

Border Operations Sector Assessment

South Texas
Ranch Edition

**January
2016**

**REPORTING PERIOD:
01-31 JANUARY 2016**



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 trend and relevant incidents.

South Texas Ranch Crime Index Total as of January 31, 2016: 31

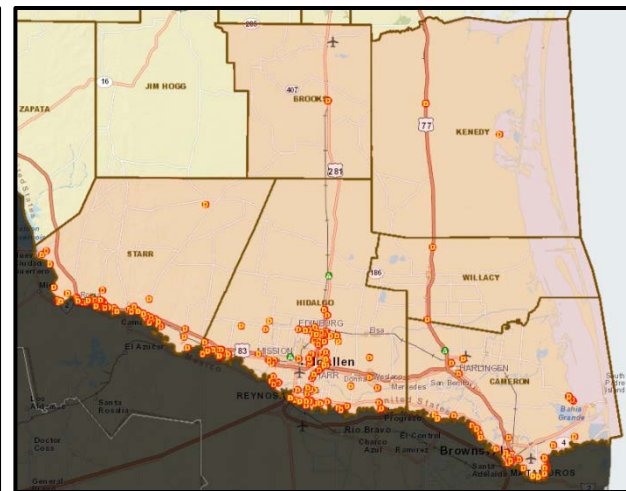
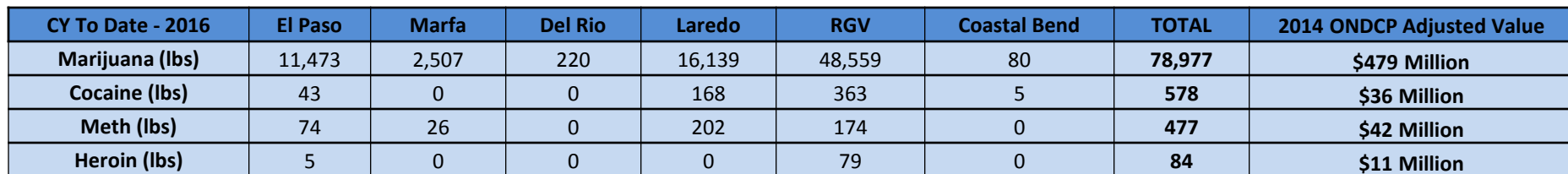
The Ranch Crime index comprises rancher input of criminal traffic patterns occurring outside of main highways and roadways, and across ranch properties.

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. To download iWatch, click on your appropriate operating system below.

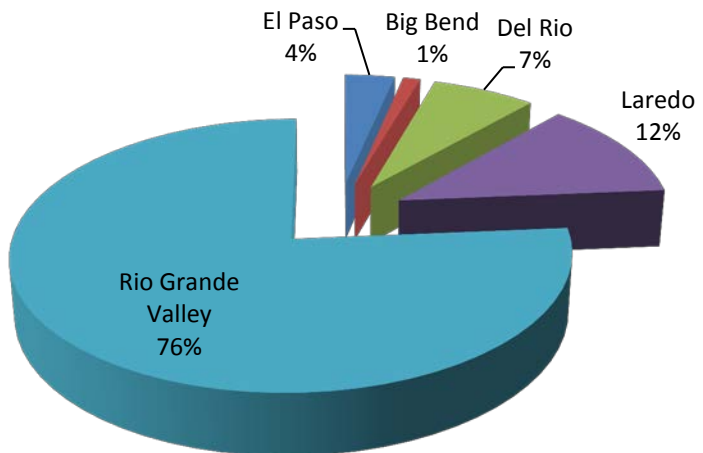


OPERATION BORDER STAR

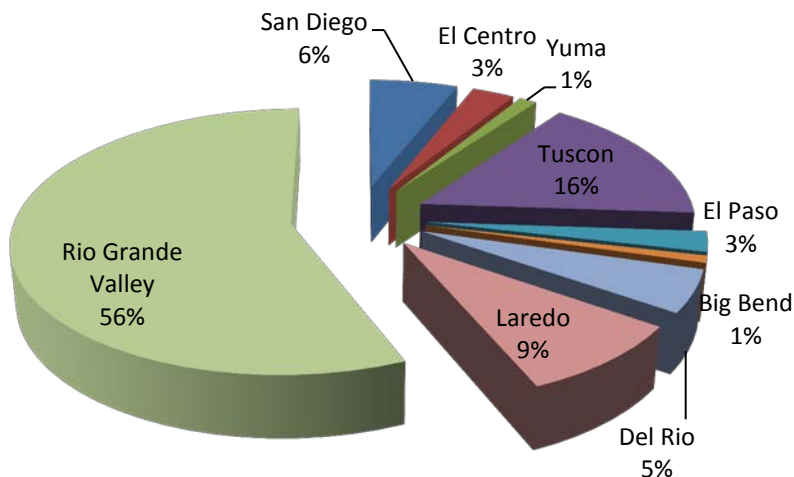
JOIC Contact Information	Border Security Ops Ctr (Austin, TX)	El Paso JOIC (El Paso, TX)	Big Bend JOIC (Marfa, TX)	Del Rio Sector (Del Rio, TX)	Laredo Sector (Laredo, TX)	Rio Grande Valley Sector (McAllen, TX)	Coastal Bend Sector (Victoria, TX)
Main Phone #	(512) 454-7561	(915) 680-6500	(432) 729-4506	(830) 778-7837	(956) 764-3181	(956) 289-5727	(361) 485-8500
Main Email	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



