

# **Border Operations Sector Assessment**

South Texas  
Ranch Edition

**January  
2021**

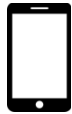
**REPORTING PERIOD:  
01-31 JAN 2021**



# 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.



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)<br>454-7561  | (915)<br>680-6500  | (432)<br>729-4506  | (830)<br>778-7837  | (956)<br>764-3181  | (956)<br>289-5727  | (361)<br>485-8500  |
| Main E-mail              | <a href="mailto:TBSOC@dps.texas.gov">TBSOC@dps.texas.gov</a> | <a href="mailto:joic.elpaso@dps.texas.gov">joic.elpaso@dps.texas.gov</a> | <a href="mailto:joic.marfa@dps.texas.gov">joic.marfa@dps.texas.gov</a> | <a href="mailto:joic.delrio@dps.texas.gov">joic.delrio@dps.texas.gov</a> | <a href="mailto:joic.laredo@dps.texas.gov">joic.laredo@dps.texas.gov</a> | <a href="mailto:joic.mcallen@dps.texas.gov">joic.mcallen@dps.texas.gov</a> | <a href="mailto:joic.victoria@dps.texas.gov">joic.victoria@dps.texas.gov</a> |

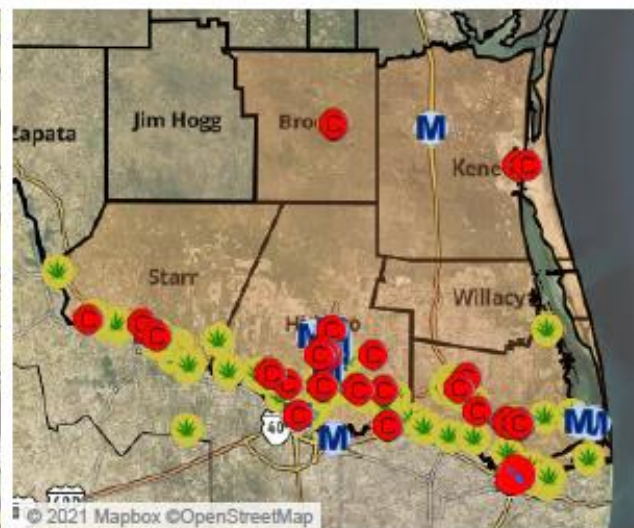
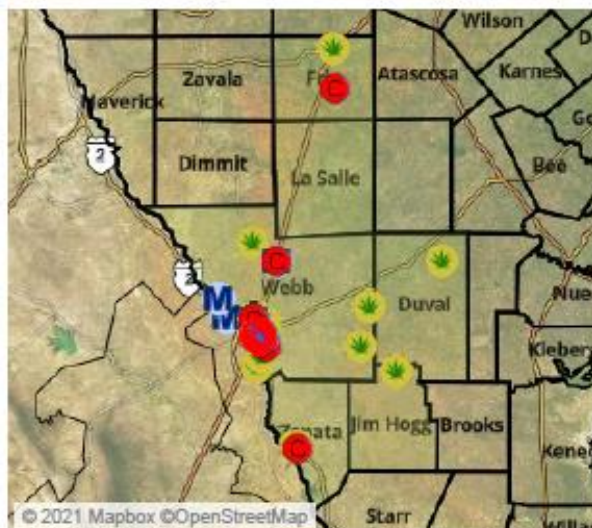
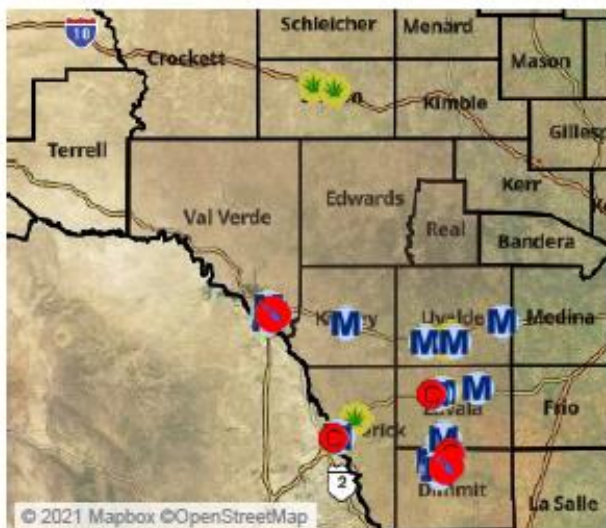
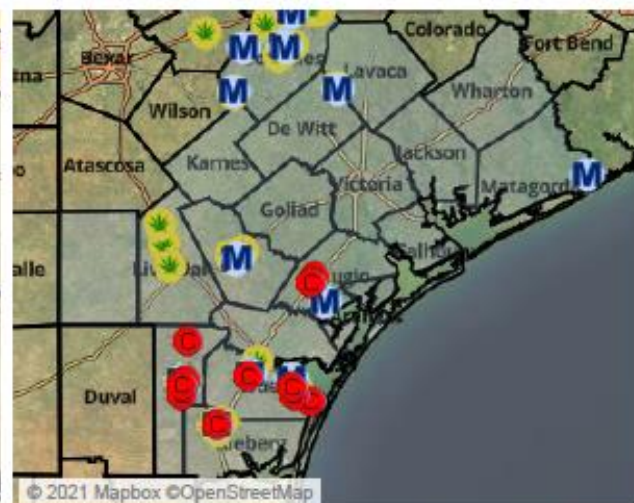
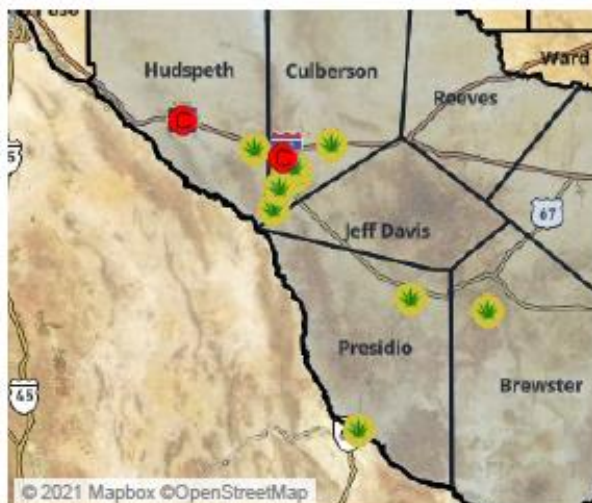
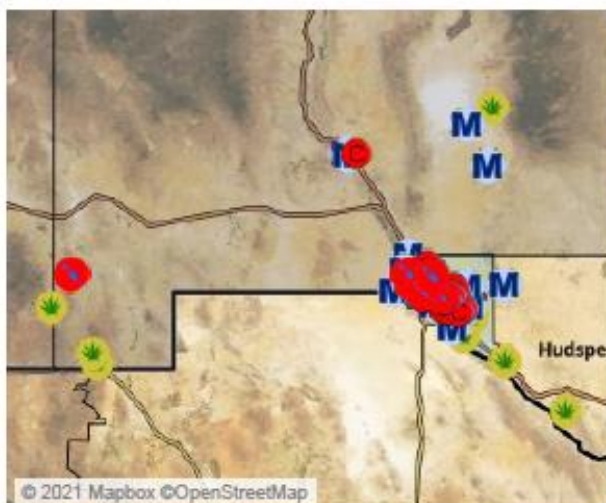




