

# **Border Operations Sector Assessment**

South Texas  
Ranch Edition

**November  
2017**

**REPORTING PERIOD:  
01-30 NOV 2017**



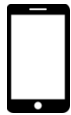
# TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY BORDER SECURITY OPERATIONS CENTER



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 November 30, 2017: 55

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.

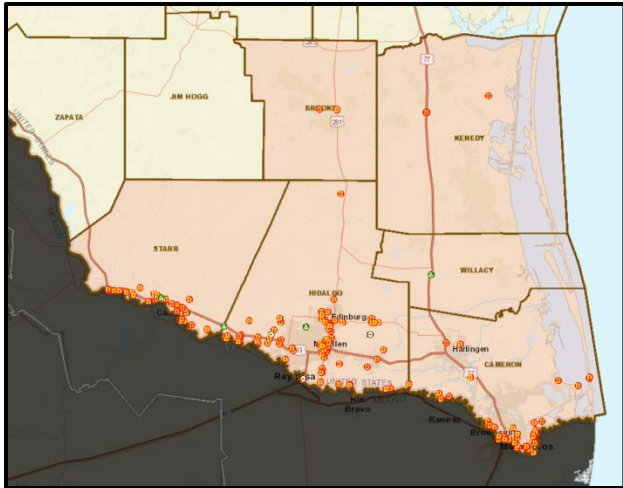
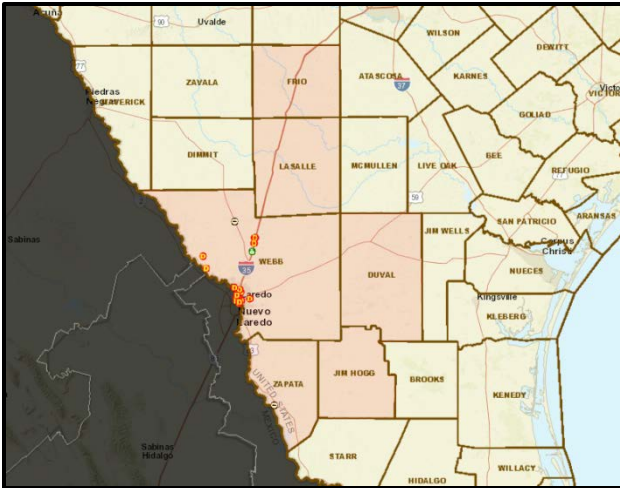
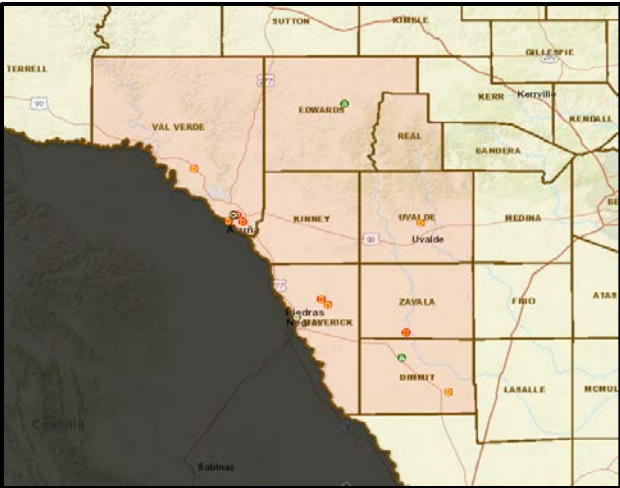
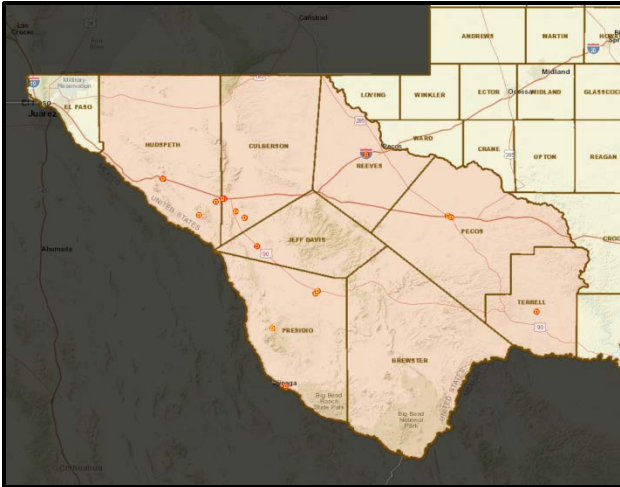


