

## THE NEUTERING OF THE MINUTEMEN

### IN THE BEGINNING—CIVIL HOMELAND DEFENSE

Chris Simcox was not happy. It was Friday night, time for a patrol, and he had failed again to get a quorum of 4 for safe patrolling. Even though everyone knew what time they were supposed to meet next to the Palominas Trading Post, he was never certain how many, or how few, would show up.

If he had had enough people, he would have charged up to the top of the mesa, binoculars in his hand, leaving the troops in his wake, assembled below him to surprise any trespassers crossing the border. The standard operating procedure was close contact, with a good dose of open carry firearms (especially for the women border watchers, as they were very scary to sexist male illegal aliens) and intimidating stances, unlike the “hands off” policy advocated by Minuteman Civil Defense Corps today. Had he encountered any illegals, he would have given them a tedious, unintelligible lecture in English as a warning to mend the error of their ways.

In fact, the location that Simcox’ Civil Homeland Defense (CHD) chose was one that had been previously used by Glenn Spencer’s American Border Patrol, and one which was still being used by them to record ghostly thermal images of illegals crossing the border which were then broadcast in real time from <http://americanpatrol.com>. The land belonged to Bureau of Land Management, and bordered the San Pedro River riparian area in Palominas, AZ on the Mexican border. The SPR was one of the most heavily traveled illegal crossing points on the border.

ABP had a strict “no contact” policy for their field volunteers in order to maintain their safety and to avoid legal liability. They were to observe, film and report to the Border Patrol while they were concealed from the illegals. In fact, they went to extraordinary lengths to avoid contact with the illegals, and if any group walked into them in the dark, it was a matter of great consternation.

This SOP was “borrowed” from ABP, and used for the Minuteman Project in April 2005. Glenn Spencer supported MMP and said nothing because he felt that stopping illegal immigration was so important that he welcomed any group’s help. His attitude was “the more, the merrier.”

On forays into the field, Chris Simcox was accompanied by Craig Howard, an alcoholic contractor with a weird-looking dog from Southern California who had come to AZ to help him. Howard got tired of being undercut in his prices by illegals, and of fixing the mistakes that illegals

had made in their construction work. Howard was an embittered man, and found some comfort as Simcox' second in command in the field and as his Guy Friday in the Tombstone Tumbleweed office.

Howard slept in the spare room at the newspaper office, and fixed things at Carmen Mercer's OK Café. Howard was great in the field, but on the Internet, he was a PR disaster. He'd often get drunk after 5pm and send out some irrelevant emails to the CHD email list, and then fight with whomever objected to them. Simcox eventually forbid him from sending out email after 5pm, but it did no good; Craig was uncontrollable. Craig started calling Simcox "Prince" at a very early date. According to his detractors, Craig was right on the money, as no one dared to criticize The Little Prince without terrible retribution. The [media](#) seems to agree.

In his search for new places to uncover smuggling and illegal alien trespassing, Simcox was arrested in 2003 for carrying a loaded pistol into Coronado National Monument. At the time, it was known as a heavily-trafficked area, with one mountain pass even sporting the name Smuggler's Pass. Some fellow patriots have speculated that when Simcox was arrested for carrying a loaded gun into Coronado National Monument (a federal misdemeanor), he was turned into a government informant as a condition of his probation.

In June 2004, he was sentenced to 2 years' probation, a fine, and was not allowed to own or carry a gun during that time. [In fact, his Marketing Assistant was surprised to learn that his probation officer had even told him he couldn't go to gun shows and solicit donations for his Civil Homeland Defense, an idea which she successfully implemented!]

He could have been sentenced to federal prison. Evidence presented by the government, his associates assert, indicates he was railroaded, and that the outcome of the no-jury trial was pre-determined. The missing sign that should have indicated the boundary to Coronado National Monument was put up on the fence and photographed near where he was busted just a couple of weeks before his trial. The park ranger who arrested him was Hispanic, and jumped out from behind a bush right after he entered. Apparently, the National Park Service had set an ambush for him. There were 2 companions with him on that day, but the one who entered the Park with him was unarmed, while the other one stayed outside the boundary, despite the Ranger's attempts to call him in.

In May of 2004, interest in CHD activities was waning, so Simcox started advertising a "Patrol-a-thon" for June, inviting any interested parties to come to the border, camp out on BLM land, and patrol for that month. In spite of all the advertisement of this unique opportunity, only 7

members of the 17th Special Operations Group from the Kentucky State Militia showed up. This highly trained team, also known as CERT-17, arrived with full gear, communications equipment and a mobile command post, ready to go to work. Little did they know that they were being set up as a “test.”

CHD’s relationship with the BLM was dicey at best, with the BLM refusing to explain or show the exact boundary line of their riparian area. This area was composed of the San Pedro River and the green areas on either side of it. Sidearms were prohibited in this area, although long guns were allowed, provided you had an AZ hunting license, were in season, and had the exact caliber which was required for the game you were hunting. The area used by ABP and CHD was far to the East of this, and was dry desert scrub. The BLM wanted to declare this dry desert part of the riparian area!

Prior to their arrival, Commander Dick Wolf checked with BLM and got camping permits for the area. The morning before they were to start their patrol, Craig led them to a camping spot. As they proceeded to set up their camp, one of the CERT Team members noticed BLM Rangers and Border Patrol agents on the hill watching them through binoculars. Dick Wolf waved at the rangers to come on down, and shortly 2 of the legendary, seldom-seen BLM Rangers appeared, while the Border Patrol stayed on the high ground.

The Kentuckians were told to put their guns on the hoods of their trucks and to step away from their vehicles. The BLM Rangers then proceeded to tell them that they could not camp there, while Dick Wolf protested that they had already received permits. Then the BLM ranger threatened to cite Wolf for bringing in an ATV without a permit! Wolf told them he was disabled, and had no other practical way to get around the rough terrain. The Rangers agreed not to take any further action if the KYSM left the area immediately. They struck camp and left, being trailed by the BLM and BP agents all the way.

The Tombstone Tumbleweed got a great story out of it (a near-bloodbath), and the Kentucky guys were angry that they had come all that way only to be denied the opportunity to complete their mission. Simcox had what he wanted; he had pushed the envelope and he had found that the government wasn’t about to put up with his crap.

Later, Dick Wolf said in a private email:

Someone told the BLM rangers right where we were going to set up operation and what time. Simcox had that information. It would have been big news if we had engaged BLM in a firefight...FEDS

VS. MILITIA FROM KENTUCKY! It would not have been the first time in history that Kentucky fought on the border against the Mexicans. I am good at reading people and I can tell his heart is not in the freedom movement. It's all about HIM--HE IS OUT FOR HIMSELF; he doesn't care about [illegals].

Afterward, the entire BLM area of the San Pedro River was declared riparian, the gate leading into it was locked, and No Trespassing signs were put up. An additional benefit was that the Border Patrol put up cameras on the mesa which ABP and CHD had been using for YEARS for observation.

Simcox' stated intention had been to keep doing patrols and highlighting the illegal immigration issue until the elections in November 2004. He hoped that by then something would be done; and if not, then he would just revert to being a small-town newspaper publisher. He was worn-out and discouraged. In spite of him constantly being in the limelight, and continuing to bring attention to the problem, the government was doing nothing.

When a California supporter of CHD, Jim Gilchrist, called Simcox in September of 2004 to offer his newly created Minuteman Project to provide "reinforcements" to his beleaguered efforts, Simcox enthusiastically agreed. Gilchrist's announcement was published in October 2004 on the small activist alert list [BorderWar](#).