# Ranch Border Operations Sector Assessment



| CYTD 2021             | El Paso | Big Bend | Del Rio | Laredo | Rio Grande Va.. | Coastal Bend | Total  |
|-----------------------|---------|----------|---------|--------|-----------------|--------------|--------|
| Marijuana (lbs)       | 1,571   | 3,271    | 2       | 9,159  | 13,633          | 3            | 27,640 |
| Cocaine (lbs)         | 347     | 25       | 32      | 767    | 1,150           | 33           | 2,356  |
| Methamphetamine (lbs) | 616     | 22       | 26      | 797    | 819             | 2            | 2,283  |
| Heroin (lbs)          | 44      | 0        | 0       | 68     | 15              | 0            | 128    |



Maps depict narcotics seizures during the respective reporting month

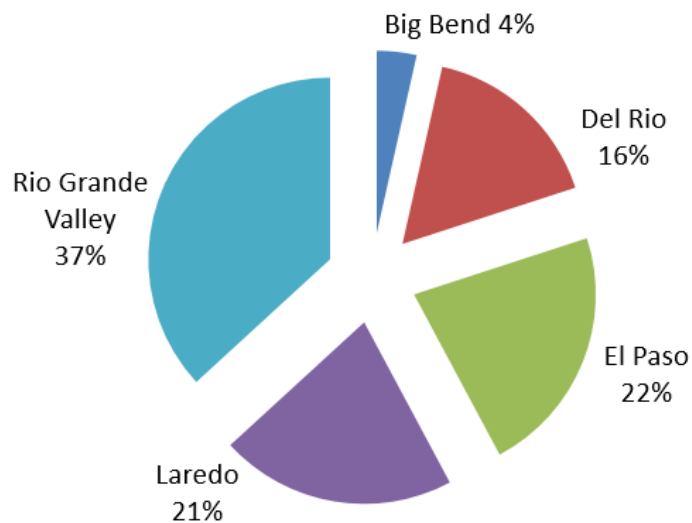


# Sector Apprehension Comparisons



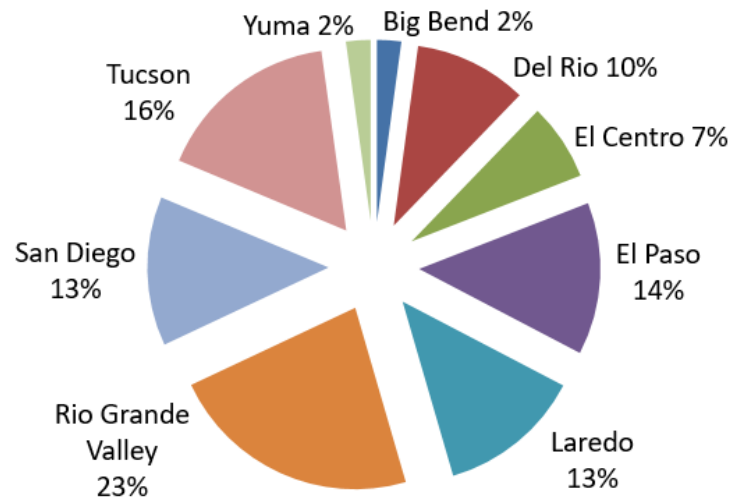
## Texas Border Sector Apprehensions

FY2020 (OCT-SEP)



## Southwest Border Sector Apprehensions

FY2020 (OCT-SEP)

