

Border Operations Sector Assessment

South Texas
Ranch Edition

**June
2021**

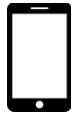
**REPORTING PERIOD:
01-30 JUN 2021**



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

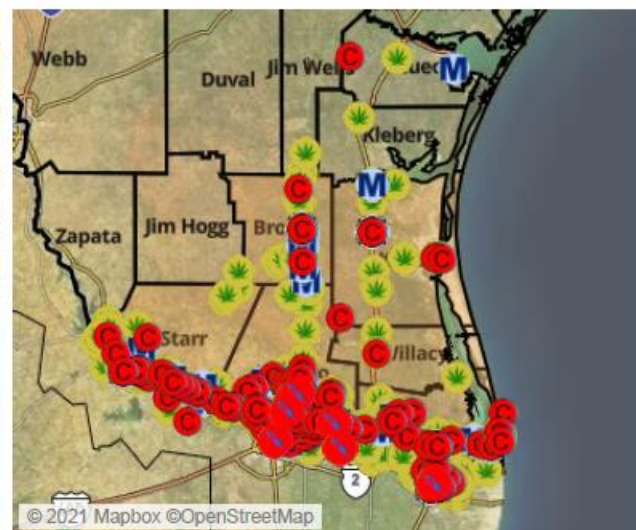
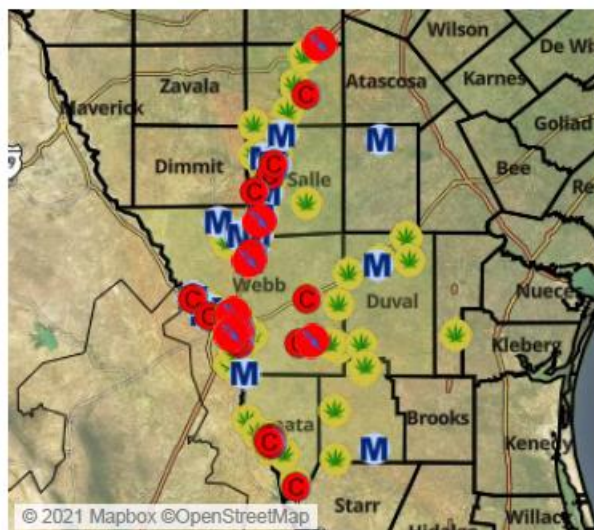
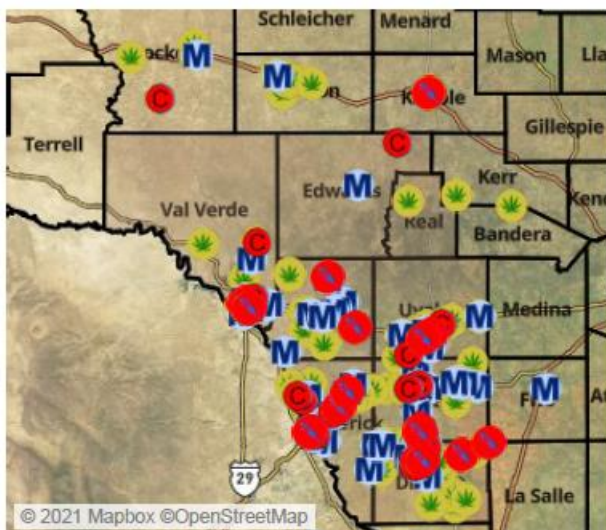
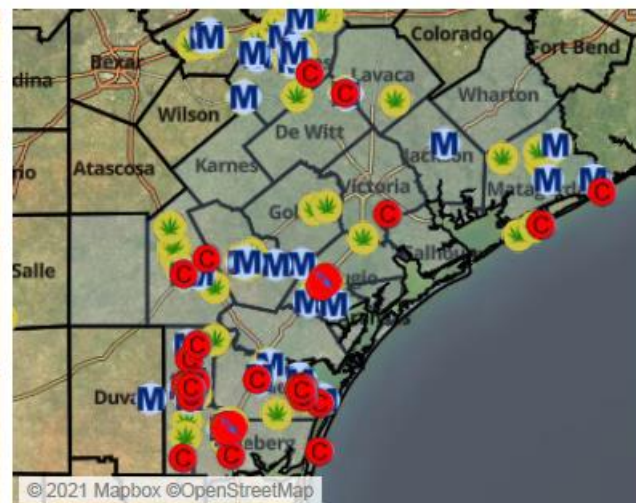
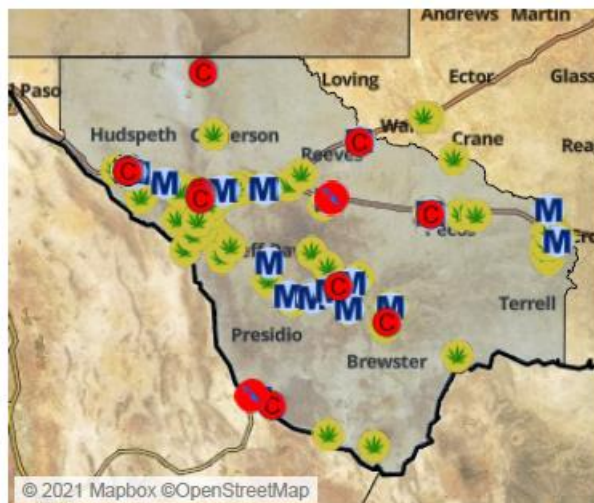