## OPERATION BORDER STAR

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

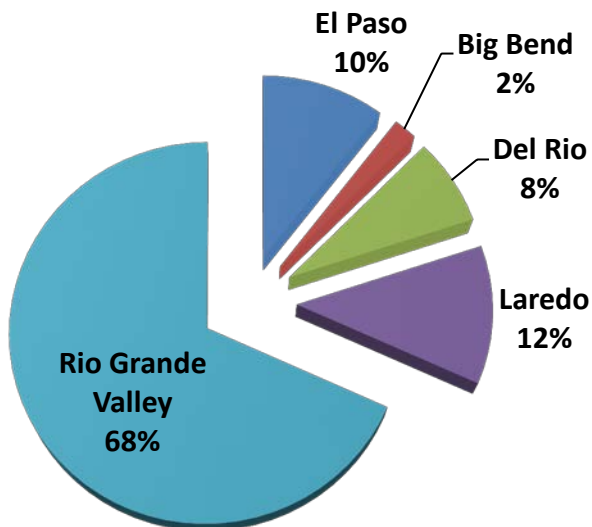


| Seizures – CYTD 2017         | El Paso | Marfa  | Del Rio | Laredo  | RGV     | Coastal Bend | TOTAL          |
|------------------------------|---------|--------|---------|---------|---------|--------------|----------------|
| <b>Marijuana (lbs)</b>       | 77,482  | 34,994 | 8,951   | 141,301 | 294,688 | 940          | <b>558,356</b> |
| <b>Cocaine (lbs)</b>         | 1,227   | 111    | 140     | 3,818   | 6,064   | 192          | <b>11,553</b>  |
| <b>Methamphetamine (lbs)</b> | 1,114   | 225    | 373     | 4,062   | 4,349   | < 1          | <b>10,124</b>  |
| <b>Heroin (lbs)</b>          | 127     | 22     | 88      | 426     | 398     | < 1          | <b>1,061</b>   |

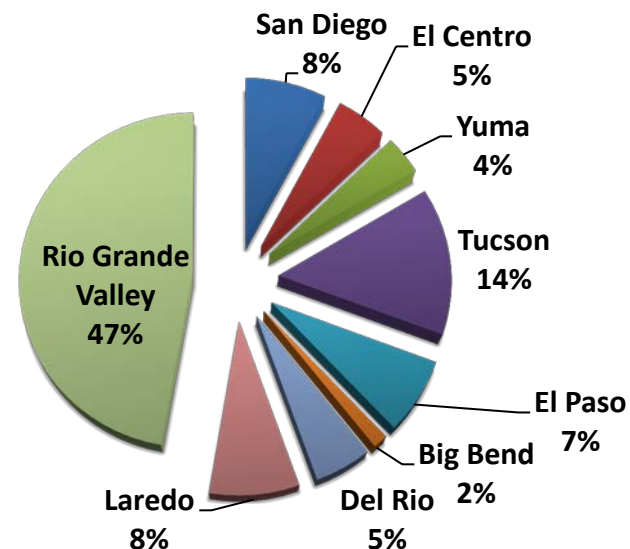




## Texas Sector Apprehensions - CY 2016



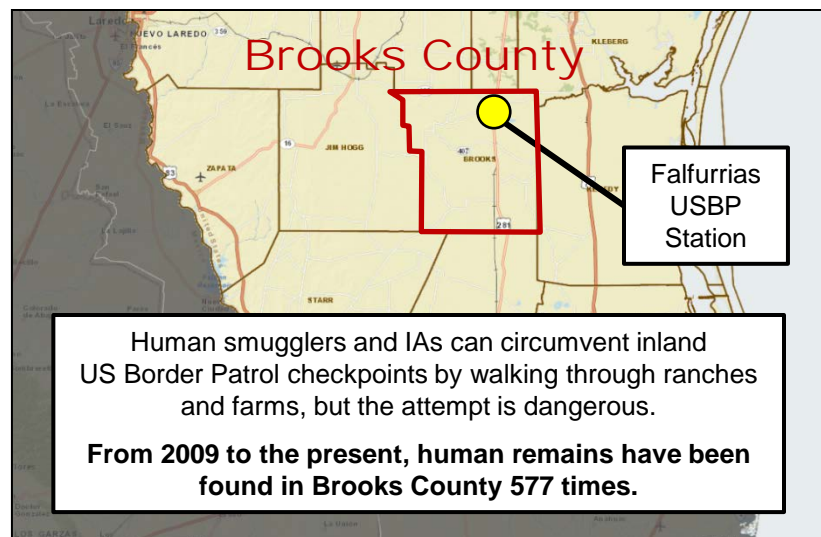
## Southwest Border Sector Apprehensions - CY 2016



