

# **Border Operations Sector Assessment**

South Texas  
Ranch Edition

**April  
2022**

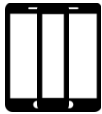
**REPORTING PERIOD:  
01 APR – 30 APR 2022**



# 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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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>

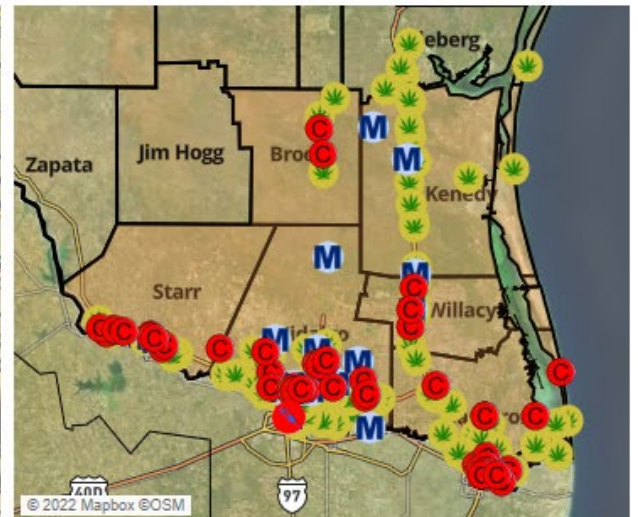
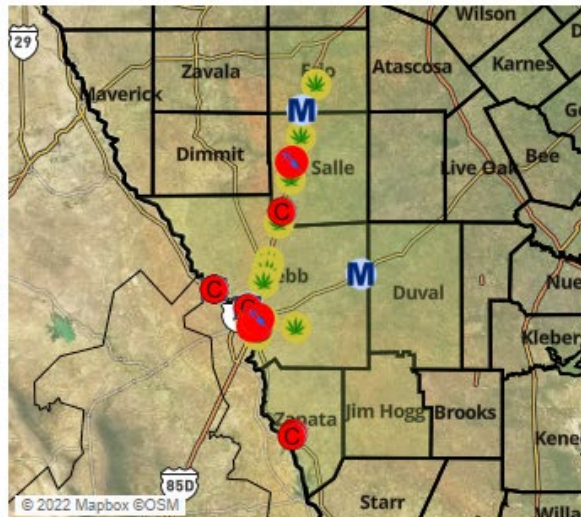
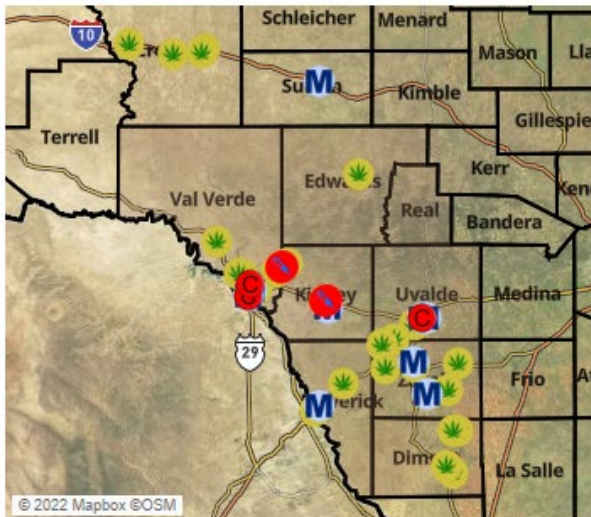
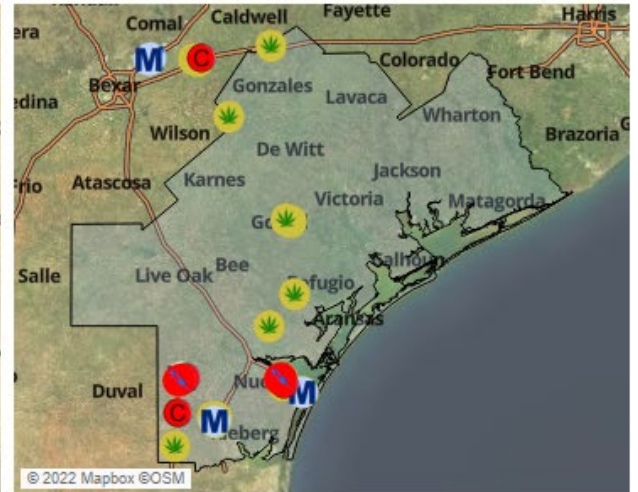
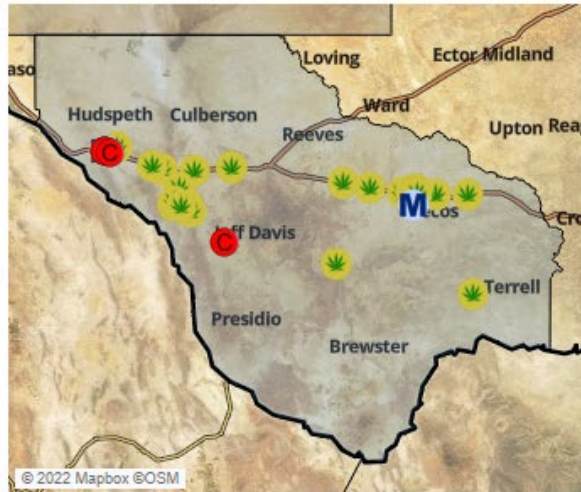
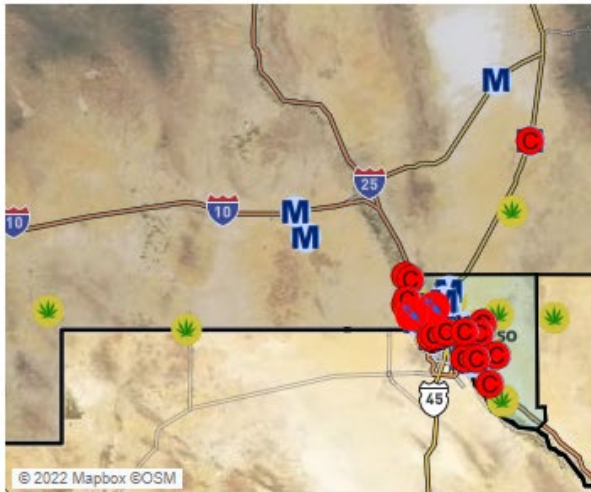