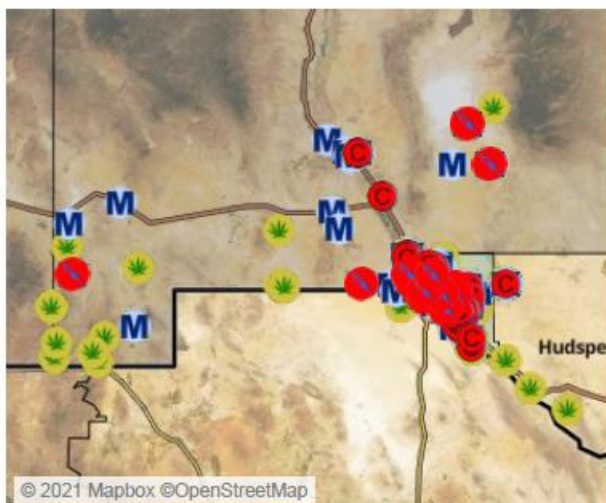
JOIC Contact Information	Border Security Ops Ctr (Austin)	El Paso JOIC (El Paso)	Big Bend JOIC (Marfa)	Del Rio Sector (Del Rio)	Laredo Sector (Laredo)	Rio Grande Valley Sector (McAllen)	Coastal Bend Sector (Victoria)
Main Phone #	(512) 454-7561	(915) 680-6500	(432) 729-4506	(830) 778-7837	(956) 764-3181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



