

Border Operations Sector Assessment

South Texas
Ranch Edition

**August
2017**

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



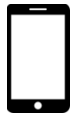
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY BORDER SECURITY OPERATIONS CENTER



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 August 31, 2017: 49

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.



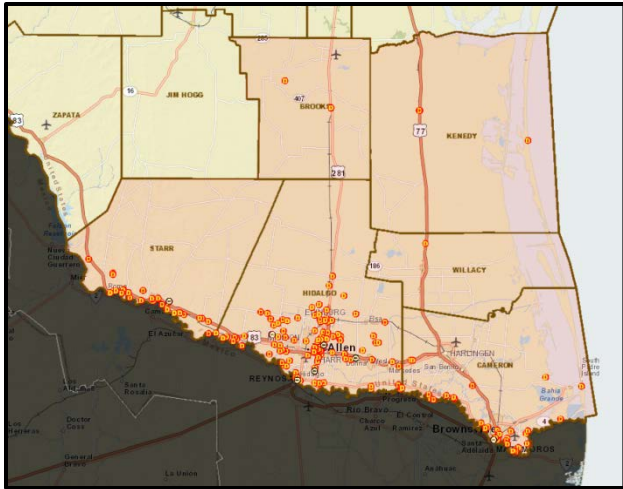
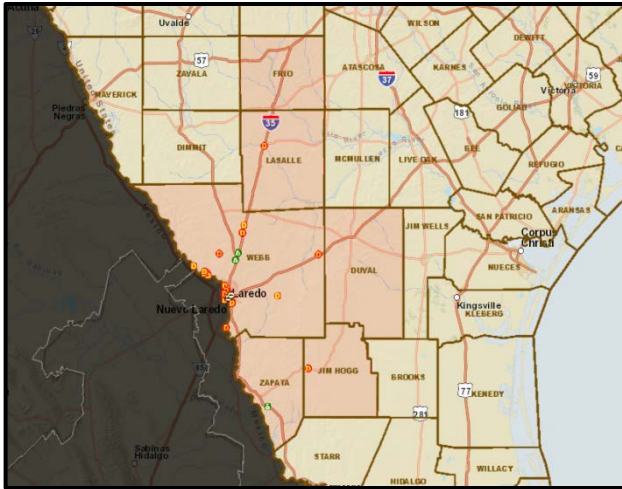
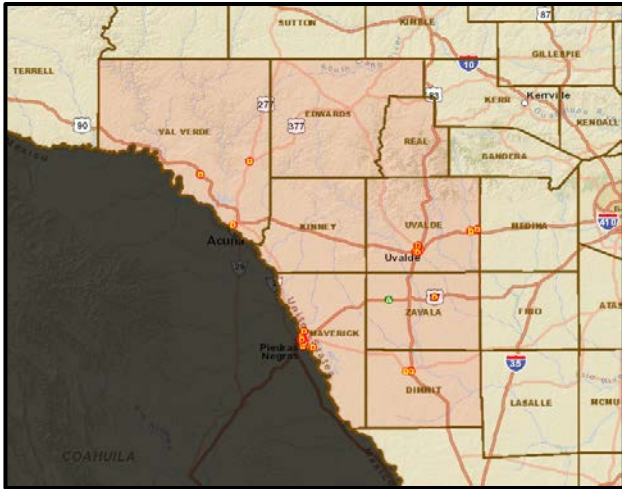
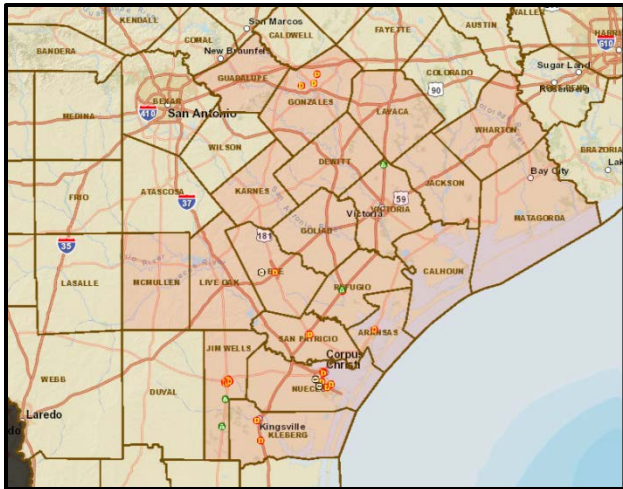
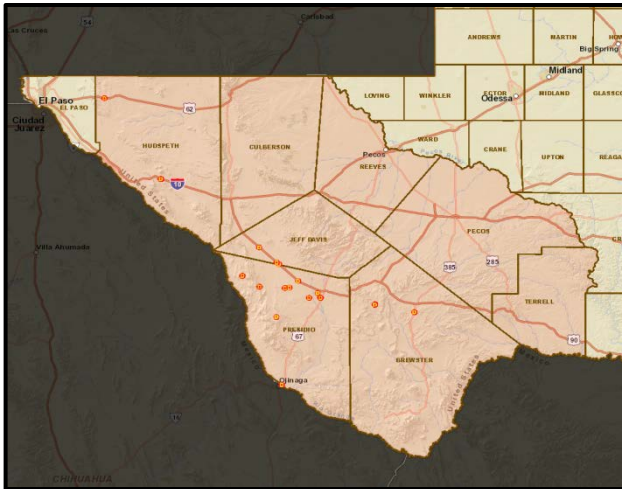
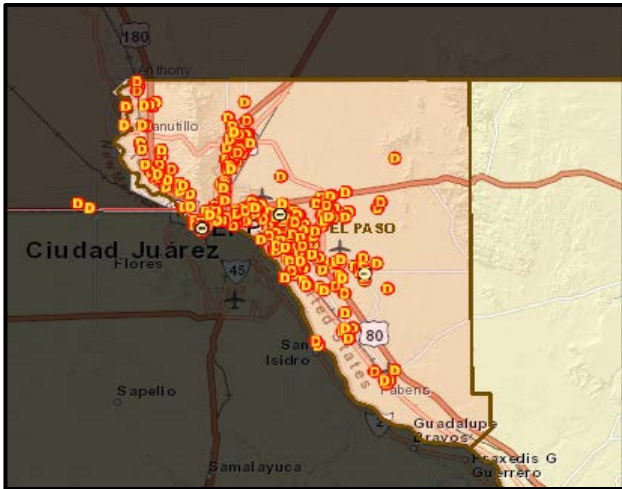
OPERATION BORDER STAR

