A smuggler could easily carry radioactive material or other contraband across the northern border into the United States, the GAO found.

"The stockpiles of nuclear material and radiological materials around the globe is growing. It's not shrinking. And gaps in the security around these materials could be exploited by terrorists," said Ken Luongo with Partnership for Global Security.

Customs and Border Protection officials told the GAO "the northern border presents more of a challenge than the southern border."

The report notes that, as of May, there were 972 Border Patrol agents on the northern border, and 11,986 agents on the southern border.

Source: *The Associated Press.*



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