

Border Operations Sector Assessment

South Texas
Ranch Edition

**December
2017**

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



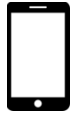
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY BORDER SECURITY OPERATIONS CENTER



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 December 31, 2017: 55

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



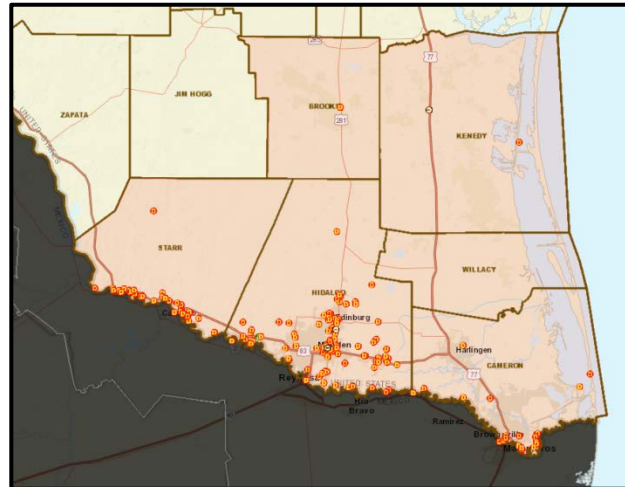
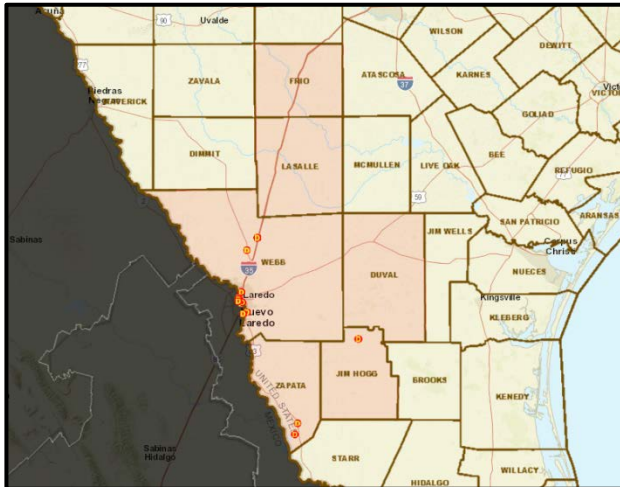
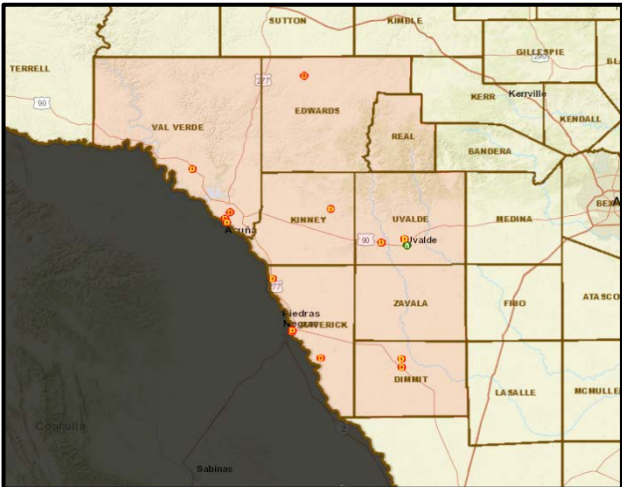
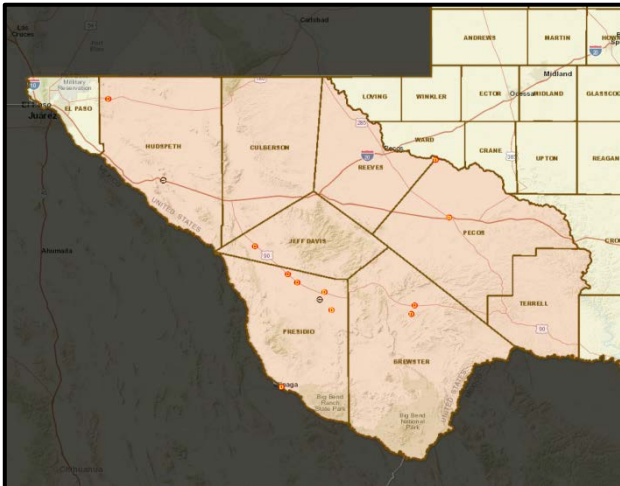
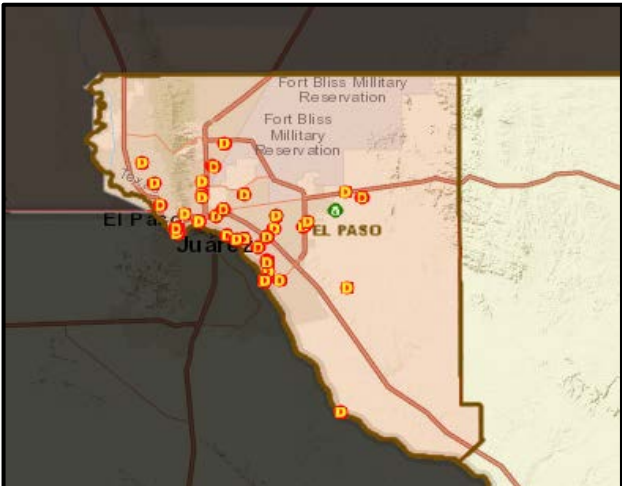
You may use the [Texas DPS iWatch](#) to report suspicious activities or behaviors that may indicate criminal or terrorist activity, such as drug smuggling, human smuggling, oil field thefts, and other criminal activity. Every report will be reviewed by analysts. You may also contact DPS at 1-866-786-5972,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



