

Border Operations Sector Assessment

South Texas
Ranch Edition

**September
2019**

**REPORTING PERIOD:
01-30 SEP 2019**



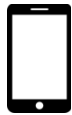
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY BORDER SECURITY OPERATIONS CENTER



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.



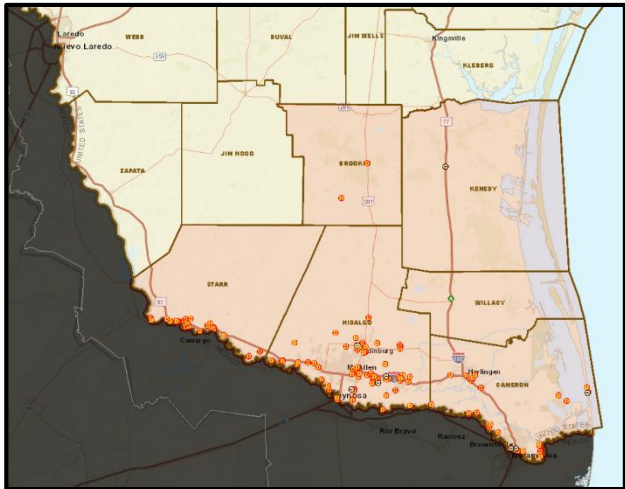
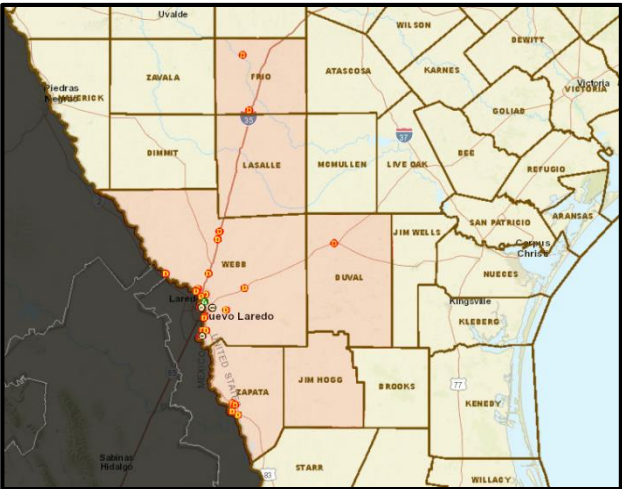
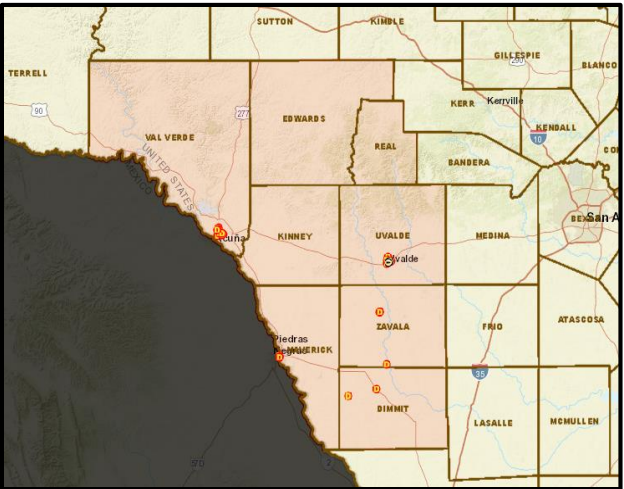
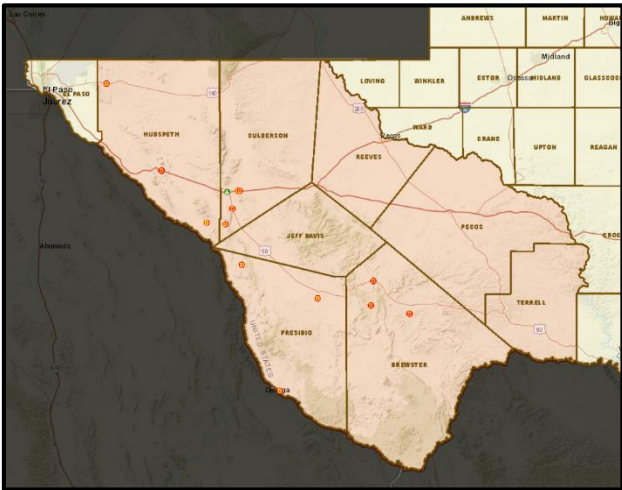
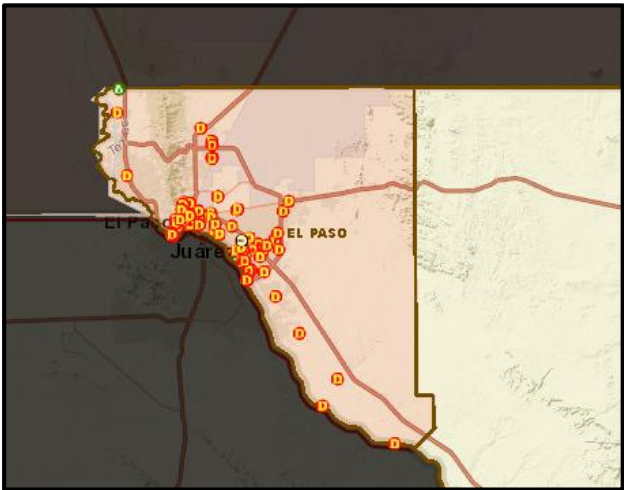
OPERATION BORDER STAR