Meanwhile, Craig Howard was found a new situation with another group of activists, and he moved out after the elections. Despite all the publicity Simcox and his newspaper had received, when queried about the financial health of the Tombstone Tumbleweed in November 2004, he said it was "just now breaking even." Yet somehow he still managed to puff away on \$8 cigars. He complained that businesses in Tombstone were not willing to support his newspaper by buying ads. (The lone restaurant ad in the newspaper every week was his girlfriend Carmen's OK Café.) Carmen continued to bring him over meals in an attempt to get her gaunt, slight boyfriend to eat, which he often forgot to do.

Simcox had an astounding disability when it came to setting priorities with his time. Total strangers, some with cheap video cameras in their hands, continued to pour through the Tumbleweed office, and despite his heavy schedule, Simcox made time for every one of them, even if they were only students who had come on his deadline days. He was always available for interviews, whether big-time media or nobodies with a phony story. No wonder he often felt so stressed out that he had frequent migraine headaches! A few days a week Bill Bennett, the harried Tombstone Tumbleweed manager, had to warn the staff that

Simcox was in such a foul mood that it would be best to avoid him. Carmen Mercer, with whom he lived, privately complained that he didn't spend enough time with her, even though she fully supported the newspaper and his activism.

In an unguarded moment, the incredibly intense Simcox admitted, "If it weren't THIS CAUSE, it would be another one!"

## MMP PREPARATIONS

As time went on, and impetus began to build for MMP, planning meetings were held in Tombstone, often without Simcox, who was leading people on patrols to scout new territory. James Chase from San Diego, a Viet Nam Vet just like Jim Gilchrist, went out on many patrols, often moving swiftly ahead of his "guide," and Simcox grew to dislike him so much that he wanted to kick him off MMP. Gilchrist said that would not happen, and won that battle, although Simcox continued to insist that he wanted James Chase out.

[Miracle Valley Bible College](#) in Hereford, a campus of 80 acres right in the zone of illegal alien crossing, was contracted to be the headquarters and barracks for MMP. Dr. Melvin Harter, President of MVBC, had had a difficult relationship with the Zoning and Permit Board of Cochise County in the past, but managed to secure a verbal OK from them for the housing and operations of MMP. All systems seemed to be a go. Finally, as the time for MMP neared, Cochise County denied him a permit for MMP, saying that he could buy a camping permit for only 3 days, when he needed a 30 day permit to host MMP!

MVBC is located in a completely rural area of sprawling ranches and grazing land, with a smattering of residences on the opposite side of the road. MVBC has plenty of parking spaces, RV hookups, apartments and dormitories for students. There is no question but that since the 1960s, it has been, and still is, being used as a college campus. Additionally, Dr. Harter's assertion is that since it is a non-profit organization in a rural area, it is not subject to zoning regulations. Dr. Harter, who's a dedicated patriot, bit the bullet and hosted MMP in spite of being in "violation" of zoning regulations. MVBC received numerous visits from an undercover agent of the Cochise County Sheriff's Department, who, unknown to Harter, was doing a head count in order to determine a fine for not abiding by Cochise County's rather arbitrary permit and zoning regulations.

Eventually, the "no contact" SOP was adopted, as it was decided to be the best choice, given the large number of people who were expected to

attend. Stories circulated of Simcox using the Tombstone Marshal's office to do background checks, and Chris Simcox publicly said that he would report anyone suspicious to the FBI. A list was begun on yahoogroups, Borderbirdies, so that early MMP participants could communicate with each other. It got its name from what the Border Patrol called CHD: "birdwatchers."

And then things got ugly. Simcox decided to knife his former Marketing Assistant, Laine Lawless, in the back. She had made the mistake of criticizing him for claiming on Borderbirdies that Cochise County was a wonderful place to live and to raise a family. She pointed out that he had been very critical of Cochise County in previous months, repeatedly complaining that the quality of life in SE Arizona was deleteriously affected by the constant flow of illegal aliens through the area. Lawless had also mentioned to Simcox privately that he needed to attend to his website, and make it informative and easy to use. She had been trying, unsuccessfully, for 2 months to get him to write down his SOP and post it to the website.

So when she was repeatedly quoted in an internet newsletter, and identified as a member of the Tombstone Militia, he sent a [letter](#) to the editor saying he suspected she was a "government plant or working for the open borders lobby," and said she had "infiltrated" other activist organizations, been "booted" from them, and implied that she had been responsible for the implosion of another organization. This is the type of "information" that could have been quite dangerous to Lawless if it had gotten into the hands of some over-zealous mentally-disturbed person in the movement, for that person could have very well taken it upon himself to rid the movement of the government "rat." After learning about this, Lawless feared for her life until she moved out of Hereford.

Despite her work to make MMP become a reality, Simcox was determined to undermine Lawless in any way he could. His next trick, ***2 days prior to the beginning of MMP***, was to inform the FBI about some [email posts](#) that he was "concerned" about on the yahoogroups list that she owned, BorderWar. Despite his busy schedule preparing for MMP, Simcox somehow found the time to comb the archives looking for anything he could snitch on. One poster was personally visited by the FBI, while Lawless called them up and came in to talk to them with her [tape recorder](#). The Feds let the cat out of the bag when they told her they were tipped off by Simcox.

Lawless kept the tape of her conversation with the FBI, and played it for Jim Chase during MMP. Nearly a year later, Sandra Beene, co-founder of Texas Minutemen in an [email](#) critical of Simcox, stated:

Oddly enough when Lawless started her Border Guardians group Simcox became so enraged that she was not following him that he turned her name in to the FBI for 'investigation'. This is disgusting, but it is provable as Laine has a tape where the FBI admitted that Simcox turned her in to them. And this tape has been heard by quite a few people. *(I James Chase listened to this tape right after it was made, and Simcox told me prior to this that he does rat his enemies to the FBI.)*

The final payback came when Lawless was denied admittance to MMP. Both Jim Gilchrist and James Chase fought with Simcox to keep her in the Project, but Simcox gave them an ultimatum about the attendance of a number of persons, including Lawless: "either they go, or I go!" And so, a number of people, including security chief David Hepler, were barred from MMP, for reasons unknown.

Prior to this ultimatum, Jim Gilchrist's computer had mysteriously crashed, losing all the data about MMP participants. He did not know who was going to show up, or have any way to make sure the participants had been properly screened. On the other hand, Simcox' computers at the Tombstone Tumbleweed had all the information. Of course, Simcox refused to give Gilchrist a copy of the list. Without that information, and without Simcox to help in the operation, there would have been no MMP. Being true patriots, both Gilchrist and Chase decided to bite the bullet and give in to Simcox' childish and underhanded last-minute extortion. *Because of Simcox' actions, there almost was no MMP. The public had no idea how close MMP came to being a non-event.*

About the people who had planned to attend MMP and were denied entry, James Chase later said:

Simcox has driven quite a few people away because of his hard attitude, or his paranoid need to have everyone screened down to the last little jot & tittle. I had a guy that I had talked into coming down, a Marine first sergeant, got him a rig and everything...THREE days he's waiting and Simcox STILL hadn't given him an ID. He should have given him a temporary ID, and then followed up with a permanent ID. The guy went home! And that was repeated over and over and over. He's so worried about people and their personalities and what might happen, that he and his staff are a bunch of snots. It's just an attitude. These people aren't employees, they're *volunteers*, spending a lot of money to come here to help us! And there's just a lot of people being turned away.

