

Border Operations Sector Assessment

Texas Ranch Edition

**May
2023**

**REPORTING PERIOD:
01 MAY – 31 MAY 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.



iWatchTX Android App



iWatchTX iOS App

OPERATION BORDER STAR

	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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BIG BEND SECTOR

On 09 MAY, Brewster Co SO deputies received a phone call from a local rancher reporting foot sign on his ranch. USBP agents and the deputies apprehended **nine IAs** hiding in the brush.

On 06 MAY, a Brewster Co SO deputy referred **an IA** to USBP on a ranch, 78 miles southeast of Alpine.

On 07 MAY, a Brewster Co SO deputy referred **an IA** to USBP on a ranch, 75 miles southeast of Alpine.

On 08 MAY, a THP trooper conducted a traffic stop. The vehicle pulled over, and subjects bailed out and evaded over a barbed-wire fence. The trooper was unable to locate the individuals, and the vehicle was towed.

On 10 MAY, Texas Ranger SOG operators, a THP Brush Team, USBP agents, and USBP Horse Patrol searched for IAs in response to a sensor activation on a ranch in Terrell Co. The USBP agents apprehended **four IAs**.

On 12 MAY, Texas Ranger SOG operators assisted USBP agents with the apprehension of **six IAs** on a ranch.

On 16 MAY, Jeff Davis Co Constable's Office received a **Drawbridge** camera alert on a ranch. Three subjects absconded.

DEL RIO SECTOR

On 05 MAY, a USBP agent inspected a 2017 Ford F-250 on SH-85, west of Big Wells, when a **pursuit** ensued. The vehicle was driven through a fence onto a ranch near FM-1867, north of Big Wells. The occupants bailed out, and the agent detained **an IA**. The vehicle was reported stolen from San Antonio.

On 08 MAY, a Carrizo Springs deputy marshal was dispatched regarding a suspicious 2006 Mallard RV. When the deputy marshal approached the RV, several subjects bailed out and fled to a ranch. The deputy marshal referred **two IAs** to USBP, and EMS personnel took another IA for medical treatment. The deputy marshal concluded the RV was being used as a **stash house**.

On 12 MAY, a Dimmit Co SO deputy was dispatched in response to a recovered stolen 2014 Ford F-150 on FM-1019, southeast of Big Wells. A USBP agent observed a bailout from the vehicle earlier in the day. The vehicle was found on a ranch and confirmed to be stolen from San Antonio.

On 20 MAY, a Dimmit Co SO deputy responded to a report of human remains found by USBP agents on a ranch near US-277, north of Carrizo Springs. A Mexican identification card was discovered nearby.

On 22 MAY, a Dimmit Co SO deputy responded to a report of human remains found by a USBP agent on a ranch, west of Catarina.

On 28 MAY, a Dimmit Co SO deputy conducted a traffic stop on a 2013 Audi S7 in Carrizo Springs, when a **pursuit** ensued. The vehicle stopped on FM-1557, south of Carrizo Springs, and three passengers bailed out. The vehicle struck a fence, and the deputy detained the human smuggler. A USBP agent processed **three IAs**, and the deputy arrested the driver.

DEL RIO SECTOR

On 02 MAY, a Zavala Co SO deputy conducted a traffic stop on a white Toyota Scion TC on US-57, east of La Pryor, when a **pursuit** ensued. The vehicle crashed into a ranch fence near FM-187, north of Batesville. The deputy and a Zavala Co constable found **two deceased IAs** who were ejected from the vehicle. The constable detained **an IA** who bailed out after the crash. The deputy detained the driver/human smuggler and located **an IA** inside the trunk who was injured in the crash. EMS personnel took the driver and two injured IAs to the hospital.

On 03 MAY, a Zavala Co SO deputy conducted a traffic stop on a white 2015 Ford F-150 on US-57, east of La Pryor, when a **pursuit** ensued. The vehicle was driven onto a ranch and found abandoned the following day. The vehicle was reported stolen from Houston.