CYTD 2021	El Paso	Big Bend	Del Rio	Laredo	Rio Grande Va..	Coastal Bend	Total
Marijuana (lbs)	4,059	12,620	50	26,844	62,075	229	105,877
Cocaine (lbs)	1,331	80	92	1,468	3,029	286	6,288
Methamphetamine (lbs)	3,384	99	340	5,251	7,905	98	17,078
Heroin (lbs)	154	5	47	277	375	1	859



Maps depict narcotics seizures during the respective reporting month

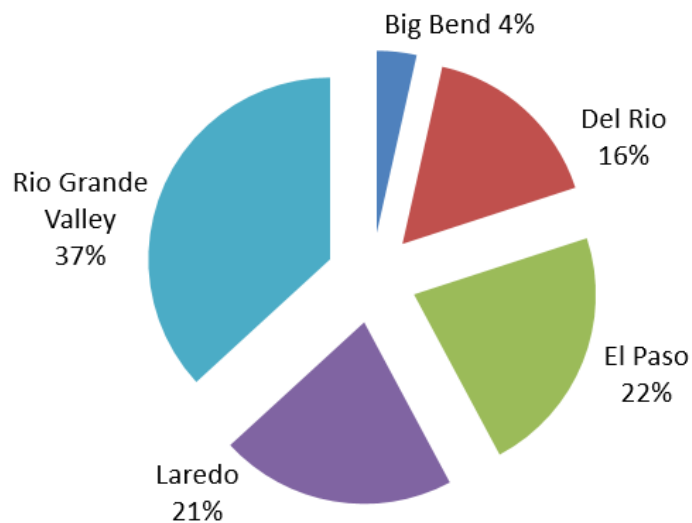


Sector Apprehension Comparisons



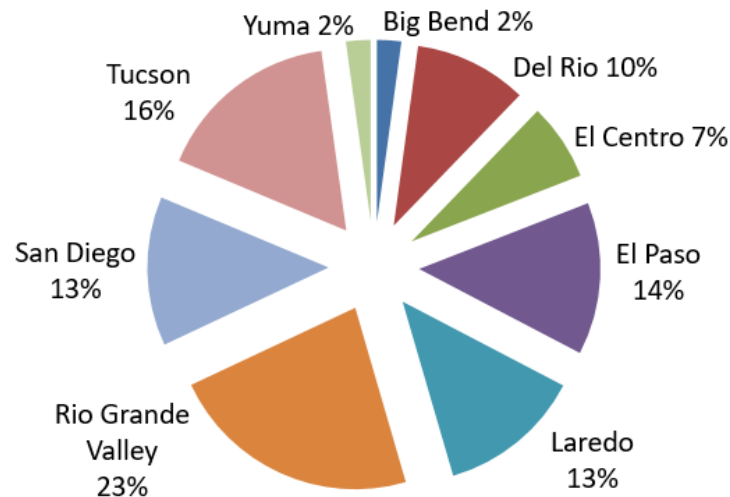
Texas Border Sector Apprehensions

FY2020 (OCT-SEP)



Southwest Border Sector Apprehensions

FY2020 (OCT-SEP)

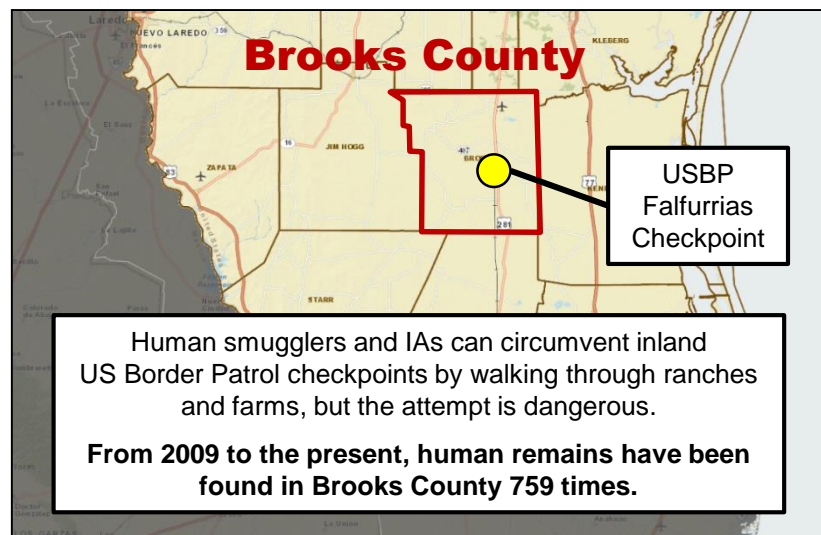


For more information, visit the USBP website at: <https://www.cbp.gov>

Total UA wT42	El Paso	Big Bend	Del Rio	Laredo	RGV	Coastal Bend	TOTAL
CYTD 2020	79,237	23,060	120,074	60,969	271,042	--	554,382

Other Than Mexicans (OTMs)	El Paso	Big Bend	Del Rio	Laredo	RGV	Coastal Bend	TOTAL
CYTD 2020	55,835	11,248	83,767	18,763	229,981	--	399,594

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 JUN, DPS AVN observed a USBP vehicle parked on a ranch southeast of Valentine. The Aircrew turned toward the vehicle to investigate and were informed that the USBP Agents were in foot pursuit of two subjects suspected of smuggling narcotics. The Aircrew located the subjects fleeing over a hill. The Aircrew followed the subjects, who eventually surrendered after a lengthy pursuit. A third subject had previously been taken into custody. The subjects were believed to have been carrying marijuana through the rugged terrain, but no bundles were found.

