

# **Border Operations Sector Assessment**

South Texas  
Ranch Edition

**April  
2021**

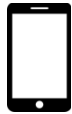
**REPORTING PERIOD:  
01-30 APR 2021**



# 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
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>

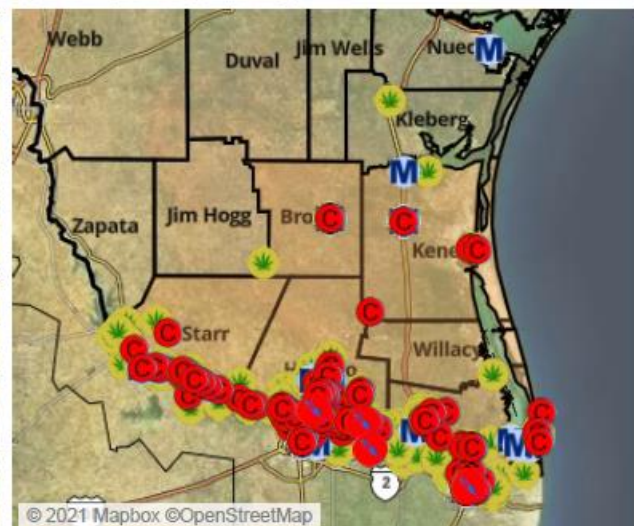
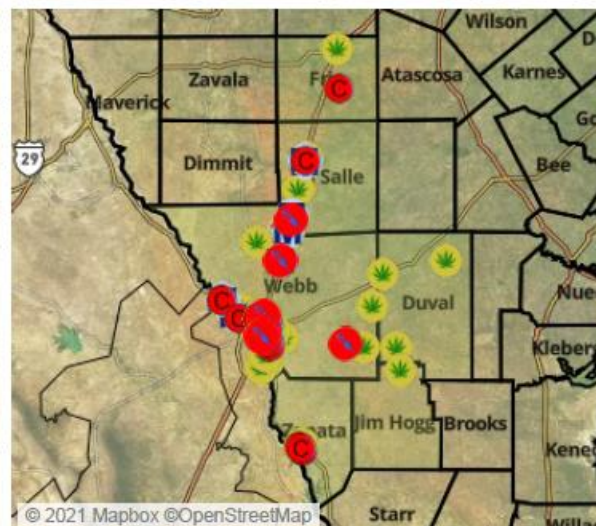
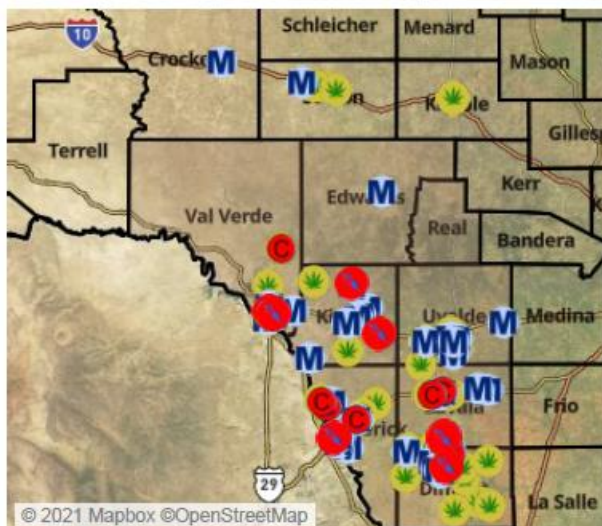
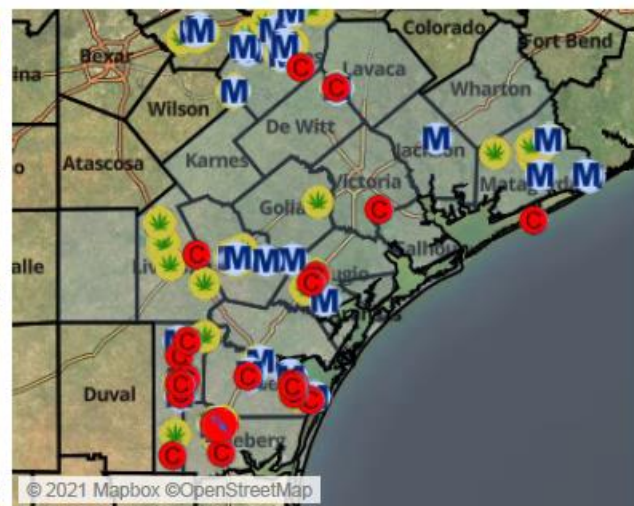
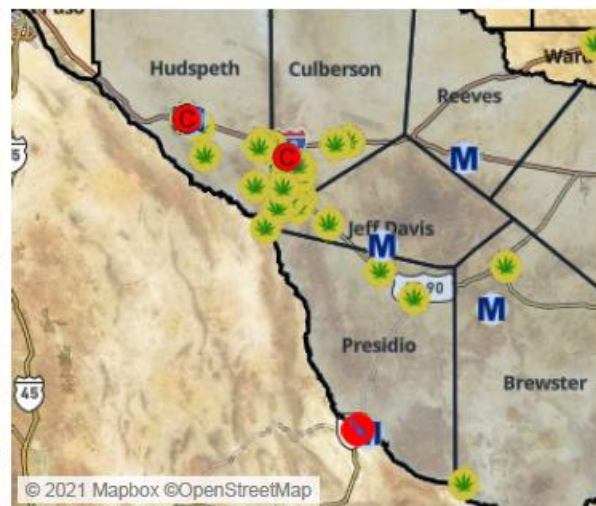
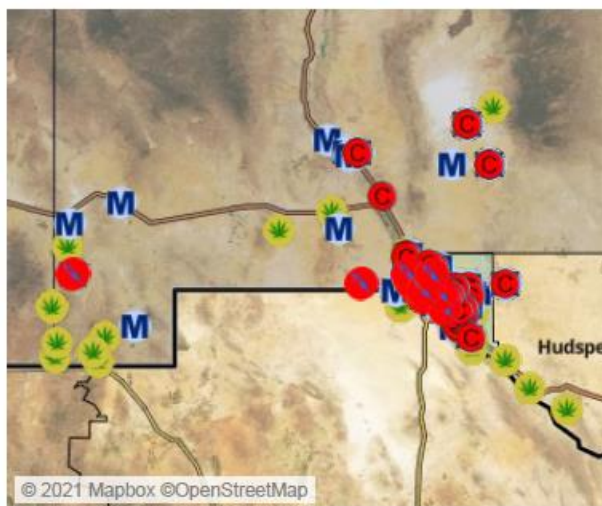