| 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

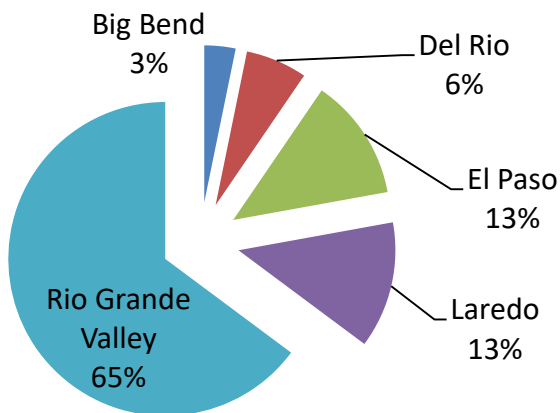


| Seizures – CYTD 2019 | El Paso | Big Bend | Del Rio | Laredo | RGV | Coastal Bend | TOTAL |
|-----------------------|---------|----------|---------|--------|---------|--------------|---------|
| Marijuana (lbs) | 42,765 | 20,752 | 3,967 | 99,345 | 112,240 | 1,214 | 280,283 |
| Cocaine (lbs) | 782 | 61 | 214 | 1,304 | 3,811 | 317 | 6,488 |
| Methamphetamine (lbs) | 2,088 | 207 | 858 | 6,684 | 8,364 | 118 | 18,319 |
| Heroin (lbs) | 249 | 5 | 73 | 356 | 360 | < 1 | 1,042 |

