

Border Operations Sector Assessment

South Texas
Ranch Edition

**January
2017**

**REPORTING PERIOD:
01-31 JAN 2017**



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY BORDER SECURITY OPERATIONS CENTER



The Ranch BOSA is a monthly overview of drug/human smuggling and other criminal activity in south and west Texas. The purpose of this report is to inform ranch owners of emerging trends and relevant incidents.

South Texas Ranch Crime Index Total as of January 31, 2017: 43

The Ranch Crime index comprises rancher input of criminal traffic patterns occurring outside of main highways and roadways, and across ranch properties.



You may use the [Texas DPS iWatch](#) to report suspicious activities or behaviors that may indicate criminal or terrorist activity, such as drug smuggling, human smuggling, oil field thefts, and other criminal activity. Every report will be reviewed by analysts. You may also contact DPS at 1-866-786-5972, or through the JOIC contacts listed below.



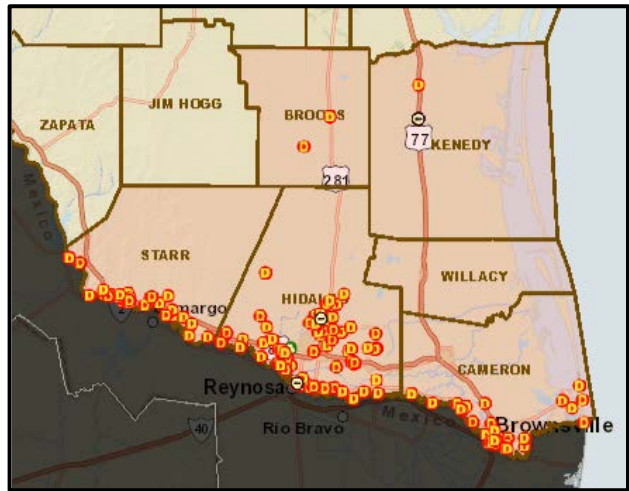
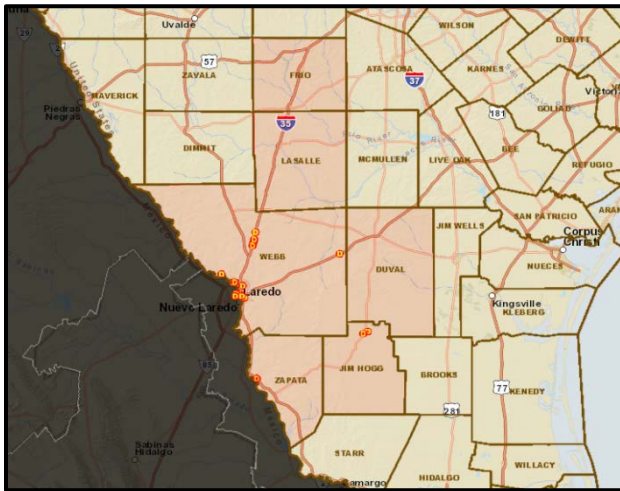
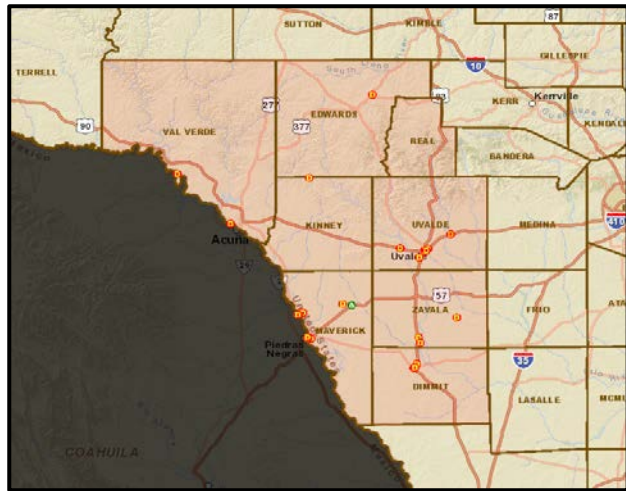
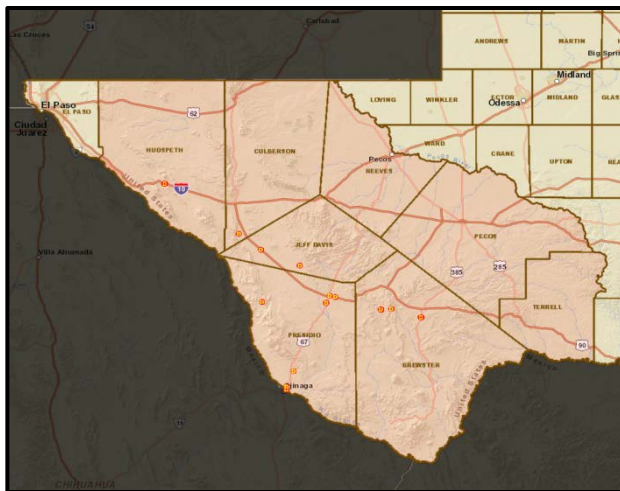
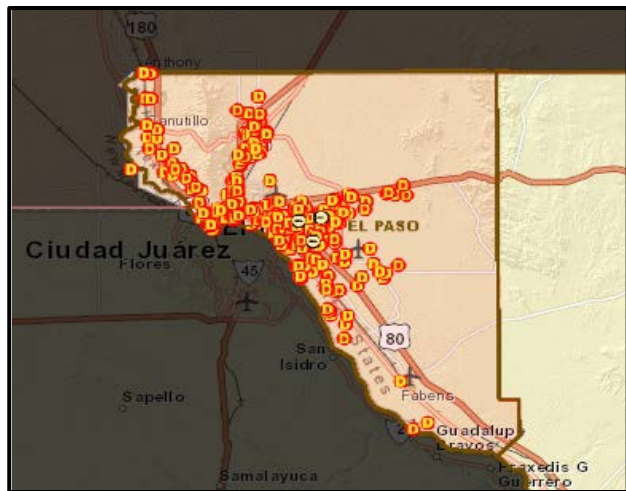
OPERATION BORDER STAR