Texas Sector Apprehensions

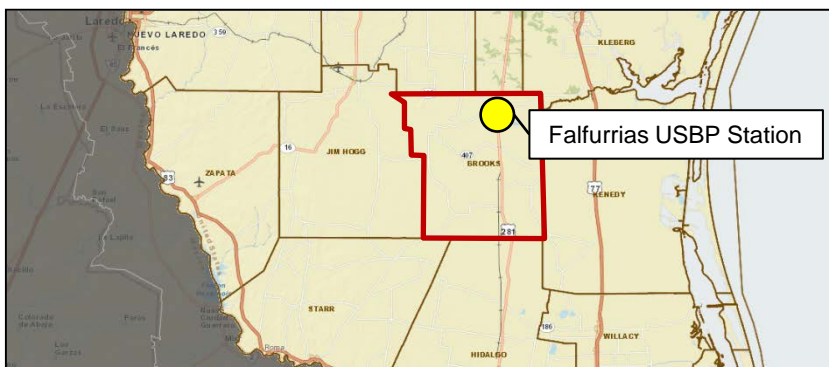


Southwest Border Sector Apprehensions

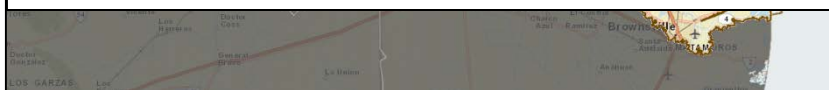


IAs	El Paso	Marfa	Del Rio	Laredo	RGV	Coastal Bend	TOTAL
YTD-2016	1,224	256	1,852	2,796	11,224	0	17,352
OTMs	El Paso	Marfa	Del Rio	Laredo	RGV	Coastal Bend	TOTAL
YTD-2016	404	130	800	689	7,935	0	9,958

Unaccompanied Alien Children	FY-2015	FY-2014	FY-2013	FY-2012	FY-2011
Texas Border	31,109	58,312	27,827	15,485	9,871



Human smugglers circumvent inland US Border Patrol checkpoints easily by walking around them through ranches and farms.
Since 2009, 470 illegal aliens have perished in Brooks County.



MARFA SECTOR



Van Horn USBP Agents seized 215.10 lbs of marijuana and arrested an IA walking on a ranch southwest of Van Horn. Four subjects absconded from the area. The subject and marijuana were referred to Alpine DEA.



Marfa USBP Agents, assisted by Presidio Co SO Deputies, arrested five IAs on a ranch south of Marfa. Three of the subjects were held in Marfa pending prosecution, and two were processed for removal.

Presidio Co SO Deputies detained two IAs on a ranch near Marfa. The subjects were referred to Marfa USBP Agents. Both subjects were held in Marfa pending prosecution.

MARFA SECTOR

Van Horn USBP Agents arrested 12 IAs walking on a ranch northwest of Marfa. Seven subjects were processed for removal, and five were held in Marfa pending prosecution.

Alpine USBP Agents arrested two IAs on a ranch south of Marathon. One of the subjects was held in Marfa pending prosecution, and the other one was processed for removal.

Marfa USBP Agents arrested six IAs (including three from Guatemala and two from Honduras) on a ranch northwest of Marfa. Three subjects were processed for removal, two were referred to El Paso pending prosecution, and one was released.



Sierra Blanca USBP Agents arrested six IAs walking near a ranch south of Sierra Blanca. The subjects were held in El Paso and processed for removal.

DEL RIO SECTOR

On 04 JAN, USBP Agents conducted inspection on a group of subjects whom they saw cross the River from Mexico and enter a ranch south of El Indio. Seven IAs were apprehended, and an IA was identified and arrested as the principal alien smuggler.