There were many complaints about lack of organization on the ground during MMP, so James Chase started a sign-in list for the border watches so that no one would be overlooked. Jim Gilchrist was there every day, while Simcox was hardly ever seen, except for an occasional



cameo appearance to give orders to the troops or to talk to media. Many people worked all around the clock, except when they were sleeping. James Chase took over as Security Chief and seemed to be on duty 24 hours a day, getting little sleep.

MM battled obnoxious newspaper reporters trying to bait them and ACLU members trying to trick them into doing something they could report on. A couple of ACLU Legal Observers were [photographed](#) by a MM while smoking pot, and that picture made the rounds swiftly on the Internet. A sizeable number of participants who were staying in local motels reported that their tires had been punctured and their cars keyed. Donations flowed into the Tombstone Tumbleweed office almost too fast for counting, but some sharp-eyed volunteers did notice the amounts.

Fears of racists, Klan or militia members attending and shooting illegal aliens never materialized, nor did the MS-13 members who were supposed to kill all the MM, a rumor circulated by the Mexican racist website, [aztlan.net](#).

In the end, MMP was wildly successful; the media gave it lots of coverage, and it shut down the border everywhere MM were stationed. Illegal alien and smuggling traffic in Cochise County slowed to a trickle, and the MMP showed all of America that the right number of citizens armed with binoculars and cell phones could close the border with the help of the Border Patrol. And then the question was, if ordinary citizens could do it, why couldn't our own bumbling federal government succeed? The point had been made, and after their trips to Washington, DC., things changed for Chris Simcox and Jim Gilchrist.

## THE AFTERMATH

In Washington, both Gilchrist and Simcox testified to Congress, and then signed on with Diener Associates, a marketing firm that was in serious financial trouble. Simcox' website finally got a professional look, and Diener started sending out spam emails for Simcox' MCDC with *Donate* buttons embedded in at least 4 places in every letter.

A month after Jim Gilchrist got home to Southern California, Mary Parker Lewis and Diener Consultants offered to manage the MMP for him. According to Gilchrist:

They referred me to Chris Simcox' brand new, impressive web site that they managed and they said they could do the same for the MMP. I was impressed with the work they appeared to be doing for Simcox and I needed assistance to keep the MMP afloat and on mission course.



Diener required that I transfer the \$55,000 of donor funds to them that I held in a dedicated bank account just for holding MMP donations. Soon thereafter no more donations came into the MMP donation account. Apparently, Diener was having all donations come directly to them under a new bank account that they controlled. I never saw one cent of whatever money Diener collected through my web site, which Diener solely managed. I was never informed or allowed to have information relative to how much money Diener was collecting or where that money was going.

Diener Consultants and Mary Parker Lewis invited me to run for congress and offered to manage my campaign. When I threatened to resign from the congressional campaign unless I was provided with an accounting of the \$55,000, they quickly faxed to me a report showing that \$45,000 was wired directly to Diener Consultants, \$5,000 was used for advertising and \$5,000 went elsewhere. Diener never explained how the \$45,000 they took was used to support and service the MMP web site and the mission of the MMP. I knew then that I would eventually fire most of those associated with them.

Meanwhile, during the distraction of the Congressional campaign, The Minute Man Project web site was completely ignored and essentially appeared "dead." *Operation Spotlight*, a campaign I created in the MMP to gather information on criminal elements involved in the illegal alien slave trade, was totally ignored by the Diener group and it faded away.

Diener Consultants also took control of everything about me--it appeared that they owned my web site, they owned my campaign, they owned my name, etc., via ownership of several domains using my identity or the MMP identity. It took a lawyer to get those identities returned to my control. I never, ever agreed to let anyone own my web site, the MMP, or my name.

The day after the election in November of 2005 I fired all of them and began to rebuild the MMP. The MMP was left penniless, without even a bank account or a business card. With the help of one stoic and aggressive individual I was able to rebuild the MMP bigger and better than ever. The MMP is still experiencing growing pains, but at least now the accounting is honest and the money is going to help the cause.

Jim Chase, who was effectively the Operations Chief, said in a private conversation during MMP:

"Simcox got over \$6,000 for MMP and he never forwarded it to MMP. He's taken thousands and thousands of dollars."

Sandra Beene of TXMM, said nearly a year after MMP:

If you are at all interested in the truth then ask Gilchrist or Chase what happened to the money that was donated to MMP last April 2005. It was

a generous amount. Or ask people who sent checks as to who cashed them or put them in the bank and in what account. You might get a big surprise. Many donors could have sued Simcox at that time.

Joe and Barb McCutchen, original MMP volunteers, (Barb had worked in the office and opened the donation letters) began to privately question where the funds had gone, and for what they had been used. Joe set up a national telephone conference call about finances, but Simcox refused to attend, or to answer any questions at all about money. Many donors felt uneasy about all the money they had given with the intention of funding field operations.

A local Hereford resident who went out and bought a 2 year contract for special cell phones so she and her husband could be line bosses in MMP also says she was promised reimbursement and has not seen a dime from MCDC. Reimbursement money for gasoline costs incurred was never paid, either, even though Chris Simcox made many promises to induce those to participate who lacked adequate funds to pay for extra travel. A number of poverty-stricken Americans who participated were under the impression that some reimbursement for their travel expenses would be made. "Don't worry," Simcox said, "there's plenty of money coming in." To date, funds have not been disbursed.

[Miracle Valley Bible College](#) was fined \$10,000 (the estimated amount of money they received from participants in MMP) by Cochise County. Obtaining an attorney, Dr. Harter fought this judgment in local court, and then having lost, took it to an appeals court which also ruled against MVBC. The next step in this progression would have to be the Supreme Court of Arizona, and raising funds for this type of case is difficult. In addition to the original fine, Cochise County has slapped a \$50 a day penalty on MVBC, and no one is sure what day this amount begins.

Harter's attorney has since retired, and Harter has had to pay \$17,000 in legal bills for his defense of [MVBC](#). Dr. Harter has appealed for donations to help, but at this point he really has no one to turn to but God for a resolution of this situation. It appears that Dr. Harter and MVBC have been penalized for their support of MMP, and he speculates that there might be some corruption in high places, as the drug trafficking from Mexico to AZ was stopped during MMP. Friends of MVBC have wondered if there is a developer who wants the land, and who has ties to Cochise County which could force a tax sale if conditions were right.

The Zoning and Permit Board of Cochise County never explained why it singled out Dr. Harter's Miracle Valley Bible College for the strict enforcement of county ordinances. It has never used such code

enforcement against the many thousands of “safe houses” in Arizona routinely used to simultaneously house several dozen illegal aliens on the smuggling routes throughout the United States used by the 21<sup>st</sup> century slave traders.

As of press time, August 23, 2007, nothing has changed, and the MVBC is still in peril because of that unjust fine.

## A CRISIS IN LEADERSHIP

According to Gary Cole, former Minuteman National Operations Manager for MCDC, “The problem MCDC faces today is the same as in June 2005—a crisis in leadership. Chris Simcox is the world’s worst leader—he has no leadership skills or talents.” Mitch Geiger, an unpaid volunteer who had organized the successful MM rally at the Phoenix Capitol in July 2005, and who was fired for asking too many questions about finances and expenditures, said it was a daily office joke among the staff when someone asked, “What did Chris sabotage today?” Geiger insists that MCDC succeeded in spite of Simcox. “Simcox is one of those people who can’t be wrong.” Geiger observed that Simcox’ ego was what counted, not the cause: “It was all a big game to him; he just wanted to play the role of Chris Simcox.”