# Ranch Border Operations Sector Assessment



	El Paso	Big Bend	Del Rio	Laredo	Rio Grande Va..	Coastal Bend	Total
Marijuana (lbs)	851	767	2	1,228	3,062	27	5,938
Cocaine (lbs)	86	154	16	499	1,077	43	1,875
Methamphetamine (lbs)	345	71	59	4,677	2,293	4	7,449
Heroin (lbs)	21	0	2	0	3	1	27



Maps depict narcotics seizures during the respective reporting month

On 04 APR, Brewster Co SO Deputies and Alpine USBP Agents apprehended a group of eight IAs on a ranch 8 miles south of Marathon. The IAs were dropped off to circumvent the US-385 Marathon checkpoint.

On 06 APR, Brewster Co SO Deputies responded to a ranch 57 miles south of Marathon in reference to an IA on the property. The subject was located and referred to USBP Agents.

On 06 APR, Brewster Co SO Deputies and USBP Agents apprehended a group of eight IAs on a ranch 5 miles south of Marathon. The subjects were processed.

On 13 APR, Brewster Co SO Deputies and Alpine USBP Agents responded to a vehicle pursuit and bailout on US-385 north of Marathon. Deputies detained one subject, and five subjects absconded east onto a ranch but were apprehended by the Agents.

On 16 APR, Texas Rangers SOG Operators, assisted by landowners of a ranch located near Dryden, detained nine IAs and referred them to USBP for processing.

On 18 APR, a Jeff Davis Co Constable Deputy responded to a Drawbridge camera alert on a ranch. The Deputy observed a group of five IAs hiding under thick brush. The IAs, including a guide, were detained. The IAs were referred to Van Horn USBP for processing.





On 18 APR, DPS AVN assisted Marfa USBP Agents with a search for a group of IAs being tracked north through a ranch. The Aircrew followed foot sign for approximately 2-3 miles north of the Agents and located the group hiding under a tree. Several IAs attempted to flee, but all 23 IAs were located and apprehended. All IAs were wearing camouflage clothing.

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On 18 APR, DPS AVN assisted USBP Agents with a search for a group of 10 IAs approximately 5 miles west of Valentine on a ranch. The Aircrew quickly located the group hiding under some trees and observed they were all wearing camouflage clothing. The Aircrew deployed two members, and along with USBP Agents were able to apprehend all 10 IAs without further incident. All IAs were referred to USBP for processing.