JOIC Contact Information	Border Security Ops Ctr (Austin)	El Paso JOIC (El Paso)	Big Bend JOIC (Marfa)	Del Rio Sector (Del Rio)	Laredo Sector (Laredo)	Rio Grande Valley Sector (McAllen)	Coastal Bend Sector (Victoria)
Main Phone #	(512) 454-7561	(915) 680-6500	(432) 729-4506	(830) 778-7837	(956) 764-3181	(956) 289-5727	(361) 485-8500
Main E-mail	TBSOC@dps.texas.gov	joic.elpaso@dps.texas.gov	joic.marfa@dps.texas.gov	joic.delrio@dps.texas.gov	joic.laredo@dps.texas.gov	joic.mcallen@dps.texas.gov	joic.victoria@dps.texas.gov

Ranch Border Operations Sector Assessment

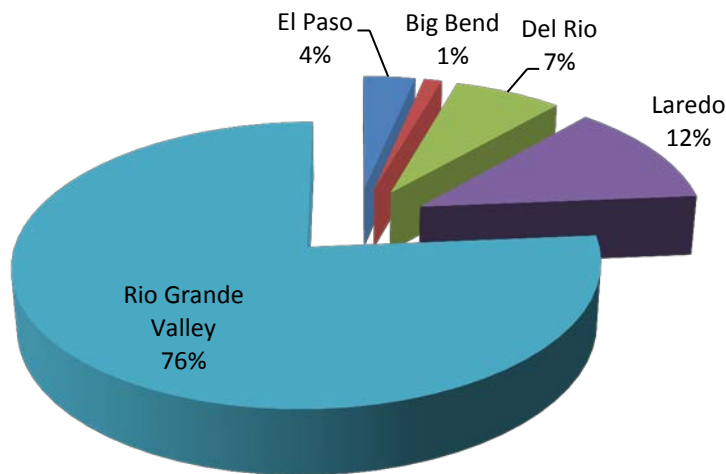


Calendar Year To Date – 2017	El Paso	Marfa	Del Rio	Laredo	RGV	Coastal Bend	TOTAL	2014 ONDCP Adjusted Value (Approximate)
Marijuana (~lbs)	5,196	2,862	1,291	13,402	25,036	193	47,980	\$291 Million
Cocaine (~lbs)	31	< 1	< 1	223	232	11	498	\$30.6 Million
Methamphetamine (~lbs)	93	61	2	34	268	< 1	458	\$39.9 Million
Heroin (~lbs)	2	< 1	14	< 1	65	0	82	\$10.5 Million

