

# **Border Operations Sector Assessment**

South Texas  
Ranch Edition

**March  
2021**

**REPORTING PERIOD:  
01-31 MAR 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

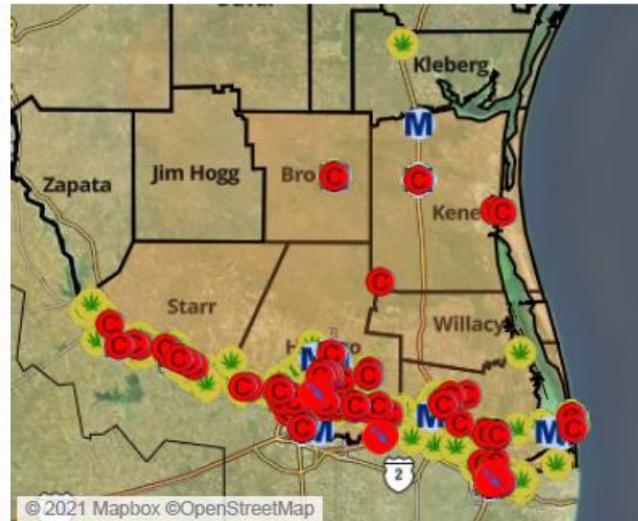
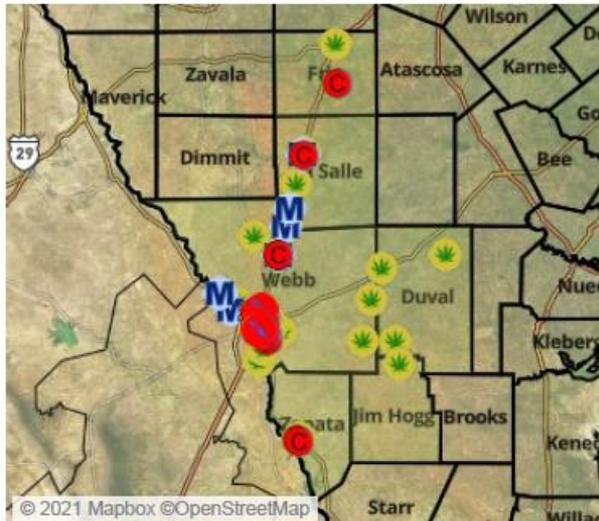
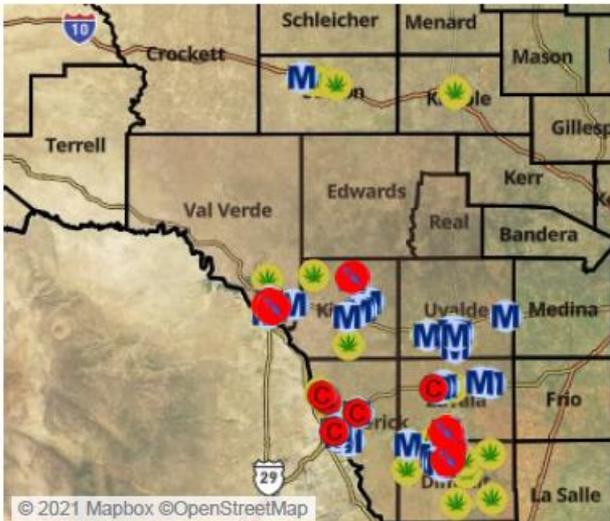
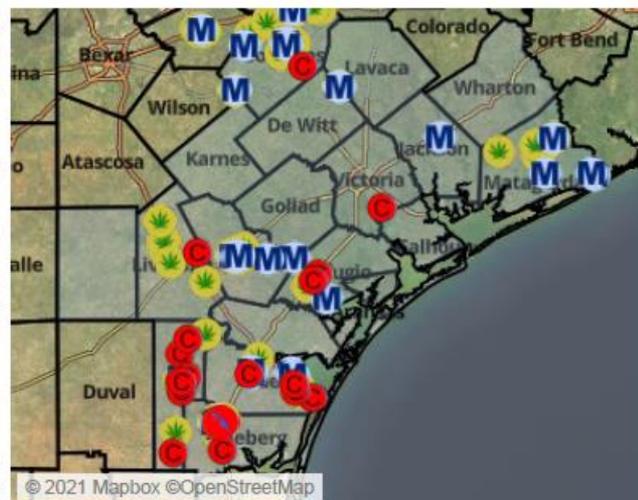
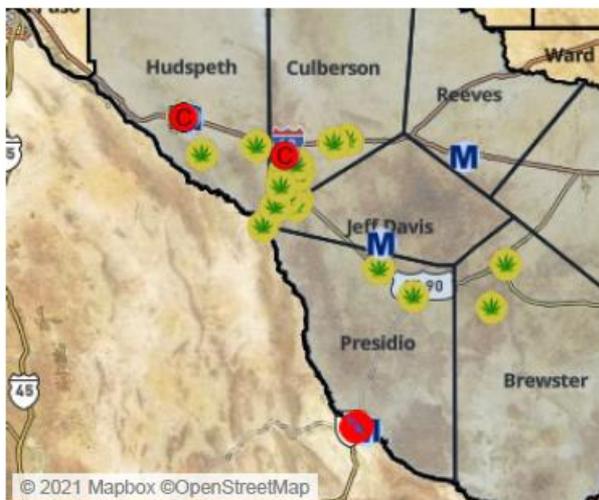
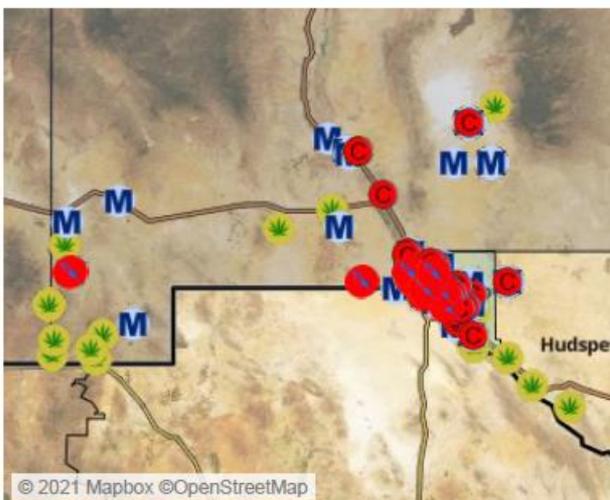