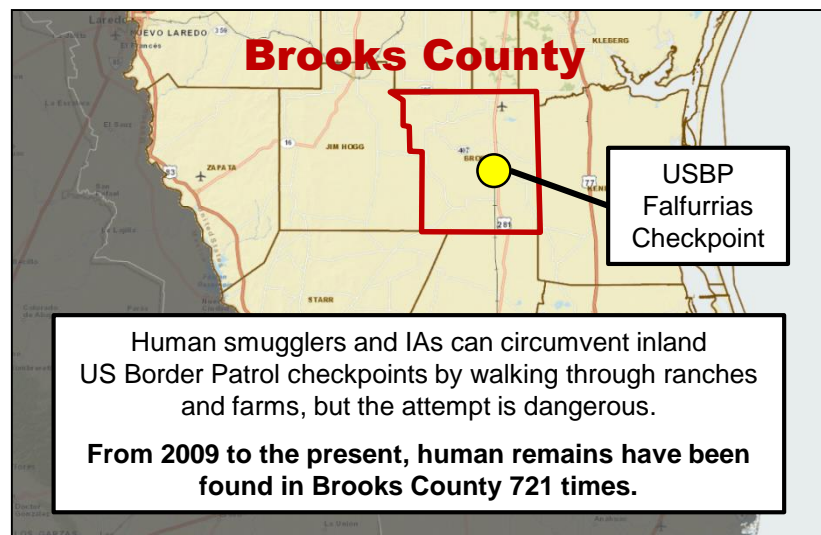


For more information, visit the USBP website at: <https://www.cbp.gov>

| Total UA wT42 | El Paso | Big Bend | Del Rio | Laredo | RGV    | Coastal Bend | TOTAL         |
|---------------|---------|----------|---------|--------|--------|--------------|---------------|
| CYTD 2021     | 1,814   | 2,018    | 8,893   | 8,497  | 17,093 | --           | <b>38,315</b> |

| Other Than Mexicans (OTMs) | El Paso | Big Bend | Del Rio | Laredo | RGV    | Coastal Bend | TOTAL         |
|----------------------------|---------|----------|---------|--------|--------|--------------|---------------|
| CYTD 2021                  | 1,535   | 894      | 5,143   | 2,472  | 11,829 | --           | <b>21,873</b> |

| Unaccompanied Alien Children (UACs) | FY 2019 | FY 2018 | FY 2017 | FY 2016 | FY 2015 |
|-------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Texas Border                        | 57,603  | 34,383  | 31,827  | 47,192  | 31,109  |





On 06 JAN, USBP Agents assisted by DPS AVN apprehended six IAs near a ranch southeast of Valentine. A Paisas gang member was the guide.



On 08 JAN, USBP Agents apprehended 28 IAs near a ranch south of Van Horn.

# BIG BEND SECTOR

On 12 JAN, DPS AVN assisted USBP Agents in apprehending a group of 13 IAs on a ranch east of Ruidosa.

On 12 JAN, USBP Agents apprehended a group of 15 IAs on a ranch southwest of Fort Davis.

On 14 JAN, USBP Agents seized 283.65 lbs of marijuana that they found abandoned on a ranch southeast of Allamore while tracking foot sign of five suspected IAs. The marijuana was in five large sugar-sack bundles. The five subjects absconded.

The marijuana was referred to Alpine DEA.



On 14 JAN, USBP Agents apprehended a group of 16 IAs on a ranch west of Valentine.

On 14 JAN, DPS AVN assisted USBP Agents in apprehending a group of 14 IAs in a canyon on a ranch north of Candelaria.

# BIG BEND SECTOR

On 16 JAN, USBP Agents apprehended a group of 18 IAs on a ranch southwest of Dryden.

On 19 JAN, USBP Agents apprehended 15 IAs on a ranch south of Valentine.

On 19 JAN, USBP Agents, assisted by DPS AVN, apprehended 15 IAs on a ranch east of Candelaria. The guide of the group was identified.

On 20 JAN, DPS AVN assisted USBP Agents with locating a missing subject in distress on a ranch north of Candelaria. The subject had been part of a group of 28 IAs, but had been left behind after becoming sick. The subject was found lying on his back in a canyon. The Aircrew transported a USBP Agent to the canyon and deployed him to check the subject's status. It was determined that the subject was deceased. Presidio Co SO Deputies and DPS Texas Rangers were notified.

# BIG BEND SECTOR

On 21 JAN, USBP Agents seized 298.42 lbs of marijuana that was found abandoned on a ranch southeast of Van Horn. The Agents had observed five subjects with large bundles. When approached, the subjects dropped the bundles and absconded. The marijuana was referred to Alpine DEA.