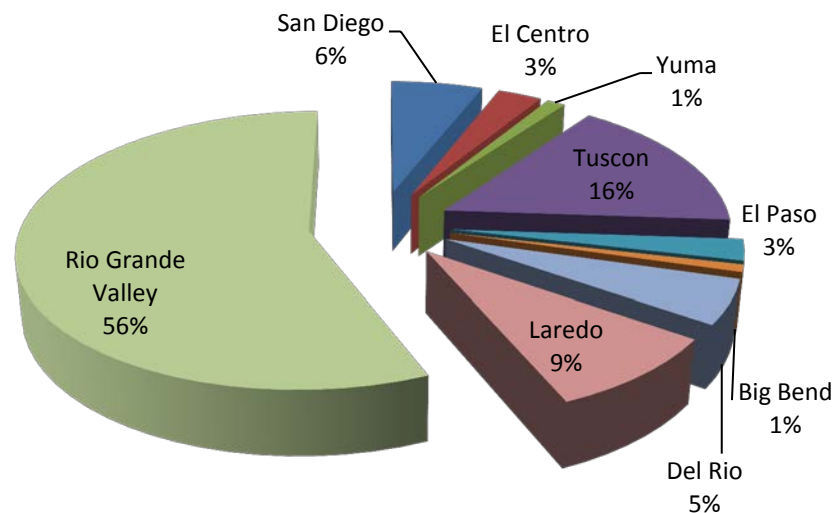




Texas Sector Apprehensions – CY 2014



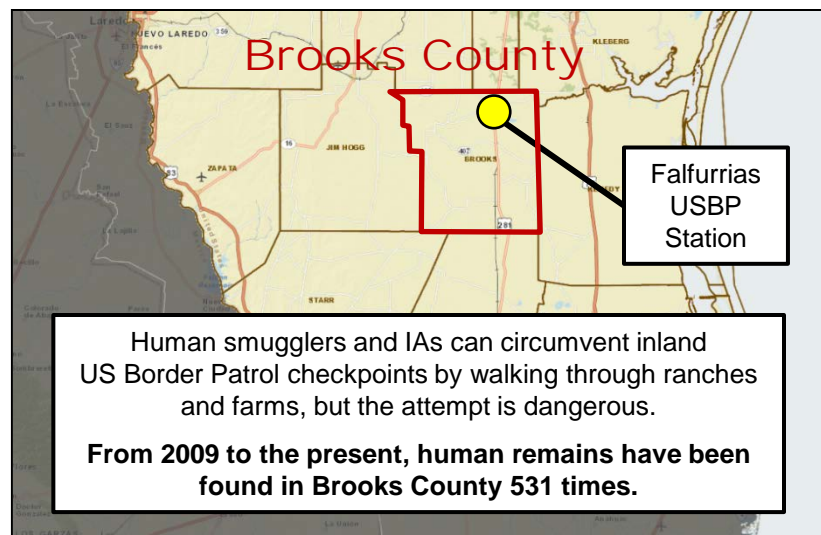
Southwest Border Sector Apprehensions – CY 2014



Illegal Aliens (IAs)	El Paso	Marfa	Del Rio	Laredo	RGV	Coastal Bend	TOTAL
CYTD 2017	2,730	206	1,119	1,796	13,713	0	19,564

Other Than Mexicans (OTMs)	El Paso	Marfa	Del Rio	Laredo	RGV	Coastal Bend	TOTAL
CYTD 2017	1,769	114	481	495	11,384	0	14,243

Unaccompanied Alien Children (UACs)	FY 2016	FY 2015	FY- 014	FY 2013	FY 2012
Texas Border	47,192	31,109	58,312	27,827	15,485



MARFA SECTOR



USBP Agents seized 237.45 lbs of abandoned marijuana near a ranch in Candelaria. The marijuana was in five burlap backpacks near a cavernous area. It was referred to Alpine DEA.



Van Horn USBP Agents seized 328.75 lbs of abandoned marijuana near a ranch in the Van Horn area. The marijuana was found in plain sight in an area from which six subjects had absconded. The marijuana was referred to El Paso DEA.

MARFA SECTOR

Presidio Co SO Deputies responded to an emergency call of shots fired at a ranch west of Candelaria. The Deputies found two subjects wounded by gunfire and had them transported to El Paso for emergency medical care and hospitalization. Presidio USBP, DPS THP, and the Texas Rangers assisted. Presidio Co SO advised that there was no evidence to support suspicions of cross-border violence. The investigation is ongoing.

Presidio USBP Agents seized 231.90 lbs of marijuana and apprehended four IAs, including one juvenile, in a creek bed on a ranch north of Presidio. One subject absconded. The 56 cellophane-wrapped bricks of marijuana were in four sugar sacks. The subjects and the marijuana were referred to Alpine DEA.