On 19 JAN, USBP Agents performed an inspection on five subjects they encountered on a ranch east of Brackettville. The subjects were identified as five IAs, and were detained. Three of them were each carrying a small amount of marijuana. Kinney Co SO seized the marijuana.

On 09 JAN, a Dimmit Co Deputy conducted a stop on a gold 2009 Ford F-150 pickup traveling east on SH-85 in Big Wells. A pursuit ensued. The vehicle turned south on FM-468, crashed through a fence, and drove a mile and a half through a ranch. The occupants bailed out and absconded. The pickup was later reported stolen from Elgin, and was impounded.



On 18 JAN, USBP Agents performed an inspection on a subject they encountered on a ranch south of Carrizo Springs. The subject was an IA, and was arrested for a Travis Co warrant.

DEL RIO SECTOR



On 06 JAN, a Dimmit Co Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a 2001 GMC Savana south of SH-83 in Carrizo Springs. A pursuit ensued. The vehicle crashed on a ranch and the driver bailed out and absconded. USBP Agents were dispatched to assist, but no one was found in the area. The vehicle was impounded.

On 30 Jan, USBP Agents seized a duffel bag that had been abandoned in brush on a ranch along FM-481, north of US-57. The bag contained 57.70 lbs of marijuana. The marijuana was turned over to DEA.

On 29 JAN, a USBP Agent was dispatched to a ranch near US-277 in Normandy regarding a suspicious gray 2003 Mitsubishi Galant. The driver was suspected of scouting for IAs. A Maverick Co Deputy cited the driver, and impounded the vehicle.

On 08 JAN, a Dimmit Co Deputy responded to a ranch on FM-186 regarding an abandoned white 2001 Ford F-150 pickup. The truck was located next to a pond, had major front end damage, had a single key in the ignition, and contained soda cans. The tracks of the vehicle led back to a hunting lodge. The pickup was a suspected smuggling vehicle. It was not reported stolen, and was impounded.



DEL RIO SECTOR

On 17 JAN, a USBP Agent conducted an inspection on a blue 2012 Ford F-150 pickup on a ranch road north of Catarina, when a pursuit ensued. A Dimmit Co Deputy was dispatched to assist. The Deputy found the vehicle abandoned on the ranch road. A registration check on the vehicle indicated that it was stolen out of Round Rock. A stolen pistol was found in the vehicle. The vehicle was impounded.



ANALYST NOTE: The removal of seats in a vehicle (as below) is a common human-smuggling tactic to maximize the space for carrying passengers.



ANALYST NOTE: A separate pistol that was reported stolen along with the pickup was not discovered upon recovery of the vehicle.

DEL RIO SECTOR



On 13 JAN, a Dimmit Co Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a white 2003 Chevrolet Silverado C2500 pickup near SH-85 in Big Wells, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle drove through an oilfield wastewater disposal site, and could not be located.

On 21 JAN, a USBP Agent was dispatched to FM-133 for a black 2003 Chevrolet Silverado C1500 pickup with suspected IAs. A pursuit ensued. The vehicle drove into an oilfield in Artesia Wells, and the occupants bailed out and absconded. The vehicle was reported stolen out of Baytown, and was impounded.

LAREDO SECTOR

On 19 JAN, USBP Laredo Agents on a ranch northwest of Laredo followed fresh tracks to several abandoned bundles under a tree. The Agents seized 300.33 lbs of marijuana, with no arrests. The marijuana was turned over to DEA.

On 19 JAN, USBP Laredo Agents responded to call about IAs in a truck at a ranch north of Laredo. An Agent then observed a vehicle matching the description and conducted a traffic stop on the blue 2014 Ford F-150 pickup, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle drove through a fence, and the driver absconded. The vehicle was stolen from San Antonio.

On 09 JAN, USBP Hebbronville Agents tracking a group of IAs on a ranch near Bruni seized 364.2 lbs of marijuana and apprehended three IAs. The marijuana and subjects were turned over to the DEA.



LAREDO SECTOR

On 12 JAN, Webb Co SO Deputies responded to a report of an abandoned white 2009 Ford Lariat on a ranch in Laredo. The vehicle was stolen from Austin, and the rear seat had been removed.

On 14 JAN, Webb Co SO Deputies responded to a report of an abandoned 2007 Ford F-250 pickup on a ranch north of Laredo. The vehicle was stolen from Austin.

On 12 JAN, Webb Co SO Deputies conducted a traffic stop on a 2014 Chevy Silverado pickup, when a pursuit ensued. The pursuit ended on a ranch near Encinal. The vehicle was stolen from Austin.