One of the most bizarre aspects of working for MCDC for Geiger was having to deal with the screaming temper tantrums that Simcox would throw over the phone. Geiger was never able to figure out what triggered them, although Simcox had objected that Geiger’s constant asking for financial accountability had put too much pressure on him. Geiger found that Simcox was not good at handling details—they all seemed to be too overwhelming to him.

After doing well in the beginning, Mitch Geiger was appointed Arizona State Director of Operations, an unpaid position. Geiger believes that Stacey O’Connell, another volunteer, coveted his job, and as a result of O’Connell’s lying about what Geiger had said and done, Geiger was fired and Stacey rose to the State Director position. Geiger also said that the fact that he had been riding Simcox on the issue of finances and expenditures for months might have strongly influenced his ouster.

Geiger met many fine patriots working for MCDC, and all of them, including Mike Gaddy, Gary Cole, and Bob Wright, asked numerous questions about finances. When Mike Gaddy left the organization, Geiger started having serious doubts about working for MCDC. “I felt that as a volunteer I was giving my time, and those who couldn’t do that gave their money, and we owed it to them to spend it wisely.”

Geiger complained privately to those in the movement, but for the good of the cause did not go public until he felt that MCDC was doing harm and was irredeemable. Along with Joe and Barb McCutchen, he was interviewed for a Phoenix [ABC I-15](#) special on MCDC and finances.

Figures were also greatly inflated when Geiger worked for MCDC. While it was claimed that there were 10,000-15,000 volunteers, there were less than 2500 names in the database. Some numbers were inflated by as much as 10 times. For example, Simcox would claim the weekend border watches cost thousands of dollars, but the actual costs of a watch out at the Three Points area South of Tucson was around \$350! Geiger says \$200 would go to the VFW for a donation, and around \$100 was spent for a porta-potty.

Geiger saw lots of waste while working at the office. For example, even though the dates of a speaking engagement were known weeks in advance, often the airline tickets were bought just a day or two before. Whenever he asked a financial question, he was referred to Peter Kunz at Diener Associates who never showed him a budget or gave any answers. Geiger asked repeatedly about the \$2,000 a month that was supposed to buy night vision/thermal imaging equipment, and reimbursement funds for gas and porta-potties.

Others found fault with MCDC [figures](#): according to Glenn Spencer of American Border Patrol, the latest figures of illegal aliens apprehended would amount to an average of 1.25 actions per day for the last two years, which he calls “preposterous and improbable.”

LIGHT ‘EM UP!

Fred Puckett and Max Worthington have humanitarian issues with Simcox as well as financial ones. Fred, whose Mexican wife of 20 years is embarrassed by the behavior of illegals, couldn’t tolerate the apparent disregard of human life displayed by MCDC.

Max and Fred both say that although a massive amount of money was collected for April 2005 MMP, they saw none of it being spent on the line. They spent 28 days at the Naco line, and during that time, despite promises to the contrary, no flashlight batteries or money for gas or cell phones was provided, and Simcox spent ZERO time on the line.

On October 3, 2005, Fred and Max were out on patrol in Three Points South of Tucson near the Brawley Wash. Stacey O'Connell, who was in charge of the operation, had been told by Border Patrol not to shine bright lights in the eyes of illegals at night, as this confuses and disorients them, making it more difficult for the agents to find them once they've scattered. In spite of this instruction, he yelled "Light 'em up!" when a group of approximately 100 illegals was detected. When Puckett protested that this was dangerous, as some of them might get lost and come to harm, Stacey responded, "We don't give a shit if they die or not—they don't belong to us!" The group scattered and Border Patrol never found all of them.

Max called the MCDC office and asked Simcox to send out a Search and Rescue team, and nothing was done for 4 days. Finally, Max called Fred and asked him to look for some of the illegals who had scattered. On October 8, Fred took his ATV and within 20 minutes found 3 illegals, including a woman who was in a coma who had been wandering the desert for 5 days after having been "lighted up." The Arizona Republic published this story, and it was posted on [Minuteman of One](#).

After that, Fred and Max formed [Minuteman of One](#), based on the principle that anyone could be a Minuteman, and could report illegals on his own, without needing a group or excessive infrastructure. While they tried to cooperate with MCDC (as they were working approximately the same area), even up to the point of calling them when they spotted illegals with their thermal imaging scope, Simcox and his group were totally unresponsive. In fact, MCDC did everything they could to smear Minuteman of One, including posting disgusting comments on their [blog](#). In November of 2005, Simcox sent Max an [email](#) threatening to come to his house if he didn't take him off his email list. Asked about where he thought the massive amounts of donations to MCDC were going, Max speculated that they were going into a slush fund to pay for Simcox to run for John McCain's AZ Senate seat. Gary Cole discounted this and said, "Simcox doesn't have the constitution, the background, or the depth of character to run for a Senate seat."

Max describes Simcox, who calls all his opponents "racists," as a "wicked, selfish user with no soul" who is "anti-human."

In March of 2006, Puckett decided to go out and see how many coyotes he could report, and in the next few months, he and Minuteman of One, working in 2 man teams, participated in the interdiction of 11 vehicles and over 258 smugglers and illegals. In one day they caught 84 people. Subsequent to this, a reporter, from a Phoenix ABC affiliate, Morgan Loew, assumed an alternate identity and infiltrated MMO. A heavily-edited segment was shown out of context with Fred saying that if some of the drug smugglers were shot, they'd think twice. What this morally-compromised reporter with a left-wing agenda didn't tell the TV audience was that the night before, some drug smugglers had tried to run Puckett down with their load vehicle, and he feared for his life.

(Morgan Loew is the same "dirty" ABC-15 reporter who infiltrated Jim Gilchrist's MMP camp at the Miracle Valley Bible College in April 2005 by using a fraudulent identity. For two days he attempted to encourage MMP volunteers to make racially charged comments so that he could broadcast them on the six o'clock news. His ruse failed and Gilchrist threw him out of the camp.)

Fred's still running Minuteman of One out in the Three Points area. One of the schemes he has uncovered has been the game of calling for an ambulance to go to that remote area for any illegal with the slightest medical problem, rather than calling for the specialist BorStar EMTs who work for the Border Patrol. He says every ambulance ride the BP calls for costs the taxpayers \$1,000, and he does whatever he can to short-circuit the waste of money for someone who is not in dire need of emergency ambulance services. In addition to this, once an illegal is shipped to a hospital, they are just left there, and once they are released, they are not monitored or jailed, and are allowed to go wherever they want, unhindered. Puckett says this "catch-and-release" policy isn't right.

Fred has a number of informants in Simcox' organization, and according to them, MCDC is still "lighting 'em up!"

## WHERE'S THE MONEY?

As the months went by, a large number of people left MCDC, and more volunteers questioned finances. Media outlets, some initially supportive, such as the [Washington Times](#), started to question where the money was going and what was being done with it. ABC I-15 reporter Abbie Boudreau point-blank asked Chris Simcox how much money had been collected and what it had been spent on. Simcox' answer rang hollow,

and he put off any specific details until November. Many eagerly awaited the MCDC public report.

When the report was made, it was critiqued by Jerry Seper of the [Washington Times](#) and [Susan Carroll](#) of the [Houston Chronicle](#). Based on the IRS 990 form, ***less than 6% of the money received was spent on field operations for border watches.*** The income from the \$50 fees for “background checks” totaled \$54,000, yet only \$1,074 was spent on this expense item. This is a clear sign that MCDC’s insistence on the necessity of this fee was just a money-making scheme, not a security factor. Many before had pointed out that you can do a full background check for \$17, not \$50, on the internet. Why didn’t they just call it a membership or an entrance fee?