On 19 APR, DPS AVN was advised by USBP of a group of 20 IAs spotted by a local land surveyor. The Aircrew met with the land surveyor 2 miles west of a ranch's headquarters. The Aircrew deployed and searched the nearby area. Ten IAs were spotted dressed in camouflage and concealed underneath thick brush. All 10 IAs were referred to Van Horn USBP Agents for processing.

On 22 APR, Alpine USBP Agents apprehended nine IAs in the brush on a ranch 3 miles north of Marathon. The IAs were processed.

On 26 APR, Alpine USBP Agents responded to a sensor activation on a ranch southeast of Marathon. Foot sign was tracked on the ranch until all 11 IAs were apprehended. The IAs were processed.

On 09 APR, a Uvalde Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a silver 2003 Ford F-250, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle drove through a ranch fence, and several subjects bailed out. The Deputy detained an IA and the USC driver. USBP Agents apprehended three additional IAs. The Deputy arrested the driver for human smuggling, and the Agents processed the four IAs.

On 11 APR, a Sutton Co SO Deputy observed a black 2013 Dodge Charger and a white 2009 Chevrolet Silverado driving in tandem on IH-10, east of Sonora. The Deputy conducted a traffic stop, when a pursuit ensued. The Dodge used aggressive blocking tactics to interfere with the Deputy, and the Chevrolet was driven through a ranch fence and was later found abandoned. The Dodge was stopped, and the driver was identified. The Deputy believed the Dodge was a scout for the Chevrolet. The Chevrolet was not reported stolen at the time of the incident and was impounded pending disposition.

On 15 APR, a Zavala Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a black 2003 Ford Expedition on US-83, north of La Pryor, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven onto a ranch where the driver and several passengers bailed out and absconded. The Deputy was able to detain one IA, who was referred to USBP for processing. The vehicle was not reported stolen at the time of the incident.

On 15 APR, a Zavala Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a white 2020 Chevrolet Silverado, south of Batesville, when a pursuit ensued and ended after visual contact was lost. On 16 APR, the vehicle was found abandoned on a ranch. The vehicle was reported stolen from San Antonio.

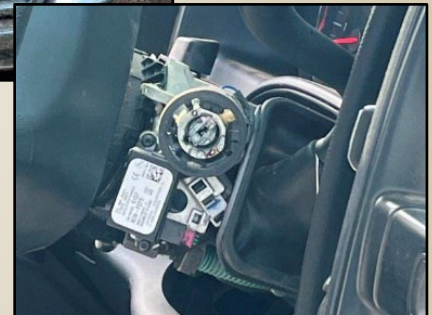
On 16 APR, a Zavala Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a white 2015 Ford F-150, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven through a ranch east of Big Wells, and six subjects bailed out and absconded. The Deputy detained four IAs who were hiding in the truck bed, and a USBP Agent processed the IAs. The vehicle was not reported stolen at the time of reporting.



On 21 APR, a Zavala Co SO Deputy was dispatched to a ranch north of US-57, west of La Pryor, regarding a deceased subject. The body was taken to a funeral home in Uvalde.

On 29 APR, a Zavala Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a white 2018 GMC Sierra 2500 on US-57, east of Batesville, when a pursuit ensued.

The vehicle was driven through a ranch fence, and the Deputy lost sight of the vehicle. On 30 APR, a rancher located the vehicle after the occupants bailed out and absconded. The vehicle had a tampered door lock, a tampered ignition, and license plates from another vehicle. The vehicle was reported stolen from Bexar Co.



On 28 APR, USBP Agents were informed about a stolen gray 2011 Dodge Ram 2500 headed westbound on FM-117, south of Batesville. The Agents intercepted the vehicle on FM-1867 and spiked the vehicle's tires, causing it to crash onto a ranch. The vehicle had a license plate from another vehicle, and registration checks revealed it was reported stolen from San Antonio.



On 01 APR, a THP Trooper conducted a traffic stop, when a pursuit ensued. Several subjects bailed out when the vehicle slowed down, and more subjects bailed out as the vehicle traveled into a ditch and crashed into a ranch fence, where it caught fire. One IA was detained and referred to USBP.