JOIC Contact Information	Border Security Ops Ctr (Austin)	El Paso JOIC (El Paso)	Big Bend JOIC (Marfa)	Del Rio Sector (Del Rio)	Laredo Sector (Laredo)	Rio Grande Valley Sector (McAllen)	Coastal Bend Sector (Victoria)
Main Phone #	(512) 454-7561	(915) 680-6500	(432) 729-4506	(830) 778-7837	(956) 764-3181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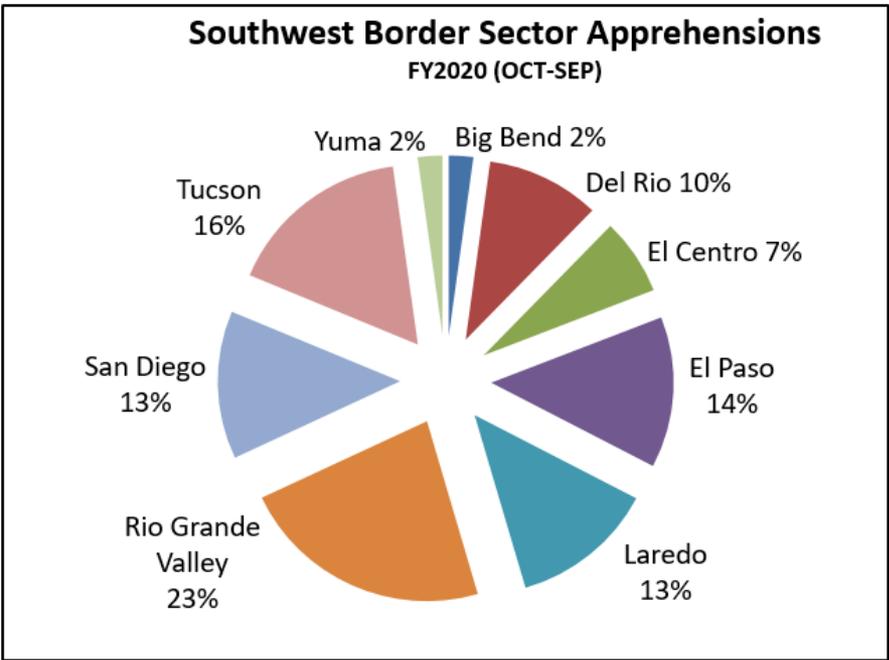
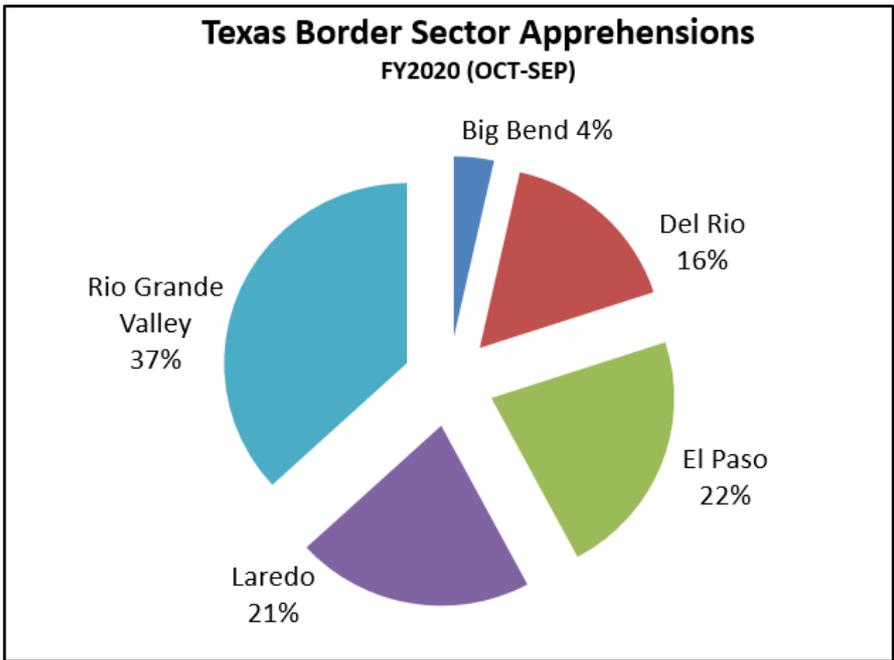
# Ranch Border Operations Sector Assessment