| Illegal Aliens (IAs) | El Paso | Marfa | Del Rio | Laredo | RGV    | Coastal Bend | TOTAL   |
|----------------------|---------|-------|---------|--------|--------|--------------|---------|
| CYTD 2017            | 16,564  | 5,041 | 10,009  | 21,444 | 88,168 | 0            | 141,226 |

| Other Than Mexicans (OTMs) | El Paso | Marfa | Del Rio | Laredo | RGV    | Coastal Bend | TOTAL  |
|----------------------------|---------|-------|---------|--------|--------|--------------|--------|
| CYTD 2017                  | 8,596   | 2,760 | 4,133   | 6,078  | 64,484 | 0            | 86,051 |

| 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  |



# EI PASO SECTOR

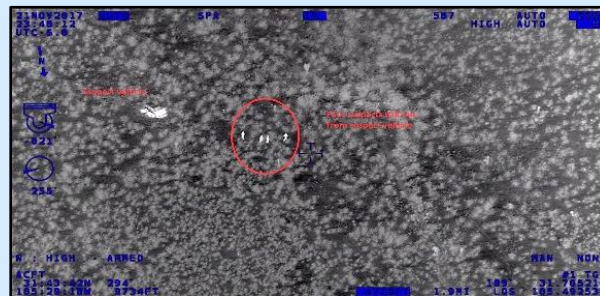
On 21 NOV, DPS AVN assisted Hudspeth Co SO Deputies regarding an aggravated assault. The owner of a ranch on the Hudspeth/El Paso Co line had intercepted an SUV cutting his property fence lines and attempting to trespass on his property.

When the ranch owner made contact with the vehicle, the driver brandished a firearm and sped away. THP Troopers assisted and a pursuit ensued. The vehicle drove across oil-pad roads, two-track paths, and across the open desert for approximately three miles until the vehicle became stuck and disabled in the terrain.

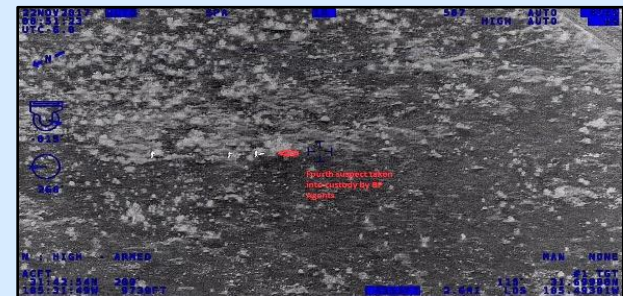
The four occupants bailed out and continued to flee on foot. The Aircrew tracked their movements and directed the responding Deputies, Troopers, and USBP Agents into position, eventually leading to the apprehension of all four suspects. The driver was identified as a juvenile USC and was charged with evading arrest, criminal trespass, and human smuggling. The three IA occupants were referred to USBP.



## Driver observes unit and evades



## Suspects evade on foot



## Suspects in custody



# MARFA SECTOR

Terrell Co SO Deputies investigated a break-in at a ranch in southwestern Terrell County. It is believed that those responsible might have been IAs due to recent events in the area.

A Presidio Co SO Deputy detained two IAs near a ranch headquarters southeast of Marfa. The subjects were referred to Marfa USBP.

A Presidio Co SO Deputy detained six IAs on a ranch south of Marfa. The subjects were referred to Marfa USBP.

USBP Agents, assisted by Hudspeth Co SO Deputies and THP Troopers, pursued an SUV near the US-62/US-180 intersection, southwest of Dell City. The SUV drove onto a ranch, and Agents apprehended a USC human smuggler and three IAs. The subjects were referred to El Paso HSI.

# MARFA SECTOR

Van Horn USBP Agents seized 85.30 lbs of marijuana and apprehended two IAs near a ranch east of Van Horn. The subjects and marijuana were referred to El Paso DEA.

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Marfa USBP Agents seized 309.80 lbs of marijuana and apprehended four IAs on a ranch northwest of Valentine. The marijuana was found in six sugar-sack backpacks. The subjects were referred to Alpine HSI, and the marijuana was referred to Alpine DEA.

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A Brewster Co SO Deputy detained an IA near a ranch headquarters southeast of Marathon. The subject was referred to Alpine USBP.