Other critics included [Michelle Malkin](#), a well-known anti-illegal alien commentator, and the [Texas Minutemen](#).

Throughout this, Simcox insisted that he never took a salary from MCDC. “He wouldn’t need to,” Laine Lawless quipped, “if he could dip his hand in the till any time he wanted to.” In other interviews, Simcox said he received fees from speaking engagements, the sale of his life story for a movie, and the generosity of his patriotic, well-heeled wife.

Laine Lawless, Director of [Border Guardians](#) comments: “If you are going to donate to any organization, make sure it’s a grassroots effort run by a frugal penny-pincher, and that way you’ll get more bang for your buck. Don’t fall for fancy marketing schemes; ask for an accounting of what the money is spent on, and demand financial transparency. A chief executive, even of a non-profit, can be cost-effective on a small salary of \$2,000 a month + expenses if you allocate your resources properly. A bloated infrastructure only benefits those at the top, not the cause. We have so few funding sources available to us—we cannot waste a penny.”

## FENCEGATE

When MCDC announced that they would build a fence between the U.S. and Mexico if the federal government wouldn’t (an idea that had already been around the internet for more than a year), a number of people thought this was merely a marketing ploy to bolster sagging donations. Liz DeMarco and John Ryan led the way in a stunning email analysis of the layers upon layers of Diener Associates and their connections to conservative and Republican organizations. Their analysis was first posted on closebordergroup on yahoogroups.



Date: Fri, 5 May 2006 08:56:52 -0700 (PDT)  
From: Liz DeMarco  
Subject: Fencegate

## Part 1: FENCEGATE

In the last few weeks, information has been exchanged regarding whether or not the proposed Minuteman Civil Defense Corps (MCDC) building of a fence on six private properties in Arizona is an effort that should be pursued, each brick (or each foot - whatever) costing approximately \$150, and whether or not it is an effort in which grassroots activists should invest.

Tim Donnelly, MCDC Representative, was asked about the plan to ignore the state and local requirements regarding the fence, and responded that MCDC had no intention of securing permits. The potential problems of failure to apply for a permit are explained in the following paragraph.

“The problem with doing that is that the owner of the property will be fined and then forced to tear down any work they have done at owner's expense. You can be sure that the Open Borders Lobby will be out there with their cell phones set to speed dial code enforcement to come out on the day they begin the work on it. If the Ag fence has an expired permit, which it probably does if it was abandoned by the government, then anyone working on it will be fined and forced to remove any work they have completed. The Ag fence is probably also on government property so they would be looking at additional fines for defacing government property.”

We are left with the unanswered question, “Who will benefit from the building of this fence?” No information has been released regarding the planned specifications of the fence, or who owns the six properties.

There was a partial expose of the finances of the Minuteman Civil Defense Corps (MCDC) on Thursday April 27, 2006, [ABC News](#) to which many activists reacted negatively because of the pointed questions asked by ABC's Investigative Reporter, Abbie Boudreau regarding the amount of, and use of, contributions to the MCDC project, and the non-answers provided by Chris Simcox.

When questioned about the manner in which the donations were being used, Simcox referred to purchase of equipment and repeated, “Food, cell phones, radios, gas expenses... it's all been provided for them.” Anyone on the border during April 2005 knows that Gatorade and water was provided – there was no food, no cell phones or radios provided, and no reimbursement for gas.

When queried about the number of contributions and the amount contributed, and whether or not MCDC would be willing to open their books, Simcox replied, “about 130,000 people have made donations – we're talking – I've lost track – probably about a quarter million dollars.” He further stated, “There is no way to track the donations, and

we don't bend to those kinds of requests or accusations about anything.”

In April 2005, Simcox, on behalf of MCDC, signed a contract with Diener, a “Public Relations” Group. As Jackie Juntti said, “When any outfit hires on a marketing firm - LOOK OUT! The money will be going to that MARKETING FIRM and not to the boots on the ground.”

Part 2: DIENER CONSULTANTS, INC.

We are left with the unanswered question, “Who will benefit from the building of this fence?”

One big winner will be Diener Consultants, Inc. They are an "Innovative Marketing Solution" firm providing marketing services to Minuteman Civil Homeland Defense, and various other enterprises in the United States and elsewhere.

Diener Consultants, Inc. is owned by Philip Sheldon, who proudly claims, via Institute for Politics Democracy and the Internet... *Phil crammed four years into six in getting his AB from Johns Hopkins University in 1983.*

[http://www.ipdi.org/politicsonline/speakers.htm#Phil\\_Sheldon](http://www.ipdi.org/politicsonline/speakers.htm#Phil_Sheldon)

Philip Sheldon is the son of Reverend Louis P. Sheldon of the Traditional Values Coalition. The Reverend Sheldon, known as 'Lucky Louie' to Jack Abramoff, and others, is a master of [direct mail methods](#).

Louis Sheldon's connection to black American churches is explained at the [site](#). The Reverend apparently did not share these contacts with his son, Phil, because the number of black Americans in the Minuteman ranks has not increased as a result of MCDC's marketing contract with Diener. Instead of making an effort to increase the numbers of black Americans in the ranks of MCDC, it would appear that Diener perpetuates, or at least permits, the “racial slurs” heaped on the Minutemen instead of providing an avenue to quash the accusations that Minutemen are racists. The race card is a very useful weapon for both sides of the illegal alien invasion issue.

Many of you will remember receiving “out of the blue” emails from RightMarch.com shortly after the MCDC mailing list was turned over to Diener for marketing purposes.

Phil Sheldon, founder of Diener Consultants, Inc. is also partners with William Greene in a venture called RightMarch.com. (Mr. Greene made the news last year for exploiting [Terri Schindler's tragic death](#)). To follow is the record of RightMarch.com's expenditures from [FEC Watch](#).

William Greene also presides over, with partner, Phil Sheldon, the Buford, Georgia based Strategic Internet Campaign Management, <http://www.sicm.com/>, an organization whose mission is "Helping nonprofit organizations, corporations and political candidates to achieve a better bottom line by using the Internet for fundraising and grassroots

activism." Before starting up SICM, Greene earned his stripes as the vice president of *Internet Marketing & Development* at *ConservativeHQ.com* Inc. (website), an online fundraising outfit headed by the "Godfather of Direct Mail," Richard Viguerie.

According to SICM's website, Greene is a veteran of a number of right wing campaigns: At *C-HQ.com*, he "spearheaded Internet grassroots efforts such as *BackBush.com* and the *Sixty Second Activist Club*, which generated over 1,020,000 faxes, 250,000 petition signatures, 15,000 hand-delivered mailgrams & FedEx's, and 125,000 emails/letters to Congress, the President and other leaders."

He worked with many of Viguerie's clients including the TVC, *American Conservative Union*, *Texas Justice Foundation*, Linda Chavez' *Stop Union Political Abuse*, the *Conservative Leadership Political Action Committee*, *Federer for Congress*, *Conrad for Congress*, *Help Hospitalized Veterans*, and the *House Managers PAC*, among others. Greene's company also hitched itself to the bandwagon of Alan Keyes, the "radical right wing African American Illinois senatorial candidate" who got beaten badly by Barak Obama last fall.

Phil Sheldon has another partner, Philip Zodhiates, in a venture called *ConservativePetitions.com*. Zodhiates runs [Response Unlimited](#). Zodhiates participated in the March 2004 World Congress of Families convention held in Mexico City, Mexico where he gave a [seminar](#) in mobilizing the masses.

