

U.S. Border Patrol's Mustang Mounted Unit Selected for the 2009 Presidential Inaugural Parade

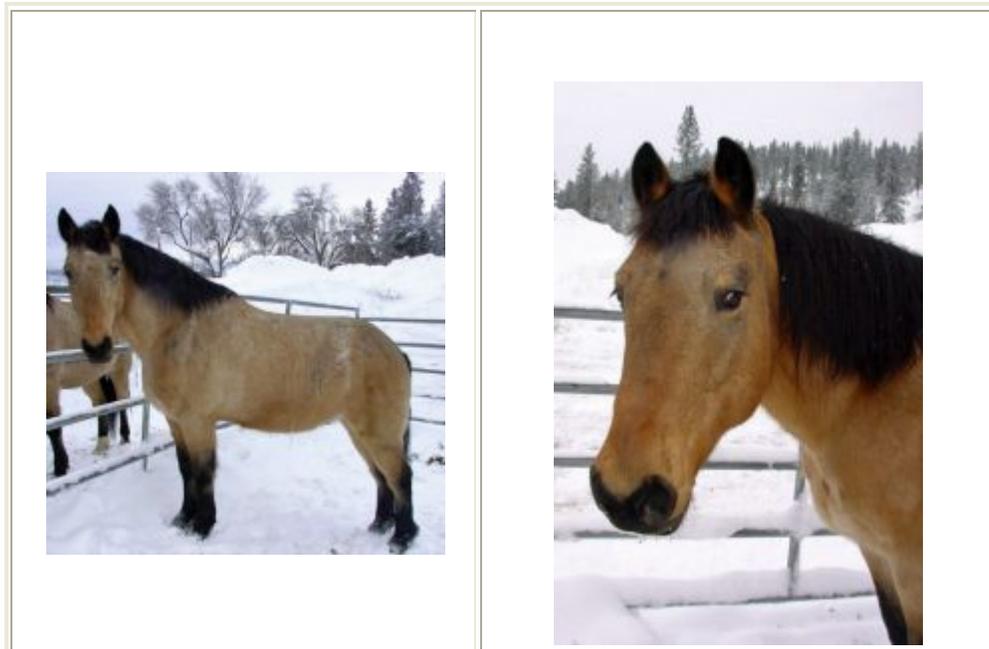
The U.S. Border Patrol's Spokane Sector Mustang Mounted Unit is proud to announce ten Border Patrol Agents are riding "**America's Living Legends**" at the Presidential Inaugural Parade on January 20, 2009, in Washington, D.C. A total of 53 agents from the southwest and northern Border Patrol Sectors will present the Bagpipes and Drums section, marching platoon, and the Color Guard.

The Spokane Sector's Mustang Mounted Unit was formed in the Spring of 2007 when they began adopting wild horses through the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Wild Horse and Burro Program. Mustangs are known for their endurance, sure-footedness, and stamina which fits well with some of the most rugged and remote terrain in all of North America. Through a cooperative agreement between the BLM and the [Canon City, Colorado Correctional Facility](#) the ten exhibition wild horses received personal and extensive training as part of a unique inmate rehabilitative program at the Correctional Center before they were adopted by the Border Patrol. [Brian Hardin](#), Manager of the inmate program, oversees the training of mustangs while providing prison inmates an opportunity to learn valuable and useful skills when released from prison.

Over the past year, the Spokane Mounted Mustang Unit has participated in the 53rd Annual Chicago's St. Patrick's Day Parade as well as the 70th Annual Spokane Lilac Festival's Armed Forces Torchlight Parade where they received the top award for "Best Specialty Mounted Unit." Most recently, the Noble Mustangs traveled to Cheyenne, Wyoming for Frontier Days, the world's largest outdoor rodeo and western celebration, where they captured the "Best Mounted Unit" award.

This initiative, also known as Project Noble Mustang, received the prestigious U.S. Customs and Border Protection Commissioner's 2008 "Ambassador Award for Intra-Governmental Outreach and Advocacy."

The U.S. Border Patrol's Spokane Sector Mustang Mounted Unit selected the following ten wild horses to represent American Mustangs in the Inaugural Parade.



"Brutus" - buckskin mustang.
Serving at Metaline Falls, WA.
Freezemark #03598571
Devils Garden Plateau, CA Herd
Management Area (HMA).

"Buck" - buckskin mustang.
Serving at Metaline Falls, WA.
Freezemark #04598573
Devils Garden Plateau, CA HMA.



"Bullet" - grey mustang.
Serving at Oroville, WA.
Freezemark # 04598575
Devils Garden Plateau, CA HMA.

"Chase" - bay mustang.
Serving at Whitefish, MT.
Freezemark # 03217161
Twin Peaks, CA HMA.



"Ike" - black mustang.
Serving at Whitefish, MT.
Freezemark # 03838913
McCullough Peaks, WY HMA.

"Josie" - sorrel mustang.
Serving at Curlew, WA.
Freezemark # 04597498
Twin Peaks, CA HMA.



"Justice" - buckskin mustang.
Serving at Colville, WA.
Freezemark # 03248289
Spring Creek Basin, CO HMA.



"Kootenai" - sorrel mustang.
Serving at Oroville, WA.
Freezemark # 03247132
Sand Wash Basin, CO HMA.