CYTD 2021	El Paso	Big Bend	Del Rio	Laredo	Rio Grande Va..	Coastal Bend	Total
Marijuana (lbs)	2,868	6,661	4	19,669	28,083	170	57,455
Cocaine (lbs)	714	33	78	783	1,509	159	3,277
Methamphetamine (lbs)	1,278	51	164	3,116	2,747	15	7,371
Heroin (lbs)	69	1	0	68	65	0	203



Maps depict narcotics seizures during the respective reporting month



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	16,763	9,429	42,435	27,976	106,968	--	<b>230,571</b>

Other Than Mexicans (OTMs)	El Paso	Big Bend	Del Rio	Laredo	RGV	Coastal Bend	TOTAL
CYTD 2021	12,917	4,716	27,166	8,387	89,074	--	<b>142,251</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

**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 734 times.**

# BIG BEND SECTOR

On 01 MAR, DPS AVN assisted USBP Agents with locating a group of 16 IAs in the brush on a ranch northwest of Marfa.



On 02 MAR, USBP Agents responded to a call from a hunter regarding abandoned marijuana on a ranch northwest of Candelaria. The Agents seized a large backpack containing 57 lbs of marijuana. The marijuana was referred to Alpine DEA.

On 02 MAR, Brewster Co SO Deputies and USBP Agents responded to a ranch southwest of Marathon. Six IAs were apprehended. An unknown number of additional subjects absconded. The IAs were processed.

# BIG BEND SECTOR

On 02 MAR, Brewster Co SO Deputies detained two IAs on a ranch north of Marathon. The subjects were referred to USBP.