# Ranch Border Operations Sector Assessment



CYTD 2021	El Paso	Big Bend	Del Rio	Laredo	Rio Grande Va..	Coastal Bend	Total
Marijuana (lbs)	2,988	8,281	8	21,860	37,738	173	71,048
Cocaine (lbs)	977	33	92	1,223	1,799	163	4,287
Methamphetamine (lbs)	2,609	74	287	3,693	5,628	66	12,356
Heroin (lbs)	100	3	16	135	90	0	343



Maps depict narcotics seizures during the respective reporting month

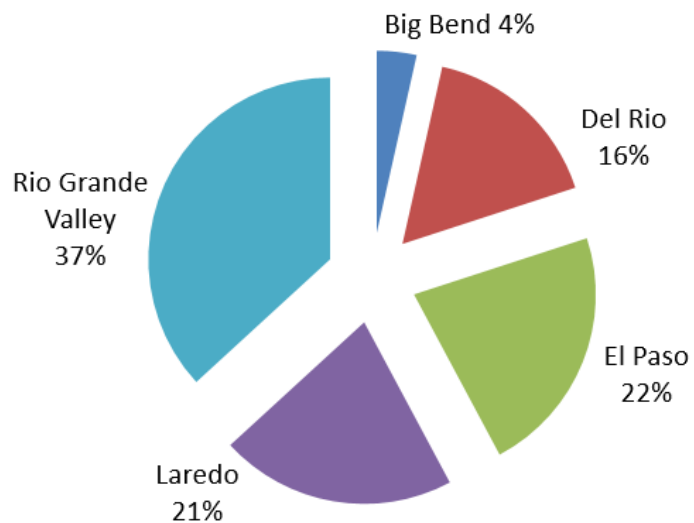


# Sector Apprehension Comparisons



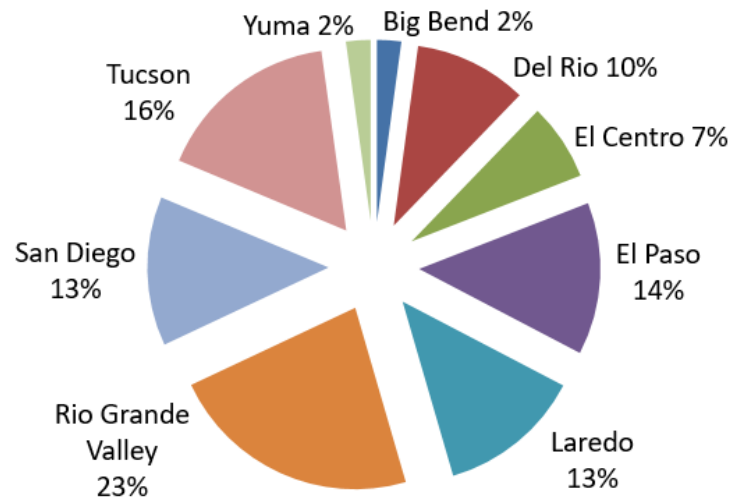
## Texas Border Sector Apprehensions

FY2020 (OCT-SEP)



## Southwest Border Sector Apprehensions

FY2020 (OCT-SEP)

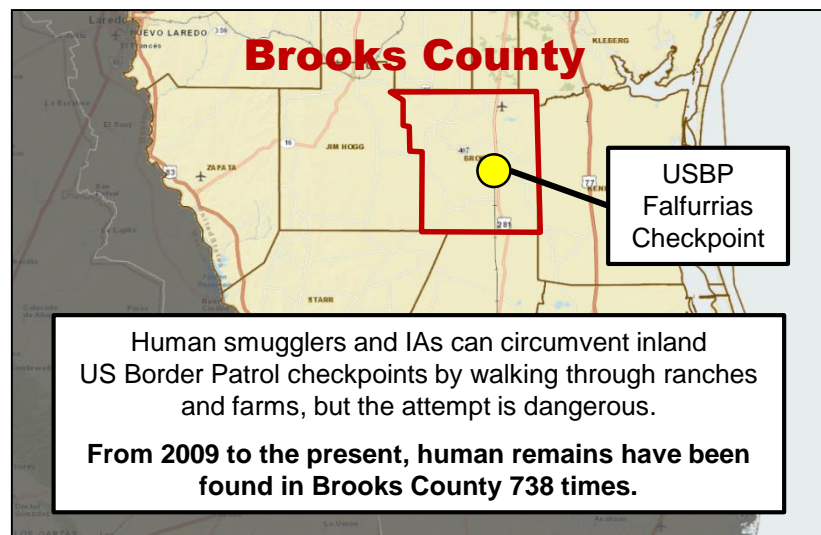


For more information, visit the USBP website at: <https://www.cbp.gov>

Total UA wT42	El Paso	Big Bend	Del Rio	Laredo	RGV	Coastal Bend	TOTAL
CYTD 2020	36,426	13,960	63,359	38,593	164,836	--	317,174

Other Than Mexicans (OTMs)	El Paso	Big Bend	Del Rio	Laredo	RGV	Coastal Bend	TOTAL
CYTD 2020	26,124	6,800	40,883	11,458	139,020	--	224,285

Unaccompanied Alien Children (UACs)	FY 2020	FY 2019	FY 2018	FY 2017	FY 2016
Texas Border	20,459	57,603	34,383	31,827	47,192



# BIG BEND SECTOR

On 01 APR, USBP Agents apprehended a group of eight IAs on a ranch southwest of Allamore. One of the IAs was identified as the guide. The guide was referred to HSI, and the IAs were processed.

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On 01 APR, USBP Agents apprehended a group of 29 IAs on US-90 near the gate of a ranch northwest of Valentine.

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On 08 APR, a Brewster Co SO Deputy was dispatched to investigate three subjects near a ranch northeast of Lajitas. The Deputy detained three IAs near the ranch gate. A USBP Agent processed the IAs.

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On 09 APR, DPS AVN assisted USBP Agents with the apprehension of 10 IAs in the brush near a ranch southeast of Van Horn. The subjects were processed.



# BIG BEND SECTOR

On 10 APR, Presidio Co SO responded to a call regarding a subject seen on private property southeast of Ruidosa. A Deputy detained the subject, who advised that he had been left behind from a group of 11 IAs. While the Deputy was waiting for USBP Agents, another concerned citizen passing by notified the Deputy that there were two more subjects on FM 170 attempting to flag vehicles down. The Deputy responded and detained an additional two IAs. The three IAs were referred to USBP.