On 22 JAN, Brewster Co SO Deputies seized a 2001 Chevrolet C1500 pickup and detained 13 IAs during a vehicle stop on a ranch northwest of Marathon. The driver and a passenger absconded. The subjects were referred to USBP and processed.

On 24 JAN, USBP Agents apprehended a group of 22 IAs on a ranch north of Candelaria.

On 25 JAN, USBP Agents apprehended a group of 21 IAs on a ranch northeast of Marathon.



# BIG BEND SECTOR

On 25 JAN, USBP Agents responded to a call from a concerned citizen regarding suspected IAs in his backyard shed on a ranch northeast of Dryden. The Agents apprehended six IAs. One of the subjects was identified as an alien smuggling organization guide.

On 26 JAN, USBP Agents apprehended 19 IAs on a ranch southwest of Fort Davis.

On 29 JAN, DPS AVN assisted USBP Agents with the apprehension of 38 IAs on a ranch north of Alpine.

On 30 JAN, Jeff Davis Co SO Deputies responded to a report from a concerned citizen regarding a suspected IA on a ranch east of Valentine. An IA was detained and referred to USBP.

# DEL RIO SECTOR

On 02 JAN, Kinney Co SO Deputies responded to a ranch on FM 2523, north of Brackettville, regarding a report of a deceased subject. The subject is believed to have been an IA. The subject's belongings were referred to USBP for identification.

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On 18 JAN, a USBP Agent observed a group of subjects enter a white 2016 Dodge Ram 3500 pickup on a ranch road south of Catarina. The Agent conducted an inspection on the vehicle, when it failed to yield. The vehicle was driven through a ranch fence, and the occupants bailed out and fled. Additional Agents apprehended five IAs hiding in the nearby brush, but the driver absconded. The vehicle's door lock and ignition showed signs of tampering, and the rear seats and center console had been removed. The vehicle was displaying license plates and registration from another vehicle, and was reported stolen from Lewisville. The IAs were processed, and a Dimmit Co SO Deputy impounded the vehicle.

# DEL RIO SECTOR



On 19 JAN, a Dimmit Co SO Deputy observed a 2020 Ford F-250 pickup and a 2015 Chevrolet Silverado pickup traveling in tandem on SH-85 in Brundage.

The Deputy conducted a traffic stop on the Ford, which the driver of the Chevrolet attempted to prevent. A pursuit ensued with the Ford, which was driven through a ranch fence near SH-85, east of Big Wells. The occupants bailed out and absconded. The Deputy observed that the Ford had been re-painted, was displaying license plates from another vehicle, and was reported stolen from San Antonio. The Ford was impounded. The Deputy suspected that the Chevrolet was a scout for the Ford.



# DEL RIO SECTOR

On 19 JAN, a USBP Agent conducted an inspection on a 2011 Dodge Ram pickup on FM 2688, west of Catarina. The vehicle failed to yield, and was driven through a ranch fence near FM 133. The vehicle was later found abandoned on another ranch near IH-35, south of Artesia Wells. The vehicle was displaying a license plate from another vehicle, and was reported stolen from San Antonio. A La Salle Co SO Deputy impounded the vehicle.

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On 19 JAN, a Dimmit Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a white 2017 Dodge Ram 2500 pickup on FM 2688, west of Catarina, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven through a ranch fence and was not located. On 27 JAN, another Deputy was dispatched to the ranch regarding an abandoned vehicle. The Deputy confirmed that it was the same vehicle. The vehicle, which had a fictitious license plate and was reported stolen from San Antonio, was impounded.