On 03 APR, a THP Trooper conducted a traffic stop when several subjects bailed out and absconded onto a ranch. The Trooper secured the driver and the front seat passenger, and four IAs were later located with assistance from USBP. The driver and passenger were arrested for human smuggling.

On 05 APR, a THP Trooper conducted a traffic stop, when approximately 15 subjects bailed out. The vehicle then made a U-turn and headed in the opposite direction, but Troopers were able to successfully deploy stop sticks. The vehicle was then driven through a ranch fence. No apprehensions were made.

On 24 APR, a THP Trooper observed a vehicle on the shoulder of the roadway, where approximately 15 subjects were fleeing on foot onto a ranch. Nine IAs were later detained and charged with criminal trespass.

On 24 APR, a THP Trooper was advised of a Chevrolet Suburban traveling north and transporting IAs. The Trooper was flagged down by a citizen stating the Chevrolet was driven onto their property. When the Trooper approached the Chevrolet, it was driven through two fences. It was later found abandoned on the ranch. No apprehensions were made.

On 30 APR, a THP Trooper conducted a traffic stop on a gray Chevrolet Silverado, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven through a ranch fence. Multiple subjects bailed out and absconded into the brush. USBP conducted a search, but no apprehensions were made.



On 02 APR, Hebbronville USBP Agents located a black 2010 Chevrolet Silverado, abandoned at the entrance of a ranch. Record checks on the vehicle indicated it was stolen from Houston.

On 06 APR, a Cotulla USBP Agent observed a 2022 Ford Flatbed speeding on CR-4440 towards FM-1581. The Agent lost visual contact with the vehicle but observed tire tracks that led onto a ranch, where it was found abandoned in the brush. The vehicle was reported stolen from San Antonio.

On 19 APR, Cotulla USBP Agents received a Drawbridge alert on a white 2016 Dodge Ram 2500 with several people in the bed of the truck. The Agents responded to the area and observed a fresh break in a ranch fence. The Agents followed the tire tracks and were able to locate the vehicle where it had been abandoned. The vehicle was reported stolen from San Antonio. No apprehensions were made.

On 20 APR, Cotulla USBP Agents were notified of a stolen silver 2017 Ford F-150 traveling on IH-35 near Pearsall. Dilley PD Officers assisted and conducted a traffic stop, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven through a ranch fence where it was located abandoned in the brush.

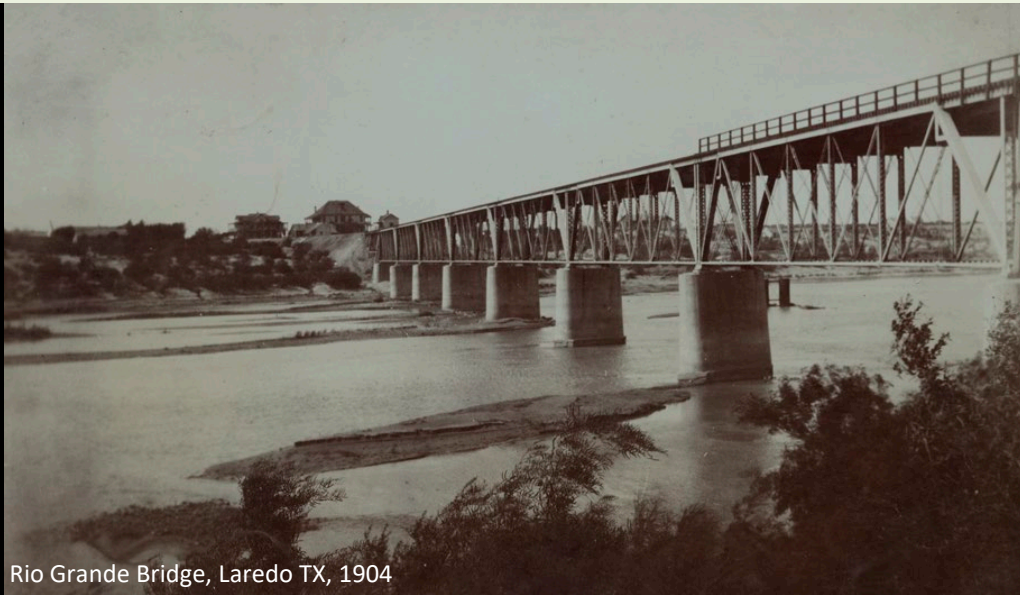
On 24 APR, Cotulla USBP Agents responded to a report of a gray 2015 Dodge Charger that was driven through a ranch fence and located it abandoned in the brush. Record checks showed the vehicle was reported stolen from San Antonio.