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On 13 APR, Presidio PD Officers and USBP Agents responded to a call regarding possible IAs walking along FM 170 in Presidio. Five IAs were located in livestock pens. The subjects were processed.

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On 14 APR, USBP Agents responded to a concerned citizen's report of a gray SUV that had picked up subjects by a ranch near Sheffield. The Agents encountered a vehicle matching the description of the citizen's report and conducted a vehicle stop. The subjects were identified as five IAs. All of the occupants were taken into custody. The USC driver was released, the USC passenger was arrested for a warrant, and the five IAs were processed.

# BIG BEND SECTOR

On 14 APR, USBP Agents seized a large burlap backpack containing 46.38 lbs of marijuana near a ranch southeast of Van Horn. No subjects were located. The marijuana was referred to Alpine DEA.



On 17 APR, Van Horn USBP Agents observed five subjects with large bundles on their backs on a ranch southeast of Van Horn. The Agents apprehended two IAs and seized 282.70 lbs of marijuana.

On 17 APR, a TPWD Game Warden and a USBP Agent apprehended three IAs on a ranch northeast of Ruidosa. The subjects stated that they had come from Mexico and were going to Big Spring for construction work. Marfa USBP assumed custody of the subjects.

On 19 APR, Brewster Co SO Deputies, along with USBP Agents, responded to a ranch along SH-118, south of Alpine regarding a group of suspected IAs in the area. The Deputies and Agents apprehended 13 IAs. The subjects were processed.

# BIG BEND SECTOR

On 20 APR, Presidio Co SO Deputies responded to a ranch north of Shafter regarding an IA who had surrendered to a rancher. The subject was referred to USBP.

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On 23 APR, Van Horn USBP Agents apprehended a group of 17 IAs in the brush on a ranch west of Valentine. Two guides were identified, and all of the subjects were processed.

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On 27 APR, Presidio Co SO Deputies seized a black 2010 Chevrolet Silverado pickup and detained a LAPR human smuggler and an IA on a ranch along US-90, north of Shafter, following a report from a concerned citizen. The driver was released, and the IA was processed.



# DEL RIO SECTOR

On 08 APR, a Kinney Co SO Deputy assisted USBP Agents with the apprehension of 14 IAs on a ranch along RR 674, north of Brackettville.

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On 09 APR, a Zavala Co SO Deputy was dispatched to a ranch near Batesville regarding an abandoned white 2016 Dodge Ram pickup. The vehicle, which was reported stolen from San Antonio, had license plates from another vehicle. The vehicle was impounded.

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On 13 APR, Kinney Co SO advised USBP Agents about a camera activation on suspected IAs on a ranch west of Brackettville. The Agents responded and apprehended two IAs.

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On 15 APR, a USBP Agent inspected a 2017 Ford F-250 pickup east of Eagle Pass, when the vehicle failed to yield. The vehicle was driven through a ranch fence and was later found abandoned. A THP Trooper impounded the vehicle, which was reported stolen from San Antonio.

# DEL RIO SECTOR

On 16 APR, a THP Trooper conducted a traffic stop on a 2019 Ford F-150 Raptor pickup east of Catarina, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven through a ranch fence and was later found abandoned. The vehicle, which was reported stolen from San Antonio, was impounded.

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On 17 APR, a THP Trooper conducted a traffic stop on a 2014 Dodge Ram 2500 pickup east of Catarina, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven through a ranch fence and was later found abandoned. The vehicle, which was reported stolen from San Antonio, was impounded.

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On 17 APR, a Kinney Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a 2007 Chevrolet Suburban north of Spofford, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven through a ranch fence, and the Deputy detained five IAs. A USBP Agent identified one of the IAs as the driver/human smuggler. The IAs were processed, and the Deputy impounded the vehicle.

# DEL RIO SECTOR

On 19 APR, a Dimmit Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a 2013 Dodge Ram 2500 pickup and a 2013 Dodge Ram 4500 flatbed traveling in tandem on SH-85, east of Brundage, when a pursuit ensued. The pickup and the flatbed were driven through fences onto separate ranches. The Deputy located both vehicles abandoned. The vehicles, which were both reported stolen from San Antonio, were impounded.