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

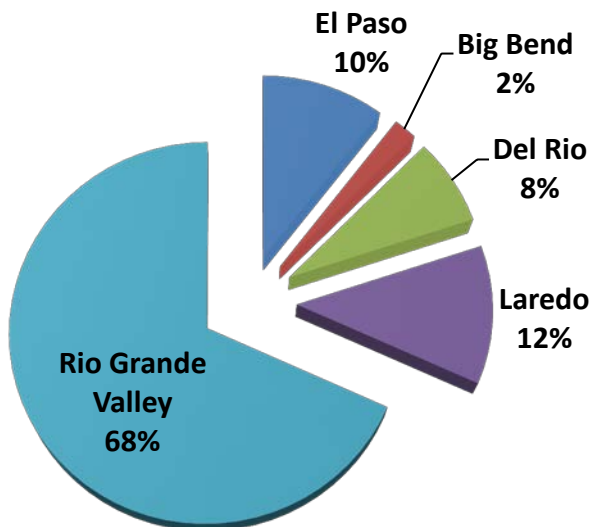


Seizures – CYTD 2017	El Paso	Marfa	Del Rio	Laredo	RGV	Coastal Bend	TOTAL
Marijuana (lbs)	61,082	30,101	6,858	103,020	227,556	886	429,504
Cocaine (lbs)	821	28	117	3,042	4,728	178	8,914
Methamphetamine (lbs)	665	221	311	2,372	3,813	< 1	7,381
Heroin (lbs)	117	21	68	389	239	< 1	834