On 25 JAN, USBP Laredo Agents responded to a ranch northwest of Laredo, and observed subjects loading bundles into a vehicle. As the Agents approached, the driver bailed out and was apprehended. The Agents seized 356.73 lbs of marijuana from the vehicle. The subject, vehicle, and marijuana were turned over to DEA.

On 25 JAN, Jim Hogg Co SO Deputies conducted a traffic stop on a white 2001 Ford F-250 pickup near Hebbronville. The vehicle drove through a ranch fence, and 11 IAs were apprehended. The vehicle was stolen from Houston.

RIO GRANDE VALLEY

Brooks Co and Kenedy Co SO Deputies responded to four separate reports of deceased persons found on a ranch at the eastern edge of Brooks Co. One of the bodies, found lying face up under a tree, had a Guatemalan ID.

A Kenedy Co SO Deputy responded to a ranch near Riviera regarding a deceased person. The deceased was a female from El Salvador.



A Kenedy Co SO Deputy responded to a ranch near Riviera regarding a deceased person. The deceased was a male from El Salvador. An autopsy report is pending.

A Brooks Co SO Deputy was dispatched to a ranch south of Falfurrias regarding human skeletal remains, including a skull and a wallet containing Honduran identification.



RIO GRANDE VALLEY

A Brooks Co SO Deputy responded to a ranch south of Falfurrias regarding human skeletal remains and clothing items.

A Brooks Co SO Deputy responded to a ranch north of Laredo regarding human skeletal remains.

A Brooks Co SO Deputy responded to a ranch in northern Brooks County regarding a human skull that had been found in an open pasture.

A Brooks Co SO Deputy responded to a ranch east of US 281 near the center of Brooks County regarding human skeletal remains, including a skull, three other human bones, and clothing.

A Brooks Co So Deputy responded to a ranch south of Falfurrias where human remains had been found. With the assistance of USBP Agents, the Deputy located scattered human remains and a Mexican ID in the area.

RIO GRANDE VALLEY

A La Grulla PD Officer seized 183.07 lbs of marijuana. The Officer conducted a traffic stop in La Grulla on a 2006 Ford Taurus, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle crashed into a ranch fence, and the driver bailed out. USBP AVN and a K-9 Unit assisted in tracking down and arresting the driver.



RIO GRANDE VALLEY

Starr Co Deputies seized approximately 681 lbs of marijuana after a pursuit and bailout involving a Red Chevrolet Silverado pickup being followed by a red Ford F-150 pickup. The Silverado drove through a fence into a ranch west of La Gloria. The Deputies lost sight of it, but stopped the Ford pickup. The driver was a known scout. DPS AVN located the other vehicle, and the marijuana was found in the bed and rear seats. The driver had absconded.

DPS AVN responded to a ranch near La Gloria after a Starr Co Deputy initiated a pursuit. The vehicle drove through a fence and into a pasture. AVN guided the Deputy to the vehicle, which contained approximately 681 lbs of marijuana.



RIO GRANDE VALLEY



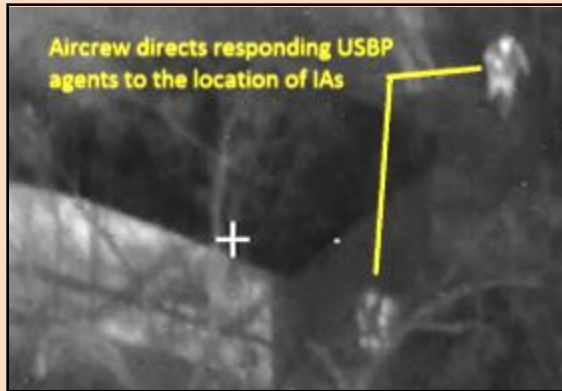
A Roma PD Officer seized 630.2 lbs of marijuana near Rio Grande City. The

Officer observed a driver exiting a pickup and walking away from it after stopping in a residential driveway. The property owner arrived, and stated that he did not know the subject. The Officer found bundles of marijuana in the bed of the truck. The Officer arrested the subject and seized the vehicle.

DPS AVN assisted USBP with a vehicle pursuit in eastern Starr County. The truck came to a stop, and several subjects bailed out. AVN searched ahead, observed a high fence that had been pulled down, and then located the subjects in the brush.

AVN directed the Agents to the area, and assisted with locating 19 IAs.

