

Border Operations Sector Assessment

South Texas
Ranch Edition

**September
2018**

**REPORTING PERIOD:
01-30 SEP 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.

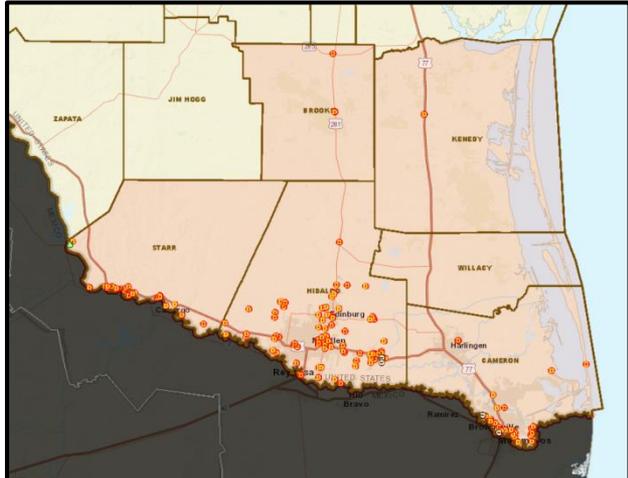
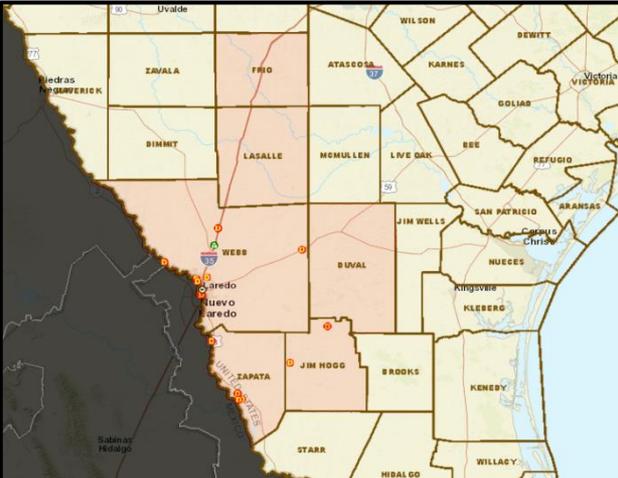
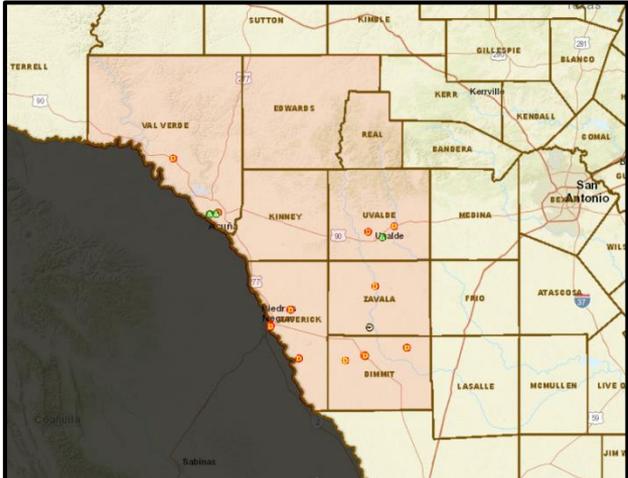
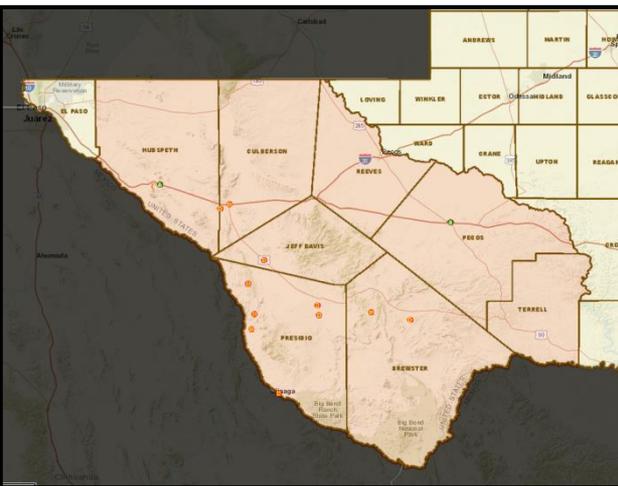


