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This dissertation focuses on the transnational relations of U.S. law enforcement agencies with their Mexican counterparts in the Imperial County-Baja California border region. Chapter I examines the more significant geographical, socioeconomic and political characteristics that identify this border region and distinguish it from the other border regions. The Imperial County-Baja California border region is an area of great contrast demographically, economically, politically and culturally. Since the international boundary is an ineffective barrier, Mexico's problems of overpopulation, poverty and high unemployment spill across the border adding to Imperial County's high crime and unemployment rates. Hence, geopolitical realities require close ties and regular interaction between the federal, state and local officials of Imperial County and Baja California. There are six U.S. federal law enforcement agencies in this border region that engage in transnational relations with various Mexican police bodies. Chapter II analyzes the authority and jurisdictional responsibilities of each agency, as well as its scale of operations and the types and frequency of intercourse. Whereas most of the interaction between the U.S. federal law enforcement agencies and Mexican authorities occurs at the national level, a considerable number of liaison activities occur between certain U.S. federal departments and state and local agencies across the border. Although the United States Constitution specifically places all foreign affairs matters within the exclusive jurisdiction of the national government, eight state and local law enforcement agencies in this border region maintain an active liaison with the Mexican authorities. Hence, Chapter III focuses on the transnational activities of these state and local law enforcement agencies with Mexico. The formal controls, restrictions and requirements concerning the transnational activities of U.S. police agencies with Mexico, as well as the informal contacts and relations of these agencies are examined in Chapters IV and V respectively.