On 13 JUN, DPS AVN assisted with a search for an IA in distress on a ranch near Sierra Blanca. AVN located the IA near a water tank and relayed his location to USBP.

On 14 Jun, Van Horn USBP Agents conducted a vehicle stop on a Ford pickup hauling a horse trailer northwest of Valentine and found 40 IAs hiding in the trailer. The truck, trailer, and driver were referred to HSI, and the subjects were processed.

BIG BEND SECTOR

On 15 JUN, DPS CID and THP assisted USBP in locating IAs in a horse trailer attached to a 2008 Ford pickup. USBP Agents conducted a vehicle stop and apprehended 41 IAs. The driver stated that he had been instructed to drive the vehicle as a condition for gaining entry into the US.

On 16 JUN, Sierra Blanca USBP Agents apprehended a group of 42 IAs on a ranch southwest of Allamore. The subjects were processed.

On 17 JUN, Van Horn USBP Agents apprehended a group of 41 IAs who were being smuggled in a horse trailer.

On 20 JUN, Van Horn USBP Agents, along with BORTAC, apprehended a group of 30 IAs near a ranch south of Van Horn. The subjects were processed.

BIG BEND SECTOR

On 23 JUN, Brewster Co SO Deputies responded to a ranch south of Marathon, and detained four IAs who needed medical attention. A Deputy observed smoke in the distance. The Deputies and USBP Agents tracked down the source of the smoke and encountered the IAs. The subjects were treated for dehydration and were referred to USBP for processing.

On 29 JUN, Sierra Blanca USBP Agents responded to a report of three subjects with handguns near a ranch. The subjects fled on foot, but were apprehended. The Agents searched the subjects' backpacks and discovered a loaded .22 cal. handgun, a loaded .357 cal. revolver, and ammo for both firearms. The subjects admitted that they had broken into the ranch headquarters and had stolen the firearms and ammo, along with food and clothing. The subjects also admitted that they were illegally in the US. The weapons, the ammo, and two of the subjects were referred to Hudspeth Co SO. The remaining subject, a juvenile, was processed as a voluntary return.

DEL RIO SECTOR

On 06 JUN, a Zavala Co SO Deputy was dispatched to a ranch east of La Pryor regarding a group of trespassers. The Deputy detained two IAs, who were referred to USBP.

On 24 JUN, a Kinney Co SO Deputy detained two subjects on a ranch east of Spofford. One of the subjects absconded. A USBP Agent identified the other subject as an IA and took him into custody.

On 24 JUN, a Zavala Co SO Deputy was dispatched to a ranch east of Crystal City regarding an abandoned white 2010 Ford F-150 pickup that had dirty seats and was loaded with cases of water. The door lock showed signs of tampering, but the vehicle was not reported stolen. The vehicle was impounded.

DEL RIO SECTOR

On 26 JUN, a THP Trooper conducted a traffic stop on a white 2004 Ford F-250 pickup on FM 133 east of Catarina, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven onto a ranch, where the driver and nine passengers bailed out. The vehicle was reported stolen from Travis Co. USBP Agents apprehended the passengers and the driver/human smuggler, and identified them as 10 IAs. The Trooper arrested the driver. The vehicle was impounded.

On 28 JUN, a USBP Agent found an abandoned silver 2012 Toyota Tundra pickup stuck in a canal on a ranch off FM 1557, south of Carrizo Springs. A Dimmit Co SO Deputy assisted and discovered that the vehicle had a license plate from another vehicle. The Deputy impounded the vehicle, which was not reported stolen at the time.

On 29 JUN, a Zavala Co SO Deputy conducted a welfare check on two USC subjects who were in the brush by US-57 east of La Pryor. The subjects claimed that they were attempting to find a stolen vehicle via GPS. The Deputy believed that they were looking for a gray 2015 GMC Sierra pickup that the Deputy had recently stopped. The traffic stop had resulted in a bailout on a ranch, and the vehicle had become stuck in mud. The conflicting stories that the two subjects gave the Deputy led him to believe that they were looking for the vehicle.

LAREDO SECTOR

On 02 JUN, a La Salle Co SO Deputy was advised regarding an abandoned white 2011 Ford F-350 pickup on a ranch near Artesia Wells. The vehicle was reported stolen from Midland.