The principals being discussed also have an interesting method of using their money in the political process.

Minuteman Civil Defense Corps is a project of the Declaration Alliance <https://secure.responseenterprises.com/minutemanhq/?a=562> <http://altnet.org/rights/35403/> <http://www.declarationalliance.org/> and <http://www.declaration.net/> are registered to Mary Parker Lewis. The Declaration Foundation was founded by Alan Keyes. It uses Response Unlimited to raise funds <http://www.responseunlimited.com/datacard.lasso?list=101>.

<http://www.responseenterprises.com/> provides payment services for:

- RightMarch and RightMarch PAC
- MinutemanHQ and Minuteman Civil Defense Corps (CDC)
- Minuteman Border Patrol Registrations
- The Minuteman Project \*\*
- Society for Truth and Justice (Randall Terry)
- Terry Family Trust (Randall Terry)
- Jim Gilchrist for Congress\*\*
- United States Justice Foundation - Hillary Accountability Project (HillCAP)
- Many Others

Horizon Capital Bank appears to have been the bank of choice for 'patriotic

entrepreneurs' until it was taken over by Cullen/Frost Bankers, Inc.  
<http://biz.yahoo.com/ic/13/13141.html>. This bank serves clients in Mexico.

[\*\*Jim Gilchrist claims that only under threat of lawsuit he was able to get ownership of these entities back under his name. However, he is wary about whether Response Enterprise and the Diener Consulting group are still collecting donations under the Minuteman Project or the Jim Gilchrist names. There have been several instances where clicking on a hyperlink for “The Minuteman Project” provided by a Google search will immediately direct the person to Simcox’ Minuteman Civil Defense Corps, not to Gilchrist’s Minuteman Project.]

The Federal Election Commission website, <http://www.fec.gov/disclosure.shtml> is an excellent resource as you attempt to determine how your money is being used.

Please note: This research does not mark the end of our commitment in this battle to stop the illegal alien invasion. It simply marks a new direction.

The traitorous leaders in the United States, who are satisfying their greed and lining their pockets, must be exposed. The marketing groups who are advising anti-illegal immigration groups, as well as opposition groups, must be exposed. The ethical question of conflict of interests arises again-and-again. The illegal alien invasion is a well-orchestrated, well-funded attempt to make the United States a third world country.

Almost a week has passed since the beginning of this research, and it should be obvious to you why such an inordinate amount of time was expended.

One final question, “Is this a morass, a maze, or a toilet bowl?”

Liz DeMarco, Americans for Mass Deportation  
John Ryan, Pennsylvania Minutemen

More information uncovered by an unaffiliated conservative, is below:

<http://theponderingamerican.blogspot.com/2006/08/why-declaration-alliance-and-alan.html>

<http://theponderingamerican.blogspot.com/2006/08/minuteman-minutegate-update.html>

[A flow chart](#) for the donations was created by a couple of Texas Minutemen and expanded during this report. It is very helpful in “following the money.”

In an [article](#) about permits being issued for the fence, Cochise County Supervisor Paul Newman asks: “Do we want Cochise County to be known as the place where we put up this wall to nowhere?”

A copy of Fencegate was forwarded to Peter Kunz of Diener Associates, and he responded to them with this:

Liz -

For many years there have been many groups talking about illegal immigration. It was not until Chris Simcox and his leadership team organized a border security operation, created an SOP and decided to tell the rest of the world outside of AZ, that the issue has received any attention. Now, MCDC is regularly covered on FOX, CNN, ABC, NBC, CBS, in print, radio and virtually every news outlet in the world. Just what Simcox wanted to do to draw attention the lack of border security and to force the US Government into doing the job they will not do.

Now hundreds of opposition groups from the Mexican Government, big business, and socialists and all the way to the ACLU want Simcox and the MCDC to go away.

Simcox and MCDC are not going anywhere but are expanding the effort by building a fence as 91% of the American people want border security.

With the help of a dedicated network of conservative organizations MCDC has mobilized hundreds of thousands of volunteers, received national attention for the illegal immigration issue, deadlocked the Senate and made border security the second most important issue on the American political agenda for the upcoming elections in 2006 and 2008.

**When any outfit hires this marketing firm - LOOK OUT! Real Border Security is on the way with and the flood of illegal aliens will be stopped.** This is a real and very successful result.

I am sure of this.

The most effective voice in bringing the immigration debate to where it is today has been Chris Simcox and MCDC and you can either support him until he reaches his goal of having the National Guard on the border to create a secure border or you are part of the opposition?

Peter

Liz' response was telling: “Simply put, we have uncovered the machinations of Diener Consultants, and followed the money.”

Anyone involved in marketing understands that the more people who touch the money, the more the amount is reduced by the time it is actually spent. A huge infrastructure equals large overhead and high expenditures. And donations paying primarily for staff salaries

rather than programs is not unknown in non-profit organizations. For example, people may think that if they donate money to the Red Cross, that because they have asked it to go to Florida hurricane victims, that it will go to benefit them. Instead the Red Cross places all donations into a general fund, and then makes separate decisions about how much to spend on any given disaster relief.

Most people who give to MCDC would expect their money to go to support the brave patriots who guard our border, not to a bloated staff and infrastructure. If the truth were known, it's entirely likely that there would be a lot fewer donations to MCDC.

Glenn Spencer of American Border Patrol, who lives on the Arizona-Mexico border, has been an early critic of the MCDC [border fence](#). He has flown over the areas on which the fence was being built, and pointed out the reality vs. the promise. On the Ladd ranch, instead of building a tall "Israeli-style" double fence as promised, MCDC erected a [5 strand barbed wire fence](#) to keep out cattle that was almost immediately vandalized. In reports on his website, he has basically called the fence a fraud. And on June 1, 2007, he got a [photo](#) of the invaders running right through the Simcox barbed wire fence on the Jack Ladd ranch!

In fact, 83% of Arizona is owned by the government. On the border, the situation is even more bleak, with up to 90% of the land being government-owned, when you include the Indian reservations. No private party may build fences on government land, so only the privately-owned land may be available for border fencing. And out of that small amount, only a limited portion of the ranchers on the border may be willing to have an MCDC-built fence. The ABC I-15 report cited in Fencegate questioned whether it would duplicate the 700 mile fence recently authorized by Congress. It seems unlikely, given the small territory the fence might be able to cover, that any illegals would be kept out. Just like they do right now, they would simply go around the fence, or in the case of barbed wire, cut through it.

James Campbell, an early [donor](#) to the Simcox fence, gave the organization \$100,000 which he thought would be used to construct an "Israeli-style" fence. On May 22, 2007, he filed a \$1.2 Million [lawsuit](#) in Maricopa County Superior Court against Simcox, MCDC, Declaration, Diener and all associated organizations for fraud. Any donor should ask themselves this question: is this a good use of my hard-earned money, or should I give to another organization that seems to be more frugal and more effective?

TROUBLE ON THE BORDER—AUTHORIZED VS. DISSIDENTS



Once Gilchrist and Simcox split up after MMP, at the end of April 2005, Simcox tried to convince anyone wanting to start a border watch that they had to have his authorization and that MCDC was the only “official” Minuteman organization through which all goodness and light flowed. The reason behind this was obvious: Diener and Simcox wanted all the power and money to flow to them. In more than one case, a group of patriots sent their money to MCDC HQ on the promises of further support, only to find that National sent them back 25% of what they had given! Apparently this is happening again, as recently as April 2007, to a group in [Florida](#).

