

# **Border Operations Sector Assessment**

South Texas  
Ranch Edition

**April  
2017**

**REPORTING PERIOD:  
01-30 APR 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 April 30, 2017: 44

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.



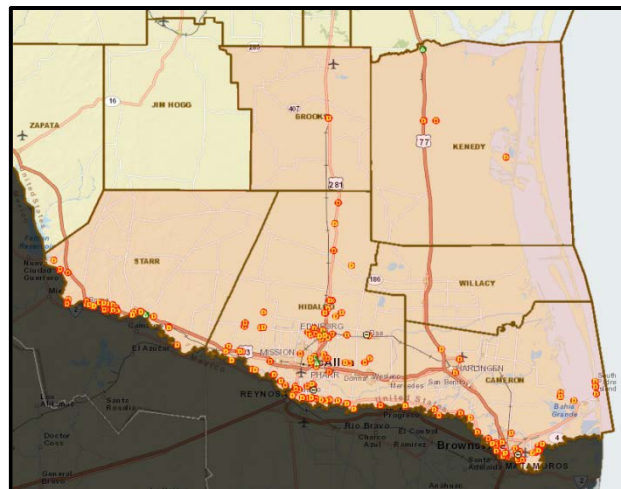
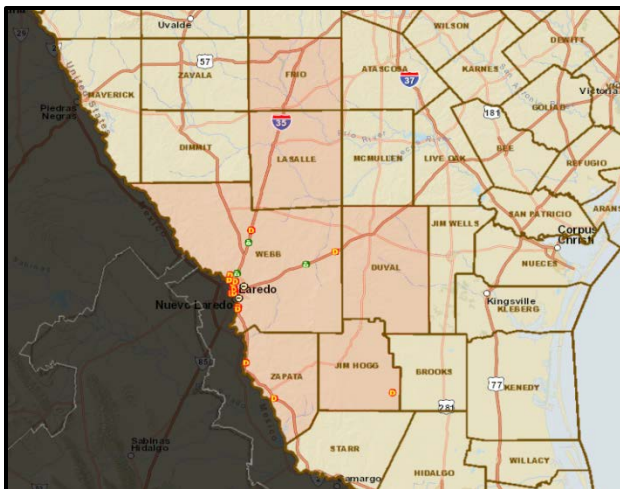
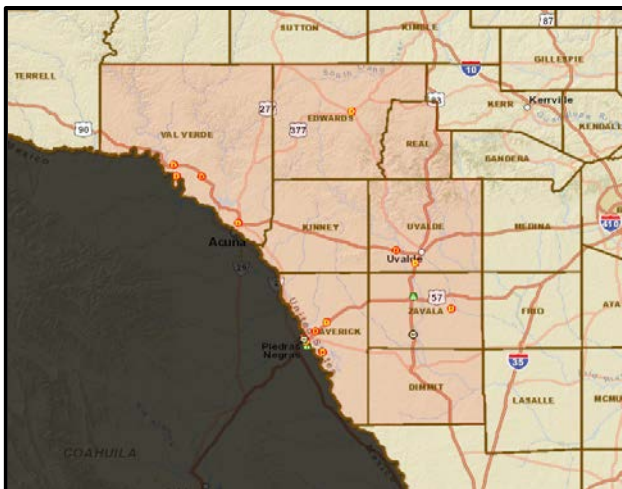
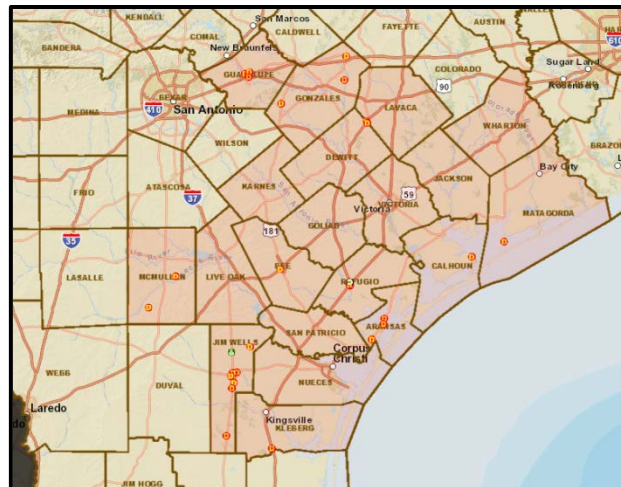
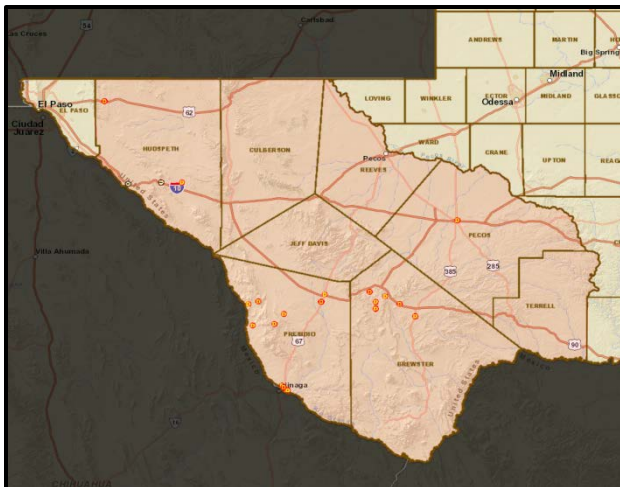
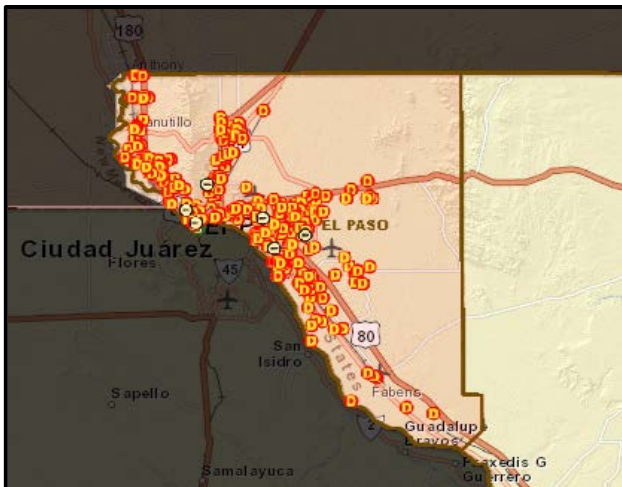
## OPERATION BORDER STAR