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On 02 MAR, DPS AVN assisted USBP Agents with the apprehension of a group of seven IAs near a ranch southeast of Van Horn. The subjects initially fled when approached, but returned to the Agents when the Aircrew arrived.

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On 02 MAR, USBP Agents, assisted by DPS AVN, apprehended a group of 56 IAs at a hunting camp west of Valentine.

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On 03 MAR, DPS AVN assisted USBP Agents with the apprehension of 16 IAs on a ranch northwest of Valentine. The Aircrew tracked the suspects to a nearby cluster of brush and guided USBP Horse Patrol Agents to the subjects.

# BIG BEND SECTOR

On 06 MAR, Brewster Co SO Deputies were dispatched to a ranch regarding an IA on the property. The subject was located south of the ranch along a fence line. The subject was detained and referred to USBP.

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On 06 MAR, Brewster Co SO Deputies were dispatched to a ranch north of Marathon regarding an injured IA at the residence. The subject reported that there were three more IAs hiding in a culvert farther south on US-385. The subjects were located, and all four IAs were referred to USBP.

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On 14 MAR, TPWD Game Wardens detained two IAs on a ranch road west of Marfa. The subjects were referred to USBP and processed.

# BIG BEND SECTOR

On 15 MAR, USBP Agents conducted a vehicle stop on a 2007 Jeep Patriot traveling in tandem with a Mercedes-Benz, when the vehicles failed to yield. The Jeep slowed down and four subjects bailed out. One subject fell, and was run over by the Jeep. The Agents rendered aid to the subject. The remaining three bailout subjects were located on a ranch, and three additional IAs were later found nearby. Reeves Co SO Deputies found the Jeep abandoned. The Mercedes-Benz was later located, and a traffic stop was conducted, resulting in another bailout in which the passengers absconded. The driver also fled, but was detained and released. The seven IAs were processed, and the vehicles were seized.

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From 27-29 MAR, TPWD Game Wardens detained a total of 54 IAs and three USC human smugglers in 10 incidents. Seventeen of the subjects were apprehended on a ranch. The subjects were referred to USBP.

# BIG BEND SECTOR

On 31 MAR, USBP Agents apprehended a group of 10 IAs near a ranch south of Allamoore. One of the subjects was identified as the guide for the group and was working for a known alien smuggling organization. The guide was referred to El Paso HSI, and the IAs were processed.

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On 29 MAR, USBP Agents observed a red 2012 Dodge Avenger with a single occupant parked near a ranch gate south of Van Horn. The vehicle was then seen headed north with three occupants. The Agents conducted a vehicle stop on US-90 and apprehended a USC human smuggler and two IAs. The driver was released, and the IAs were processed.

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On 29 MAR, USBP Agents apprehended a group of 31 IAs near a ranch south of Allamoore.

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On 31 MAR, Jeff Davis Co SO Deputies and USBP Agents apprehended 14 IAs on a ranch southeast of Fort Davis.

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On 31 MAR, Brewster Co SO Deputies assisted USBP Agents with apprehending eight IAs on a ranch southeast of Marathon.

# DEL RIO SECTOR

On 01 MAR, a THP Trooper conducted a traffic stop on a white 2014 Toyota Tundra pickup on FM 117, south of Batesville, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven through a ranch fence, and the driver bailed out and absconded. DPS AVN assisted and located the vehicle. The Trooper impounded the vehicle.

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On 01 MAR, a Zavala Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a 2006 Honda Ridgeline pickup on US-83, north of Crystal City, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle continued south, and was driven onto a ranch. The occupants bailed out and absconded. The vehicle, which was reported stolen, was impounded. The Deputy detained an IA, who admitted having been in the vehicle with five others. The subject was released to EMS staff due to injuries sustained.

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On 02 MAR, a THP Trooper was patrolling on a ranch road north of Catarina, when a 2015 Ford F-350 pickup passed him headed south toward Catarina. The Trooper turned around to follow the vehicle. The vehicle was driven through a ranch fence and was found abandoned the next day. The vehicle, which was reported stolen from San Antonio, was impounded.