On 19 APR, a USBP Agent conducted a vehicle stop on a 2016 Chevrolet Silverado pickup on US-83, south of Catarina, when the vehicle failed to yield and was driven through a ranch fence. The Agent apprehended six IAs, but the driver bailed out and absconded. The vehicle was bearing license plates from another vehicle and was reported stolen from San Antonio. The IAs were processed, and a Dimmit Co SO Deputy impounded the vehicle.



# DEL RIO SECTOR

On 24 APR, a Zavala Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a 2008 Lexus RX 400 on US-57 in La Pryor, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven through a ranch fence, and the occupants bailed out. The USC driver and six IAs were detained. A USBP Agent processed the IAs. The Deputy arrested the driver for evading arrest and smuggling of persons. The driver was also identified as a Latin Kings gang member.



On 25 APR, USBP Agents investigated suspicious activity on a farm property near Eagle Pass. An Agent discovered a backpack containing 208 rds of 7.62mm ammo, 28 rds of 5.56mm ammo, 266 rds of 5.7mm ammo, 24 magazines, and a drum magazine. A Maverick Co SO Deputy assumed custody of the ammunition and the magazines.

# DEL RIO SECTOR

On 25 APR, a THP Trooper conducted a traffic stop on a stolen 2016 Dodge Ram 3500 pickup on SH-85, east of Big Wells, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven through a ranch fence, and the occupants bailed out and absconded.

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On 28 APR, a Dimmit Co SO Deputy received information from the US relative of an IA who had been left behind by a human smuggler. The IA's body was found on a ranch along US-83, near Catarina. A Dimmit Co Justice of the Peace pronounced the IA deceased. The body was taken to a medical examiner's office in Laredo. The Deputy informed the IA's relative of the situation.

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On 29 APR, a Kinney Co SO Deputy was dispatched to a ranch south of Spofford regarding an abandoned gray 2019 Nissan Sentra. The Deputy impounded the vehicle, which was reported stolen from San Antonio.

# LAREDO SECTOR

On 02 APR, Cotulla USBP Agents assisted THP Troopers during a human-smuggling event at a ranch near Encinal and recovered a stolen 2012 GMC Terrain.

On 03 APR, Cotulla USBP Agents assisted THP Troopers with a human-smuggling event at a ranch near Cotulla, and recovered a stolen 2016 Ford F-350 pickup. No subjects were found.

On 03 APR, Cotulla USBP Agents assisted THP Troopers with a human-smuggling event and recovered a stolen 2016 Dodge Ram 2500 pickup by a ranch near Cotulla. No subjects were found.

On 05 APR, Cotulla USBP Agents assisted La Salle Co SO Deputies in a bailout at a ranch near Cotulla. The Agents apprehended four IAs and recovered a stolen 2019 Ford F-350 pickup. La Salle Co SO Deputies impounded the vehicle.



# LAREDO SECTOR

On 10 APR, Cotulla USBP Agents encountered a stolen 2017 Ford F-350 pickup on SH-44 near Encinal. The vehicle was driven through a ranch fence and was found abandoned in the brush. La Salle Co SO impounded the vehicle.

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On 13 APR, an Encinal PD Officer received an alert on a white 2015 Dodge Ram 2500 pickup stolen from San Antonio. The vehicle was seen heading east on SH-44. The Officer conducted a traffic stop, when a pursuit ensued. The pursuit ended on a ranch near Encinal. The driver bailed out and absconded. The vehicle was recovered.

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On 15 APR, Webb Co Constable Pct. 3 Deputies conducted a traffic stop on a red 2015 Chevrolet Silverado pickup on SH-359 in Aguilares, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven onto a ranch east of the juvenile facility in Laredo. The driver bailed out and absconded. The vehicle was reported stolen by Houston PD.

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On 19 APR, a La Salle Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a 2020 Ford F-250 pickup on a ranch in Cotulla, when a pursuit ensued. The driver bailed out and absconded. The vehicle, which was reported stolen from San Antonio, was impounded.

# LAREDO SECTOR

On 21 APR, a La Salle Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a 2001 Ford F-350 pickup in Cotulla, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven through a ranch fence, and the occupants bailed out and absconded. The vehicle was possibly being used for human smuggling.

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On 21 APR, an Encinal PD Officer conducted a traffic stop on a stolen 2019 Ford F-250 pickup near IH-35, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven through a ranch fence and was not located.