On 06 MAY, a Zavala Co SO deputy was dispatched to a ranch near US-57, east of Batesville, regarding a burglary. The ranch owner stated a subject broke into the ranch house and attempted to steal several items. The ranch owner located the subject asleep in a bed and held the subject at gunpoint. The deputy suspected the subject was a human smuggler who bailed out from a vehicle pursuit and arrested the subject for burglary of a habitation.

On 06 MAY, a Zavala Co SO deputy conducted a traffic stop on a white 2021 Chevrolet Silverado on US-57, east of Batesville, when a **pursuit** ensued. The vehicle was driven onto a ranch, and the deputy lost sight of the vehicle.

On 10 MAY, a Zavala Co SO deputy conducted a traffic stop on a white 2012 Dodge Journey on US-57, when a **pursuit** ensued. The vehicle was driven into a fence. The ranch owner later found the vehicle abandoned. The deputy impounded the vehicle.

DEL RIO SECTOR

On 18 MAY, a Zavala Co SO deputy responded to a report of human remains found on a ranch near FM-117, north of Batesville.

On 22 MAY, a Zavala Co SO deputy conducted a traffic stop on a gray 2006 Toyota Tundra on US-57, west of Batesville, when a **pursuit** ensued. The vehicle was driven onto a ranch and later found abandoned.

On 02 MAY, a THP trooper conducted a traffic stop on a stolen 2020 GMC Sierra, when a **pursuit** ensued. The vehicle was driven through a fence onto a ranch property. The driver and **nine IAs** were apprehended by USBP agents and a THP Brush Team. The driver was arrested.

On 02 MAY, a THP trooper conducted a traffic stop on a white 2006 Ford F-150, when a **pursuit** ensued. The vehicle was driven through a fence. **Four IAs** were referred to USBP, and the driver absconded.

On 03 MAY, a THP trooper arrested **three IAs** for criminal trespass on a ranch.

On 03 MAY, a THP trooper conducted a traffic stop on a 2017 Ford F-250 in Uvalde, when a **pursuit** ensued. The vehicle was driven through a ranch gate near US-90, and two occupants bailed out. The trooper noticed the door lock was tampered with, and the vehicle was reported stolen from San Antonio.

On 03 MAY, a THP trooper and THP Brush Team responded to a **Drawbridge** camera alert on a ranch and arrested **seven IAs** for criminal trespass.

On 08 MAY, a THP trooper conducted a traffic stop, when a **pursuit** ensued. The vehicle was driven through a fence, and the occupants bailed out.

DEL RIO SECTOR

On 04 MAY, THP troopers arrested **three IAs** for criminal trespass on a ranch property.

On 08 MAY, THP troopers made contact with a rancher who detained **three IAs** who surrendered. The IAs were referred to USBP.

On 09 MAY, a THP trooper arrested **five IAs** for criminal trespass on a ranch in Del Rio.

On 09 MAY, a THP trooper assisted a Zavala Co SO deputy with a vehicle **pursuit**. The vehicle was driven onto a ranch, and the trooper observed subjects bail out.

On 09 MAY, a THP trooper assisted DPS CID SAs with a traffic stop on a stolen vehicle involved in human smuggling, when a **pursuit** ensued. The vehicle was driven through heavy brush, and the pursuit was terminated. Later, the vehicle was located on a ranch. The vehicle was reported stolen from San Antonio.

On 10 MAY, a THP trooper responded to a camera alert on a ranch and arrested **six IAs** for criminal trespass.

On 10 MAY, a THP trooper arrested **five IAs** for criminal trespass on a ranch.

On 10 MAY, a THP trooper conducted a traffic stop for incorrect plates, when a **pursuit** ensued. All occupants bailed out, and two subjects jumped a fence. DPS AVN observed the subjects. The trooper referred **17 IAs** to USBP and arrested **two IAs** for criminal trespass and evading. The vehicle was reported stolen out of Fredericksburg.