# DEL RIO SECTOR

On 03 MAR, a THP Trooper conducted a traffic stop on a brown 2007 Mercury Mountaineer on a ranch road in Catarina. The Trooper discovered five IAs with a USC human smuggler and her two USC children. A USBP Agent assisted and processed the IAs. After the Trooper issued the driver a traffic citation, the smuggler and her children were released with the vehicle.

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On 03 MAR, an Edwards Co SO Deputy observed a 2004 Chevrolet Tahoe on US-377 in Rocksprings. The Deputy conducted a traffic stop, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle struck a deer and crashed into a fence along SH-55.

The driver and one passenger bailed out and absconded. The Deputy detained an IA. A search of the vehicle resulted in the seizure of a Taurus .38 cal. handgun. The IA was referred to USBP. The vehicle was impounded. A 2008 Mercedes-Benz C350 appeared to be traveling in tandem with the Chevrolet, but was not stopped. The Mercedes was suspected of being a scout for the Chevrolet.

# DEL RIO SECTOR

On 04 MAR, a Zavala Co SO Deputy responded to a ranch near Crystal City regarding an IA who had made a distress call. The subject was located and referred to USBP.

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On 04 MAR, DPS AVN assisted USBP Agents in apprehending 38 IAs. The Aircrew observed eight IAs hiding in the brush on a ranch near US-90, east of Comstock. The Aircrew then followed a gray 2007 BMW 325i that was involved in a pursuit on US-277, north of Del Rio. The Aircrew also located 30 IAs hiding in the brush near FM 1472, south of El Indio. The IAs were processed.

# DEL RIO SECTOR

On 05 MAR, a THP Trooper conducted a traffic stop on a white 2014 Ford F-250 pickup on FM 481, west of Uvalde, when a pursuit ensued. Ten occupants bailed out after the vehicle crashed through a fence. A USBP Agent apprehended three IAs in the nearby brush. The vehicle had a fictitious license plate and registration sticker, and a second license plate from another vehicle. The actual license plates were found in the vehicle. The vehicle was reported stolen from Atascosa Co. A Uvalde PD Officer impounded the vehicle, and the Agent processed the IAs.

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On 06 MAR, a Dimmit Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a silver 2010 BMW 335i on SH-85, east of Carrizo Springs. The driver, who was scouting for IAs by a ranch, was released.

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On 07 MAR, a Zavala Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a 2017 Ford F-350 pickup on FM 1025, south of Batesville, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle continued on FM 117 toward Dilley, then crashed through a ranch fence. The occupants bailed out and absconded. The vehicle, which was reported stolen from Waco, was impounded.

# DEL RIO SECTOR

On 10 MAR, DPS AVN assisted USBP Agents and USBP Horse Patrol Units with apprehending a total of 32 IAs in five incidents. The IAs were found in Eagle Pass near SH-131, east of Quemado, and on a ranch south of Del Rio.

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On 10 MAR, a Zavala Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a white 2013 Chevrolet Traverse on US-57, east of La Pryor. The vehicle was driven off the road and struck a fence, where the occupants bailed out and absconded. On 11 MAR, the vehicle was reported stolen from Houston. The investigation continues.

# DEL RIO SECTOR

On 14 MAR, a Dimmit Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a red 2018 Ford F-150 pickup on FM 1019, south of Big Wells, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven through a ranch fence and onto the ranch before crashing. Near the vehicle, the Deputy encountered two IAs who had become injured. The driver absconded. The IAs were taken to a hospital in San Antonio. The vehicle was displaying license plates from another vehicle, and it was reported stolen from San Antonio. The Deputy impounded the vehicle.

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On 16 MAR, Crockett Co SO Deputies assisted THP Troopers in searching for a subject who fled from them, east of Ozona. The Deputies found a subject hiding in a pasture and identified him as a West Texas Tango gang member. The subject was arrested for evading arrest and for a warrant.

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On 16 MAR, a THP Trooper was notified by a rancher that a subject was trespassing and had been drinking from his irrigation well. USBP was contacted and assumed custody of an IA.

# DEL RIO SECTOR



On 20 MAR, a Dimmit Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a white 2017 Dodge Ram pickup on US-57, west of Big Wells, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was abandoned on a ranch. The vehicle was bearing license plates from a different vehicle. The vehicle was reported stolen from San Antonio. An IA was found hiding in a side toolbox. USBP Agents processed the IA, and the vehicle was impounded.