On 27 APR, Cotulla USBP Agents responded to search for a 2016 Chevrolet Silverado suspected of being involved in human smuggling. The Agents located the vehicle on a ranch, when a pursuit ensued. Later, THP Troopers deployed stop sticks on the vehicle, when it was driven onto another ranch. No apprehensions were made. The vehicle was reported stolen from Houston.

On 08 APR, DPS AVN responded to a THP pursuit and bailout in Webb Co. The Aircrew arrived and assisted in locating the vehicle on a ranch near Laredo. No apprehensions were made.



On 19 APR, DPS AVN assisted Laredo South USBP Agents with locating a group of suspected IAs on a ranch. When several subjects attempted to abscond, the Aircrew guided Agents, who were able to apprehend eight IAs. One subject jumped in the river and crossed into MX. Later, Aircrew responded again to the same ranch and assisted in locating five IAs in a creek. The Aircrew followed two IAs who absconded and eventually jumped into the river and crossed back into MX.



Rio Grande Bridge, Laredo TX, 1904



On 02 APR, Rio Grande City USBP Agents apprehended nine IAs in San Isidro after they inspected a blue Ford F-150, which was suspected of human smuggling. The driver evaded by driving through a ranch fence, and the subjects bailed out but were apprehended. The vehicle was seized.

On 07 APR, Rio Grande City USBP Agents apprehended seven IAs and seized a 2000 Ford F-250 in La Gloria. The Agents inspected a vehicle suspected of human smuggling, when it was driven through a ranch fence. The subjects bailed out but were apprehended.

On 20 APR, Rio Grande City USBP Agents apprehended 12 IAs in McCook after they observed a Ford F-150 suspected of being involved in human smuggling. The vehicle failed to yield and was driven onto a ranch where it was later found on fire. The Agents located the IAs, which resulted in the identification of a human stash house in Edinburg.

On 04 APR, Kingsville USBP Agents were notified of a blue 2015 Chevrolet Silverado with fictitious license plates. The Agents located the vehicle and conducted a traffic stop, when a pursuit ensued, and the vehicle was driven through a ranch fence. The subjects bailed out and absconded. No apprehensions were made.

On 11 APR, Kingsville USBP Agents apprehended 11 IAs and arrested a USC human smuggler after responding to a report of subjects walking across a ranch.



On 04 APR, a Brooks Co SO Deputy responded to reports of human skeletal remains on a ranch. The remains were recovered.



On 6 APR, a Brooks Co SO Deputy took a report of human skeletal remains found on a ranch near Encino. Brooks Co SO assumed custody of the remains.

On 17 APR, a Brooks Co SO Deputy responded to a ranch in Falfurrias, regarding two IAs in distress. EMS responded to assist, but one subject died at the scene.

On 12 APR, a Falfurrias PD Officer seized a vehicle following a pursuit and bailout that ended on a ranch in Falfurrias. The driver absconded, and no apprehensions were made.

On 13 APR, Falfurrias USBP Agents apprehended nine IAs and seized a white Chevrolet Silverado in Encino after the vehicle was driven through a ranch fence and a bailout occurred. The driver absconded.

On 29 APR, Falfurrias USBP Agents apprehended 25 IAs and seized a stolen 2020 Ford F-150 after the vehicle was driven through a ranch fence during a pursuit. The subjects bailed out but were all apprehended.

On 22 APR, a Kenedy Co SO Deputy assisted with a vehicle pursuit and bailout near Sarita. The vehicle had crashed through a ranch fence and hit a tree. A subject absconded and no apprehension was made.





On 01 APR, a Jim Wells Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a white 2002 Ford F-250 near Alice, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven through a ranch fence, and visual contact was lost. No apprehensions were made.

On 25 APR, a Jim Wells Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a white Ford F-250 near Alice, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven through a ranch fence, and several subjects bailed out and absconded into the brush. No apprehensions were made.

On 10 APR, a George West PD Officer conducted a traffic stop on a stolen white 2018 Chevrolet Silverado, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven through a ranch fence and was later found abandoned.