DEL RIO SECTOR

On 11 MAY, a THP trooper conducted a traffic stop, when a **pursuit** ensued. The vehicle was driven through a ranch fence and crashed into the brush. Several occupants bailed out and absconded.

On 12 MAY, a THP trooper was alerted to the presence of **an IA** near a ranch gate. The trooper detained and referred the IA to USBP.

On 12 MAY, a THP trooper observed a vehicle that was reported stolen. The trooper conducted a traffic stop, when a **pursuit** ensued. The vehicle was driven through a fence. A **Drawbridge** camera alert showed the vehicle being driven through a second fence and come to a stop. The stolen vehicle was recovered.

On 14 MAY, a THP trooper was notified of **four IAs** on a ranch and referred the IAs to USBP.

On 14 MAY, a THP trooper conducted a traffic stop on a green 1999 Ford F-250 on US-277, southwest of Brackettville. The vehicle was driven through a ranch fence, and the occupants bailed out. The trooper arrested a human smuggler and referred **five IAs** to USBP. The vehicle was impounded.

On 17 MAY, a THP trooper conducted a traffic stop on a Toyota Highlander, when a **pursuit** ensued. The vehicle was driven through a fence, came to a stop, and **three IAs** bailed out. USBP apprehended the IAs. The driver was not located.

DEL RIO SECTOR

On 14 MAY a Sonora PD officer conducted a traffic stop on a blue 2006 GMC Sierra, when a **pursuit** ensued. The vehicle struck a fence, and three subjects bailed out. The officer detained and referred **seven IAs** who were in the vehicle to USBP. The vehicle had a fictitious paper tag and was impounded.

On 13 MAY, a Crockett Co SO deputy conducted a traffic stop on a gray 2004 Chevrolet Silverado on SH-163, south of Ozona, when a **pursuit** ensued. The vehicle was driven through a fence, and the driver bailed out. The license plate belonged to another vehicle. The deputy impounded the vehicle.

On 20 MAY, a Kimble Co SO deputy and a Junction PD officer assisted Sutton Co SO deputies with the **pursuit** of a rented gray 2023 Audi Q3. The vehicle was driven through several ranch fences before it came to a stop. The vehicle was reported stolen and impounded.

On 08 MAY, a Kinney Co SO deputy conducted a traffic stop on a red 1996 Ford Explorer on RR-334, east of Brackettville, when a **pursuit** ensued. The vehicle was driven through a fence onto a ranch, and the occupants bailed out. USBP agents apprehended **16 IAs** nearby, and the deputy impounded the vehicle.

On 31 MAY, a Kinney Co SO deputy conducted a traffic stop on a 2011 Mitsubishi Outlander, when a **pursuit** ensued. The vehicle was driven through a fence, and the occupants bailed out. The deputy arrested **an IA** human smuggler and referred **three IAs** to USBP. The vehicle was reported stolen from Kilgore.

LAREDO SECTOR

On 01 MAY, a THP trooper, THP Brush Team, Texas National Guard, and USBP found several subjects on private property and arrested **five IAs** for criminal trespass.

On 02 MAY, a THP trooper and THP Brush Team encountered three IAs, who fled onto private property. **An IA** was detained and stated he was experiencing bodily pain. EMS assisted the subject, who was transported to a medical center. The IA was arrested for criminal trespass.

On 04 MAY, a THP Brush Team and Texas National Guard responded to a sensor activation to locate a group of individuals crossing into private property. **Three IAs** were arrested for criminal trespass.

On 06 MAY, a THP trooper was advised by another trooper of a possible loaded 2000 GMC Sierra driven by a scout and human smuggler. The trooper observed the scout and noticed the vehicle turn around to head south. The vehicle was driven onto a ranch property, and the occupants bailed out.

On 06 MAY, a THP trooper responded to private property to assist a THP Brush Team, Texas National Guard soldiers, and USBP agents with a search for IAs. **Five IAs** were arrested for criminal trespass.