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On 22 APR, a La Salle Co SO Deputy responded to an abandoned 2015 Dodge Ram 3500 pickup on a ranch near Artesia Wells. The vehicle, which was reported stolen from San Antonio, was impounded.

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On 22 APR, a Zapata Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a 2019 Ford F-250 pickup in San Ygnacio, when a pursuit ensued. The pursuit ended at a ranch. The Deputy, assisted by USBP Agents, located the vehicle, along with three IAs. The Deputy seized \$560 USD and \$44,900 MXN. The vehicle was stolen from Bexar Co. The Agents assumed custody of the IAs.

# LAREDO SECTOR

On 24 APR, a Zapata Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a 2007 Chevrolet Malibu, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven through a fence line near Zapata and multiple subjects bailed out and fled. A search of the vehicle resulted in a seizure of 2.80 lbs of marijuana, and three IAs were detained and referred to USBP.

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On 27 APR, La Salle Co SO Deputies located a stolen 2017 Ford F-250 pickup loaded with subjects at a ranch in Cotulla. All of the occupants bailed out. USBP Agents assisted.

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On 28 APR, Zapata USBP Agents assisted THP Troopers in a pursuit of a 2015 Chevrolet Silverado pickup near US-83 in Zapata. The vehicle was driven through a fence line and into the brush, and the driver bailed out and absconded. The vehicle was reported stolen from Houston. THP Troopers assumed custody of the vehicle.

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On 30 APR, a La Salle Co SO Deputy was advised of a stolen white 2014 Dodge Ram 2500 pickup traveling south on IH-35 in Cotulla. The Deputy conducted a traffic stop, when a pursuit ensued. The driver bailed out and absconded near a ranch in Cotulla. The vehicle was reported stolen from San Antonio.



# RIO GRANDE VALLEY

On 04 APR, DPS AVN assisted THP Troopers with a pursuit of a 2005 Chevrolet Tahoe. The vehicle was driven through multiple ranches in the Starr Co area. McAllen USBP and Brooks Co SO responded. AVN observed the driver using a cellular device while driving through ranch land. Five IAs were apprehended. The driver and female passenger absconded.

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On 04 APR, DPS AVN assisted THP Troopers with a pursuit into central Brooks Co. The vehicle was driven through a ranch fence and traveled west before being stopped. The vehicle was seized, and five IAs were detained and referred to USBP. The driver and one female passenger absconded.

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On 06 APR, a Brooks Co SO Deputy took a report of human remains found on a ranch near Encino. The Webb Co Medical Examiner's Office assumed custody of the remains.

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On 14 APR, a Brooks Co SO Deputy responded to a ranch in northeast Brooks Co regarding human remains found by a ranch worker. The Webb Co Medical Examiner's Office assumed custody of the remains.

# RIO GRANDE VALLEY

On 15 APR , a Brooks Co SO Deputy responded to a ranch near Falfurrias regarding human remains believed to be those of an IA. The remains were transported to the Webb Co Medical Examiner's Office.

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On 16 APR, a Brooks Co SO Deputy responded to a ranch in northeast Brooks Co regarding human remains found by USBP Agents. The Webb Co Medical Examiner's Office assumed custody of the remains.

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On 27 APR, a Brooks Co SO Deputy, along with USBP Agents, took a report of skeletal remains found on a ranch near Falfurrias. The remains were transported to the Brooks Co SO evidence room.

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On 30 APR, a Brooks Co SO Deputy took a report of human remains found on a ranch near Falfurrias. The Texas State University Forensic Unit assumed custody of the remains.

# COASTAL BEND SECTOR

On 15 APR, a Jim Wells Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a 2004 Ford F-150 pickup in Alice. The driver bailed out and absconded while the vehicle was still moving. The vehicle continued through a ranch fence and into the brush. Approximately 10-15 subjects bailed out and absconded. The vehicle was seized.



On 15 APR, a Jim Wells Co SO Deputy observed a red Ford F-150 pickup and a silver Ford F-150 pickup headed southwest near Alice. The Deputy conducted a traffic stop on the red pickup, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven onto a ranch near Palito Blanco, where 15-20 occupants bailed out and absconded. USBP Agents assisted, and the vehicle was impounded.

# COASTAL BEND SECTOR

On 17 APR, a Bee Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a 2004 Ford F-250 pickup in Pettus, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven through a ranch fence and was not found.

