

Border Operations Sector Assessment

South Texas
Ranch Edition

**January
2023**

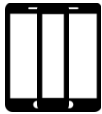
**REPORTING PERIOD:
01 JAN – 31 JAN 2023**



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)
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On 09 JAN, Van Horn USBP Agents and DPS AVN seized **116.70 lbs of marijuana** and apprehended **two IAs** on a ranch, 7 miles southeast of Van Horn. One subject was referred to Culberson Co SO to be charged, and one subject was processed as a voluntary return to MX.

On 23 JAN, Van Horn USBP Agents were notified by DPS AVN of the seizure of **65 lbs of marijuana** that was found abandoned on a ranch, 25 miles west of Valentine. USBP assumed custody of the marijuana bundle, pending referral to Alpine DEA.

On 23 JAN, Van Horn USBP Agents received a report from a rancher who encountered three abandoned bundles on their property, 13 miles northwest of Valentine. The Agents took custody of the **85.53 lbs of marijuana** and referred it to Alpine DEA.

On 25 JAN, Van Horn USBP Agents, DPS AVN, and a K-9 Unit responded to a Jeff Davis Co Constable's Office Buckeye camera alert showing three subjects carrying bundles on a ranch, 23 miles south of Van Horn. A total of **139.85 lbs of marijuana** was found abandoned, and **Drawbridge** cameras showed the three subjects returning to MX. The marijuana was referred to Alpine DEA.



On 10 JAN, Alpine USBP Agents apprehended **three IAs** in the brush on a ranch, 27 miles southeast of Marathon. A **Latin Kings gang member** was identified within the group and was charged.

On 20 JAN, Sierra Blanca USBP Agents assisted DPS AVN with the seizure of **243 lbs of marijuana** that was found abandoned on a ranch, 22 miles south of Allamore. The contraband was referred to DEA.

On 24 JAN, Sanderson USBP Agents apprehended **seven IAs** on a ranch, 19 miles south of Sanderson. A known **smuggler** was identified within the group.



On 05 JAN, a USBP Agent inspected a white 2012 Ford Focus on FM-190, south of Brundage. The vehicle was driven through a ranch fence, when the driver **bailed out** and absconded. The Agent detained **four IAs**, and a Dimmit Co SO Deputy assisted with impounding the vehicle.

On 12 JAN, a USBP Agent was dispatched to a ranch on FM-2688, southeast of Carrizo Springs, regarding a suspicious vehicle. When the Agent arrived, passengers of a silver 2016 Honda CR-V **bailed out** and absconded, and the vehicle was driven through a ranch fence. The driver was arrested by THP Troopers for **human smuggling**, and **three IAs** were apprehended.

On 26 JAN, a USBP Agent apprehended **an IA** walking in the brush on a ranch off of FM-2644, west of Carrizo Springs. A records check indicated the subject was arrested for felony sexual assault in CA, in 2001. The subject was arrested for illegal re-entry of removed aliens and will be processed for removal proceedings.

On 08 JAN, a DPS Brush Team arrested **10 IAs** for criminal trespassing on a ranch in Maverick Co.

On 08 JAN, a THP Trooper arrested **eight IAs** for criminal trespassing on a ranch in Maverick Co.

On 13 JAN, a THP Trooper arrested **nine IAs** for criminal trespassing on a ranch in Maverick Co.

On 14 JAN, a THP Trooper conducted a traffic stop on a white 2019 Ford F-350 on SH-85, east of Big Wells, when a **pursuit** ensued. The vehicle was driven through a ranch fence, and the vehicle was located abandoned the next day. The vehicle was reported **stolen** from San Antonio.

On 11 JAN, a Zavala Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a silver 2017 Nissan Titan on US-57, west of La Pryor, when a **pursuit** ensued. The vehicle was driven onto a ranch, when the driver **bailed out**. The subject was detained and identified as **an IA** who was **scouting** for human smugglers. The subject was referred to USBP.

