



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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Sen. Alter Joins Governor to Visit Missouri Guard at U.S.-Mexico Border

JEFFERSON CITY – Sen. Bill Alter, R-High Ridge, yesterday joined Gov. Matt Blunt and House Speaker Rod Jetton, R-Marble Hill, on a day trip to Yuma, Ariz., to visit 200 Missouri National Guard troops who are helping secure the U.S.-Mexico border. The Guard members were deployed earlier this month as part of President Bush’s initiative to tighten border security.

More than a million people were arrested last year at the border, and 10 percent of them already had criminal records in the United States. Alter said that Yuma is one of the country’s main crossing points for illegal immigrants.

“While we were there, we watched dozens of potential illegals survey the situation, and when they saw the presence of the Guard, they left,” Alter said. “This just underscores the need for stronger state and federal enforcement of immigration laws.”

Alter was chosen to accompany the governor because of his 2006 efforts to crack down on illegal immigrants in Missouri. He sponsored Senate Bill 1250, which would have given the Missouri State Highway Patrol tools to enforce federal immigration laws and prohibited employers of undocumented workers from participating in public-works contracts. The Senate passed the measure, but session ended before the House could do the same.

“It was an honor to go with the governor and meet the men and women who are helping in the nationwide effort to solve the problem of illegal immigration,” Alter said. “I will be sharing my experience with my fellow members of the Joint Committee on Terrorism, Bioterrorism and Homeland Security so we can address the thousands of illegal immigrants in Missouri.”

Photo on following page



**(From left to right) Sen. Bill Alter, Gov. Matt Blunt,
House Speaker Rod Jetton Missouri National Guard adjutant general Col. Dwight Lusk**

For a jpeg version of this picture, please contact Darbi Gibson in Senate Communications: 573-751-3824