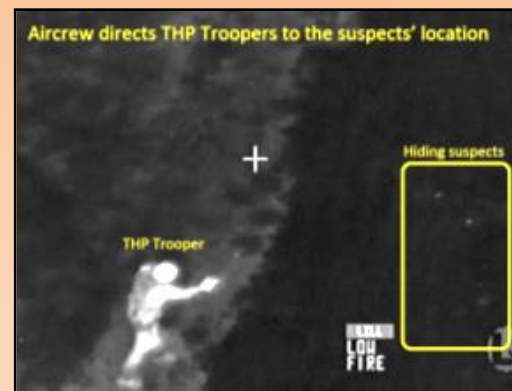
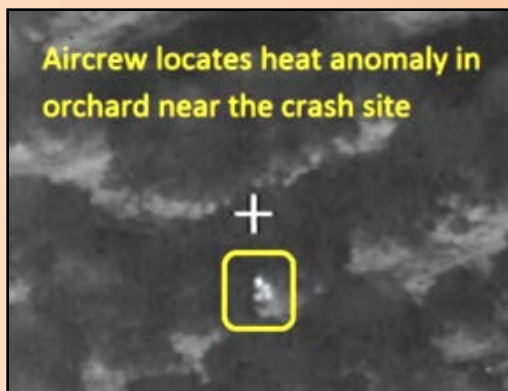
RIO GRANDE VALLEY



THP AVN assisted USBP in locating three IAs in the Roma area. The IAs were found hiding in a shed. USBP took custody of all three IAs.

ANALYST NOTE: IAs may seek shelter and/or concealment in storage structures and low-visibility areas on ranch properties as they pass through.

DPS AVN assisted a THP Trooper in locating two subjects who had bailed out and fled after a vehicle crash near Donna. AVN located their heat signatures in an orchard, and guided THP Troopers in to apprehend them.





2014–Present	El Paso	Marfa	Del Rio	Laredo	Rio Grande Valley	Coastal Bend	TOTAL
Pursuits	3	44	342	212	1,043	488	2,132
Bailouts	0	55	464	286	995	451	2,251



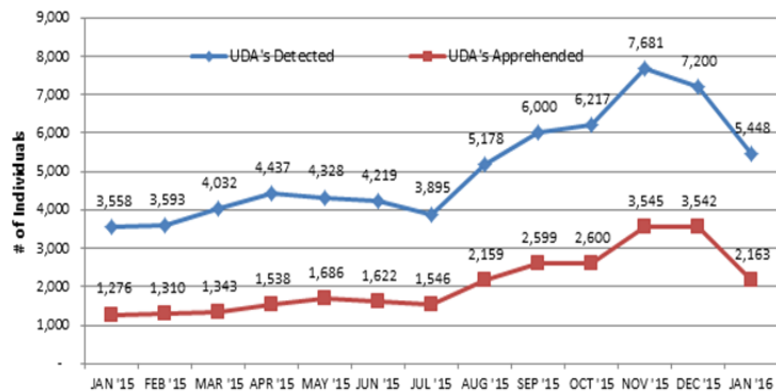


OPERATION DRAWBRIDGE

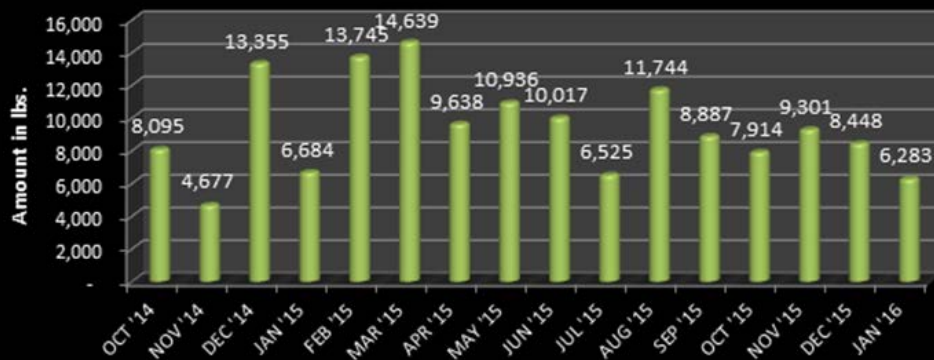
Statistical Summary – JAN 2015



Drawbridge Stats



Drawbridge Initiated Marijuana Seizures



OPERATION DRAWBRIDGE TOTALS: JAN 2012 – JAN 2016

Detections	181,970
Apprehensions	81,676
Marijuana Seized	319,543 lbs (~160 tons)
Cocaine Seized	205 lbs
Meth Seized	13 lbs
Heroin Seized	2 lbs
Firearms Seized	27

OPERATION DRAWBRIDGE TOTALS: CY 2016

Detections	5,448
Apprehensions	2,163
Narcotics Seized	6,283 lbs (~3 tons)



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

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BORDER SECURITY OPERATIONS CENTER



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