OPERATION BORDER STAR

JOIC Contact Information	Border Security Ops Ctr (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

Seizures – CYTD 2017	El Paso	Marfa	Del Rio	Laredo	RGV	Coastal Bend	TOTAL
Marijuana (lbs)	81,431	37,002	9,186	160,795	319,361	1,274	609,049
Cocaine (lbs)	1,350	111	140	4,185	6,480	214	12,480
Methamphetamine (lbs)	1,154	225	603	4,463	4,817	1	11,263
Heroin (lbs)	127	22	111	512	417	< 1	1,189





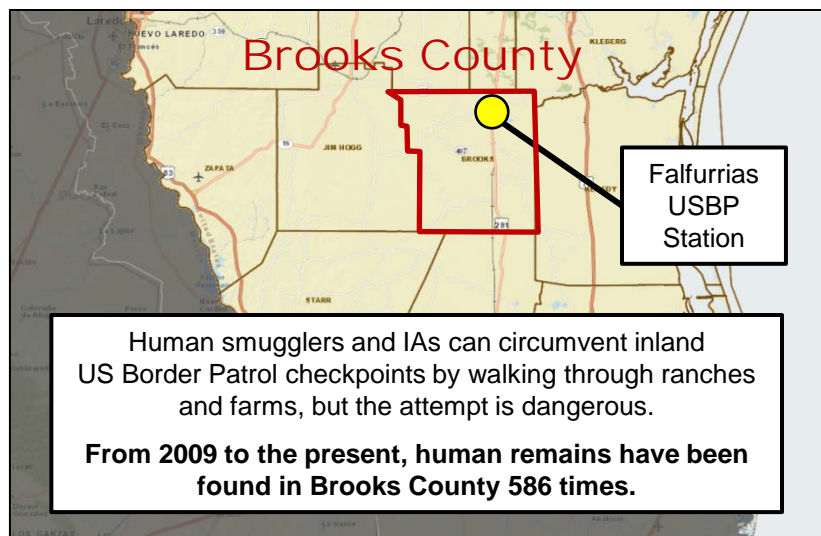
CY 2017 charts for USBP Texas Sector apprehensions and USBP Southwest Border apprehensions are in the revision process.