"Okanogan" (AKA "Yohan") - black
mustang.
Serving at Oroville, WA.
Freezemark # 03248289
Crooks Mountain, WY HMA.



"Zeus" - buckskin mustang.
Serving at Colville, WA.
Freezemark # 03853342
White Mountain, WY HMA.

Biographies of the U.S. Northern Border Patrol Agents Selected to Ride Mustang Mounts

Rider #1

Assistant Chief Patrol Agent Lealan Pinkerton

Spokane Sector Assistant Chief Patrol Agent (ACPA), Lee Pinkerton, has been in the Border Patrol for 22 years and was the driving force behind the concept of adopting wild horses from the Bureau of

Land Management's (BLM) Wild Horse & Burro program. As the program manager for the Spokane Sector's Horse Patrol Unit, ACPA Pinkerton sought to pair Border Patrol Agents with a horse that was physically capable of working in very rugged terrain. Since "Project Noble Mustang" began in 2007, the Spokane Sector has adopted 17 wild horses to patrol a 308-mile stretch of border from the Cascade Mountains in Washington state to the Continental Divide in western Montana.

Rider #2

Deputy Chief Patrol Agent Ronald S. Colburn

Ronald S. Colburn is currently the National Deputy Chief of the United States Border Patrol in Washington, D.C., a position he has held since July 23, 2007. He is the second highest-ranking Border Patrol Agent in the Nation. Deputy Chief Colburn is a 30-year veteran of the Border Patrol entering on duty in 1978 as a member of the 125th session of the U.S. Border Patrol Academy.

Previously, as Chief Patrol Agent of the Yuma Sector, he was responsible for operations that covered 172,530 square miles including portions of Western Arizona, Southeastern California and the entire state of Nevada. Mr. Colburn is a founding member of the Border Patrol's national special weapons and tactics unit known as BORTAC. While a member of BORTAC, Chief Colburn served as team leader on numerous domestic and international missions, including leading jungle patrols in South America to target cocaine production, laboratories, locate and destroy clandestine airstrips and aircraft, and train national police units in counter-narcotics operations. Deputy Colburn has trained local city, county and state special weapons and tactics, (SWAT) teams, as well as other federal and military organizations in tactical operations.

Prior to assuming duties as Yuma Sector's Chief Patrol Agent, he served as the Senior Associate Chief of Southern Border Operations at Border Patrol Headquarters in Washington, D.C. He is the only Border Patrol Agent in the history of the agency to have served an assignment to the White House with the Executive Office of the President.

Rider #3

Senior Patrol Agent Joe H. McCraw

Agent McCraw has 23 years of dedicated service to the U.S. Border Patrol. He is the wrangler for the Colville, WA Border Patrol Station and brings more than six years experience on a Horse Patrol unit. Prior to transferring to the Spokane Sector, Agent McCraw was a member of the El Paso Sector's Horse Patrol Unit.

Rider #4

Senior Patrol Agent William Borches

Agent Borches has been a member of the Horse Patrol Unit for four years and is currently the wrangler for the Metaline Falls, Washington Border Patrol Station. He has been a Border Patrol Agent for eleven years.

Rider #5

Senior Patrol Agent Steven T. Kartchner

Agent Kartchner has been in the U.S. Border Patrol for fifteen years. He is the wrangler for the Curlew, WA Border Patrol Station and has been a member of the Spokane Sector's Horse Patrol Unit since 2003. He previously worked in the Horse Patrol Unit in San Diego, CA.

Rider #6

Senior Patrol Agent James H. Perkins

Agent Perkins has nearly thirteen years in the Border Patrol. Presently, he is the wrangler for the Whitefish, Montana Border Patrol Station. Agent Perkins has been a member of the Spokane Sector Horse Patrol for over three years and previously was a member of the San Diego Sector Horse Patrol for more than three years during his tenure on the Southwest Border.

Rider #7

Supervisory Border Patrol Agent Alvin F. Bauman

Supervisory Border Patrol Agent (SBPA) Bauman has been involved with the Spokane Sector Horse Patrol since its early days. Agent Bauman has 24 years with the Border Patrol and currently supervises the Horse Patrol Unit at the Oroville, Washington Station.

Rider #8**Patrol Agent In Charge (PAIC) Richard M. Graham, Jr.**

Patrol Agent In Charge, Richard M. Graham, Jr., has served in the U.S. Border Patrol for 24 years and currently oversees the operations of the Border Patrol Station in Oroville, Washington. He began his career on the southwest border in El Centro, CA in 1984.

In April 1999, the Spokane Sector began horse patrol operations when PAIC Graham and Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Constable Dale Sheets, first rode in uniform atop personally-owned horses in local parades in the United States and Canada. Since then, PAIC Graham has been actively involved in course development, operations, and training both horses and riders.

Rider #9**Border Patrol Agent Jorge Vasquez**

Agent Vasquez is the wrangler for the Oroville, WA Border Patrol Station and has been in the Border Patrol for more than six years. Agent Vasquez has four years of experience in the Horse Patrol Unit.

Rider #10 Border Patrol Agent Jason Lane

Agent Jason Lane is an eight year veteran of the Border Patrol and joined the Spokane Sector Horse Patrol Unit in 2007 when he transferred to Metaline Falls, WA from Eagle Pass, Texas.

Please visit the BLM's [adoption web page](#) for more information on how you can adopt a wild horse or burro.