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	<a href="mailto:TBSOC@dps.texas.gov">TBSOC@dps.texas.gov</a>	<a href="mailto:joic.elpaso@dps.texas.gov">joic.elpaso@dps.texas.gov</a>	<a href="mailto:joic.marfa@dps.texas.gov">joic.marfa@dps.texas.gov</a>	<a href="mailto:joic.delrio@dps.texas.gov">joic.delrio@dps.texas.gov</a>	<a href="mailto:joic.laredo@dps.texas.gov">joic.laredo@dps.texas.gov</a>	<a href="mailto:joic.mcallen@dps.texas.gov">joic.mcallen@dps.texas.gov</a>	<a href="mailto:joic.victoria@dps.texas.gov">joic.victoria@dps.texas.gov</a>

# Ranch Border Operations Sector Assessment

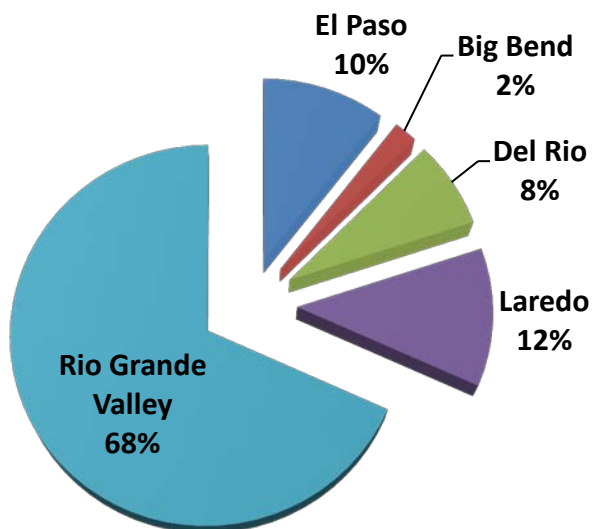


Calendar Year To Date – 2017	El Paso	Marfa	Del Rio	Laredo	RGV	Coastal Bend	TOTAL	2014 ONDCP Adjusted Value (Approximate)
<b>Marijuana (lbs)</b>	36,121	17,651	4,223	50,738	112,842	302	<b>221,877</b>	<b>\$1.3 Billion</b>
<b>Cocaine (lbs)</b>	442	25	34	2,046	1,957	99	<b>4,603</b>	<b>\$283 Million</b>
<b>Methamphetamine (lbs)</b>	269	202	162	624	1,628	< 1	<b>2,885</b>	<b>\$251 Million</b>
<b>Heroin (lbs)</b>	55	8	16	277	118	< 1	<b>474</b>	<b>\$61 Million</b>

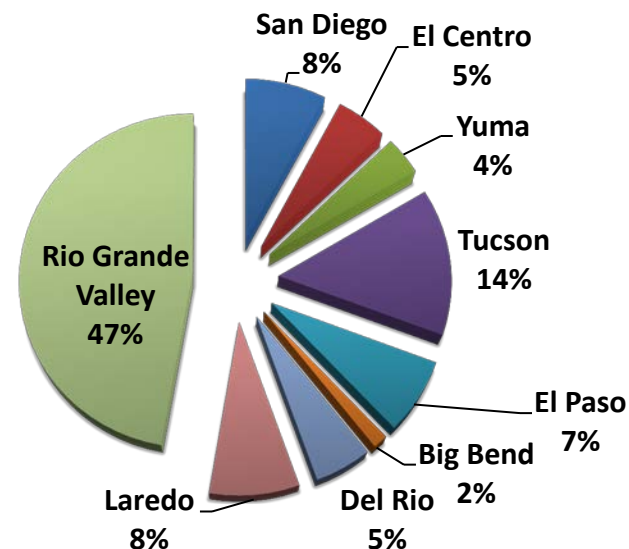




## Texas Sector Apprehensions - CY 2016



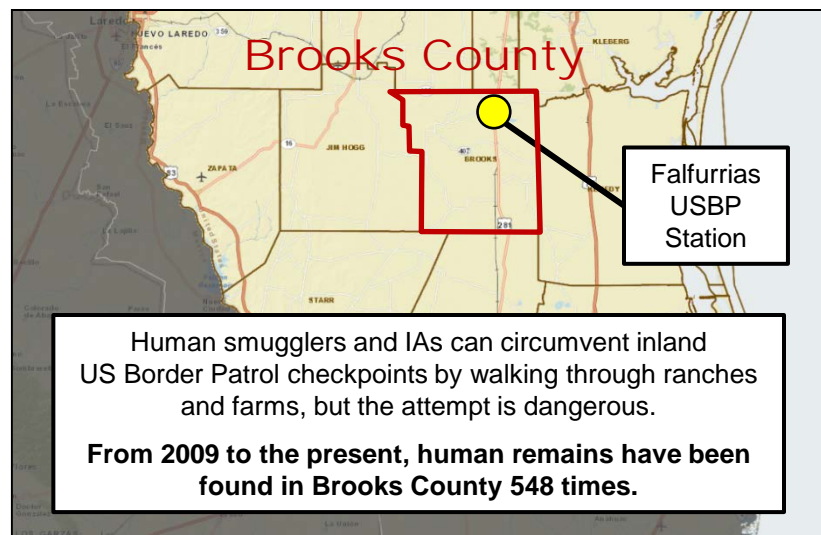
## Southwest Border Sector Apprehensions - CY 2016



Illegal Aliens (IAs)	El Paso	Marfa	Del Rio	Laredo	RGV	Coastal Bend	TOTAL
CYTD 2017	6,510	1,136	3,616	6,572	31,859	0	49,693

Other Than Mexicans (OTMs)	El Paso	Marfa	Del Rio	Laredo	RGV	Coastal Bend	TOTAL
CYTD 2017	3,534	480	1,404	1,804	23,694	0	30,916

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

Marfa USBP Agents seized 453.60 lbs of marijuana, a white 2002 Ford F-250 pickup, a horse trailer, and two horses, and arrested a subject after a vehicle stop on FM 2810. The marijuana consisted of 48 cellophane-wrapped bricks inside a metal box in the horse trailer. The subject, marijuana, vehicle, and horse trailer were referred to Alpine DEA for federal prosecution. The two horses were referred to the US Department of Agriculture.