On 06 MAY, a THP trooper observed a damaged vehicle entering ranch. The trooper conducted a traffic stop and referred **four IAs** to USBP.

On 06 MAY, a THP trooper conducted a traffic stop, when a **pursuit** ensued. The vehicle was driven through a fence onto a ranch, when the occupants bailed out.

On 08 MAY, a THP Brush Team responded to a private ranch and arrested **seven IAs** for criminal trespass.

LAREDO SECTOR

On 10 MAY, a THP Brush Team responded to a **Drawbridge** camera alert on a dairy farm. The troopers observed **an IA** on the property and arrested the subject for criminal trespass.

On 10 MAY, a THP trooper conducted a traffic stop, when a **pursuit** ensued. The vehicle was driven through a fence line onto a ranch. The vehicle was later located abandoned.

On 11 MAY, a THP trooper and a THP Brush Team responded to a private property regarding **four IAs** and arrested the subjects for criminal trespass.

On 12 MAY, a THP trooper conducted a traffic stop on a white Ford, when a **pursuit** ensued. The vehicle was driven through a fence, and the passengers bailed out. USBP agents apprehended **two IAs**. The Ford was bearing the wrong license plate and had signs that it was possibly stolen.

On 13 MAY, a THP trooper conducted a traffic stop on a white 2018 Chevrolet Silverado on FM-2295, when a **pursuit** ensued. The vehicle was driven through a fence, and the occupants bailed out in San Diego. The vehicle was reported stolen from Montgomery Co. The troopers seized the vehicle.

On 19 MAY, a THP trooper responded to a private property and arrested **five IAs** for criminal trespass.

On 20 MAY, a THP trooper responded to a farm, **pursued** a vehicle, and arrested **four IAs** for criminal trespass.

On 20 MAY, a THP trooper arrested **four IAs** for criminal trespass on private property.

LAREDO SECTOR

On 26 MAY, a THP trooper conducted a traffic stop, when a **pursuit** ensued. The driver stopped momentarily, and two subjects fled on foot. The vehicle was driven through a fence, and the pursuit was terminated. The vehicle was found abandoned.

On 28 MAY, a THP trooper conducted a traffic stop, when a **pursuit** ensued. The trooper lost visual of the vehicle but regained it and conducted a stop. The trooper observed indicators of human smuggling, and the driver was released with a citation. The trooper returned to the scene, followed footprints onto a ranch, and detained **10 IAs**. The IAs confirmed the driver had dropped them off. Six IAs were arrested for criminal trespass, and three IAs were referred to USBP.

On 31 MAY, a THP trooper and THP Brush Team responded to a **Drawbridge** camera alert on a ranch property. **An IA** was arrested for criminal trespass.

On 12 MAY, a Duval Co SO deputy was advised of a **pursuit** in the area in which another deputy lost visual of the vehicle on a ranch near CR-442 in Jim Wells Co. The deputy drove to the area and followed the tracks. The black 2021 Chevrolet Silverado was located abandoned several miles away on another ranch located near Alice. The vehicle's VIN had no match.

On 31 MAY, a Duval Co SO deputy conducted a traffic stop on a GMC in Alice, when a **pursuit** ensued. The deputy found a gate that had been rammed open and located the abandoned GMC. The vehicle was reported stolen from Harris Co.

LAREDO SECTOR

On 12 MAY, a Duval Co SO deputy conducted a traffic stop on a blue Chevrolet on CR-440 in Palito Blanco, when a **pursuit** ensued. The vehicle turned on CR-442 near Duval Co and was driven through a gate onto a ranch. The deputy later found the vehicle abandoned.

On 11 MAY, an Encinal PD officer observed a 2003 Ford Expedition, a possible load vehicle, parked at a residence. The vehicle left the residence, and the officer conducted a traffic stop, when a **pursuit** ensued. The vehicle was driven off the road and through a fence, and four subjects bailed out. **An IA** was referred to USBP.