Illegal Aliens (IAs)	El Paso	Marfa	Del Rio	Laredo	RGV	Coastal Bend	TOTAL
CYTD 2017	18,013	5,855	10,968	23,466	99,055	0	157,357

Other Than Mexicans (OTMs)	El Paso	Marfa	Del Rio	Laredo	RGV	Coastal Bend	TOTAL
CYTD 2017	9,541	3,330	4,652	6,712	73,451	0	97,686

Unaccompanied Alien Children (UACs)	FY 2017	FY 2016	FY 2015	FY- 014	FY 2013
Texas Border	31,827	47,192	31,109	58,312	27,827



MARFA SECTOR

On 01 DEC, USBP Agents north of a ranch headquarters in Marfa seized 244.27 lbs of marijuana and apprehended four IAs. The subjects and marijuana were referred to Alpine DEA.

On 04 DEC, USBP Agents at a ranch near Alpine apprehended an IA human smuggler and 12 Guatemalan IAs. The subjects were referred to Alpine HSI.

On 04 DEC, a Presidio Co SO Deputy detained six IAs, including five Hondurans, on a ranch near Marfa. The subjects were referred to Marfa USBP.

On 07 DEC, USBP Agents observed a 1998 Jeep Grand Cherokee drop off eight occupants on a ranch near Shafter. The Agents apprehended five IAs, and three subjects absconded. Another Agent inspected a vehicle and identified an IA and the human smuggler.

MARFA SECTOR

On 08 DEC, a Presidio Co SO Deputy, assisted by USBP Agents, investigated the death of an IA on a ranch near Marfa. Three other IAs were encountered and transported to the Big Bend Regional Medical Center and treated for hypothermia.

On 07 DEC, a Presidio Co SO Deputy detained four IAs on a ranch south of Marfa. The IAs were referred to USBP.

On 07 DEC, a Presidio Co SO Deputy detained 17 IAs on a ranch south of Marfa. The IAs were referred to USBP.

On 09 DEC, USBP Agents discovered the body of a juvenile IA on a ranch near Sierra Blanca.

MARFA SECTOR



On 15 DEC, USBP Agents, along with a K-9, seized 285.77 lbs of marijuana and apprehended five IAs on a ranch on US-90 in Presidio County. One other subject absconded. The subjects had been using boot coverings made from pieces of blankets to obscure their tracks. The subjects and marijuana were referred to Alpine DEA.

On 18 DEC, USBP Agents on a ranch on US-90 in Presidio County seized 0.03 lbs of heroin and apprehended six IAs, including three Guatemalans and two Hondurans. The heroin was referred to DEA.

DEL RIO SECTOR

On 01 DEC, a Zavala Co SO Deputy and a Zavala Co Constable observed a white 2010 Chevrolet Express G2500 van and a white 2015 Nissan Frontier pickup traveling in tandem on FM 117, south of Batesville. The Constable conducted a traffic stop on the van, and the Deputy conducted a traffic stop on the pickup after it made a U-turn.

The van crashed through a ranch fence and the occupants bailed out. The Deputy determined that the driver of the pickup had been scouting for the van, and arrested the pickup driver. The van had been reported stolen from Austin, and both vehicles were impounded. USBP Agents searched the area, and observed 16 subjects absconding.

On 04 DEC, a DPS AVN assisted USBP Agents and a K-9 unit with locating a group of subjects on a ranch near US-277 in Del Rio. The Agents apprehended four IAs.

On 16 DEC, a USBP Agent conducted an inspection on a white 2009 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 pickup on US-277, west of Carrizo Springs. When the vehicle failed to yield, a Zavala Co SO Deputy assisted the Agent. The vehicle crashed through a fence on a ranch near Crystal City and was located abandoned near a creek. The vehicle was reported stolen from Austin. The Deputy impounded the vehicle.