Marfa USBP Agents seized 285.70 lbs of marijuana and apprehended four IAs near a ranch in Candelaria. The marijuana consisted of 15 duct-taped bundles in five burlap backpacks. The subjects and marijuana were referred to Alpine DEA pending federal prosecution.

Brewster Co SO Deputies detained six IAs on a ranch in Marathon. The subjects were referred to Alpine USBP Agents. Three of the subjects were held in Sierra Blanca pending federal prosecution, and the other three were processed for removal.

# MARFA SECTOR

Presidio USBP Agents apprehended eight IAs in a ravine near a ranch in Ruidosa. The subjects were processed for removal.

Brewster Co SO Deputies detained six IAs on a ranch south of Marathon. The subjects were referred to Alpine USBP Agents. Four subjects were held in Sierra Blanca pending federal prosecution, and two were held in Sierra Blanca pending disposition.

Marfa USBP Agents apprehended five IAs, including a juvenile, near a ranch in southern Terrell County. Three subjects were processed for removal. One subject was held in Sierra Blanca pending prosecution, and one was held in Marfa pending prosecution.

Marfa USBP Agents apprehended six IAs on a ranch west of Marfa. Three subjects were held in Sierra Blanca pending prosecution, and three were processed for removal.

# DEL RIO SECTOR

On 06 APR, a Uvalde Co SO Deputy responded to a gray 2008 Chevrolet Silverado pickup being loaded with duffel bags on FM 481 and then heading toward Uvalde. USBP Agents, THP Troopers, Uvalde Co SO, and Uvalde PD assisted. The Deputies, Troopers, and Agents pursued the vehicle as it turned south onto FM 140. The vehicle crashed through a fence, and the occupants bailed out and absconded. A vehicle search resulted in the seizure of 230 lbs of marijuana. Uvalde Co SO seized the marijuana and impounded the vehicle.



On 10 APR, DPS AVN assisted USBP Agents in the search for IAs on a ranch near the Rio Grande River. The Aircrew located the IAs and guided the Agents to their locations. The Agents processed the three IAs per Sector guidelines.

On 21 APR, DPS AVN assisted USBP Agents with a search for subjects near Del Rio. The Aircrew located the subjects in a cane field and directed Agents to them. The Agents apprehended three IAs and processed them per Sector guidelines.



# RIO GRANDE VALLEY

Harlingen USBP Agents seized 123.46 lbs of marijuana. The Agents were advised of IAs on private property. One subject was taken into custody, and the Agents found the marijuana in bundles inside a chicken coop next to the house. DEA assumed custody of the subject and narcotics.

A Brooks Co SO Deputy, assisted by USBP and a JP, was dispatched to a ranch in central Brooks County regarding human remains. The Deputy and the Agent searched the area and also found a cell phone, a compass, \$60 USD, and an ID card from Guatemala.



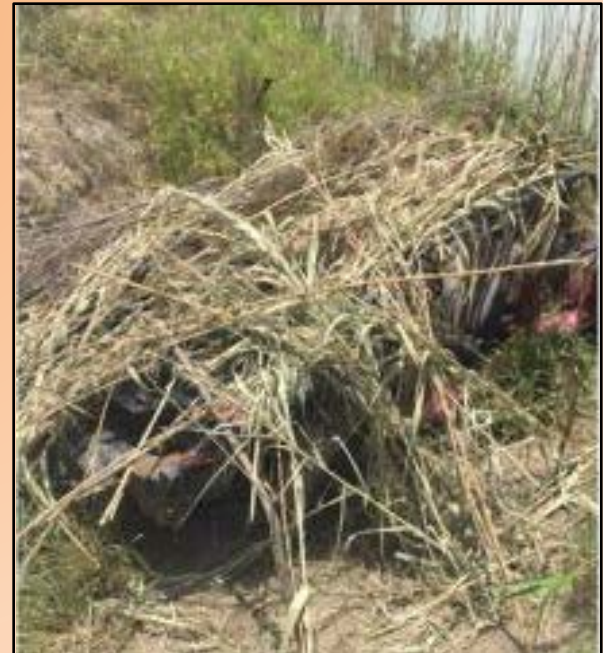
A Brooks Co SO Deputy, assisted by TX State Guard and USBP Agents, located human remains on the Isabella Ranch.