Sincere patriots who just wanted to conduct a border watch were being slandered in secret emails from Simcox as if they were renegades instead of concerned citizens. The Texas Minutemen, founded by Sandra Beene and Shannon McGauley, were repeatedly victimized, and all across the country, these tactics were repeated for any organizations which dared to be independent MM. The underhanded tactics by MCDC are detailed in this email from Beene:

The TXMM started our border watch in El Paso in October 2005. After it was over, Simcox sent letters to the ranchers whose land we had been on and asked them for GENEROUS donations for the protection they had received. The letter asked for \$500 and larger amounts. They contacted us and we let them know right away that Simcox was not our group.

But it was very easy for them to possibly become confused. Thank heavens they asked us if that letter was from us! In fact a few said it almost sounded like a form of extortion--"we helped you, so you pay us!" In September 2006 we started a border watch in Laredo. As soon as Simcox knew about it he announced he would have one in Laredo. Now in October 2006 our El Paso watch begins with the same ranchers. Two watches going at the same time. And again Simcox immediately announced that he would be in El Paso. What really puzzles me is this...we have approximately 2000 miles of just the southern border. How come he always follows us by announcing he will be where we are? Go figure. There is plenty of border that needs some help guarding it.

When James Chase was starting California Minutemen/Border Watch, Simcox circulated rumors that Chase was claiming to be the co-founder of MMP. In actuality, Chase had always deferred to Jim Gilchrist, saying that he was the one and only founder of MMP. For a number of months, the lie was perpetuated (rumored from Simcox) that Chase had been “kicked out” of MMP and that was why he had gone home on April 20 instead of April 30. Chase had fallen off a ravine 10 days earlier, and



unbeknownst to him, had broken his humerus bone in his arm. He was in so much pain that we was unable to function normally. Dedicated patriot that he was, he knew he was not at his best, so it was time to leave.

Clifford Alford, organizer of the New Mexico Rough Riders, sent this email to Border Guardians regarding Simcox & Co's behavior:

When Jim Chase and I issued a press release announcing the formation of the New Mexico Minutemen, in May of 2005, under the auspices of the United States Border Patrol Auxiliary (later known as the Border Watch Federation), the Minuteman Civil Defense Corps issued one the next day saying that we were not "official Minutemen sanctioned by National Headquarters," even though there has never been an "official" headquarters or sanctioning authority. They also announced the overnight formation of their group, called the New Mexico Minuteman Corps, which was done to create confusion as to who was really whom in New Mexico.

I called a meeting with them, and met with five of their members who slandered Jim Chase, and tried to get me to join their organization. At that point, wanting to distance ourselves from their shady dealings that were making the title of "Minuteman" become an insult, we changed our name to New Mexico Border Watch.

Later, when we were as thoroughly disgusted with their organization's lies, slander, theft of funds needed to do something real, and their having NEVER been on the New Mexico/Mexico border until the Governor declared a State of Emergency (then they were only actually there for about six hours), we changed our name to the New Mexico Border Watch "Rough Riders" so that people could hear something less spurious when they asked if we were "Minutemen" as it had taken on ugly connotations. So what did the "little darlings" do? They changed their name to the New Mexico Minute Man Corps Rough Riders.

However, by this time Command Sergeant Major Mike Gaddy, U.S.Army (Retired), who had been the backbone of their national operation, had figured out what a bunch of low-lives they were, and he had quit. Bob Wright, the New Mexico leader for MCDC, told me that he had left as "his wife was dying from cancer, and had only a short time to live." I spoke with Sergeant Major Gaddy several months later, and found out that this was just one more lie in a whole string of lies that Mr. Wright had told.

October of 2005, our relationship with the U.S. Border Patrol was seriously damaged, through "guilt by association," when Mr. Wright and crew were spotlighting illegal border-crossers with two million candle-power spotlights. [See Lighting 'Em Up] It is far easier to catch Illegals in groups than it is if they are alone. This tactic left the Illegals completely night blind, they became separated from the smugglers who knew where the water was located, and the USBP had to bring in 108 extra Border Agents just to run rescue operations. Because of this, the Agents who normally told us where to deploy and what activities they needed from us (they had trained us, and we did NOT just sit in lawn chairs looking stupid!) were not allowed to communicate with us until the MCDC was off the line again.

When New Mexico Border Watch started building fences and roadblocks along drug smuggler routes identified to us by the Border Agents, Mr. Simcox and crew started claiming credit for what we had done, and started collecting money for that as well. Of course, they didn't actually build and maintain any fences. After all, someone had to pay to help Simcox maintain his new lifestyle. And, when people had donated to his group, and wanted to see where the money had gone, they were not allowed to examine the books. We got several new members precisely because of this. Unfortunately, many of them were retired and had no more money to give so those of us with jobs funded the entire NMBW operation ourselves.

New Mexico Border Watch "Rough Riders" also helped the Texas Minutemen to get started. Simcox, Wright and crew did the same things to them, attempted to go on private land without permission, and tried to scam a thousand dollars per farmer to pay for their "all volunteer" operation which, again, through "guilt by association," caused problems for the Texas Minutemen. However, when Sheriff Samaniego, of El Paso County, endorsed the Texas Minutemen, and said that he did not want Chris Simcox in his county, those problems pretty much disappeared.

It would take much more time than I am willing to spend to enumerate the abuses of the public trust committed by Chris Simcox and his cronies in New Mexico and Texas, but this should be enough to get the idea of who and what they both are and are not across to you. They talk a lot, do little, and what they do they do poorly.

For God and Country,

Sir Clifford N. Alford, General Manager  
New Mexico Border Watch "Rough Riders"

Kim Fromme, who organized the Falfurrias border watch in Texas, had this to say:

We conducted the MCDC Falfurrias "Dancing on the Nueces Strip" operation last year (2005) with \$1,000 given to us by National. We were promised radios, thermals, NVG, etc. Nothing was delivered. Our computer system was donated and setup by Vern Kilburn. National did provide one printer that lasted to print a single badge. The only real support we got from National is when they LEFT. They did foot the bill for the DirectWay Internet, 5 porta-cans and telephone. Total costs for the whole month-long operation for the entire state of Texas: \$3000. When I sat in on the National Conference call in November following the operation, Simcox related to everyone that HE had spent \$80,000.00 on the October operation (funny thing, that is the exact amount he said he spent in April '06)! I questioned this because we had 4 states running and if Texas spent \$3k, and the others averaged about the same, then that was only about \$12- 15k. When I told him I wanted to see the proof, that was when I was demonized.

#### WORKING FOR THE MAN—A WOLF IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING?

It seems the consensus among many critics is that MCDC is covertly working for the present Republican administration to deter any real border enforcement and security and to siphon off funds from any anti-illegal immigration group which is being effective. In spite of having its finances in disarray, in private emails, border watchers from Texas say:

"MCDC is a store front OPs from inside the beltway. The IRS will wait forever."

Kim Fromme, leader of the Falfurrias, TX October 2005 border watch:

Since the end of 2005, it has been a storefront operation for the government. It has been taken over by folks who would rather see nothing done to secure the borders and continue to support fighting between the different groups (Americans) so that we can never become strong enough to do anything. These folks prey on people with little moral character and who are hungry for power and possess an ego to accompany it. They lure them in, tell them how great they are, give them a Blackberry and lo and behold, you have a FEARLESS LEADER!

Dave "Rooster" Summers:

"It appears to be a Store Front Operation for Uncle Sammy from the GET GO."