DEL RIO SECTOR



On 13 DEC, USBP K-9 units were training on a ranch along FM 582 near Crystal City. The Agents heard approximately four gunshots and took cover when it appeared that a round had hit one of their units. Dimmit Co SO Deputies assisted and identified two hunters on a neighboring ranch. The subjects claimed that they had not known that the Agents were nearby. After finding four spent cartridges that showed a pattern of shots being fired in the direction of the Agents, the Deputies seized two rifles and two handguns from the two subjects, who were released.

DEL RIO SECTOR

On 23 DEC, a USBP Agent observed two trucks travelling in tandem on US-83 in Catarina. The Agent conducted an inspection on a white 2011 Ford F-150 pickup, when the vehicle failed to yield. The vehicle crashed through a ranch fence, and the occupants bailed out and absconded. The vehicle was reported stolen from Austin. A Dimmit Co SO Deputy impounded the vehicle.

On 28 DEC, DPS AVN assisted USBP Agents in searching for a suspect on a ranch along US-277 in Val Verde Co. The subject was located, identified as an IA, and processed.



DEL RIO SECTOR

On 19 DEC, a Dimmit Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a black 2010 Ford F-150 Raptor pickup on US-83, south of Catarina, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle crashed through a fence at a ranch near FM 133, and the occupants bailed out. The Deputy detained one IA, and USBP Agents apprehended six additional IAs, but the driver absconded. The vehicle was reported stolen from Austin. The seven IAs were processed, and the vehicle was impounded.



LAREDO SECTOR



On 14 DEC, USBP Agents were notified by the Air National Guard AVN of bundles being loaded into a vehicle near Laredo. The Agents approached the vehicle after it hit a fence post and several subjects absconded. The driver was apprehended. The Agents found 402.38 lbs of marijuana in the vehicle. The driver and narcotics were turned over to DEA.

On 16 DEC, La Salle Co SO Deputies conducted a traffic stop on a 2000 Ford F-350 pickup near Cotulla, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle drove through a ranch fence and was found abandoned. The vehicle was stolen from Bexar Co.

LAREDO SECTOR

On 16 DEC, USBP Laredo Agents responded to activity on a ranch near Laredo and found an abandoned truck. The vehicle was stolen from Austin. Nearby, the Agents found a second vehicle that was stolen from San Antonio.

On 18 DEC, Zapata Co SO Deputies were dispatched to a ranch south of US-83 near Zapata. The Deputies discovered and seized 527.90 lbs of marijuana. No arrests were made.



RIO GRANDE VALLEY

Roma PD Officers detained and referred an IA to USBP. The Officers conducted a traffic stop on a gray Chevrolet pickup, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle struck a wire fence and 15 subjects bailed out and absconded. One female IA remained with the vehicle. Roma PD impounded the vehicle.

DPS AVN responded to a THP Trooper pursuit on FM 755, south of FM 490. The Trooper lost sight of the vehicle. The Aircrew arrived on scene, located the vehicle, and guided units to it. Starr Co SO Deputies advised that the owner of the vehicle is a person of interest in an arson investigation. The Aircrew searched the area with negative results. In a separate event, the Aircrew assisted TPWD Game Wardens in an attempt to locate poachers in Hidalgo Co.



RIO GRANDE VALLEY



In five incidents from DEC 13 to DEC 19, the Brooks Co SO, along with USBP, responded to reports of a total of seven deceased persons on ranches in Brooks Co.

RIO GRANDE VALLEY

Rio Grande City USBP Agents seized 240.08 lbs of marijuana in five bundles near Roma. The Agents observed several subjects run south toward the River. At the same time, a 2004 Ford F-150 pickup was observed leaving the area. The Agents conducted a vehicle stop, when a pursuit ensued. After several minutes, the driver bailed out and attempted to abscond by climbing over a fence, but was apprehended. The Agents discovered the marijuana in the bed of the truck. DEA assumed custody of the driver and vehicle.