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On 20 MAR, a Zavala Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a black 2004 Dodge Ram pickup on US-57, east of La Pryor, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven onto a ranch, and the occupants bailed out and absconded. The vehicle, which was not reported stolen at the time, was impounded.

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On 26 MAR, a THP Trooper was advised by a ranch manager of an abandoned 2014 Dodge Ram pickup that had been found on a property in east Dimmit Co. The vehicle, which was reported stolen from San Antonio, was recovered.

# DEL RIO SECTOR

On 26 MAR, a THP Trooper observed a 2017 Dodge Ram pickup that was driven onto a ranch. The occupants bailed out and absconded. The vehicle's LPs were found to be fictitious. The vehicle, which was reported stolen from San Antonio, was recovered.

On 27 MAR, a Dimmit Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a 2017 Ford F-350 pickup south of Brundage, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven onto a ranch, where the driver bailed out and absconded. The vehicle's LPs belonged to a 2019 Ford F-350 pickup, and the vehicle was reported stolen from San Antonio. The vehicle was impounded.



On 28 MAR, a THP Trooper observed a Dodge Ram pickup by a ranch near Catarina. The Trooper conducted a traffic stop, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven into an oilfield plant, and the pursuit was terminated.

# LAREDO SECTOR

On 01 MAR, Cotulla USBP Agents received information regarding subjects being picked up by a 2021 Ford F-350 pickup near Cotulla. THP Troopers notified Agents that they had engaged in a pursuit, and that the vehicle had been driven through a ranch fence. The Agents located the vehicle, and identified it as stolen from Bexar Co. A search of the area resulted in the apprehension of seven IAs. The Trooper assumed custody of the vehicle.

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On 01 MAR, Laredo North USBP Agents assisted THP Troopers in locating a 2015 Chevrolet 2500 pickup near Laredo. The vehicle, which was found on a ranch, was reported stolen from Houston. One subject was apprehended and referred to the Troopers along with the vehicle.

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On 02 MAR, Cotulla USBP Agents assisted a THP Trooper in a pursuit of a 2013 Dodge Durango near Cotulla. The vehicle was driven onto a ranch. The Agents apprehended six IAs from the vehicle, which was reported stolen from Elmendorf.

# LAREDO SECTOR

On 02 MAR, Cotulla USBP Agents found an abandoned 2019 Ford F-250 pickup on a ranch near Dilley. The Agents were advised that the vehicle had been traveling in tandem with a Dodge 2500 pickup that had also been found abandoned. The Ford pickup, which was reported stolen from San Antonio, was recovered.

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On 04 MAR, La Salle Co SO Deputies conducted a traffic stop on a 2015 Dodge Ram 3500 pickup in Cotulla, when a pursuit ensued. The driver lost control of the vehicle, and drove through a fence onto a ranch, where the vehicle became wedged between steel poles. The ten occupants bailed out and fled. The Deputies searched the area and detained two IAs, who were referred to USBP.

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On 07 MAR, Hebbronville USBP Agents conducted a vehicle stop a 2016 Chevrolet Silverado pickup on FM 1017 near Agua Nueva, when the vehicle failed to yield. While the vehicle was being driven through a ranch, several subjects bailed out and absconded. The vehicle, which was reported stolen from Panama City, FL, was referred to Jim Hogg Co SO.

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On 09 MAR, THP Troopers responded to reports of an abandoned vehicle on a ranch near Cotulla. The vehicle, which was reported stolen from San Antonio, was recovered.

# LAREDO SECTOR

On 16 MAR, THP Troopers conducted a traffic stop on a 2017 Ford F-350 pickup traveling in tandem with a 2018 Ford F-150 pickup on US-83 near Encinal. The F-350 pickup was driven through a ranch fence. The Troopers conducted a traffic stop on the F-150, which was also driven through a ranch fence. Both drivers bailed out and absconded. The vehicles, which were both reported stolen from San Antonio, were recovered.