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On 18 APR, a THP Trooper was dispatched to a traffic accident in Premont. The Trooper found a 2001 Toyota 4Runner that had rolled over and struck a fence. The vehicle was reported stolen from Falfurrias. No arrests were made.

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On 19 APR, a Bee Co SO Deputy was dispatched to a ranch near Beeville, where three IAs were detained after a pursuit. USBP assumed custody of the three IAs.



On 21 APR, Freer USBP Agents responded to a Drawbridge alert involving a 2019 Ford F-250 pickup near Freer. The Agents encountered a vehicle matching the description and conducted a vehicle stop, when the vehicle failed to yield. The vehicle was driven through a ranch gate and was later found abandoned. The vehicle was stolen from San Antonio. The Agents searched the area and apprehended seven IAs. Freer PD 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	23	228	96	150	51	550
Bailouts	1	51	277	95	109	32	565

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

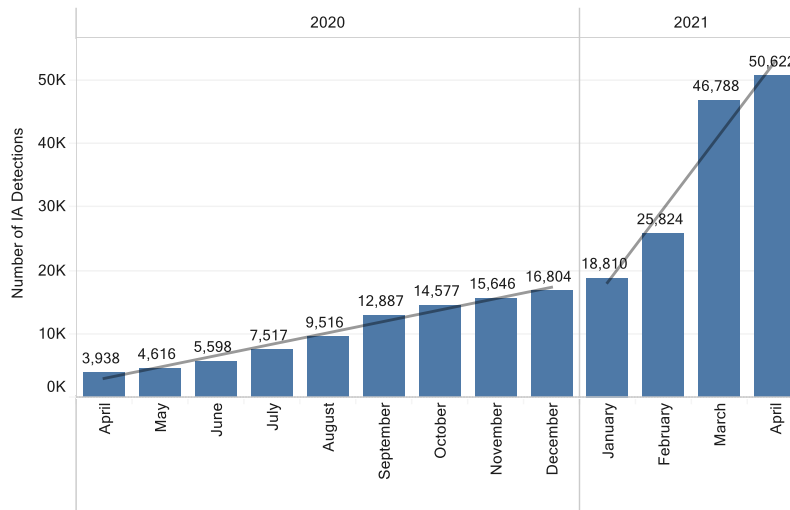




## Statistical Summary – APR 2021



### Drawbridge IA Detections

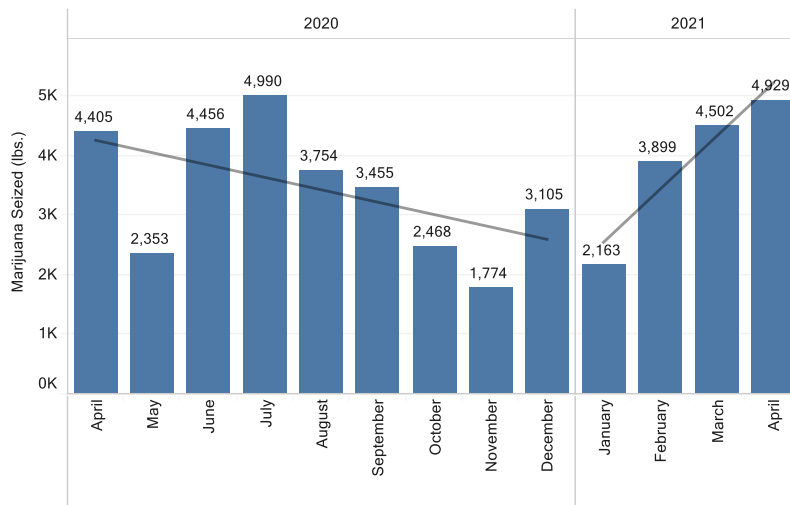


### Operation Drawbridge Totals: APR 2020 - APR 2021

	Grand Total
IAs Detected	233,143
Marijuana Seized (lbs.)	46,253
Cocaine Seized (lbs.)	607
Heroin Seized (lbs.)	0
Meth Seized (lbs.)	169
Firearms Detected	12

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

### Drawbridge Initiated Marijuana Seizures



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

	Grand Total
IAs Detected	891,251
Marijuana Seized (lbs.)	591,460
Cocaine Seized (lbs.)	1,156
Heroin Seized (lbs.)	40
Meth Seized (lbs.)	201
Firearms Detected	65

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

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



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