On 14 JAN, a Zavala Co SO Deputy was dispatched to a ranch on FM-117, south of Batesville, regarding a stabbing that occurred at another location. A subject that committed the stabbing admitted to being a **Mara Salvatrucha gang member**, and was arrested for assault with a deadly weapon. A records check revealed that the subject had a warrant for assaulting a Detention Officer. The stabbing victim was taken to a hospital for treatment.

On 14 JAN, a Dimmit Co SO Deputy was dispatched to a ranch on FM-1557, Asherton, regarding an abandoned blue 2004 Ford Mustang. The Deputy found two syringes with an unidentified narcotic inside the vehicle.

On 15 JAN, a Dimmit Co SO Deputy was dispatched to a ranch regarding an abandoned white 2015 Dodge Ram. The vehicle was reported **stolen** from San Antonio.

On 31 JAN, a Dimmit Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a white 2001 Chevrolet Silverado on FM-1557, east of Asherton, when a **pursuit** ensued. The vehicle was driven through a ranch fence when the occupants **bailed out** and absconded. The vehicle was reported **stolen** from San Antonio.

On 27 JAN, a Val Verde Co SO Deputy was dispatched to a ranch off of US-90, west of Langtry, regarding damaged property and stolen items. Security camera footage showed a vehicle registered to a subject with a history of theft from ranches in the surrounding area. Charges were filed at large for the suspect.

On 02 JAN, a THP Trooper conducted a traffic stop on a 2015 red Chevrolet Silverado, when a **pursuit** ensued. The driver and **five IAs bailed out**, and climbed over a ranch fence, when the driver was apprehended. The subject stated he stole the vehicle from his father and claimed to be a **Valluco gang member**.

On 05 JAN, a THP Trooper conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle, when a **pursuit** ensued. The vehicle was driven through a ranch fence, when the occupants **bailed out** and absconded. A DPS Brush Team and USBP Agents located **seven IAs**, who were charged with criminal trespassing.

On 09 JAN, a THP Trooper, TX National Guard Specialists, and a DPS Brush Team arrested **11 IAs** for criminal trespassing on a ranch. Nine subjects were referred to the Jim Hogg Processing Center, and two subjects were referred to Jim Hogg Co Jailers.

On 16 JAN, a THP Trooper conducted a traffic stop on a red 2018 Chevrolet Silverado, when a **pursuit** ensued. Several occupants **bailed out** and absconded onto a ranch. **An IA** was detained after a foot pursuit, and was referred to USBP.

On 16 JAN, a THP Trooper responded to a ranch regarding criminal trespassers, resulting in the arrest of **nine IAs**.

On 16 JAN, a THP Trooper approached a white 2014 Dodge 3500, when it was driven through a patrol gate guard shack on a private ranch, and the driver **bailed out** and absconded. The vehicle was reported **stolen** from San Antonio.

On 17 JAN, a THP Trooper was contacted by a ranch owner regarding a vehicle driven through their property. The vehicle was located, and had been reported **stolen** from San Antonio.

On 19 JAN, a THP Trooper responded to a **Drawbridge** alert and conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle. A **pursuit** ensued and the vehicle was driven into the brush on a ranch, where it was located abandoned.

On 20 JAN, a THP Trooper conducted a motorist welfare assist, when 11 occupants **bailed out** and absconded into the brush. The driver sped away and a **pursuit** ensued. The vehicle was driven onto a ranch where it was located abandoned in a pond.

On 27 JAN, a THP Trooper conducted a traffic stop for a window tint violation, when the vehicle accelerated across the roadway and crashed into a ranch fence. Approximately six occupants **bailed out** and absconded. **Two IAs** were detained and referred to USBP.

On 09 JAN, a Duval Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a tan 2011 Ford F-150, near San Diego, when a **pursuit** ensued. The vehicle was driven onto a ranch where it was located abandoned after the occupants **bailed out** and absconded.

On 12 JAN, La Salle Co SO Deputy encountered a white 2016 Ford F-150 that was driven into a ranch fence. **An IA** was detained, and nine IAs absconded into the brush. Another **IA** later surrendered at the entrance of the ranch. The vehicle was reported **stolen** from San Antonio.