# DEL RIO SECTOR



A Dimmit Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a 2015 Ford F-250 pickup and an additional pickup that were travelling in tandem on US-83, south of Catarina. The vehicles failed to yield, and a pursuit ensued. The F-250 drove through a ranch fence, and 15 occupants bailed out. USBP Agents searched the area, but the subjects absconded. A records check revealed that the vehicle was reported stolen from San Antonio. The vehicle was impounded.



# DEL RIO SECTOR

On 07 NOV, a USBP Agent detained 12 IAs on a ranch west of Langtry. One of the IAs was also identified as the human smuggler. An HSI Agent arrested the smuggler, and the IAs were referred to USBP.



On 04 NOV, an Edwards Co SO Deputy investigating a theft from a cabin on a ranch south of Rocksprings found that a rifle had been stolen. An Aryan Brotherhood gang member was arrested, and the rifle was recovered.

On 10 NOV, a USBP Agent observed a Ford F-250 pickup load IAs near Catarina. The Agent inspected the vehicle, which failed to yield. CBP AVN located the vehicle on a ranch after the occupants absconded. The vehicle was stolen from Kyle.



# DEL RIO SECTOR



On 09 NOV, a Dimmit Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a Dodge Ram 2500 pickup in Catarina, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle drove through a ranch fence, and the driver bailed out and absconded. The vehicle was stolen from San Antonio.

On 11 NOV, a THP Trooper conducted a traffic stop on a 2002 Chevrolet Silverado pickup west of Crystal City, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle crashed through a ranch fence north of Brundage, and the driver bailed out. The vehicle was reported stolen from San Antonio.

# DEL RIO SECTOR

On 20 NOV, a Dimmit Co SO Deputy observed a gray 2005 Dodge Ram 2500 pickup and a white 2001 Ford F-450 flatbed pickup travelling in tandem on FM 133 in Catarina. The Deputy conducted a traffic stop on the Dodge, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle crashed through a ranch fence near Catarina, and the driver bailed out and absconded. The vehicle was reported stolen out of San Antonio. A second Deputy conducted a traffic stop on the Ford, when a second pursuit ensued. The Ford drove onto a ranch near FM 1558 and six occupants bailed out and absconded. The Deputy identified that the mounted license plates did not match the VIN, multiple license plates were found inside, and the Ford was reported stolen out of San Antonio. USBP Agents and La Salle Co SO Deputies assisted. Both vehicles were impounded.



On 17 NOV, a Dimmit Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a white 1997 Dodge Ram 3500 pickup on FM 133 near Catarina, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was identified as stolen from Travis Co. The vehicle traveled south on US-83, into Webb Co, then made a U-turn. The vehicle crashed through a ranch fence south of Catarina and the occupants bailed out and absconded. The vehicle, which had a broken steering column and a punched-out ignition switch, was impounded.



# DEL RIO SECTOR

On 11 NOV, a Dimmit Co SO Deputy observed a 2004 white Dodge Ram 3500 pickup on FM 395 near Brundage. The Deputy conducted a traffic stop, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle drove off the road and onto an oil-field pad. The vehicle stopped, and several subjects bailed out and absconded. A records check indicated that it was stolen from San Antonio.

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On 16 NOV, a Dimmit Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a white 2008 Chevrolet Silverado pickup on US-83, south of Catarina. The vehicle crashed through a ranch fence and was found thirty yards into the ranch.

All of the occupants had bailed out and absconded. The vehicle had numerous indicators of having been used for human smuggling, including multiple cans of soda, and a gap where the rear seats had been removed. The vehicle was impounded.

# DEL RIO SECTOR

On 21 NOV, a Dimmit Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a white 2006 Ford F-350 pickup on US-83, south of Catarina, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle drove through a ranch fence and the driver bailed out and absconded. The vehicle's door lock and ignition had been tampered with, and it was reported stolen from San Antonio. The Deputy impounded the vehicle.

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On 22 NOV, a Dimmit Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a gray 2007 Ford F-150 pickup on FM 133, east of Catarina, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle drove through a ranch fence west of Artesia Wells, and the driver and passenger bailed out. The back seat of the vehicle was missing, the ignition had been tampered with, and the license plate did not match the VIN. The vehicle was reported stolen from San Antonio. USBP Agents searched the area, but the subjects had absconded. The Deputy impounded the vehicle.

# LAREDO SECTOR

On 12 NOV, USBP Laredo Agents responded to narcotics smuggling on private property in Laredo. The Agents recovered 255.50 lbs of marijuana from the River. The Agents observed subjects with two additional bundles abscond to Mexico. The marijuana was turned over to DEA.