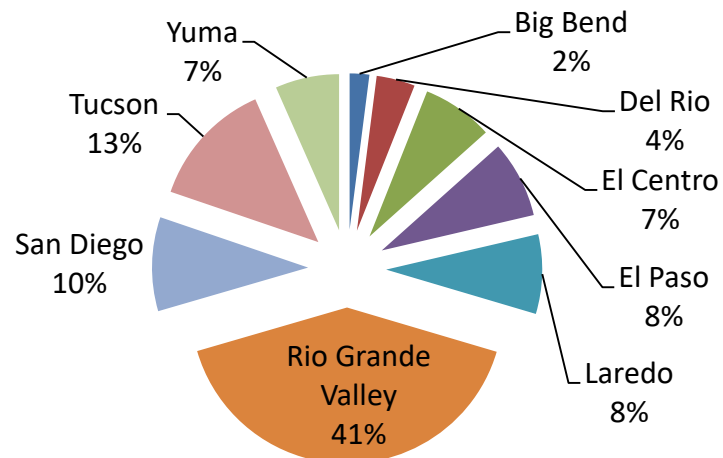




**Texas Border Sector Apprehensions
FY2018 (OCT-SEP)**



**Southwest Border Sector Apprehensions
FY2018 (OCT-SEP)**

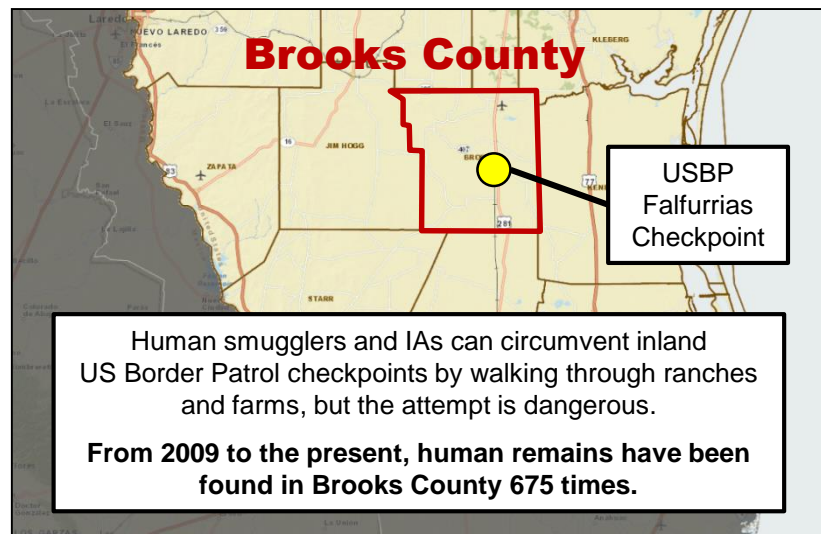


For more information, visit the USBP website at: <https://www.cbp.gov>

| Illegal Aliens (IAs) | El Paso | Big Bend | Del Rio | Laredo | RGV | Coastal Bend | TOTAL |
|----------------------|---------|----------|---------|--------|---------|--------------|---------|
| CYTD 2019 | 115,537 | 7,346 | 45,721 | 30,470 | 266,723 | 0 | 465,797 |

| Other Than Mexicans (OTMs) | El Paso | Big Bend | Del Rio | Laredo | RGV | Coastal Bend | TOTAL |
|----------------------------|---------|----------|---------|--------|---------|--------------|---------|
| CYTD 2019 | 102,699 | 4,927 | 38,931 | 9,598 | 243,925 | 0 | 400,080 |

| Unaccompanied Alien Children (UACs) | FY 2018 | FY 2017 | FY 2016 | FY 2015 | FY 2014 |
|-------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Texas Border | 34,383 | 31,827 | 47,192 | 31,109 | 58,312 |



EL PASO SECTOR

On 15 SEP, a USBP Agent was flagged down by a farm irrigator west of the Tornillo POE and advised of possible abandoned narcotics. The Agent responded to the area and located a torn, abandoned duffel bag with 22 individually-wrapped packages containing a total of 31.30 lbs of marijuana. The bricks were deteriorated, apparently from being out in the field for at least several days. The marijuana was referred to DEA.

On 19 SEP, DPS AVN conducted a border interdiction patrol flight. The Aircrew made contact with communications and were advised of four subjects near the Ysleta POE. The Aircrew observed three subjects hiding in a pecan orchard. USBP Agents responded to the area. A USBP Agent found the other subject hiding in the brush. USBP took custody of the four IAs.



BIG BEND SECTOR

On 04 SEP, USBP Agents seized 175.27 lbs of marijuana and apprehended two IAs on a ranch south of Van Horn. A third subject absconded. The marijuana was found in three burlap backpacks. The case was referred to Alpine DEA.



On 12 SEP, a Brewster Co SO Deputy detained four IAs on a ranch south of Marathon. The subjects were referred to USBP.

BIG BEND SECTOR

On 13 SEP, USBP Agents seized 229.70 lbs of marijuana and apprehended two IAs on a ranch north of Candelaria. The marijuana was found in four burlap backpacks. The case was referred to Alpine DEA.



On 14 SEP, USBP Agents, assisted by Brewster Co SO Deputies, seized a blue 2006 Ford Expedition and 1,128 lbs of marijuana that had been found abandoned on a ranch northeast of Alpine. The vehicle was found with its headlights on and the engine still running. The marijuana was found in 47 large bundles. A wallet with an ID card was found in the vehicle. A search of the area yielded negative results. The vehicle and marijuana were referred to Brewster Co SO.



BIG BEND SECTOR

On 19 SEP, a Brewster Co SO Deputy was dispatched to a ranch in Terlingua regarding a vehicle theft. The victim stated that an unknown subject had stolen his green 2004 Polaris Sportsman ATV. Later that day, the Deputy was dispatched to FM 170, west of Lajitas, regarding an abandoned vehicle. The Deputy confirmed that it was the stolen vehicle, and returned it to the owner.