Hidalgo Co SO arrested a Valluco gang member for theft of livestock.

# RIO GRANDE VALLEY



Responding to a report of a suspicious vehicle on private property, Harlingen USBP Agents seized a dune buggy that had been concealed in brush. The vehicle had been converted to facilitate narcotics smuggling: the passenger seats had been taken out, and no VIN or LP could be located.



## COASTAL BEND SECTOR

On 18 APR, a McMullen Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a Ford F-250 pickup pulling a trailer, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle crashed through a fence, and five subjects bailed out. The Deputy seized 0.13 lbs of marijuana and discovered 15 IAs in the trailer. The IAs were referred to USBP.

## LAREDO SECTOR

On 12 APR, a Webb Co SO Deputy was dispatched to a ranch near Laredo regarding two stolen vehicles that were both late-model white Ford F-150 pickups.



## Total Pursuits and Bailouts (CY 2014-Present)\*

Event	El Paso	Marfa	Del Rio	Laredo	Rio Grande Valley	Coastal Bend	TOTAL
Pursuits	3	75	532	306	1,435	568	<b>2,919</b>
Bailouts	0	88	681	434	1,333	516	<b>3,052</b>

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





# OPERATION DRAWBRIDGE

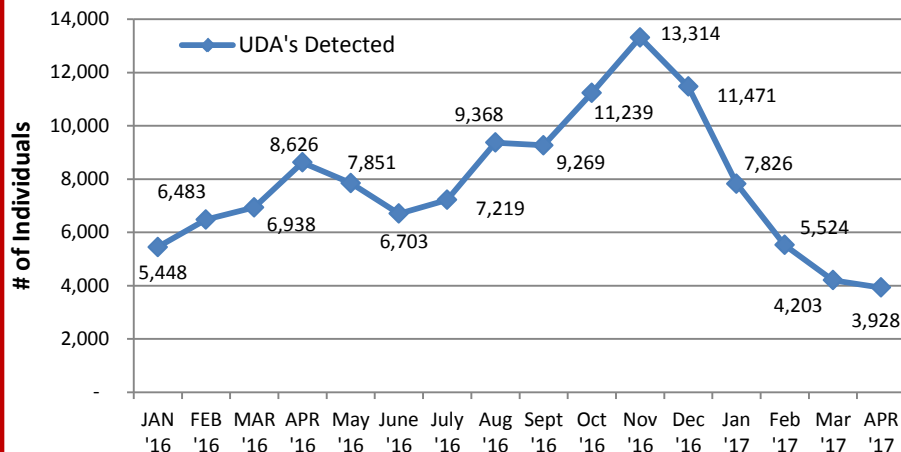
Statistical Summary – APR 2017



## Drawbridge Initiated Marijuana Seizures



## Drawbridge Stats



### OPERATION DRAWBRIDGE TOTALS: JAN 2012 – APR 2017

Detections	318,296
Marijuana Seized	429,119 lbs (~215 tons)
Cocaine Seized	227 lbs
Methamphetamine Seized	15 lbs
Heroin Seized	2 lbs
Firearms Seized	25

### OPERATION DRAWBRIDGE TOTALS: CYTD 2017

Detections	21,481
Narcotics Seized	34,067 lbs (~17 tons)

*Note: Figures are based on initial reporting and are subject to change.*



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

**TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
**BORDER SECURITY OPERATIONS CENTER**



TBSOC@dps.texas.gov  
Duty Phone: 512-424-7561  
Fax: 512-424-7041