On 11 APR, a Kingsville PD Officer conducted a traffic stop on a white 2003 Toyota Sequoia, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven through a ranch fence, and 12 subjects bailed out and absconded.

On 21 APR, a THP Trooper conducted a traffic stop on a white 2017 Ford F-250 near Mathis, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven through a fence line, and three subjects bailed out. A foot pursuit ensued, and the subjects were apprehended. The three IAs were arrested for criminal trespass. The vehicle was reported stolen from Polk Co.

On 26 APR, a Lavaca Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a white 2021 Ford F-250, near Hallettsville, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven onto a ranch, and the Deputy lost sight of the vehicle. It was later located abandoned. The vehicle was reported stolen from League City.

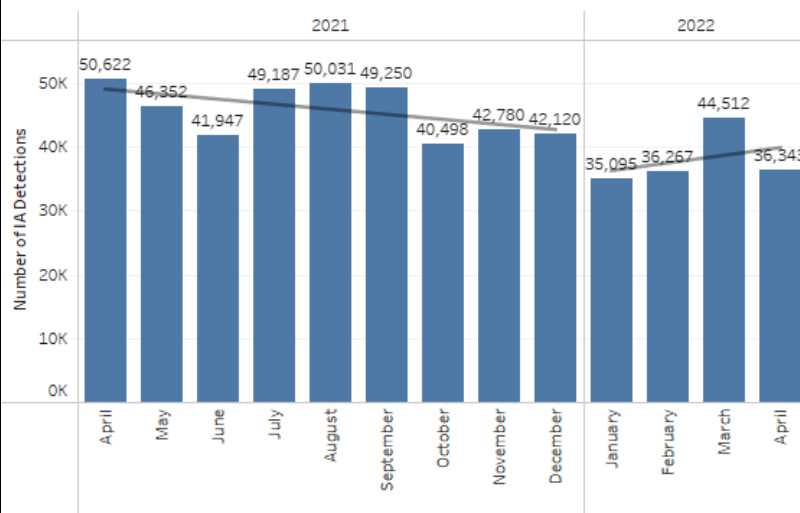
On 26 APR, a Live Oak Co SO Deputy was alerted by a License Plate Reader system of a stolen silver 2021 Ford F-350. The Deputy conducted a traffic stop, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven through a ranch fence and was later found abandoned. No apprehensions were made.



## Statistical Summary – APR 2022



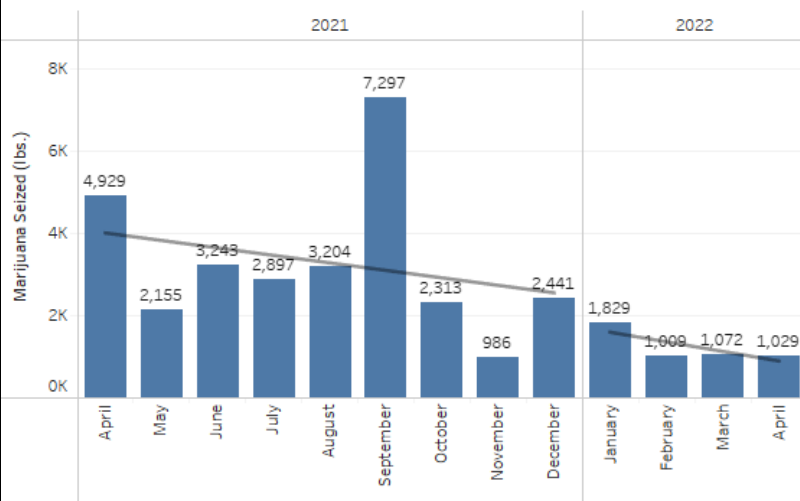
### Drawbridge IA Detections



### Operation Drawbridge Totals: APR 2021 - APR 2022

	Grand Total
IAs Detected	565,004
Marijuana Seized (lbs.)	34,404
Cocaine Seized (lbs.)	279
Heroin Seized (lbs.)	0
Meth Seized (lbs.)	660
Firearms Detected	43

### Drawbridge Initiated Marijuana Seizures



### Operation Drawbridge Totals: JAN 2012 - APR 2022

	Grand Total
IAs Detected	1,405,633
Marijuana Seized (lbs.)	620,935
Cocaine Seized (lbs.)	1,435
Heroin Seized (lbs.)	40
Meth Seized (lbs.)	861
Firearms Detected	103



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

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