

Border Operations Sector Assessment

South Texas
Ranch Edition

**February
2018**

**REPORTING PERIOD:
01-28 FEB 2018**



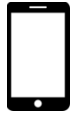
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY BORDER SECURITY OPERATIONS CENTER



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 February 28, 2018: 58

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.



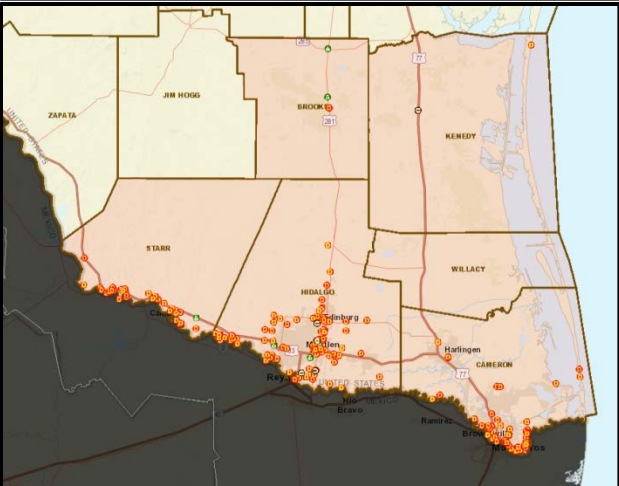
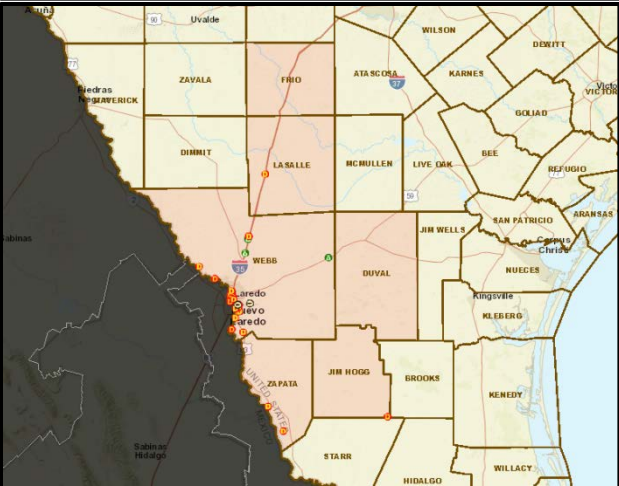
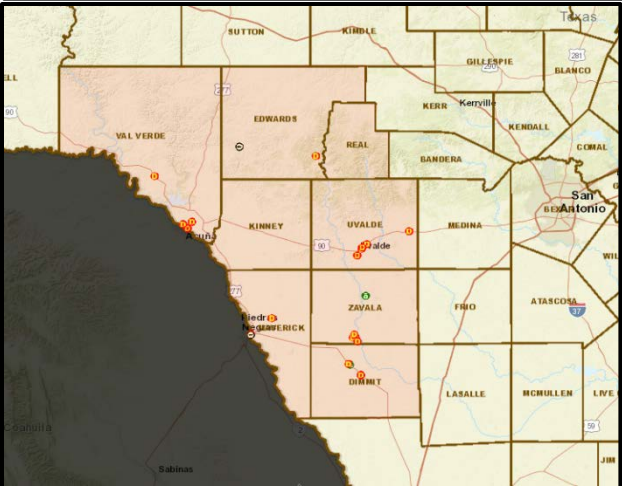
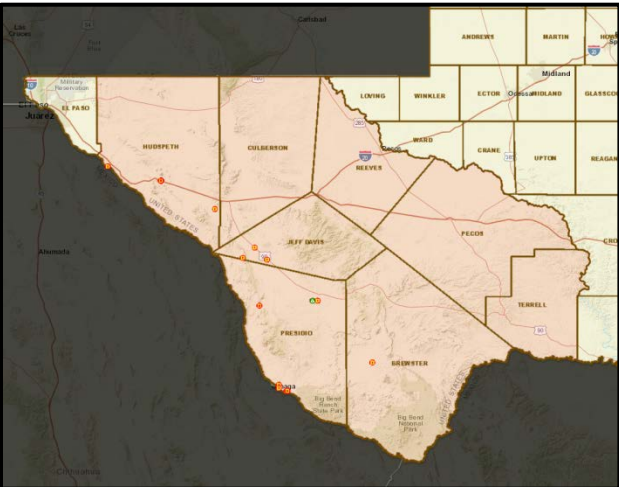
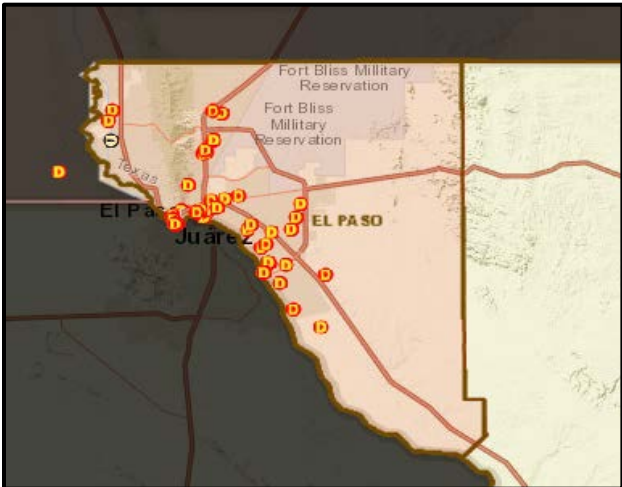
OPERATION BORDER STAR