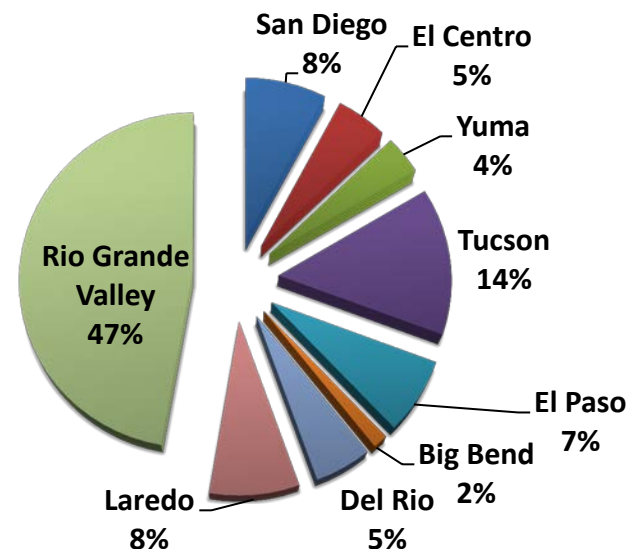




Texas Sector Apprehensions - CY 2016



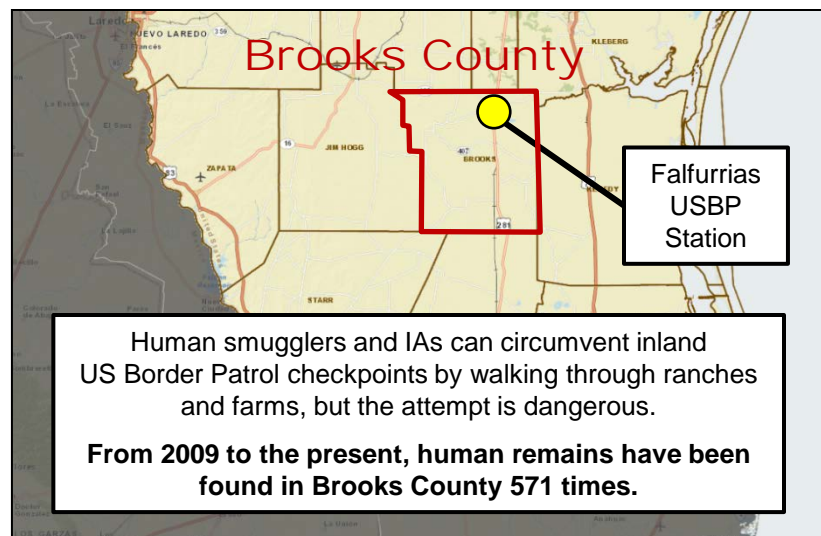
Southwest Border Sector Apprehensions - CY 2016



Illegal Aliens (IAs)	El Paso	Marfa	Del Rio	Laredo	RGV	Coastal Bend	TOTAL
CYTD 2017	11,915	2,894	6,781	14,653	58,250	0	94,493

Other Than Mexicans (OTMs)	El Paso	Marfa	Del Rio	Laredo	RGV	Coastal Bend	TOTAL
CYTD 2017	6,225	1,422	2,784	4,142	42,055	0	56,628

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 63.50 lbs of abandoned marijuana near a ranch north of Candelaria. The marijuana was referred to Alpine DEA.

USBP Agents seized 195.54 lbs of marijuana and apprehended two IAs, including a juvenile, on a ranch southeast of Valentine. The four bundles of marijuana were wrapped in duct tape. The subjects and marijuana were referred to Alpine DEA.

USBP Agents seized 172.65 lbs of abandoned marijuana on a ranch north of Candelaria. The marijuana was in three sugar sacks that were being used as makeshift backpacks. The narcotics were referred to Alpine DEA.



MARFA SECTOR

USBP Agents, assisted by CBP OAM, seized 283.70 lbs of marijuana and apprehended five IAs on a ranch west of Marfa. The marijuana consisted of five duct-tape-wrapped bundles inside five burlap backpacks. The subjects and the marijuana were referred to Alpine DEA.



USBP Agents, assisted by CBP OAM, seized 186.74 lbs of marijuana and apprehended four IAs on a ranch west of Marfa. The marijuana consisted of four cellophane-wrapped bundles inside four burlap sacks. The marijuana and the subjects were referred to Alpine DEA.

MARFA SECTOR



USBP Agents, assisted by CBP OAM, seized 300.23 lbs of marijuana and apprehended two IAs near a ranch northeast of Candelaria. The marijuana consisted of 27 cellophane-wrapped bundles inside five sugar sacks. The marijuana and the subjects were referred to Alpine DEA.



DEL RIO SECTOR

On 14 AUG, USBP Agents apprehended a total of four IAs. Three IAs were apprehended on a ranch east of Eagle Pass. The group stated that an additional IA had been left behind after losing consciousness. With assistance from DPS AVN, more IAs were observed, and the fourth IA was apprehended.