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On 09 NOV, USBP Laredo Agents conducted a traffic stop on a 2003 Ford F-250 pickup near Laredo, when the vehicle failed to yield. The vehicle drove through a ranch north of Laredo and two subjects bailed out. The vehicle was stolen from Natalia.

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On 14 NOV, USBP Laredo Agents conducted a traffic stop on a 2009 Ford F-150 pickup in northwestern Webb County. The vehicle drove through a ranch fence. The driver and multiple passengers absconded. The vehicle was stolen from Austin.



# RIO GRANDE VALLEY

Roma PD Officers engaged in a pursuit of a Chevrolet Tahoe near US-83. The vehicle crashed into a fence, and several subjects bailed out. The Officers referred three IAs to USBP.



DPS AVN and USMS observed subjects loading bags into two pickups. THP Troopers conducted a traffic stop on one of the pickups, when a pursuit ensued. The driver drove through a ranch, and the vehicle became disabled. AVN advised the Troopers and the USBP Agents of the driver's location as he fled on foot, and he was arrested. A search of the abandoned pickup yielded ammunition and eight weapons.

# RIO GRANDE VALLEY

A Kenedy Co SO Deputy assisted USBP Agents with human skeletal remains that had been found in brush at a camp in northwest Kenedy County. A Mexican ID card was found in clothing near the remains.

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A Kenedy Co SO Deputy responded to a ranch in central Kenedy County regarding human skeletal remains and located two skulls, several other bones, and an ID at the site. The bones were submitted for DNA analysis.

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A Brooks Co SO Deputy responded to a ranch off US-281 regarding human skeletal remains that had been discovered by the ranch manager.

# RIO GRANDE VALLEY

Fort Brown USBP Agents seized 86.50 lbs of marijuana after observing subjects swim across the River near Brownsville. A TPWD Game Warden encountered the subjects, apprehended one of them, and seized a narcotics bundle. The Agents found two additional bundles abandoned in a field. Two additional subjects absconded to Mexico. The subject and the marijuana were turned over to DEA.

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A Hidalgo Co Constable Pct. 3 Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a 2017 Nissan Sentra west of McAllen. When the vehicle came to a stop, the driver fled through an open field and three other subjects bailed out. With the assistance of a Hidalgo Co SO Deputy, the driver and a female IA were apprehended. Both were referred to USBP.



# COASTAL BEND SECTOR

On 09 NOV, Alice PD Officers conducted a traffic stop on a 2007 GMC Sierra pickup on HWY 44, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle struck a fence, and two subjects absconded. The vehicle was stolen from Houston. The Officers found a small amount of methamphetamine in the vehicle.



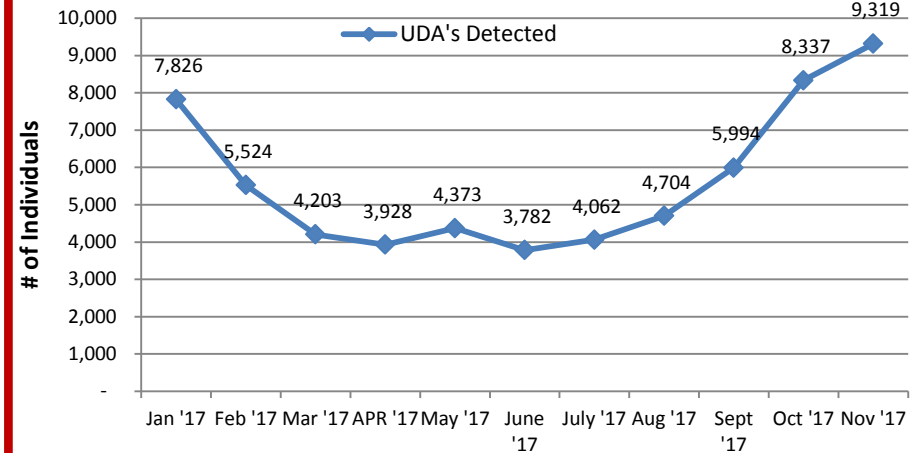


## Total Pursuits and Bailouts (CY2014 - Present)\*

| Event    | El Paso | Marfa | Del Rio | Laredo | Rio Grande Valley | Coastal Bend | TOTAL        |
|----------|---------|-------|---------|--------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Pursuits | 3       | 79    | 586     | 372    | 1,559             | 594          | <b>3,193</b> |
| Bailouts | 0       | 92    | 745     | 581    | 1,442             | 554          | <b>3,414</b> |

*\* 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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