On 25 JAN, Cotulla USBP Agents responded to a call for assistance from Frio Co SO, regarding a vehicle **pursuit** and **bailout**. The vehicle was located abandoned on a ranch, and **six IAs** were apprehended. The vehicle was reported **stolen** from Cypress.

On 2 JAN, a THP Trooper conducted a traffic stop on a black 2005 Dodge Durango, when a **pursuit** ensued. The vehicle tires were spiked, when it was driven onto a ranch and visual contact was lost. The vehicle was found abandoned.

On 19 JAN, a THP Trooper conducted a traffic stop on suspected human smuggling vehicle, when a **pursuit** ensued. The vehicle's tires were spiked, and then it was driven onto a ranch. Multiple subjects **bailed out** and absconded into the brush. DPS AVN assisted with the search and guided Troopers to a subject who resisted detainment. A total of **17 IAs** were referred to USBP.

On 22 JAN, a THP Trooper and USBP Agents responded to **Drawbridge** alert, when 10 IAs absconded into the brush. A total of **six IAs** were apprehended. One subject was injured with a possible broken right hand, and the group claimed that two members had been assaulted by a rancher.

On 30 JAN, a THP Trooper conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle, when a **pursuit** ensued. The vehicle was driven onto a ranch where a Duval Co SO Deputy found it abandoned.



On 10 JAN and 14 JAN, Brooks Co SO Deputies took reports of **skeletal remains** found on a ranch, near Falfurrias. The remains were transferred to the Brooks Co Evidence Room.



On 27 JAN, a Brooks Co SO Deputy took a report of human remains found on a ranch. The remains and evidence were transported to the Brooks Co SO evidence room.



On 12 JAN, Harlingen USBP Agents apprehended **eight IAs** on a ranch. A juvenile **foot guide** was turned over to the MX Consulate.



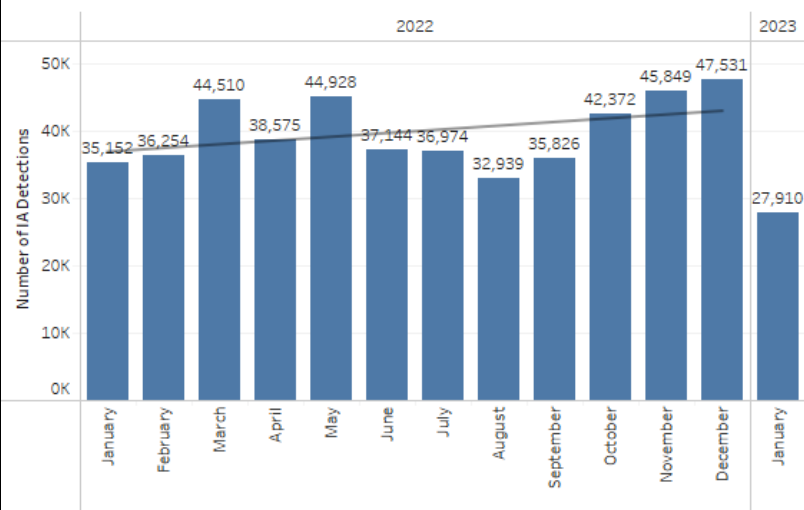
On 10 JAN, a THP Trooper encountered a white 2016 Ford Fusion with the trunk and doors open, when several occupants **bailed out** and absconded onto a ranch. USBP Agents detected signs of seven subjects in the brush. No apprehensions were made. The vehicle was impounded.

On 28 JAN, Premont PD Officers conducted a traffic stop on a white GMC Sierra, when a **pursuit** ensued. The vehicle was driven onto a ranch where it was found abandoned.

On 30 JAN, a Premont PD Officer conducted a traffic stop on a gray 2017 Ford F-150, when a **pursuit** ensued. The vehicle was driven through a ranch gate, when the driver **bailed out** and absconded. The vehicle was located abandoned.