# DEL RIO SECTOR

On 23 JAN, USBP Agents observed a white 2010 Ford F-250 pickup traveling in tandem with a red 2020 Jeep Wrangler on SH-55, north of Uvalde. The Agents conducted a vehicle stop on the Ford, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven through multiple fences, and was found abandoned in a creek bed. The vehicle, which was reported stolen from San Antonio, had been re-painted and was displaying plates from another vehicle. A search of the area resulted in the apprehension of an IA. The Jeep/scout vehicle was stopped a short time later, and the two female occupants were identified and released. The Ford was impounded.

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On 30 JAN, a Dimmit Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a red 2013 Ford F-350 pickup on FM 2688, west of Catarina, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven through a ranch fence east of Catarina. A USBP Agent found the vehicle abandoned. The vehicle's door lock showed signs of tampering, and the vehicle was displaying a fictitious license plate. The vehicle, which was reported stolen from San Antonio, was impounded.

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On 30 JAN, a Dimmit Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a white 2018 Ford F-350 pickup on US-83, north of Catarina, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was displaying a stolen license plate. It was driven through multiple ranches off FM 190, and was found abandoned the next day. The vehicle, which had multiple indicators of being used for alien smuggling and was reported stolen from San Antonio, was impounded.

# LAREDO SECTOR

On 09 JAN, Hebbronville USBP Agents recovered two abandoned vehicles on a ranch south of Hebbronville: a stolen 2013 Dodge Ram 2500 pickup, and a stolen 2015 Dodge Ram pickup. The Agents also recovered a stolen .45 Colt InterArms handgun.

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On 13 JAN, a THP Trooper conducted a traffic stop on a black 2018 Chevrolet Silverado pickup near CR 4440 in Dilley. The vehicle was driven off the road and through a ranch southwest of Pearsall. The driver bailed out and absconded. USBP Agents assisted and located the vehicle abandoned on the ranch. The vehicle, which was reported stolen from Houston, was impounded.

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On 13 JAN, Cotulla USBP Agents, assisted by THP Troopers, engaged in a pursuit of a stolen black 2018 Chevrolet 1500 pickup near FM 468 and CR 4440 in Cotulla. The vehicle was driven through a ranch fence, and the driver bailed out and absconded. Six IAs were apprehended from the bed of the truck. The vehicle was reported stolen from Houston. The vehicle was referred to DPS, and the subjects were taken into custody by USBP.

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On 14 JAN, Hebbronville USBP Agents encountered a stolen 2017 Ford F-250 pickup near FM 1017, when the vehicle failed to yield. The vehicle was driven onto a ranch, where the 17 occupants bailed out and absconded. The vehicle was seized by THP Troopers.



# LAREDO SECTOR

On 16 JAN, a Zapata Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a 2009 Ford F-150 pickup in Zapata, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven through a ranch fence, and five IAs were detained. USBP Agents assumed custody of the IAs. Zapata Co SO impounded the vehicle.

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On 17 JAN, THP Troopers received information regarding a pursuit of a 2020 Ford F-250 pickup near Cotulla. The vehicle was driven onto a ranch along CR 3408. The vehicle, which was found abandoned, was reported stolen from San Antonio.

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On 26 JAN, Cotulla USBP Agents conducted a vehicle stop on a 2019 Ford F-250 pickup near Dilley, when the vehicle failed to yield. The vehicle was driven through a ranch fence, and was found abandoned. The vehicle, which was reported stolen from McAllen, was referred to Frio Co SO.

# LAREDO SECTOR

On 26 JAN, Hebbronville USBP Agents received information from Rio Grande City USBP Agents involved with a failure to yield of a silver 2007 Chevrolet Silverado pickup on FM 1017 approaching Hebbronville. The Agents found the vehicle abandoned on a ranch. The vehicle was reported stolen from Cleveland. The vehicle was referred to Duval Co SO. A search of the area resulted in the apprehension of 17 subjects.

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On 28 JAN, a THP Trooper was advised of a 2014 GMC Sierra pickup with IAs in La Salle Co. The Trooper entered IH-35 North in an attempt to intercept the vehicle and observed a GMC pickup traveling from FM 469. The Trooper conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven off the roadway and through a ranch fence near La Salle Co. The vehicle continued across the ranch and was later found abandoned on another ranch property by USBP. The vehicle was reported stolen by San Antonio PD.