Weslaco USBP Agents seized 286.37 lbs of marijuana in six bundles at a ranch near Weslaco. The Agents observed approximately five subjects with bundles. The Agents responded to the last known location, apprehended three subjects, and seized the marijuana. DEA assumed custody of the subjects and narcotics.

A Kenedy Co SO Deputy responded to a ranch hunting-camp in northern Kenedy Co regarding human remains that had been found by a group of hunters. The camp manager took the Deputy to the body, which was transported to the Kenedy Co Medical Examiner.

A Brooks Co SO Deputy was dispatched to a ranch in central Brooks Co regarding human remains. The remains were transported to the Webb Co Medical Examiner.



Total Pursuits and Bailouts (CY2014 - Present)*

Event	El Paso	Marfa	Del Rio	Laredo	Rio Grande Valley	Coastal Bend	TOTAL
Pursuits	3	80	594	374	1,581	596	3,228
Bailouts	0	93	756	583	1,459	555	3,446

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



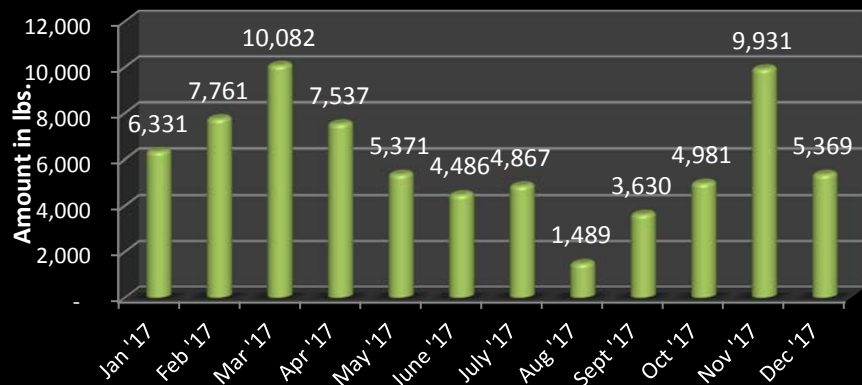


OPERATION DRAWBRIDGE

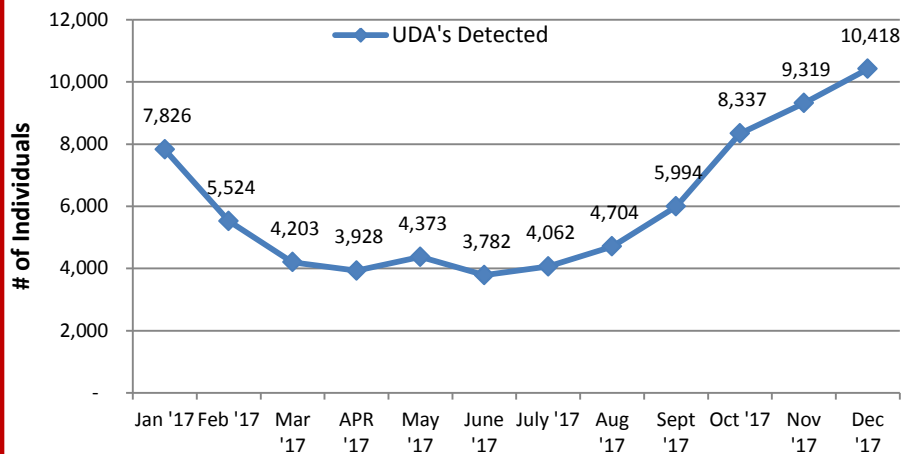
Statistical Summary – DEC 2017



Drawbridge Initiated Marijuana Seizures



Drawbridge Stats



Operation Drawbridge Totals: JAN 2012 – DEC 2017

Detections	347,909
Marijuana Seized	437,897 lbs (>218 tons)
Cocaine Seized	227 lbs
Methamphetamine Seized	15 lbs
Heroin Seized	2 lbs
Firearms Seized	27

Operation Drawbridge Totals: CYTD 2017

Detections	72,575
Narcotics Seized	72,201 lbs (>36 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



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