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On 24 MAR, a La Salle Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a 2017 Ford F-350 pickup with multiple passengers on IH-35, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle continued on IH-35 and exited near Cotulla. USBP Agents found the vehicle abandoned on the Ludwig Ranch. The vehicle, which was reported stolen from San Antonio, was recovered.

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On 26 MAR, Cotulla USBP Agents assisted a THP Trooper with a stolen 2017 Dodge Ram 3500 pickup on a ranch near Encinal. The Trooper assumed custody of the vehicle.

# RIO GRANDE VALLEY

On 05 MAR, a Starr Co SO Deputy seized an abandoned vehicle, believed to be a load vehicle, that had been part of an earlier pursuit involving THP Troopers. The vehicle was damaged from being driven through several fence lines near Rio Grande City.

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On 09 MAR, a THP Trooper conducted a traffic stop on a pickup for speeding, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle became engulfed in flames, and the fire eventually spread over 269 acres. DPS CID assistance was requested to ID the vehicle.

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On 16 MAR, Fort Brown USBP Agents seized 50.09 lbs of marijuana near Brownsville. The Agents observed two subjects run across an open field with bundles. When approached, the subjects dropped the bundles and absconded. DEA assumed custody of the narcotics.

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On 17 MAR, DPS CID Special Agents assisted THP Troopers and USBP Agents with a 2003 Chevrolet transporting IAs. The vehicle was driven through a fence and into the brush. Five IAs were detained. All of the IAs were wearing blue and orange wristbands, but they claimed that no trafficking had occurred during their travels.

# RIO GRANDE VALLEY

On 22 MAR, a Kenedy Co SO Deputy seized 0.01 lbs of methamphetamine and arrested two subjects who were involved in human smuggling on a ranch. A vehicle was seized.

On 23 MAR, a Brooks Co SO Deputy took a report of human remains that had been found on a ranch near Encino. A funeral home assumed custody of the remains.

On 29 MAR, Rio Grande City USBP Agents seized 604.17 lbs of marijuana near Salineño. The Agents disrupted a narcotics-smuggling attempt and discovered the abandoned marijuana in a deer blind. DEA assumed custody of the narcotics.



# COASTAL BEND SECTOR

On 06 MAR, a Jim Wells Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a red 2017 Dodge Ram 2500 pickup, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven through a gate and onto a ranch near Alice. The Deputy was unable to continue the pursuit, but the vehicle was later found abandoned. Jim Wells Co SO impounded the vehicle, which was reported stolen from Lavaca Co.

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On 23 MAR, a THP Trooper responded to a stolen-vehicle report in Brooks Co. The Trooper observed the vehicle, a 2020 Toyota Tundra pickup, leaving Premont southbound. The Trooper conducted a traffic stop, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven through a ranch gate and crashed into a large mound of dirt. The driver bailed out and fled. The vehicle, which was stolen from Houston, was recovered.

# DRAWBRIDGE

On 02 MAR, Cotulla USBP Agents responded to a **Drawbridge** activation involving a 2015 Dodge Ram 2500 pickup. USBP Agents encountered the Dodge traveling in tandem with a 2019 Ford F-250 pickup. The vehicle failed to yield, and was driven through a ranch fence. USBP Agents found both vehicles abandoned. Both vehicles were reported stolen from San Antonio. Frio Co SO assumed custody of the vehicles.



On 11 MAR, Cotulla USBP Agents responded to a **Drawbridge** activation involving a 2011 Dodge Ram pickup on FM 469 near Cotulla. The vehicle was driven through a ranch gate and was found abandoned. The vehicle, which was reported stolen from Houston, was referred to La Salle Co SO.

# DRAWBRIDGE

On 13 MAR, Hebbronville USBP Agents responded to a **Drawbridge** activation involving a 2015 Dodge Ram pickup on SH-359 near Hebbronville. The vehicle was driven through a ranch gate and was found abandoned. The Agents found two IAs locked in a toolbox in the bed of the vehicle. The Agents located an additional 10 IAs nearby. The vehicle, which was reported stolen from San Antonio, was referred to Duval Co SO. The subjects were processed.