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 2018	El Paso	Marfa	Del Rio	Laredo	RGV	Coastal Bend	TOTAL
Marijuana (lbs)	11,345	6,090	462	28,130	53,609	7	99,644
Cocaine (lbs)	279	18	11	396	493	9	1,207
Methamphetamine (lbs)	130	6	323	965	341	< 1	1,766
Heroin (lbs)	4	26	< 1	67	< 1	--	97





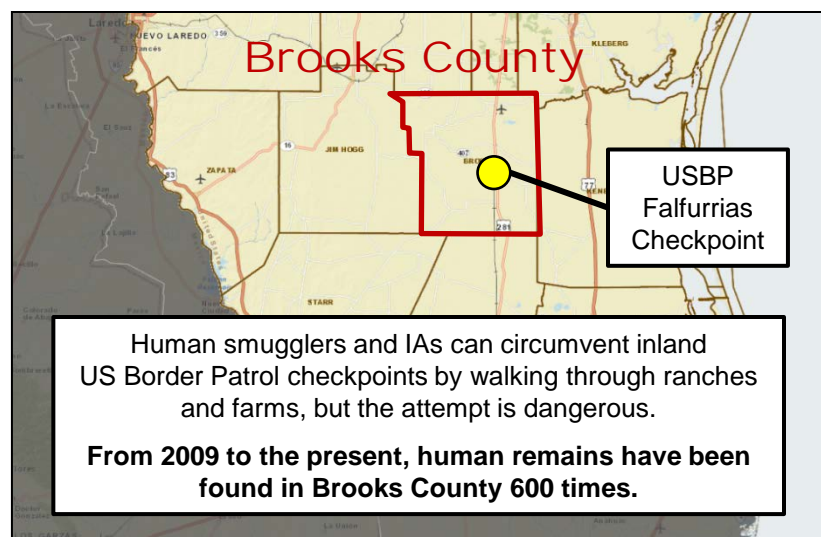
CY 2017 charts for USBP Texas Sector apprehensions and USBP Southwest Border apprehensions are in the revision process.



Illegal Aliens (IAs)	El Paso	Marfa	Del Rio	Laredo	RGV	Coastal Bend	TOTAL
CYTD 2018	3,572	1,461	2,581	5,105	19,909	0	32,628

Other Than Mexicans (OTMs)	El Paso	Marfa	Del Rio	Laredo	RGV	Coastal Bend	TOTAL
CYTD 2018	2,059	898	1,005	1,414	15,204	0	20,580

Unaccompanied Alien Children (UACs)	FY 2017	FY 2016	FY 2015	FY 2014	FY 2013
Texas Border	31,827	47,192	31,109	58,312	27,827



MARFA SECTOR

On 01 FEB, Van Horn USBP Agents seized 151.91 lbs of marijuana and apprehended an IA on a ranch southeast of Allamore. Two subjects absconded from the area. The marijuana was found in duct-taped bundles in three burlap backpacks. The subject and marijuana were referred to El Paso DEA.