OPERATION BORDER STAR

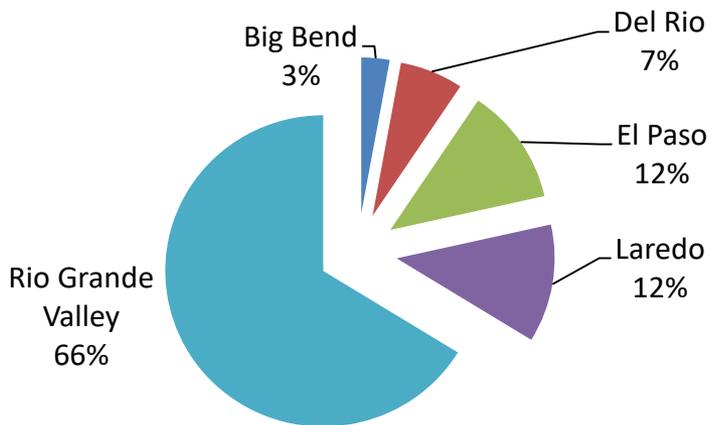
JOIC Contact Information	Border Security Ops Ctr (Austin)	El Paso JOIC (El Paso)	Big Bend JOIC (Marfa)	Del Rio Sector (Del Rio)	Laredo Sector (Laredo)	Rio Grande Valley Sector (McAllen)	Coastal Bend Sector (Victoria)
Main Phone #	(512) 454-7561	(915) 680-6500	(432) 729-4506	(830) 778-7837	(956) 764-3181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



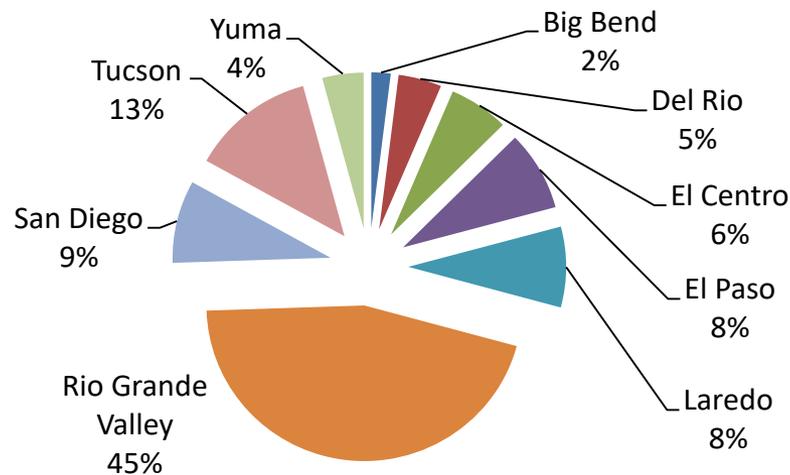
Seizures – CYTD 2018	El Paso	Marfa	Del Rio	Laredo	RGV	Coastal Bend	TOTAL
Marijuana (lbs)	39,465	25,245	2,494	75,165	172,895	298	315,562
Cocaine (lbs)	774	59	198	3,186	2,919	130	7,266
Methamphetamine (lbs)	1,152	75	997	3,954	2,771	40	8,988
Heroin (lbs)	184	26	8	308	256	< 1	781



Texas Border Sector Apprehensions FY 2017 (OCT-SEP)



Southwest Border Sector Apprehensions FY 2017 (OCT-SEP)



For more information, visit the USBP website at: <https://www.cbp.gov>

Illegal Aliens (IAs)	El Paso	Marfa	Del Rio	Laredo	RGV	Coastal Bend	TOTAL
CYTD 2018	25,980	6,217	12,632	26,381	126,558	0	197,768

Other Than Mexicans (OTMs)	El Paso	Marfa	Del Rio	Laredo	RGV	Coastal Bend	TOTAL
CYTD 2018	18,683	3,216	6,924	8,659	102,105	0	139,587

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

Brooks County

USBP Falfurrias Checkpoint

Human smugglers and IAs can circumvent inland US Border Patrol checkpoints by walking through ranches and farms, but the attempt is dangerous.

From 2009 to the present, human remains have been found in Brooks County 627 times.