On 03 JUN, a Zapata Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a gray 2013 Ford F-150 pickup on US-83, north of a ranch near Zapata.

When the vehicle stopped, five subjects bailed out and fled.

The Deputy detained the driver and a passenger. The subjects were identified as two IAs and were referred to USBP. The vehicle was impounded.

On 04 JUN, Hebbronville USBP Agents assisted Jim Hogg Co SO Deputies with a vehicle pursuit on a stolen 2018 Ford F-150 pickup on SH-16. The pickup was driven onto a ranch road, where the occupants bailed out and fled. The Agents apprehended seven IAs. Jim Hogg Co SO assumed custody of the vehicle.

LAREDO SECTOR

On 07 JUN, Premont PD Officers engaged in a pursuit of a white 2008 Chevrolet Silverado pickup. The pursuit was terminated north of the city limits. A THP Trooper located the vehicle and conducted a traffic stop. The vehicle immediately turned west, crashed through a ranch gate, and evaded the Trooper. A BOLO was sent by DPS communications.

On 08 JUN, a THP Trooper conducted a traffic stop on a 1993 International TTST for a CMV inspection. The vehicle was driven over the median, through a fence, and into a field. The vehicle, which was found abandoned, appeared to have been used to transport IAs. USBP Agents responded, and the vehicle was seized by Live Oak Co SO. An LPR check revealed that the vehicle had previously been involved in a bailout and had been detected by the LPR system 16 times on IH-37 in Live Oak Co and once on SH-16 in McMullen Co.

LAREDO SECTOR

On 09 JUN, Cotulla USBP Agents received information from La Salle Co SO regarding a suspected vehicle involved in human smuggling. The Agents conducted a vehicle stop on a white 2018 Ford, when the vehicle failed to yield. The vehicle was driven onto a ranch, where the occupants bailed out and fled. The Agents apprehended seven IAs. La Salle Co SO impounded the stolen vehicle.

On 11 JUN, Laredo North USBP Agents encountered a stolen white Ford F-150 pickup at the Laredo C-29 Checkpoint. The Agents engaged in a pursuit with the vehicle until it was driven through a ranch fence. The driver and an IA were apprehended. Webb Co SO assumed custody of the vehicle.

On 15 JUN, THP Troopers conducted a traffic stop on a red Mercedes-Benz, when a pursuit ensued. La Salle Co SO and USBP assisted. The vehicle was driven through a barbed-wire fence and came to a stop in a cactus patch. LaSalle Co SO took over the investigation.

LAREDO SECTOR

On 20 JUN, a THP Trooper conducted a traffic stop on a black 2004 Chevrolet Silverado pickup near Cotulla, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle damaged three rows of barbed wire fence and a sorghum crop. When the vehicle stopped, the occupants bailed out and absconded.

On 25 JUN, a THP Trooper conducted a traffic stop on a white 2020 Ford F-250 pickup, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven through a ranch fence in La Salle Co and was later found abandoned. During the search for the vehicle, a stolen white 2017 Ford F-250 pickup was also found and recovered.

On 26 JUN, a THP Trooper joined in a pursuit of a white 2013 Dodge Ram 2500 pickup. The vehicle was driven through a barbed-wire fence in La Salle Co, and the occupants bailed out and fled into the brush. DPS AVN assisted, but the subjects absconded.

RIO GRANDE VALLEY

On 05 JUN, a THP Trooper conducted a traffic stop on a black 2015 Dodge Ram pickup with temporary tags. The vehicle was driven up to a high fence, but stopped before hitting it. The occupants bailed out and climbed the fence. The Trooper detained six IAs, and referred them to USBP.

On 05 JUN, a THP Trooper observed two IAs fleeing from USBP Agents. Both subjects climbed a barbed-wire fence into an open field. The Trooper climbed the fence and detained the subjects. The Agents assumed custody of the subjects.

On 06 JUN, a THP Trooper responded to a ranch near Falfurrias regarding an IA. The ranch manager led the Trooper to the subject, who was carrying a water jug and wearing dark clothing. The subject stated that he was lost and that he had been in the woods for three days. The subject was referred to USBP.