On 12 FEB, USBP Agents and TPWD Game Wardens apprehended 19 IAs on a ranch northwest of Marfa. The subjects were processed.

On 14 FEB, TPWD Game Wardens and Marfa USBP Agents apprehended 12 IAs on a ranch southwest of Fort Davis.

On 22 FEB, Marfa USBP Agents seized 157.12 lbs of marijuana and apprehended an IA on a ranch northeast of Candelaria. Two additional subjects absconded. The subject and marijuana were turned over to Alpine DEA.



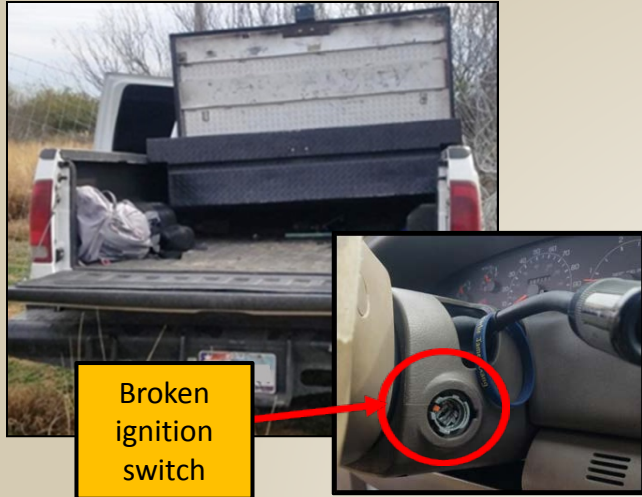
MARFA SECTOR

On 27 FEB, Marfa USBP Agents seized 223.50 lbs of marijuana and apprehended four IAs on a ranch in Valentine. The marijuana was found inside four large sugar sacks concealed in brush. The subjects and marijuana were turned over to Alpine DEA.



On 25 FEB, a Brewster Co SO Deputy apprehended two IAs on a ranch along FM 2627, northeast of Study Butte. The subjects were referred to USBP.

DEL RIO SECTOR



On 02 FEB, a Dimmit Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a white 2001 Ford F-250 pickup on US-83, south of Catarina, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle drove through a ranch fence and the occupants bailed out. The Deputies detained three subjects, one of whom had been locked in the toolbox. USBP Agents identified the subjects as three IAs. A records check indicated that the vehicle was stolen from San Antonio, and the vehicle was impounded.

On 05 FEB, a USBP Agent found 16 IAs hiding in brush on a near US-277, north of Del Rio. Two of the IAs were identified as the principal human smugglers. HSI Agents arrested the smugglers, and the remaining IAs were processed.

On 05 FEB, a Dimmit Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a white 2012 GMC Sierra pickup on SH-85 near the Frio Co line, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle crashed onto a ranch, and all of the occupants bailed out and absconded. The vehicle was not reported stolen at the time of the incident, but had a broken ignition and was missing the keys. Other indicators that the vehicle had been used to transport IAs included a folded-up rear seat, multiple jackets, and empty soda containers. The vehicle was impounded.



DEL RIO SECTOR

On 12 FEB, a USBP Agent observed a group of subjects walking on a ranch near US-277 north of Quemado. When the subjects reached US-277, a black 2007 Mercury Mountaineer stopped at their location. The Agent conducted an inspection on the vehicle, and apprehended two human smugglers with seven IAs. The smugglers were turned over to HSI, and the IAs were processed. The vehicle was impounded.

On 10 FEB, TPWD Game Wardens assisted USBP Agents in locating a group of IAs on a ranch on FM 1021 near Eagle Pass. The Agents found five IAs.

