

Mark Dannels  
Sheriff

Thomas Alinen  
Chief of Staff

## Office of the Sheriff Cochise County



To: Tim Johnstone | Law Enforcement Coordinator  
District Office Security Manager  
United States Attorney's Office | District of Arizona  
40 N Central Ave #1800 | Phoenix, AZ 85004  
*t (602)514-7767 / c (480) 376-5468*

From: Cochise County Sheriff's Office  
Attn: Captain John Gjerde  
205 North Judd Drive  
Bisbee, Arizona 85603

**Proposed Project Summary:** The Cochise County Sheriff's Office overall project goal is to expand the NIBIN program in Southern Arizona to include the neighboring agencies (state, local and federal) in Cochise, Graham and Greenlee counties. The NIBIN program has proven to be instrumental in fighting violent crime and providing investigators with leads and information they would otherwise not have. It will also further the mission of addressing gun trafficking between Mexico and the US by making entries that can lead to correlations throughout the region. Cochise County is a rural county in southeast Arizona with a population of approximately 124,000 people. The county is approximately 6,200 square miles (about the area of Connecticut) with approximately 83 miles of international border with Mexico. There are two Port of Entries between the United States and Mexico. They are in Douglas which neighbors Aqua Prieta, Mexico and Naco that neighbors Naco-Sonora Mexico.

The Sheriff's Office along with 7 municipal police departments, Arizona Department of Public Safety, and several Federal agencies have seen a major crime increase in Cochise County due to the current crisis on the Mexico Border. Since 2022 in Cochise County there have been 3,660 adults and 35 juveniles charged as adults have been booked into Jail for Border Related Crimes. Out of the total number 727 were booked for human smuggling under ARS-2323A5, and 509 were apprehended after fleeing from law enforcement and engaging in dangerous and deadly pursuits. Many of these smugglers have firearms on or near them in the vehicles they are using to commit these offenses. Many of the people coming to Cochise County to engage in smuggling activities are being recruited out of the Phoenix and Tucson areas. This opportunity will potentially provide a system to help identify weapons that may have been involved in felonious crimes from Cochise, Graham, Greenlee and all other jurisdictions in Arizona. This system could also benefit other states as Interstate 10 runs through Cochise County. Interstate 10 a major southern corridor from California to the Gulf of Mexico. This system will greatly enhance all law enforcement capabilities in Southern Arizona.