On 15 AUG, a Dimmit Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a 2016 Ford F-150 pickup that was reported stolen from Austin, when a pursuit ensued. USBP Agents responded after the truck had crashed through a fence. The Agents located the vehicle near the Nueces River.

On 18 AUG, a Dimmit Co SO Deputy responded to a ranch in Carrizo Springs where a ranch worker had found skeletal remains.



DEL RIO SECTOR

On 26 AUG, USBP Agents observed a black 2014 Ford F-350 pickup on FM 2688 in Catarina. The vehicle crashed through a ranch fence and was found abandoned. The Ford was reported stolen and had multiple indicators of having been used to smuggle IAs: the front and rear license plates were reported stolen, the rear seats had been removed, and there was a 12-pack of sodas inside. A Dimmit Co SO Deputy impounded the vehicle.

On 28 AUG, USBP Agents were alerted by camera operators of possible IA activity near a ranch in Quemado. The Agents apprehended six IAs. Two IAs were identified as guides, one of whom had seven prior encounters as a juvenile. Two of the IAs were arrested as the alien smugglers.

On 29 AUG, a USBP Agent observed a tan 1998 Ford F-150 pickup on a ranch road in Eagle Pass. Before the Agent could inspect the vehicle, it drove away. A second Agent observed the vehicle and inspected the pickup, and identified the driver as smuggling an IA. The IA was apprehended, and the vehicle was impounded.

LAREDO SECTOR

On 07 AUG, USBP Hebbronville Agents observed a bailout near Hebbronville. The driver and passenger absconded after driving a 2013 KIA sedan through a gate. The Agents seized 290.17 lbs of marijuana from the vehicle.

On 15 AUG, USBP Laredo Agents encountered a 2014 Ford pickup near a ranch headquarters in the Laredo area. The vehicle drove through a fence and into brush, where it was abandoned. The Agents apprehended two subjects near the vehicle. The vehicle was stolen from San Antonio.

On 16 AUG, USBP Cotulla Agents observed a Ford F-250 pickup near Dilley that attempted to evade them. Dilley PD Officers assisted and found the abandoned vehicle in a field. The vehicle was stolen from San Antonio.

LAREDO SECTOR

On 15 AUG, USBP Cotulla Agents on IH-35 observed a 2010 Ford pickup that was suspected of being involved in human smuggling. The Agents followed the vehicle on FM 469 and found a fresh gap in a ranch fence. The vehicle was found abandoned after a search of the area. The vehicle was stolen from Austin.

On 19 AUG, USBP Cotulla Agents along with La Salle Co SO Deputies conducted a traffic stop on a 2017 Ford F-250 pickup, which failed to yield. The vehicle crashed through a ranch fence and the driver bailed out. The vehicle was stolen from San Antonio.

On 21 AUG, a Freer PD Officer conducted a traffic stop on a 2011 Ford F-250 pickup along Hwy 59, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle drove through a fence, and was not located.

LAREDO SECTOR



On 23 AUG, USBP Laredo Agents responded to activity at a property near Laredo. The Agents seized 582.60 lbs of marijuana.

On 23 AUG, USBP Cotulla Agents observed a pickup traveling south on IH-35 in Frio Co. The Agents followed the vehicle, which exited on CR 1581. The Agents discovered that the vehicle had crashed through a fence and had been abandoned. The vehicle was stolen from San Antonio.

RIO GRANDE VALLEY

Harlingen USBP Agents seized 543.22 lbs of marijuana. The Agents observed eight subjects with bundles run into a sugarcane field west of Los Indios, and later located the bundles abandoned. DEA assumed custody of the narcotics.



Brownsville USBP Agents seized 22.92 lbs of marijuana hidden in a field near US-281. DEA assumed custody of the narcotics.



Rio Grande City USBP Agents seized 182.90 lbs of marijuana. The Agents and an RGV Horse Patrol Unit encountered eight subjects carrying bundles north of La Grulla. The subjects abandoned the bundles when approached, and fled. One subject was apprehended and arrested. HIDTA assumed custody of the narcotics and the subject.

RIO GRANDE VALLEY



Rio Grande City USBP Agents seized 68.30 lbs of cocaine. The Agents observed a 2004 Ford Ranger pickup south of a farm property in the Alto Bonito area. The vehicle was seen along the River before traveling north to US-83. The Agents located the vehicle parked at a business and found the cocaine in bricks wrapped in tape. DEA assumed custody of the subject and narcotics.