Gary Cole, who was National Operations Manager for MCDC from March 2005 until September 12, 2005 when he quit in disgust, says that MCDC is nothing more than a front for the Republican National Committee directed by Karl Rove. When Chris Simcox told him that he would be terminated if he asked questions about money or Diener Associates, and that he was to take his orders from Diener, then he quit.

Cole said there were no performance measurements, and that the bad quality of the database and the lack of accountability made management extremely difficult.

As far as he could tell, Diener's function was to make money disappear, promising that it would reappear, freshly washed. The only problem was that once money was given to them, it was never seen again! While MCDC was supposed to become a 501c3-4 corporation, it never did, and all the money that was donated went to Response Enterprises, with the result that no one knew where the money went, or what was done with it. Diener was attached to a number of corporations with a tremendous amount of staff, all of whom had to be paid. (More specific details on this are in Liz DeMarco's email beginning on page 14.)

Cole was ordered to turn all media matters over to Diener, and by June 2005, there were less than 6 contacts a day, down from 200 per day during MMP. Recruitment inquiries fell to a low of 2-3 per day. On June 11, the National staff demanded to see the national media plan, and Diener refused to show them anything. Cole believes Diener was hired to do a job, and that they didn't fail in their mission: to get the MM off prime time and off the front page. This was done by encapsulating MCDC and absorbing it so that it would lose its effectiveness.

When Arab network Al-Jazeera contacted MCDC and said their reporter wanted to accompany Simcox to a border watch, the call went from Diener directly to RNC, and word came back, via Diener owner Phil Sheldon: "We will do nothing that will make the President look bad." The U.S. State Department even threatened to pull the reporter's press card and to terminate his visa if he went to the border. Simcox bravely announced to the media that he would not take Al-Jazeera on a border watch and he became a hero to many red-blooded Americans who had no idea who was pulling the strings.

After ABC-15 broadcast an "investigative" report in April 2006 in which all other groups were called "Minuteman splinter groups," and cast both Minuteman of One and Border Guardians in a negative light, an exasperated Sandra Beene, Clifford Alford, and a representative of MCDC had a very frank [email](#) airing their concerns about MCDC's meddling and media bias.

## MINUTEMEN MUTINY AGAIN—SIMCOX UNDER SIEGE

Eighteen national MCDC and state leaders sent Simcox, Al Garza, and Carmen Mercer a letter on May 8, 2007 demanding a meeting with him on May 19 to discuss mostly financial issues. On May 14, Simcox, et al responded with a threatening letter saying the national leadership was already fired for having even *thought of such a thing*, they were unauthorized, and *did not respect his authority*. This was in spite of them having the courtesy to plan the meeting for Phoenix at a time when they knew he would be in town. (Apparently, they hadn't talked to Joe McCutchen, who also planned a conference call in June of 2005, which Simcox didn't attend.) Subsequently, all 18 people who signed the letter were fired, even though most of them were unpaid volunteers!

I suppose Simcox takes pride in being “a law unto himself,” but when the captain of a ship so vital to defending American sovereignty chooses to sink the entire ship, rather than be held accountable, it is time for their supporters to question why. MCDC is associated with a public corporation, required to file appropriate paperwork with the IRS, yet one can search the IRS website in vain for their Form 990, although it is posted on their website. According to the [Washington Times](#), however, the MCDC PAC raised more than \$300,000 in the first few months of 2007, yet gave only 3% of it to candidates! The rest was used for “operating expenses.”

There is no break in this pattern of pillaging, no relief, no financial truth or honesty. It's just business as usual, and you can rest assured that while the public image of MCDC may be tarnished, the Diener money machine is still in good working order, waiting like a hungry crocodile to snap up any dollars from unwary donors who wander into their camp.

[CLICK HERE](#) to see the full documentation.

### SUMMARY

When one donates to MCDC, one has no way of knowing where or to which project their money is going. It is folly for individual organizations to try to build a border fence on very limited amounts of private land when the majority of the land is publicly owned, and the federal government needs to be the one doing the job, for only they have the right to build it across the entirety of the border.

Past actions have indicated that Diener and MCDC as organizations, and Chris Simcox, as an individual, have money-making as their primary goal. Patriots who care about American sovereignty and who care about

the cause, will band together with other patriots, not cut “competing” organizations’ leaders off at the knees, or stab their members in the back repeatedly. According to Faye Leedy, who helped secure the Miracle Valley Bible College HQ for MMP, “[Struggles for power] happen frequently when we have little Napoleons who want to be in charge of everything.”

MCDC and MMP are two totally separate organizations, with Simcox as the head of the former, and Jim Gilchrist as the head of the latter. MCDC, through underhanded means, has consistently done everything they could to obscure this separation and to blur the lines in the hope that any donors would think that MCDC was The Minuteman Project.

## CONCLUSIONS

Insiders close to The Minuteman Civil Defense Corps believe it was compromised from the end of April 2005 to date by beltway insiders and made into a government operation to deflect criticism of the President and to siphon money from the movement, through the services of Diener Consultants to MCDC. The Border Fence Project is merely a new marketing ploy to receive donations, and it will never keep illegal aliens or drug smugglers out of the United States.

The separate organization, MMP, founded and run by Jim Gilchrist, broke away from the fund-raising firm of Diener Consultants, and has sponsored numerous border watches and MM groups, street demonstrations, rallies in Washington, and disruptive demonstrations at day labor sites, and has allied itself with other American Sovereignty Defense groups and WORKED TOGETHER FOR THE COMMON GOOD throughout its existence.

Diener Associates, with its government ties, has managed to accomplish what the ACLU, La Raza, and MALDEF together could not do: the neutering of the Minutemen.

This report was prepared by DefenderUSA for Border Guardians. All opinions expressed in this article belong solely to those individuals who have expressed them, and Border Guardians accepts no liability, express or implied, for them. Copyright 2007, All Rights Reserved—links only; no copying of article without permission.

## GLOSSARY

ABP—American Border Patrol, run by Glenn Spencer

ACLU—American Civil Liberties Union; sometimes known as American Communists Living Underground

ATV—All Terrain Vehicle; sometimes called a quad

BG—Border Guardians; a Nativist intelligence-gathering organization run by Laine Lawless ([borderguardians.org](http://borderguardians.org))

BLM—Bureau of Land Management; the federal agency, sometimes also used to refer to the actual federal land managed by BLM

BorStar—EMT-trained Border Patrol agents

CERT—Civilian Emergency Response Team

CHD—Civil Homeland Defense; an organization begun by Chris Simcox in 2002

KYSM—Kentucky State Militia

La Raza—short for National Council on La Raza, a Mexican advocacy group

MALDEF—Mexican American Legal Defense Fund

MCDC—Minuteman Civil Defense Corps; splinter group that broke off from Jim Gilchrist's Original Minuteman Project after the conclusion of the project at the end of April, 2005

MMO—Minuteman of One, run by Fred Puckett

MMP—Jim Gilchrist's Minuteman Project in Cochise County, AZ April 1-30, 2005, and Gilchrist's organization thereafter ([minutemanproject.com](http://minutemanproject.com))

MM—Minuteman, minutemen; loosely taken to include anyone who participated in any minuteman projects

MVBC—Miracle Valley Bible College; HQ of MMP April 2005

RNC—Republican National Committee



SOP—Standard Operating Procedure; military term specifying conduct in a given operation

SPP—Security and Prosperity Partnership; part of a Council on Foreign Relations plot to create the North American Union

SPR—San Pedro Riparian Area; a premier winter bird-watching site in Cochise County, AZ bordering Mexico