On 26 SEP, USBP Agents seized 367.33 lbs of marijuana and apprehended six IAs on a ranch south of Van Horn. The marijuana was found in six burlap backpacks. The case was referred to Alpine DEA.

DEL RIO SECTOR



On 07 SEP, a Dimmit Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a 2016 Chevrolet Silverado pickup that was traveling in tandem with a gray 2015 Ford pickup on US-83 near Catarina, when a pursuit ensued. The Chevrolet pickup was driven through a ranch fence, and the occupants bailed out and absconded. The vehicle had multiple indicators of having been used for human smuggling: a broken steering column, missing rear seats, and fictitious LPs. The vehicle was reported stolen from Houston.

On 11 SEP, USBP Agents encountered a group of subjects traveling on foot on a ranch west of Comstock. The Agents apprehended the group and identified them as 11 IAs. One subject was identified as the guide/human smuggler and was arrested. The other ten IAs were processed.

DEL RIO SECTOR

On 10 SEP, a Zavala Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a 2001 Chevrolet Silverado C2500 pickup near Batesville, when a pursuit ensued.

The vehicle stopped on a ranch road, and two subjects bailed out. The vehicle had a damaged ignition and the back seat had been removed, but the vehicle was not reported stolen at the time of the incident. The vehicle was impounded.



On 21 SEP, a USBP Agent conducted an inspection on a black 2019 Ford F-350 pickup with no license plates on a ranch road south of Catarina. When the vehicle stopped, seven subjects bailed out. The Agent apprehended six IAs, but the driver absconded. The door lock had been tampered with, the rear seat had been removed, and the license plates were in the center console. The vehicle was reported stolen from San Antonio. The IAs were processed, and a Dimmit Co SO Deputy impounded the vehicle.

DEL RIO SECTOR

On 21 SEP, a USBP Agent apprehended four IAs who were walking on a ranch near US-277, north of Del Rio. One of the IAs was identified as the guide/human smuggler. The guide was arrested for Alien Smuggling, and the remaining IAs were processed.

On 22 SEP, a Dimmit Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a silver 2017 Ford F-250 pickup on FM 186, west of Asherton. The vehicle was driven through a ranch fence, and the driver bailed out and absconded. The back seat of the vehicle had been removed. The vehicle was reported stolen from San Antonio. The vehicle was impounded.

On 25 SEP, a USBP Agent found an abandoned 2017 Ford F-250 pickup on a ranch south of Catarina. The vehicle was reported stolen from San Antonio. A Dimmit Co SO Deputy impounded the vehicle.

LAREDO SECTOR

On 02 SEP, Hebbronville USBP Agents encountered a silver 2012 Ford F-250 pickup on a ranch in Randado. The vehicle, which was stolen from Hardin Co, was seized and referred to THP.

On 17 SEP, Webb Co SO Deputies assisted USBP Agents with a deceased person on a ranch east of Laredo. The Webb Co Medical Examiner took the body for further identification.

On 18 SEP, Cotulla USBP Agents encountered a stolen white 2018 Ford F-150 pickup on a ranch near Dilley. The vehicle, which was reported stolen from Austin, was referred to Frio Co SO.

On 18 SEP, Jim Hogg Co SO Deputies conducted a traffic stop on a white 2017 Ford F-250 pickup on SH-16 near Hebbronville. The Deputies identified the rear passenger as an IA ranch worker. As USBP Agents arrived, the subject absconded from the vehicle and into the brush. The vehicle was seized, and the driver and front passenger were cited and released.

LAREDO SECTOR

On 23 SEP, Laredo North USBP Agents encountered a stolen red 2012 Ford F-350 pickup on a ranch in Laredo. The vehicle was stolen from Mont Belvieu. The vehicle was referred to the Webb Co SO, but no arrests were reported.

On 24 SEP, THP Troopers conducted a traffic stop on a white 2015 Chevrolet Silverado K1500 pickup on SH-44 near Laredo, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven through a ranch gate, and the subjects bailed out and absconded. USBP Agents and CBP OAM assisted and located the vehicle. The vehicle, which was stolen from San Antonio, was impounded.

On 24 SEP, Webb Co Constable Pct. 3 Deputies conducted a traffic stop on a green 1994 Ford Econoline van near Mirando City when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven through a ranch fence, and the occupants bailed out. The Deputies detained three IAs, one of whom was identified as a Paisas gang member. The subjects were referred to USBP.