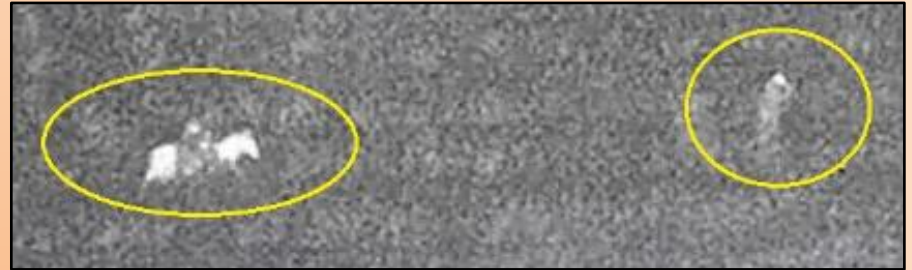
A Brooks Co So Deputy and a Justice of the Peace responded to the discovery of a deceased person by a USBP Agent on a property in northwest Brooks Co. There was an El Salvadoran ID with the body.

Weslaco USBP Agents seized 77.30 lbs of marijuana. The Agents observed subjects walking along the River, then found bundles in a nearby sugarcane field. DEA assumed custody of the narcotics.

A Brooks Co SO Deputy, accompanied by a Justice of the Peace and assisted by a USBP Agent, responded to a ranch in northwest Brooks Co regarding a deceased person. The body was transported to the front gate of the property, where funeral home staff took custody of it.

RIO GRANDE VALLEY

DPS AVN assisted a USBP search for a group of 13 subjects northeast of La Grulla. AVN located the subjects in a sugarcane field and guided Agents to them. A total of 13 IAs were apprehended.



A Brooks Co SO Deputy was dispatched to a ranch in northern Brooks County regarding skeletal remains. The Deputy and ranch foreman traveled to the location and were met by a USBP Agent, who assisted the Deputy with collecting the remains, clothing, and ID for processing.

South Padre Island PD assisted Port Isabel PD in a pursuit of a 1999 Chevrolet Prizm. The vehicle travelled at over 100 mph and went the wrong way on a causeway before crashing into a fence, where the driver bailed out. The driver was subsequently caught with the assistance of USBP and turned over to Port Isabel PD.



Total Pursuits and Bailouts (CY 2014 - Present)*

Event	El Paso	Marfa	Del Rio	Laredo	Rio Grande Valley	Coastal Bend	TOTAL
Pursuits	3	76	565	341	1,507	584	3,076
Bailouts	0	89	718	524	1,394	528	3,253

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





OPERATION DRAWBRIDGE

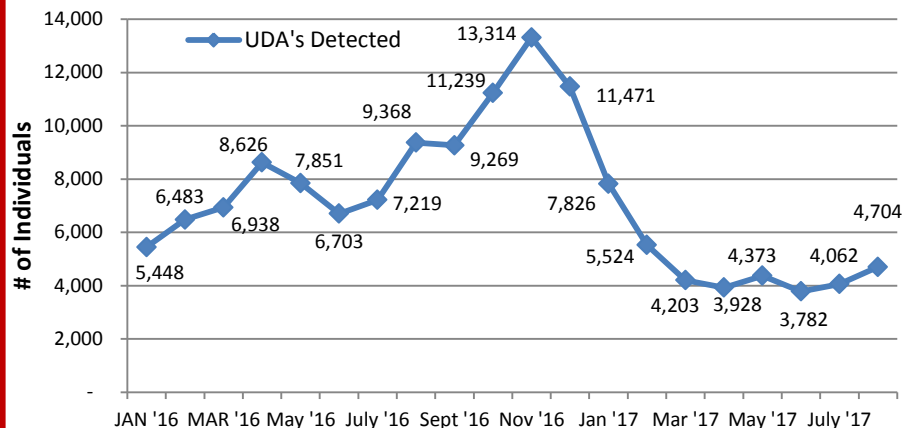
Statistical Summary – AUG 2017



Drawbridge Initiated Marijuana Seizures



Drawbridge Stats



Operation Drawbridge Totals: JAN 2012 – AUG 2017

Detections	313,841
Marijuana Seized	413,986 lbs (≈207 tons)
Cocaine Seized	227 lbs
Methamphetamine Seized	15 lbs
Heroin Seized	2 lbs
Firearms Seized	26

Operation Drawbridge Totals: CYTD 2017

Detections	38,507
Narcotics Seized	48,290 lbs (>24 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