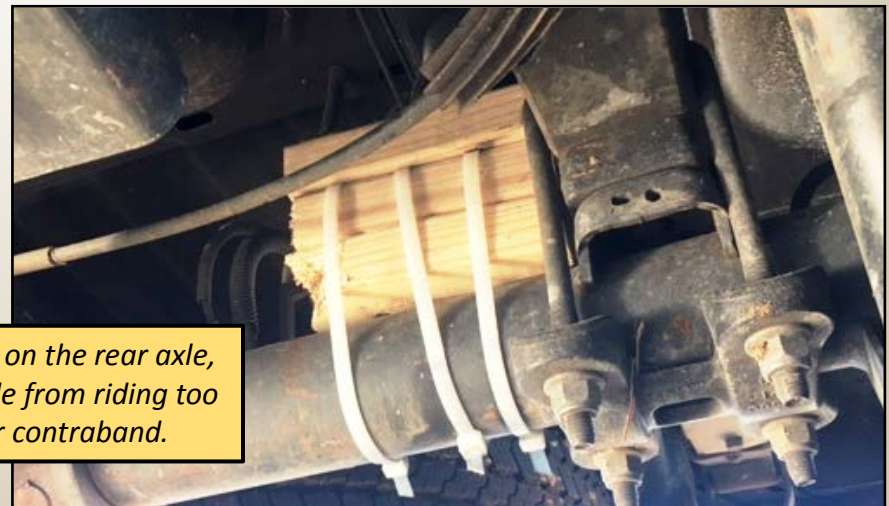
DEL RIO SECTOR

On 01 JAN, a Zavala Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a 2012 Ford F-150 pickup in La Pryor, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle drove onto a ranch, where the occupants bailed out. The vehicle was reported stolen from Houston.

On 05 JAN, a USBP Agent conducted a traffic stop on a white 2008 Ford F-250 pickup, when a pursuit ensued. The Ford drove through a fence and onto a ranch. A Zavala Co SO Deputy and a Zavala Co Constable assisted in locating the Ford near the Leona River. The occupants had bailed out and absconded. The vehicle was reported stolen from San Antonio. The Deputy suspected it had been used to smuggle IAs when he observed extensive damage to the front of the vehicle, and drinks and backpacks left inside.

DEL RIO SECTOR

On 01 JAN, a Zavala Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a silver 2012 Ford F-150 pickup on US-57 in Pryor. The vehicle stopped, but then sped away, and a pursuit ensued. After two miles, the vehicle drove onto a ranch, where the occupants bailed out and absconded. Record checks on the vehicle indicated that it was stolen out of Houston.



JOIC Note: Also found were wooden planks on the rear axle, which is a common tactic to keep the vehicle from riding too low when heavily loaded with people or contraband.

DEL RIO SECTOR

A Zavala Co SO Deputy was dispatched to a ranch west of La Pryor regarding an IA who had been bitten by a snake. USBP Agents, Uvalde EMS, and the ranch manager located the IA, who was transported to a hospital and then processed.

On 24 JAN, a USBP Agent conducted a traffic stop on a silver 2015 Ford F-350 pickup on FM 2688 near Asherton, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle turned onto US-83 and drove onto a ranch, where the occupants bailed out.

DPS AVN, along with Dimmit Co SO Deputies, assisted in a search of the area, and 11 IAs were apprehended. A records check on the vehicle indicated that it was stolen from Poteet.



DEL RIO SECTOR



On 23 JAN, a Dimmit Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a silver 2014 Chevrolet Tahoe on US-83 near Carrizo Springs, when a pursuit ensued.

The vehicle drove through a ranch gate. USBP assisted and found the abandoned vehicle six miles inside a ranch near US-277. A records check on the vehicle indicated that it was stolen from San Antonio.

The Agents and the Deputy continued their search on foot and encountered eight IAs hiding under a mobile home. A search of the residence yielded four bongs, a grinder, and a jar containing 0.02 lbs of marijuana.

DEL RIO SECTOR

On 19 JAN, a Zavala Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a black 2012 Ford F-250 pickup FM 1025 near Crystal City, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle drove off the road and crashed through a ranch fence. The occupants bailed out and absconded. The vehicle was reported stolen out of San Antonio.

On 19 JAN, USBP Agents found six abandoned bundles totaling 271.60 lbs of marijuana on a ranch in northern Kinney County. The marijuana was turned over to DEA. The Agents also found blankets, food, and clothing, but no subjects.

On 18 JAN, a USBP Agent conducted an inspection on a white 2008 Chevrolet Silverado pickup on FM 2688 near Asherton, when a pursuit ensued. The pickup drove onto US-83, crashed through a fence onto one ranch, and drove through to another ranch, where the occupants bailed out. The Agent searched the area, and detained nine IAs. One IA was arrested for alien smuggling, and the rest were processed per Sector guidelines. Dimmit Co SO impounded the vehicle.