MARFA SECTOR

On 06 SEP, USBP Agents seized 256.49 lbs of marijuana and apprehended six subjects on a ranch north of Candelaria. The marijuana was found in five large burlap backpacks. The subjects and marijuana were referred to Alpine DEA.

On 07 SEP, USBP Agents conducted a vehicle stop on two vehicles on US-67 when both vehicles failed to yield. USBP Agents discontinued the pursuit in Brewster Co. The pursuit then continued into Pecos Co and Pecos Co SO Deputies responded. One of the fleeing vehicles was spiked, and the female driver was arrested. The second vehicle continued northbound on SH-18. A Ward Co SO Deputy located the second vehicle, and Monahans PD Officers assisted in the attempt to divert the vehicle. The suspect vehicle then veered into oncoming traffic. Monahans PD Officers fired on and struck the suspect vehicle. The vehicle was driven through a fence, and the two occupants bailed out and fled, but were arrested. The suspects, who had been struck by gunfire, were treated by medical personnel.

MARFA SECTOR



On 11 SEP, USBP Agents seized 264.12 lbs of marijuana and apprehended six IAs on a ranch northeast of Candelaria. The marijuana was found in six large backpacks. One of the subjects was identified as a Norteños gang member. The subjects and marijuana were referred to Alpine DEA.

On 16 SEP, USBP Agents seized a total of 281.53 lbs marijuana from six burlap bundles that were found abandoned on a ranch southeast of Candelaria. The marijuana was referred to Alpine DEA.

On 24 SEP, Brewster Co SO Deputies and USBP Agents responded to a report of a subject stealing a neighboring ranch owner's vehicle. The subject was detained and identified as an IA.

On 26 SEP, Brewster Co SO Deputies detained an IA at a cattle company near Alpine. The subject was referred to Alpine USBP.

DEL RIO SECTOR

On 01 SEP, USBP Agents apprehended three IAs in the brush near Spofford. One of the IAs had a backpack of hunting gear that appeared to have come from a local ranch.

The subjects were processed, and the gear was referred to Kinney Co SO.

On 02 SEP, Weslaco USBP Agents seized 216.93 lbs of marijuana. The Agents encountered five subjects who attempted to evade them in a cane field. The Agents apprehended the subjects and discovered the marijuana, along with two additional subjects who had still been hiding. DEA assumed custody of the narcotics and the seven subjects.



In two separate incidents in SEP, USBP Agents apprehended a total of six IAs at an orchard in Eagle Pass. One of the subjects was identified as a registered sex offender.

On 10 SEP, a USBP Agent observed a maroon 2015 Ford F-250 pickup, and a record checks revealed that the vehicle was stolen. The Agent conducted a traffic stop, but the vehicle failed to yield and was driven through a fence line. When the vehicle stopped, several subjects bailed out. The Agents, along with a Dimmit Co SO Deputy, apprehended nine IAs from the vehicle. One of the IAs was identified as a guide and was arrested for human smuggling. The pickup was stolen from Austin. The IAs were processed.

DEL RIO SECTOR

On 04 SEP, a Dimmit Co SO Deputy was dispatched to a ranch west of Catarina regarding an IA who was having difficulty breathing. The IA was transported to a hospital, and was processed.

In two incidents on 02 SEP and 03 SEP, Kinney Co SO Deputies detained a total of eight subjects on a ranch near Brackettville and referred them to USBP Agents.

In one of the incidents, an IA with a broken leg was taken to a hospital.

On 06 SEP, a USBP Agent apprehended nine IAs who were hiding in the brush on a ranch near FM 2688, west of Catarina. One of the IAs was identified as an MS-13 gang member. The gang member was arrested for re-entry after deportation, and all nine IAs were processed.



DEL RIO SECTOR

On 18 SEP, a USBP Agent conducted an inspection on a green 2000 Toyota 4Runner on RR 334, east of Brackettville, when the vehicle failed to yield. A Uvalde Co SO Deputy initiated a pursuit of the vehicle on SH-55, west of Uvalde. The vehicle was driven through a fence, and the driver and a passenger bailed out. Two additional passengers remained in the vehicle. The Agent and the Deputy apprehended three IAs and the driver. The driver was arrested for human smuggling, the IAs were processed, and the vehicle was impounded.



Rear seat pushed up for space to hide IAs.