RIO GRANDE VALLEY

On 07 JUN, a THP Trooper traveling north on US-281 observed a white Toyota Tundra pickup dropping off subjects at a ranch entrance. The Trooper then observed a silver Toyota Tundra pickup and discovered that the vehicles had identical stickers/decals for military service, law enforcement, and firefighting. The Trooper conducted a traffic stop on the white Toyota. In the truck bed, the Trooper observed several rubber mats and jugs that had been spray-painted black. While the Trooper was opening the toolbox in the truck bed, a passenger bailed out and absconded. Another Trooper conducted a traffic stop on the silver Toyota, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven through a fence and was found abandoned on the property, with items in the truck bed that were identical to those in the white Toyota. A USBP Agent identified the driver of the white Toyota as an IA and took him into custody.

On 08 JUN, a THP Trooper conducted a traffic stop on a white GMC pickup, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle came to an abrupt stop at a ranch exit on IH-69, and eight subjects bailed out and absconded. The vehicle was driven away to US-77 in Kenedy Co, and traveled several more miles before coming to a stop on the median. Another eight subjects bailed out and fled. After an extensive search, an IA was detained and referred to USBP.

RIO GRANDE VALLEY

On 08 JUN, a THP Trooper observed a white Mazda Tribute pull off of a roadway near Sarita and come to an abrupt stop. Approximately eight subjects, including the driver, bailed out, climbed over a high-wire game fence, and absconded into the brush. In the vehicle, the Trooper found six black backpacks with food, clothing, and hygiene items, as well as several gallons of water and a machete. The vehicle was impounded.

On 13 JUN, a THP Trooper conducted a traffic stop on a Jeep Commander, when a pursuit ensued. The Trooper lost sight of the vehicle, and the pursuit was terminated.

A DPS CID Special Agent located the vehicle, which had crashed into a fence.

The driver absconded, but left behind a cellphone. Roma PD identified the driver. Contact was made with the driver's wife, who stated that he had left home driving the vehicle that was involved in the pursuit, but had not returned.

On 22 JUN, a Kenedy Co SO Deputy took a report of human remains that had been found in a pasture near Sarita.

From 03-29 JUN, Brooks Co SO Deputies responded to 16 reports of deceased persons or human remains on ranches, many of them in northern Brooks Co, near Falfurrias.

COASTAL BEND SECTOR

On 04 JUN, a Live Oak Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a 2017 Ford F-250 pickup on FM 1358 in George West, when a pursuit ensued.

The vehicle was driven onto a ranch near FM 241 and was found abandoned. The vehicle was reported stolen from Cleveland.

On 10 JUN, a Jim Wells Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a white 2017 Ford F-150 pickup on US-281 in Alice, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven through a ranch fence, and the Deputy lost visual contact. Additional Deputies assisted in searching the property, but the vehicle was not found.

On 16 JUN, a George West PD Officer conducted a traffic stop on a white 2019 Chevrolet Tahoe, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven through a ranch fence and crashed. The driver bailed out and absconded. The vehicle was reported stolen from Harris Co.

COASTAL BEND SECTOR

On 18 JUN, a George West PD Officer conducted a traffic stop on a stolen 2018 Chevrolet Silverado pickup, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven through several ranch fences, and the Officer lost sight of the vehicle.

The vehicle was later found abandoned by Live Oak Co SO Deputies.

No apprehensions were made.

On 27 JUN, Yoakum PD Officers conducted a traffic stop on a 1999 Ford F-150 pickup that was traveling in tandem with a 2018 Chevrolet Silverado pickup. Both vehicles failed to yield, and a pursuit ensued. The vehicles were driven through ranch fences, and the occupants bailed out and absconded.

The vehicles were reported stolen from Houston.

On 29 JUN, a Jim Wells Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a stolen 2018 GMC Denali on FM 2508 in Alice, when a pursuit ensued. After several miles, the vehicle was driven through a ranch fence, and the Deputy lost sight of the vehicle. The Deputy was notified a short time later by ranch security that the vehicle had been found and was being removed from the property. The Deputy met with ranch security at a gate near Alice and assumed custody of the vehicle.