On 27 SEP, a Webb Co SO Deputy observed four male subjects and a female subject walking by a ranch near Laredo. The Deputy detained two of the male subjects and the female subject. The other two subjects absconded through the ranch. The three IAs were referred to USBP.

LAREDO SECTOR

On 28 SEP, a Webb Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a 2014 Chrysler 200 in Laredo when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle came to a stop at a ranch near Laredo. The Deputy arrested four subjects.



On 29 SEP, Laredo North USBP Agents encountered a 2006 GMC Sierra K2500 pickup near a ranch after a Drawbridge activation. Seven subjects were in the vehicle. One of the subjects was carrying bolt cutters. The Agents located the vehicle near Laredo, after the subjects had bailed out and absconded. The vehicle was found to be stolen from San Antonio.

On 29 SEP, Freer USBP Agents, assisted by THP Troopers, encountered a stolen blue 2016 Ford F-150 pickup near Laredo. The vehicle turned off the road and was driven into the brush on a ranch near Encinal. The vehicle was stolen from San Antonio.

RIO GRANDE VALLEY

On 02 SEP, McAllen USBP Agents seized 140.96 lbs of marijuana and arrested a subject after responding to a ranch near Peñitas. The Agents observed a black vehicle exit the ranch, conducted a vehicle stop, and discovered four bundles in the vehicle. The driver was arrested, and the vehicle and bundles were seized.

HIDTA Task Force assumed custody of the driver, vehicle, and narcotics.



RIO GRANDE VALLEY

From 09-14 SEP, Brooks Co SO Deputies responded three times to a ranch in Encino regarding deceased persons found on the property. Two of the three bodies were found with identification and personal items, but the third was only skeletal remains. All three sets of remains were referred for medical examination.



On 22 SEP, Fort Brown USBP Agents seized 23.20 lbs of marijuana. After observing two subjects traveling from the riverbank and through an open field, the Agents found a subject hiding in a cotton field. A search revealed a bundle of marijuana about 25 yards away. DEA assumed custody of the subject and narcotics.

RIO GRANDE VALLEY

On 25 SEP, a Brooks Co SO Deputy responded to a ranch in northeast Brooks Co regarding skeletal remains. An inventory was taken of the personal items, and the Webb Co Medical Examiner's Office assumed custody of the remains.



On 27 SEP, a Brooks Co SO Deputy responded to a ranch in Encino regarding skeletal remains. USBP Agents escorted the Deputy to the remains, and an inventory was taken of the personal items. The Webb Co Medical Examiner's Office assumed custody of the remains.

COASTAL BEND SECTOR

On 20 SEP, Gonzales Co SO Deputies conducted a traffic stop on a gray 2017 Dodge Ram 1500 pickup near Harwood, when a pursuit ensued. The driver disregarded a stop sign and began traveling against traffic on US-90. The vehicle was then driven into a field, where the Deputies lost sight of the vehicle. Later, the vehicle was found after an apparent crash. The Deputies heard multiple shots fired from the vehicle and observed muzzle flashes from within. The Deputies returned fire, took cover, and called for backup. Before other Deputies arrived, the pickup was driven away from the scene. The vehicle was located near Waelder, where it came to a stop at a residence. The driver exited the vehicle with a handgun pointed at his head and entered the residence. Over the period of several hours, the driver threw objects out of a window of the residence, and fired multiple gunshots. DPS SWAT arrested the subject.



Total Pursuits and Bailouts (CY2014 - Present)*

| Event | El Paso | Big Bend | Del Rio | Laredo | Rio Grande Valley | Coastal Bend | TOTAL |
|----------|---------|----------|---------|--------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Pursuits | 5 | 123 | 904 | 545 | 1,969 | 710 | 4,256 |
| Bailouts | 5 | 128 | 1,118 | 1,053 | 1,765 | 693 | 4,762 |

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





Drawbridge Initiated Marijuana Seizures



Operation Drawbridge Totals:
CYTD 2019

| Note: Figures are based on initial reporting and are subject to change | | Datetime |
|--|--|-------------|
| | | Grand Total |
| IAAs Detected | | 131,239 |
| Marijuana Seized (lbs.) | | 29,350 |
| Cocaine Seized (lbs.) | | 40 |
| Heroin Seized (lbs.) | | 2 |
| Meth Seized (lbs.) | | 0 |
| Firearms Detected | | 9 |

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

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
BORDER SECURITY OPERATIONS CENTER



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