On 10 FEB, a Dimmit Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a black 2012 Ford F-250 pickup on US-83 in Catarina, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle crashed through a ranch fence, and all of the occupants bailed out and absconded. The vehicle was not reported stolen at the time of incident. There were indicators the vehicle was being used to transport IAs: the rear seats had been removed, and there were multiple hats and empty drink containers. A pistol was seized from the tool box. The vehicle was later reported stolen from San Antonio, and was impounded.



DEL RIO SECTOR

On 05 FEB, a Dimmit Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a white 2012 GMC Sierra pickup on SH-85 east of Big Wells, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle drove through a fence onto a ranch west of Dilley, and the occupants bailed out. USBP Agents and CBP OAM searched the area with negative results. The vehicle was not reported stolen at the time of the incident, and was impounded.

On 04 FEB, an Edwards Co SO Deputy responded to a burglary on a ranch along RR 674 in Rocksprings. The ranch resident indicated that a lone subject had broken into the residence and stolen food and water. The investigation is ongoing.

On 05 FEB, a Dimmit Co SO Deputy assisted USBP Agents on a ranch along US-83. The Agents recovered a maroon 2007 GMC Sierra pickup following a bailout involving approximately eight subjects who absconded. The Deputy impounded the vehicle.



DEL RIO SECTOR



On 02 FEB, a Dimmit Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a black 2016 Ford F-150 pickup on US-83 near Catarina, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle crashed onto a ranch, and all of the occupants bailed out and absconded. The vehicle was not reported stolen at the time of incident but had a broken ignition without keys.

There were also indicators that the vehicle had been used to transport IAs, such as the rear seat being folded up and the presence of multiple empty soda containers.

The vehicle was impounded.

On 14 FEB, a USBP Agent detained two IAs on a ranch near US-90, west of Langtry. The IAs stated that a third IA had fallen into a nearby canyon. The Agent located the body of the third IA, who had apparently died from the fall. The Val Verde Co SO and USBP Agents retrieved the body and turned it over to a funeral home. The IAs were processed.

On 20 FEB, USBP Agents apprehended six IAs near a ranch east of Asherton. One of the IAs was identified as the human smuggler, and was arrested. The remaining IAs were processed.

DEL RIO SECTOR

On 15 FEB, a Dimmit Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a gray 1998 Ford F-150 pickup on US-83, south of Catarina, when a pursuit ensued. The driver bailed out at a ranch and absconded. The vehicle was impounded.

On 15 FEB, a Dimmit Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a gray 2004 Ford F-150 pickup on US-83, south of Catarina, when a pursuit ensued. The driver bailed out onto a ranch and absconded. USBP Agents responded to assist, and conducted an inspection on a green 2004 GMC Sierra pickup in Encinal that had been traveling in tandem with the pickup. The driver, who was suspected of scouting for the F-150, was released. The Ford F-150 was impounded.

On 18 FEB, a Dimmit Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a black 2014 Ford F-250 pickup on US-83, south of Catarina, when a pursuit ensued. The driver bailed out onto a ranch and absconded. The vehicle, which was stolen from Austin, had a punched-out door lock and was displaying a Texas license plate from another stolen vehicle. The vehicle was impounded.

DEL RIO SECTOR

On 19 FEB, a USBP Agent conducted an inspection on a white 2006 Chevrolet Silverado C2500 pickup on FM 117, south of Batesville. The pickup drove through a ranch fence, and the occupants bailed out. Four IAs were detained, but an additional five occupants absconded. A Zavala Co SO Deputy impounded the Silverado. On 20 FEB, USBP Agents conducted an inspection on a white 1993 Ford F-150 pickup and a black 2012 Chevrolet Camaro near the site of the bailout. The two occupants of the Camaro gave conflicting stories, and the driver of the F-150 stated that he was looking for a friend whose vehicle had broken down in the area. The Agents suspected that both vehicles were scouting for the IAs from the bailout, but released them. A short time later, an Agent conducted another inspection on the F-150 on FM 117, and detained the driver and four IAs. The IAs admitted that they had bailed out from the Silverado the previous day. The driver was arrested for human smuggling, and the eight IAs were processed. The Agents impounded the F-150.