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On 28 JAN, THP Troopers responded to a motorist who had discovered a 7.62mm Mini Draco AK-47 pistol on the side of a road off US-59 near Laredo. The subject reported that he had found it near the fence line of a ranch.

# RIO GRANDE VALLEY

On 12 JAN, a Brooks Co SO Deputy took a report of human remains that had been discovered on a ranch near Falfurrias. The Webb Co Medical Examiner's Office assumed custody of the remains.

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On 14 JAN, DPS AVN assisted USBP Agents with a search for an IA who had become lost on a ranch north of Edinburg. The subject was not located. AVN also assisted USBP Agents with a loaded vehicle and a bailout. The Aircrew located a group of subjects hiding several hundred yards from the bailout and guided the Agents to them, resulting in 13 apprehensions.

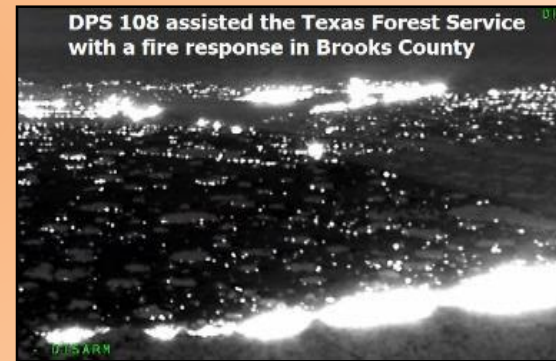


On 19 JAN, a Brooks Co SO Deputy responded to a ranch in northeast Brooks Co regarding a discovery of human skeletal remains. The Webb Co Medical Examiner's Office assumed custody of the remains.



# RIO GRANDE VALLEY

On 26 JAN, DPS AVN assisted the Texas Forest Service with overwatch of two brush fires at the Brooks/Jim Hogg Co line. The Aircrew mapped the area and reported the affected area to be approximately 2,000 acres. While en route, the Aircrew assisted USBP Agents with a group of subjects on a ranch, and also assisted Brooks Co SO Deputies and USBP Agents with a pursuit of a vehicle that had been driven through a fence northeast of the Brooks Co SO. The Aircrew located the vehicle on a ranch and guided Deputies and Agents to the location.



On 26 JAN, a Brooks Co SO Deputy was dispatched to a ranch near Falfurrias regarding skeletal human remains. The remains were transported to the Webb Co Medical Examiner's Office for an inquest to be conducted.

# COASTAL BEND SECTOR

On 10 JAN, Jim Wells Co SO Deputies conducted a traffic stop on a black 2019 Toyota Tundra pickup on CR 239 near Orange Grove. The vehicle initially came to a stop, but as Deputies approached, it sped away and a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven through a ranch gate and was found abandoned. The Deputies discovered a Texas license plate in the bed of the pickup. The vehicle was reported stolen from Harris Co, and the license plate belonged to the vehicle.

On 23 JAN, a Gonzales Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a 2005 Chevrolet Tahoe on SH-80, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven through a ranch gate at an intersection. The Deputy was unable to keep up with the vehicle due to extremely deep ruts and mud, but followed the tracks for about four miles to a damaged fence. The Deputy found the vehicle abandoned in the nearby brush with miscellaneous items and trash scattered on the ground.