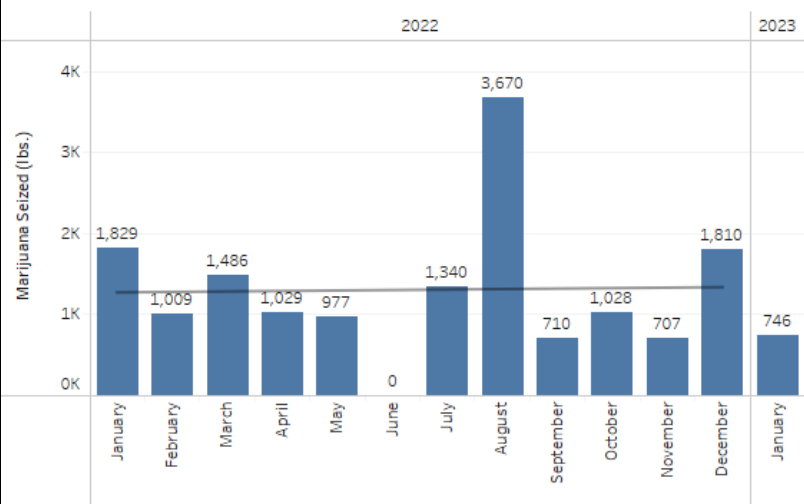
Drawbridge IA Detections



Operation Drawbridge Totals: Jan 2022 - Jan 2023

	Grand Total
IAs Detected	505,964
Marijuana Seized (lbs.)	16,341
Cocaine Seized (lbs.)	16
Heroin Seized (lbs.)	0
Meth Seized (lbs.)	0
Firearms Detected	21

Drawbridge Initiated Marijuana Seizures



Operation Drawbridge Totals: Jan 2012 - Jan 2023

	Grand Total
IAs Detected	1,759,029
Marijuana Seized (lbs.)	631,865
Cocaine Seized (lbs.)	1,451
Heroin Seized (lbs.)	40
Meth Seized (lbs.)	861
Firearms Detected	107

Illegal Aliens by JOIC (01 JAN - 31 JAN, 2023)

	El Paso	Big Bend	Del Rio	Laredo	Rio Grande Valley	Total
Total UA wT42	28,820	1,048	27,515	2,990	14,779	75,152
OTM	16,586	342	19,305	701	10,935	47,869

Total Pursuits and Bailouts (01 JAN - 31 JAN, 2023)