On 22 FEB, USBP Agents conducted an inspection on a white 2008 Chevrolet Silverado pickup on US-57 in Batesville, when it failed to yield. The pickup drove through a fence onto a ranch, and all of the occupants bailed out and absconded. Zavala Co SO impounded the vehicle.

LAREDO SECTOR

On 01 FEB, USBP Freer Agents conducted a vehicle stop on a 2014 Ford F-250 pickup on US-59 near Freer, when the vehicle failed to yield. The vehicle was located abandoned on a ranch off of SH-44. A search of the area resulted in the apprehension of five IAs. The vehicle was reported stolen from San Antonio.

On 02 FEB, USBP Laredo Agents responded to a call regarding activity on a ranch near Laredo. The Agents searched the area and found 240.70 lbs of marijuana and apprehended 12 IAs. The marijuana was turned over to DEA.

On 02 FEB, USBP Cotulla Agents encountered a 2011 Ford F-150 pickup traveling northbound on FM 1019 near Valley Wells. The Agents conducted a vehicle stop, and the occupants bailed out onto a ranch. The vehicle was later found abandoned. The Agents apprehended six IAs. The vehicle was stolen from Austin.

LAREDO SECTOR

On 08 FEB, La Salle Co SO Deputies recovered an abandoned silver 2011 Ford F-150 pickup on a ranch near Cotulla. The vehicle was reported stolen from San Antonio.

On 10 FEB, USBP Laredo North Agents encountered a Chevrolet pickup on IH-35. The vehicle drove off the road and through a ranch fence, and several subjects bailed out and absconded. The vehicle, which was reported stolen from Houston, was turned over to LaSalle Co SO.

On 10 FEB, Webb Co SO Deputies conducted a traffic stop on a white 2000 Ford F-350 pickup on US-83 near Laredo, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle drove through a fence and several subjects bailed out and absconded. The Deputies detained a female subject who was later identified as an IA by USBP Agents. The vehicle was reported stolen from San Antonio.

On 13 FEB, USBP Laredo West Agents responded to activity on a ranch near Laredo. The Agents found 306.60 lbs of abandoned marijuana in brush. The marijuana was turned over to DEA.



LAREDO SECTOR

On 11 FEB, USBP Cotulla Agents encountered a tan 2017 Ford F-250 pickup on a ranch near Catarina. The driver bailed out and absconded. The vehicle, which was reported stolen from San Antonio, was turned over to Dimmit Co SO.

On 11 FEB, USBP Laredo West Agents encountered a black 2014 Ford F-150 Raptor pickup on a ranch near Catarina. As the Agents performed a vehicle stop, the vehicle abruptly drove off the road and through a ranch fence. The driver was not located. The Agents discovered a fully loaded handgun magazine in the pickup, but no weapon was found. The vehicle was reported stolen from Austin. The vehicle and ammo were turned over to Webb Co SO.

On 22 FEB, USBP Freer Agents encountered a gold 2017 Ford F-250 pickup that matched the description of a vehicle reported stolen from San Antonio. Before Agents initiated a traffic stop, the vehicle drove onto a ranch near TX-44 in San Diego. The vehicle was located and turned over to Duval Co SO. No arrests were made.

RIO GRANDE VALLEY

A Brooks Co SO Deputy responded to the Mariposa Ranch regarding human skeletal remains. USBP Agents escorted the Deputy to the remains.

A Brooks Co SO Deputy responded to a ranch at the Duval/Brooks County line regarding human skeletal remains that had been found by a group of hunters.



A Brooks Co SO Deputy responded to a ranch in Central Brooks County regarding human skeletal remains that had been discovered by USBP. Several articles of clothing were found scattered in brush near the remains. Brooks Co medical examiners office assumed custody of the human remains and clothing.

A Brooks Co SO Deputy responded to a ranch in eastern Brooks County regarding human skeletal remains that had been found by a ranch security officer. The remains were scattered through a pasture and a brushy area along with pieces of clothing and a wallet containing an ID from El Salvador. The medical examiner assumed custody of the remains and the other items.