## Total Pursuits and Bailouts – CYTD \*

| Event    | El Paso | Big Bend | Del Rio | Laredo | Rio Grande Valley | Coastal Bend | TOTAL |
|----------|---------|----------|---------|--------|-------------------|--------------|-------|
| Pursuits | 1       | 5        | 41      | 17     | 27                | 12           | 103   |
| Bailouts | 1       | 12       | 47      | 20     | 16                | 6            | 102   |

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



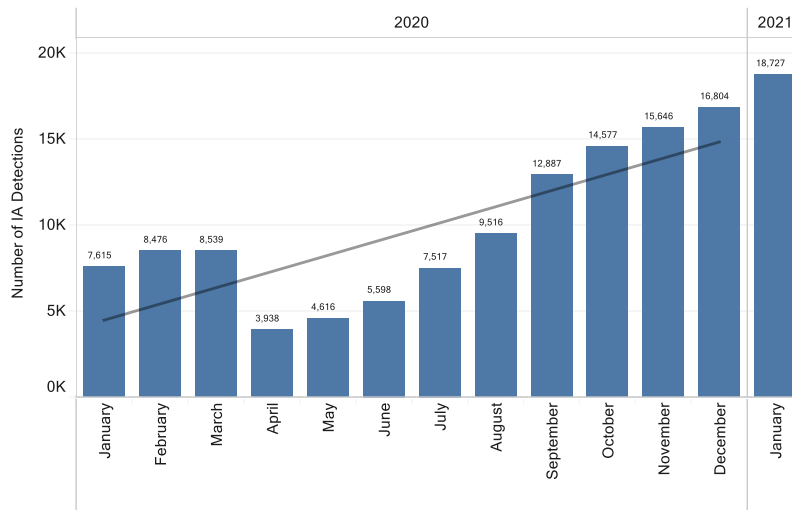




## Statistical Summary – JAN 2021



### Drawbridge IA Detections

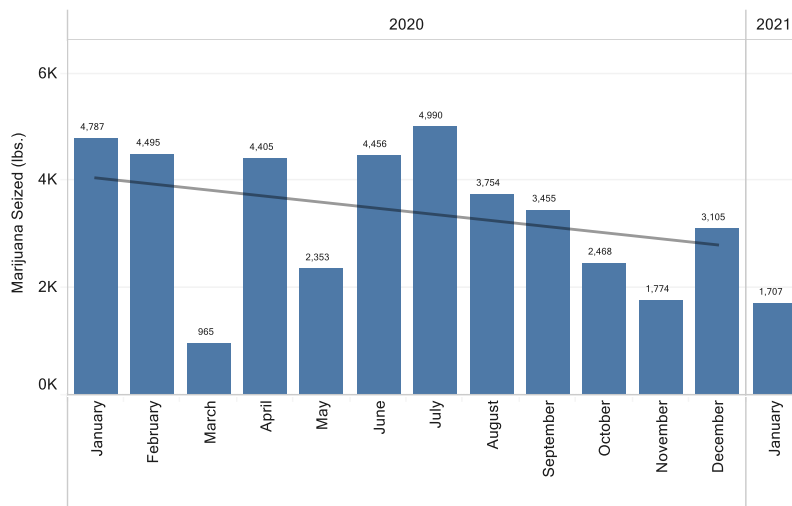


### Operation Drawbridge Totals: JAN 2020 - JAN 2021

|                         | Grand Total |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| IAs Detected            | 134,456     |
| Marijuana Seized (lbs.) | 42,714      |
| Cocaine Seized (lbs.)   | 607         |
| Heroin Seized (lbs.)    | 0           |
| Meth Seized (lbs.)      | 12          |
| Firearms Detected       | 5           |

*Figures are based on initial reporting and are subject to change.*

### Drawbridge Initiated Marijuana Seizures



### Operation Drawbridge Totals: JAN 2012 - JAN 2021

|                         | Grand Total |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| IAs Detected            | 767,934     |
| Marijuana Seized (lbs.) | 577,674     |
| Cocaine Seized (lbs.)   | 1,156       |
| Heroin Seized (lbs.)    | 40          |
| Meth Seized (lbs.)      | 44          |
| Firearms Detected       | 57          |

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

**TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
**BORDER SECURITY OPERATIONS CENTER**



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