On 17 SEP, a Dimmit Co SO Deputy observed a maroon 2007 Ford F-150 pickup on US-83 in Catarina. When the vehicle turned onto FM 133, the Deputy conducted a traffic stop. The vehicle failed to yield, and a pursuit ensued. After approximately 14 miles, the vehicle was driven onto a ranch. All of the occupants bailed out and absconded. The vehicle, which was reported stolen from San Antonio, was impounded.

DEL RIO SECTOR

On 11 SEP, a USBP Agent conducted an inspection on a white 2005 GMC Sierra pickup on FM 2522, south of Asherton, when the vehicle failed to yield. The vehicle was driven through a fence onto a ranch near FM 190, south of Brundage, and the occupants bailed out and absconded. A Dimmit Co SO Deputy determined that the vehicle was reported stolen from Live Oak. The Deputy impounded the vehicle.

On 06 SEP, a Maverick Co SO Deputy was dispatched to a residence in Eagle Pass regarding a stolen 2012 Caterpillar CE backhoe. The backhoe, which was reported stolen from San Antonio, was located in the backyard. The owner of the residence claimed that he had purchased the backhoe on Craigslist. The backhoe was released to the original owner.

On 18 SEP, a Zavala Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a black 2009 Chevrolet Silverado pickup on FM 1025 in Batesville, when a pursuit ensued. The driver crashed the vehicle through a fence line, and all of the occupants bailed out. USBP Agents assisted and apprehended seven IAs. The vehicle was reported stolen from Irving, and the license plates were reported stolen from San Antonio. The vehicle was impounded, and the IAs were processed.



DEL RIO SECTOR

On 25 SEP, a Dimmit Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a gold 2004 Chevrolet Silverado pickup, when a pursuit ensued. The pickup was driven through a ranch fence. CBP OAM located the pickup and directed the Deputy and USBP Agents to the area. Three IAs from the pickup were detained by USBP Agents. The vehicle, which was reported stolen from Austin, was impounded.

On 23 SEP, a USBP Agent was dispatched to CR 201 in Uvalde, regarding an area rancher who had seen two suspicious subjects walking nearby. The Agent detained two IAs who were walking on railroad tracks near FM 2369. One of the IAs was identified as a sex offender. The sex offender was arrested for Reentry After Deportation, and both IAs were processed.

On 22 SEP, a Maverick Co SO Deputy was dispatched to a ranch regarding several trespassers. The Deputy located the group and requested assistance from USBP. The Agents identified the group as five IAs and took custody of them.

LAREDO SECTOR

On 04 SEP, Webb Co SO Deputies conducted a traffic stop on a black 2002 Chevrolet Tahoe on US-59 in Laredo, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven onto a ranch, and several subjects bailed out and absconded. Two Deputies assisting in the area encountered a subject who came out of a nearby creek and entered a white Honda CR-Z. The Deputies stopped the vehicle, and the driver admitted that he had been the driver of the Tahoe. He stated that he was being paid \$500 USD to smuggle IAs into Laredo. The subject, who was identified as an IA, was arrested for human smuggling, evading arrest, and reckless driving.

On 10 SEP, a TPWD Game Warden observed a subject walking along a ranch fence line in Asherton. A USBP Agent identified the subject as an IA and took custody of the subject.

LAREDO SECTOR

On 15 SEP, Freer USBP Agents recovered a stolen white 2012 Ford F-150 pickup on a ranch adjacent to FM 2359 near Freer. The vehicle was subsequently referred to Duval Co SO. Seven IAs were apprehended after being found hiding near the vehicle.

On 17 SEP, Cotulla USBP Agents assisted Dimmit Co SO Deputies in recovering a stolen maroon 2007 Ford F-150 pickup that had been driven through a ranch near Cotulla. The vehicle, which was found abandoned, was referred to Dimmit Co SO.

On 28 SEP, Webb Co SO Deputies conducted a traffic stop on a Chevrolet Suburban on US-59 near in Laredo, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven off the roadway and through a fence. Several subjects bailed out. The Deputy detained six IAs, who were referred to USBP.

RIO GRANDE VALLEY

On 05 SEP, Brooks Co SO Deputies responded to a call regarding human remains that had been found on a ranch near Falfurrias. The Deputy made contact with USBP Agents and was taken to the scene. Identification documents were found on the body. The Webb Co Medical Examiner assumed custody of the body.