On 30 MAR, Cotulla USBP Agents responded to a **Drawbridge** activation involving human smuggling. The Agents found an abandoned stolen 2019 Toyota Tundra pickup on a ranch near Cotulla. Nine IAs were apprehended nearby. Dimmit Co SO assumed custody of the vehicle.



## Total Pursuits and Bailouts – CYTD \*

Event	El Paso	Big Bend	Del Rio	Laredo	Rio Grande Valley	Coastal Bend	TOTAL
Pursuits	2	16	139	61	91	33	<b>342</b>
Bailouts	1	40	174	64	62	19	<b>360</b>

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

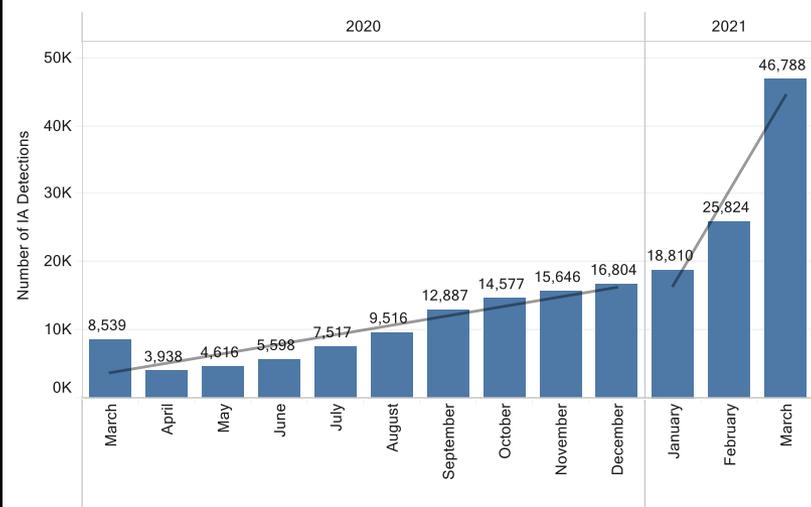




# Statistical Summary – MAR 2021



## Drawbridge IA Detections

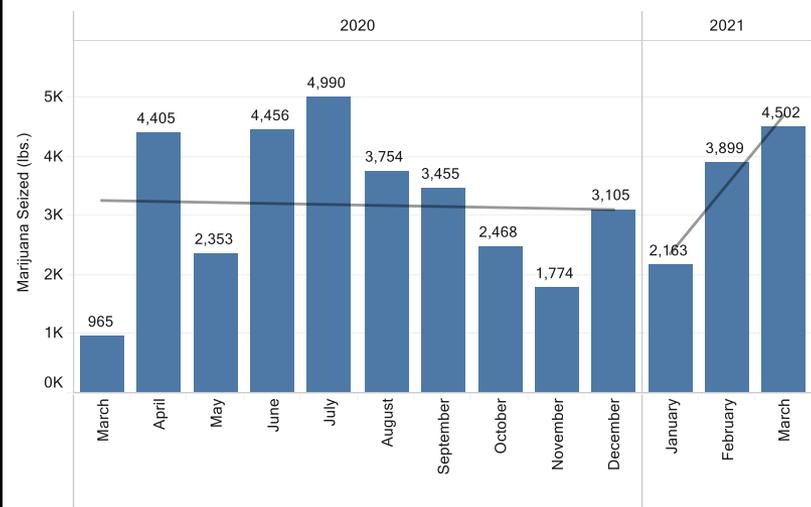


## Operation Drawbridge Totals: MAR 2020 - MAR 2021

	Grand Total
IAs Detected	191,060
Marijuana Seized (lbs.)	42,289
Cocaine Seized (lbs.)	607
Heroin Seized (lbs.)	0
Meth Seized (lbs.)	169
Firearms Detected	7

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

## Drawbridge Initiated Marijuana Seizures



## Operation Drawbridge Totals: JAN 2012 - MAR 2021

	Grand Total
IAs Detected	840,629
Marijuana Seized (lbs.)	586,531
Cocaine Seized (lbs.)	1,156
Heroin Seized (lbs.)	40
Meth Seized (lbs.)	201
Firearms Detected	60

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

**TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

**BORDER SECURITY OPERATIONS CENTER**



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