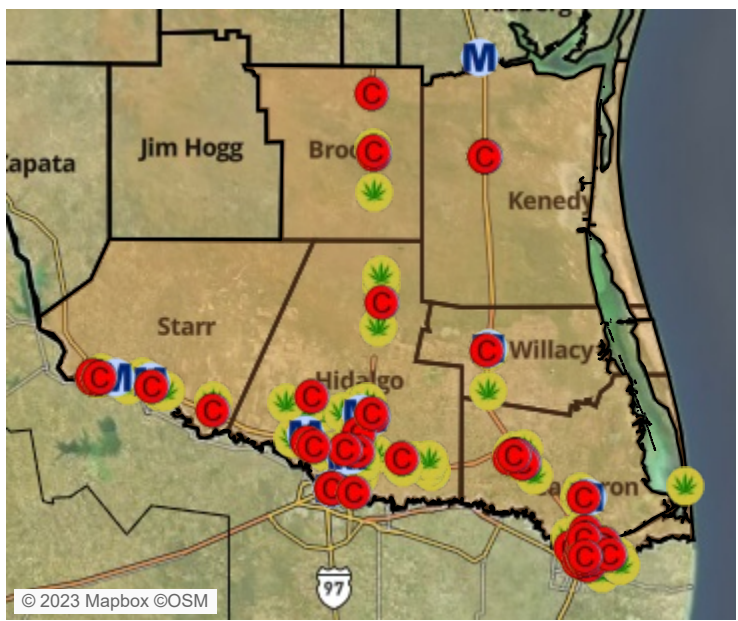
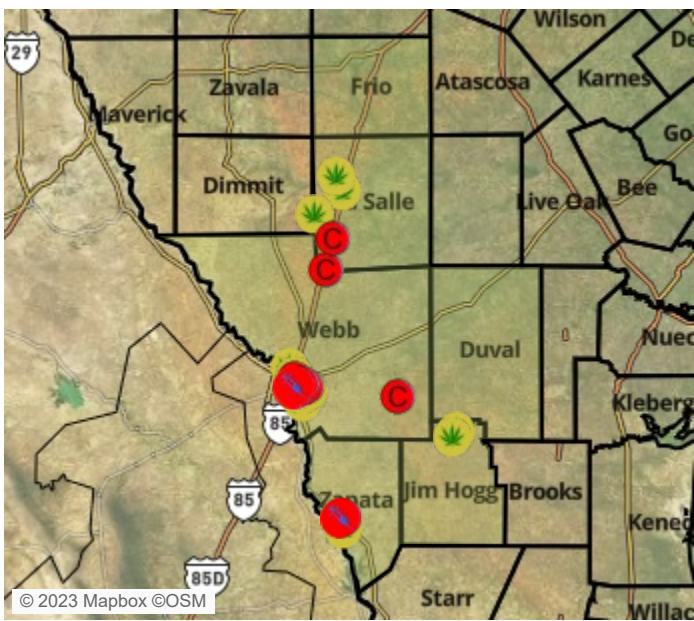
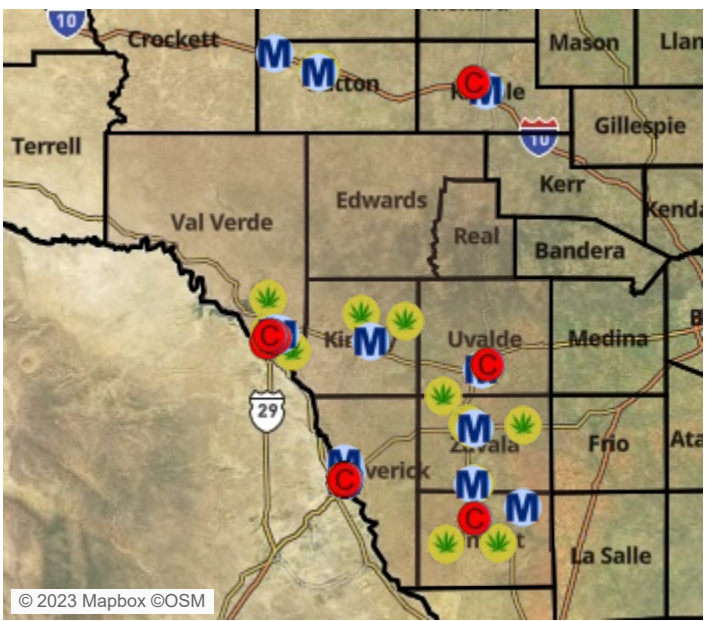
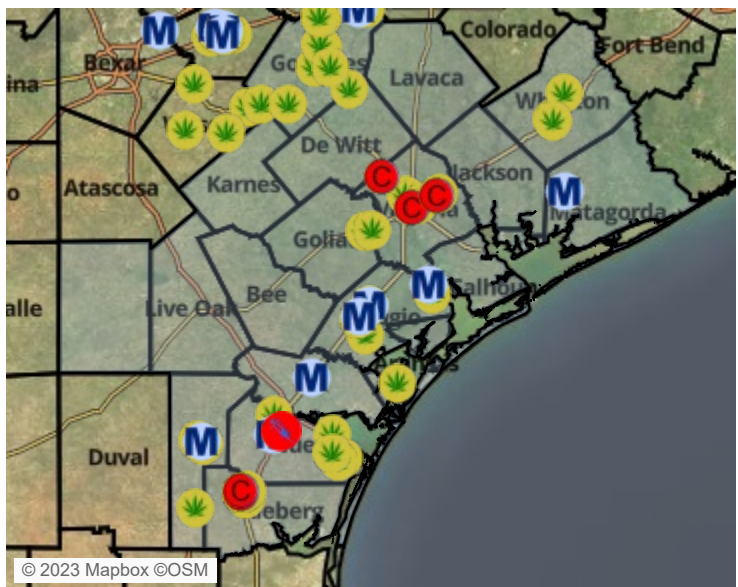
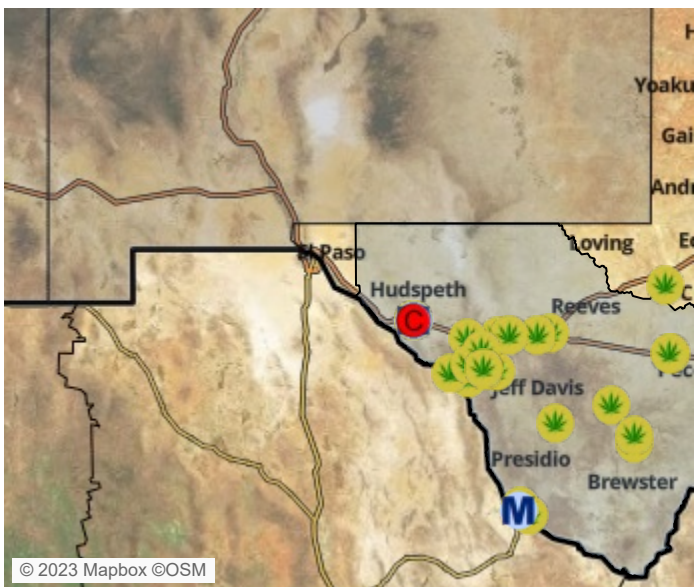
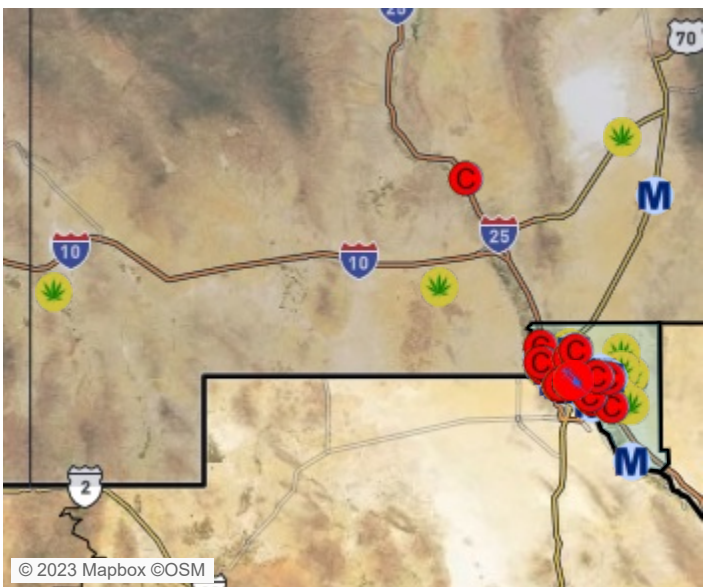
	El Paso	Big Bend	Del Rio	Laredo	Rio Grande Valley	Coastal Bend	Total
Pursuits	16	4	70	20	32	16	158
Bailouts	17	4	135	20	24	7	207



Ranch Border Operations Sector Assessment



01 JAN - 31 JAN, 2023	El Paso	Big Bend	Del Rio	Laredo	Rio Grande Va..	Coastal Bend	Total
Marijuana (lbs)	46	2,353	1	4,194	502	48	7,144
Cocaine (lbs)	196	0	213	19	563	0	990
Methamphetamine (lbs)	345	41	48	114	254	1	802
Heroin (lbs)	2	0	21	8	0	0	31



Maps depict narcotics seizures during the respective reporting month

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

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
BORDER SECURITY OPERATIONS CENTER



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