COASTAL BEND SECTOR

On 10 FEB, McMullen Co SO Deputies encountered a white pickup that had earlier been reported as a possible smuggling vehicle. When approached, the pickup reduced speed and crashed through a fence gate and another fence onto a ranch near the Nueces River. The driver bailed out, fled to the river, and absconded. The vehicle was reported stolen from Austin.

On 15 FEB, a McMullen Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a Dodge pickup west of Hwy 16. The pickup made a sudden right turn and drove through a barbed-wire fence onto a ranch. The vehicle came to a stop and six subjects bailed out. No subjects were apprehended. The vehicle was seized.





Total Pursuits and Bailouts (CY2014 - Present)*

Event	El Paso	Marfa	Del Rio	Laredo	Rio Grande Valley	Coastal Bend	TOTAL
Pursuits	3	83	620	387	1,618	601	3,312
Bailouts	5	97	788	671	1,486	563	3,610

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



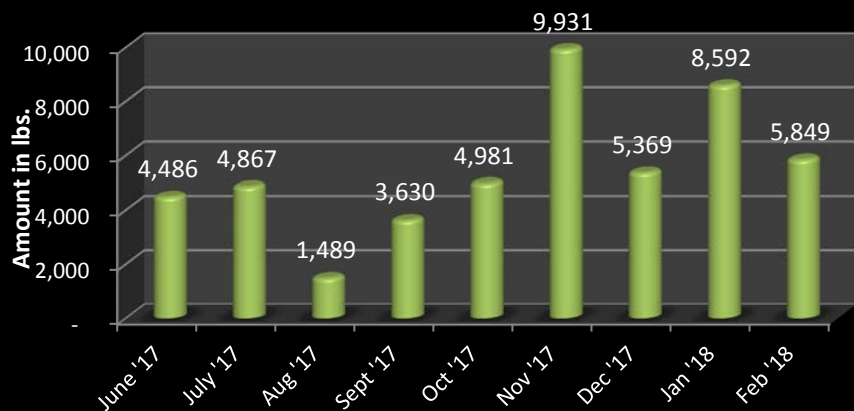


OPERATION DRAWBRIDGE

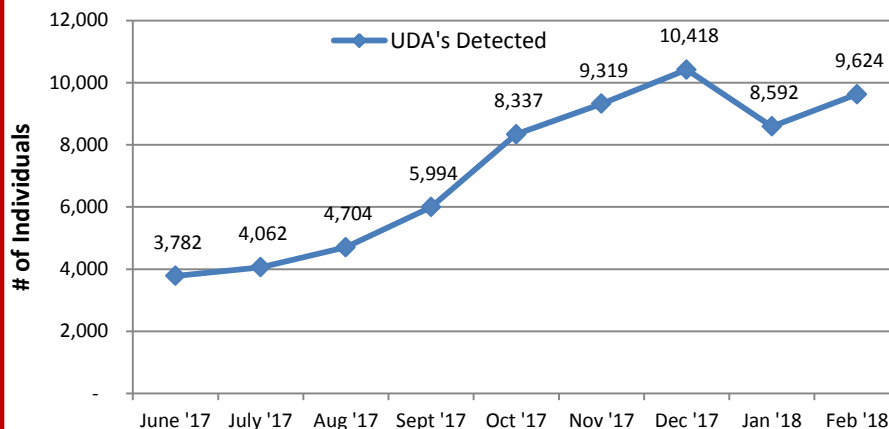
Statistical Summary – FEB 2018



Drawbridge Initiated Marijuana Seizures



Drawbridge Stats



Operation Drawbridge Totals: JAN 2012 – FEB 2018

Detections	366,394
Marijuana Seized	452,338 lbs (>226 tons)
Cocaine Seized	227 lbs
Methamphetamine Seized	15 lbs
Heroin Seized	2 lbs
Firearms Seized	30

Operation Drawbridge Totals: CYTD 2018

Detections	18,485
Narcotics Seized	14,441 lbs (>7 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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