DEL RIO SECTOR



On 17 JAN, a Zavala Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a blue 2005 Ford F-350 pickup on FM 117 near Batesville, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle drove off the road and crashed into a ranch gate, where the occupants bailed out. The Deputy detained three of the subjects. USBP Agents identified the subjects as three IAs, and processed them per Sector guidelines. A records check indicated that the vehicle was stolen from San Antonio. Later that day, on US-57, a USBP Agent found a white 2011 BMW 328 parked on the side of the road. The driver admitted to being a scout for the Ford pickup. Zavala Co SO impounded the vehicle, and the driver was released.



On 24 JAN, a Zavala Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a white 2008 Ford F-350 pickup on FM 1025 in Batesville, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle drove onto a ranch, and the subject bailed out and absconded. The Deputy identified the vehicle as stolen from San Antonio.

LAREDO SECTOR

On 01 JAN, USBP Laredo conducted a traffic stop on a Ford Econoline Van on US-83, when a pursuit ensued. The driver bailed out at a ranch. The vehicle was stolen from San Antonio.

On 28 JAN, Jim Hogg Co SO Deputies were dispatched to a ranch near Hebbronville regarding an abandoned vehicle. The vehicle was stolen from Hidalgo.



RIO GRANDE VALLEY

A Brooks Co SO Deputy was dispatched to a ranch at the end of CR-109 regarding skeletal remains. The remains were taken to Brooks Co SO to be sent to Texas State University.

Weslaco USBP Agents seized 455.38 lbs of marijuana and a 2004 Jeep Liberty near Donna. The Agents and a THP Trooper conducted a vehicle stop. The suspect vehicle fled south, lost control, and drove into a sugar cane field. The Agents apprehended the subject, and the narcotics were turned over to DEA. The vehicle was seized.

A Starr Co SO Deputy was dispatched to a ranch in San Isidro regarding skeletal remains. Articles of clothing and a wallet with a Honduran ID card were found with the remains.

Falfurrias USBP Agents seized 76.05 lbs of marijuana after a ranch owner in Encino reported finding a bundle on the property. The narcotics were turned over to DEA.

RIO GRANDE VALLEY



TPWD Game Wardens at a ranch north of Brownsville observed a pickup, and then heard a gunshot. The Game Wardens approached the vehicle and questioned the two occupants. The passenger attempted to hide a rifle behind the seat and accidentally pulled the trigger, shooting through the side of the truck. There were no injuries. The subjects were found to be two IAs. USBP took custody of both subjects, and the weapon was seized.

COASTAL BEND SECTOR

On 30 JAN, a Jim Wells Co SO Deputy was dispatched to a ranch road northwest of Corpus Christi and recovered a stolen 2008 Dodge Ram 2500 pickup. No arrests were made.



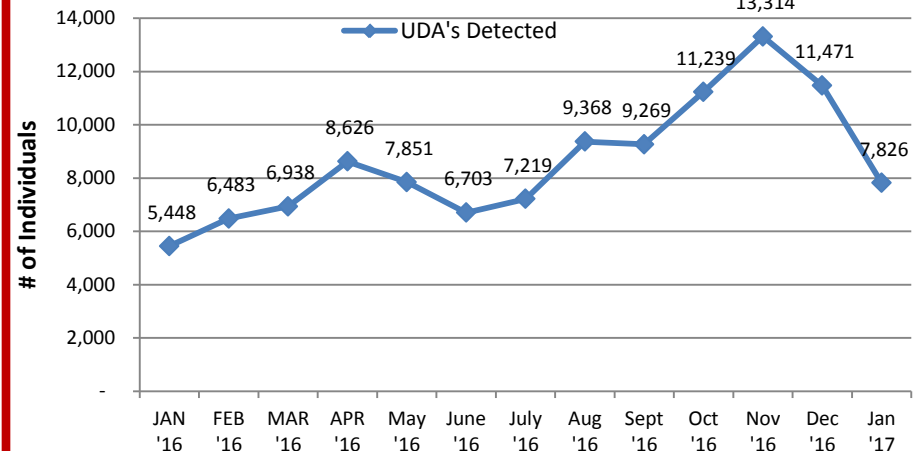


Total Pursuits and Bailouts (CY2014-Present)*

Event	El Paso	Marfa	Del Rio	Laredo	Rio Grande Valley	Coastal Bend	TOTAL
Pursuits	3	72	521	295	1,391	569	2,851
Bailouts	0	88	670	420	1,289	514	2,981

** Totals include all incidents reported by the JOICs, not merely those that are ranch-related*





If any comments or questions arise from this product, please contact:

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
BORDER SECURITY OPERATIONS CENTER



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