COASTAL BEND SECTOR

On 29 JUN, a Live Oak Co SO Deputy was dispatched to a ranch near George West. There were signs that someone had broken into the residence and taken food and beverages. The Deputy found \$28 USD and a note in Spanish and English stating: "We have not eaten for four days. Today it saved our lives finding food here. Sorry for entering without permission. Att: El Emigrante."

On 30 JUN, a Jim Wells Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a 2015 Ford F-150 pickup in Alice, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven through a ranch fence at a dead end. The driver bailed out and absconded. The vehicle had a large piece of black carpet in the bed and was missing the rear seats. The insurance policy did not match with the registered owner from Houston. The vehicle was impounded.

On 13 JUN, Freer USBP Agents received information regarding a Drawbridge alert on a ranch near Encinal.

The driver of a 2021 Dodge Ram pickup appeared to be attempting to circumvent the Freer Checkpoint. The vehicle, which was found abandoned on the ranch, was reported stolen from San Antonio. McMullen 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	5	67	402	187	288	113	1,062
Bailouts	1	118	554	186	250	86	1,195

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

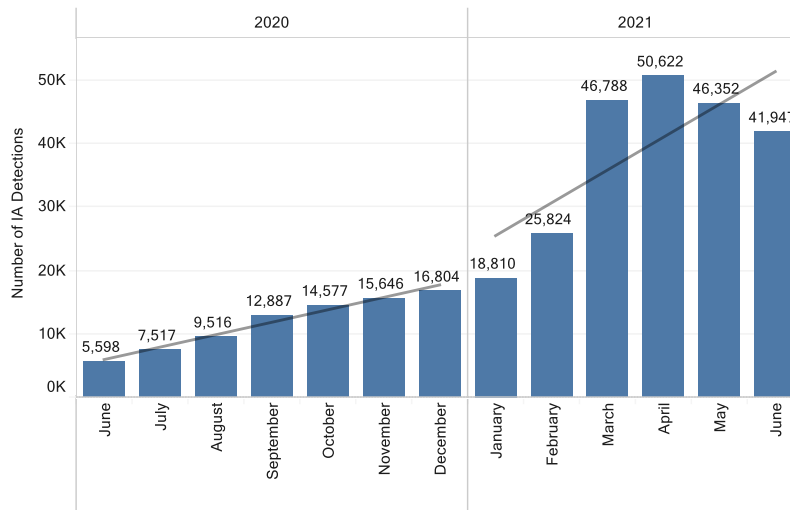




Statistical Summary – JUN 2021



Drawbridge IA Detections

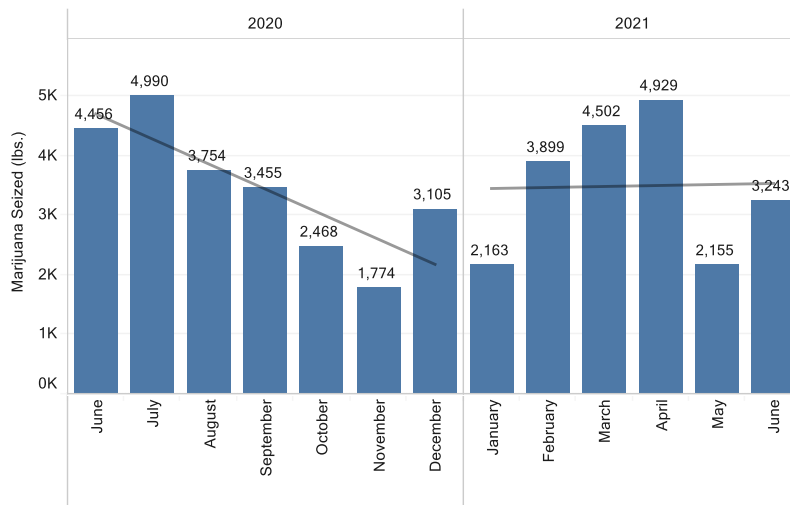


Operation Drawbridge Totals: JUN 2020 - JUN 2021

	Grand Total
IAs Detected	312,888
Marijuana Seized (lbs.)	44,893
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 - JUN 2021

	Grand Total
IAs Detected	979,550
Marijuana Seized (lbs.)	596,858
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:

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BORDER SECURITY OPERATIONS CENTER



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