In multiple incidents, groups of IAs were detained on a farm property in southwestern Hidalgo County by Hidalgo County SO Deputies and referred to USBP:

15 SEP – 15 IAs

25 SEP – 39 IAs

26 SEP – 97 IAs

27 SEP – 18 IAs

On 21 SEP, a Brooks Co SO Deputy responded to a ranch in central Brooks Co regarding human remains. The Deputies, assisted by USBP Agents, found identification for the body. The Webb Co Medical Examiner assumed custody of the remains.

RIO GRANDE VALLEY



DPS AVN assisted with a pursuit and bailout in Mission. The Aircrew located three suspects hiding in a field and guided Mission PD Officers to them. The three suspects were apprehended.

On 20 SEP, a Brooks Co SO Deputy responded to a call on a ranch in eastern Brooks Co regarding the found remains of a human body. Deputies, assisted by USBP Agents, found identification of the remains in the jeans worn by the deceased. The Webb Co. Medical Examiner assumed custody of the remains.

RIO GRANDE VALLEY

On 25 SEP, DPS AVN assisted THP Troopers with a pursuit and a bailout on US-83. The Aircrew arrived on scene and relieved a CBP OAM helicopter that was needing to refuel. The Aircrew searched the area where four suspects had fled from the scene. All four suspects were apprehended without incident. The Aircrew continued patrolling when an SUV was located in the middle of an orchard. The vehicle was burned beyond identification and had several bullet holes. The SUV was elevated on cinder blocks, and had the letters CDG spray painted on the driver side door. The vehicle was identified as stolen from McAllen.



COASTAL BEND SECTOR

On 21 SEP, THP Troopers responded to an abandoned silver 2011 Dodge Ram 2500 pickup that had been found on a ranch in Live Oak Co. The vehicle, which was reported stolen from Polk Co, was transported to a towing-service impound lot.

On 21 SEP, Aransas Co SO Deputies responded to an abandoned green 1998 Jeep Wrangler on private property near Rockport. The Jeep, which was identified as stolen from Sulphur, LA, had been part of a homicide investigation. The vehicle was recovered, and no arrests were made.



Total Pursuits and Bailouts (CY2014 - Present)*

Event	El Paso	Marfa	Del Rio	Laredo	Rio Grande Valley	Coastal Bend	TOTAL
Pursuits	3	97	680	424	1,738	618	3,560
Bailouts	5	108	869	754	1,599	597	3,932

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





OPERATION DRAWBRIDGE

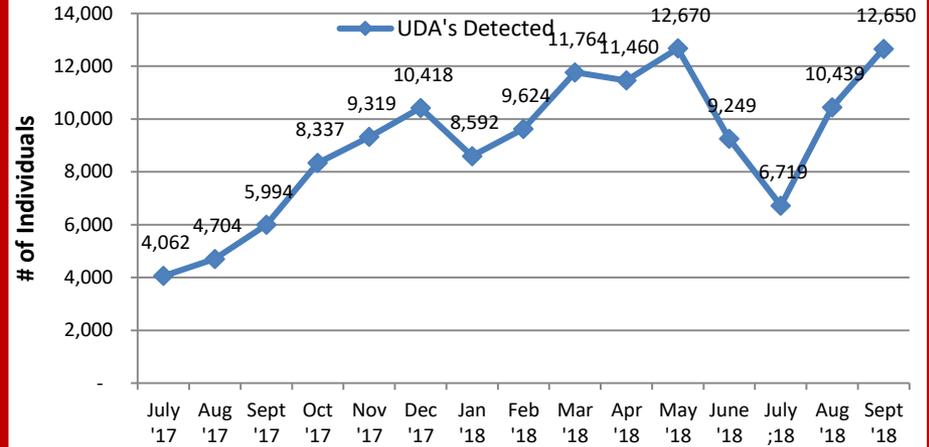
Statistical Summary – SEP 2018



Drawbridge Initiated Marijuana Seizures



Drawbridge Stats



Operation Drawbridge Totals: JAN 2012 – SEP 2018

Detections	441,345
Marijuana Seized	483,851 lbs (>241 tons)
Cocaine Seized	422 lbs
Methamphetamine Seized	30 lbs
Heroin Seized	2 lbs
Firearms Seized	35

Operation Drawbridge Totals: CYTD 2018

Detections	93,436
Narcotics Seized	54,814 lbs (>27 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