On 05 MAY, Cotulla USBP agents located a 2017 Ford F-350 Super Duty bearing custom license plates that was involved in a bailout onto a ranch in Divot. **Four IAs** were referred to USBP. THP troopers assisted and assumed custody of the vehicle, which was reported stolen from San Antonio.

On 13 MAY, Cotulla USBP agents encountered a stolen 2020 Jeep Wrangler on IH-35 near Cotulla. THP troopers and La Salle Co SO deputies conducted a traffic stop, when the occupants bailed out onto a nearby ranch. The agents searched the area but were unable to locate the driver. La Salle Co SO assumed custody of the vehicle.

On 23 MAY, Cotulla USBP agents were notified of a suspicious white 2020 Chevrolet Silverado. The agents located the vehicle at FM-117 near Dilley. The vehicle was driven through a ranch gate and several fences. The agents searched the area and located the vehicle abandoned. The vehicle was reported stolen from San Antonio. Frio Co impounded the vehicle.

RIO GRANDE VALLEY SECTOR

On 03 MAY, Falfurrias USBP agents apprehended **11 IAs** near Encino. The agents followed a vehicle, which drove through a fence, and 15 subjects bailed out. The agents located 11 IAs and seized the vehicle.

On 21 MAY, Rio Grande City USBP agents apprehended **an IA** and arrested a human smuggler near the Falfurrias Checkpoint. The agents encountered a vehicle that was driven off road onto a ranch, conducted a traffic stop, arrested the driver, and discovered the IA. The driver was later referred to Brooks Co SO, and the vehicle was impounded.

On 22 MAY, a Brooks Co SO deputy reported human remains found on a ranch in Falfurrias.

On 08 MAY, THP troopers conducted a traffic stop, when a **pursuit** ensued. The troopers pursued the vehicle for approximately six miles when the suspect drove into a fence line onto a ranch. DPS AVN assisted and located the vehicle abandoned in the brush. The vehicle was impounded.

On 10 MAY, THP troopers conducted a traffic stop, when a **pursuit** ensued. The vehicle was driven through a fence onto private ranch property. The vehicle was driven approximately 100 yards, and at least five subjects bailed out and fled. USBP agents assisted the troopers and apprehended **two IAs**.

COASTAL BEND SECTOR

On 13 MAY, a THP trooper conducted a traffic stop on a blue 2018 Chevrolet Silverado on US-281 near San Diego, when a **pursuit** ensued. The vehicle continued on FM-2295 and turned north on CR-440. The vehicle was driven through a fence and abandoned. The vehicle was reported stolen from Montgomery Co.

On 17 MAY, a THP trooper conducted a traffic stop on a tan 2001 Chevrolet Tahoe near Edna, when a **pursuit** ensued. The vehicle traveled south onto CR-317 and west onto CR-316 before being driven onto a private property. The occupants bailed out. The vehicle had signs of human smuggling and was impounded.

On 31 MAY, a THP trooper assisted USBP agents with locating a human smuggler driving a 2020 Chevrolet Silverado, when a **pursuit** ensued in Kingsville. After Kleberg Co SO deputy spiked the vehicle, **an IA** driver drove through a private property and was later arrested. The vehicle was reported stolen from Harris Co.

On 31 MAY, a THP trooper and a USBP agent conducted a traffic stop on a 2020 Chevrolet Silverado suspected of human smuggling, when a **pursuit** ensued. The driver avoided spikes but lost control of the vehicle and crashed into a private property. The vehicle was reported stolen from Harris Co, and **two IAs** were apprehended.

On 30 MAY, a Jim Wells Co SO deputy observed a white Ford F-250 displaying two different license plates. The deputy conducted a traffic stop, when a **pursuit** ensued. The vehicle exited the roadway and was driven through a ranch gate. Ranch security and USBP arrived shortly after, but the subjects were able to evade law enforcement.

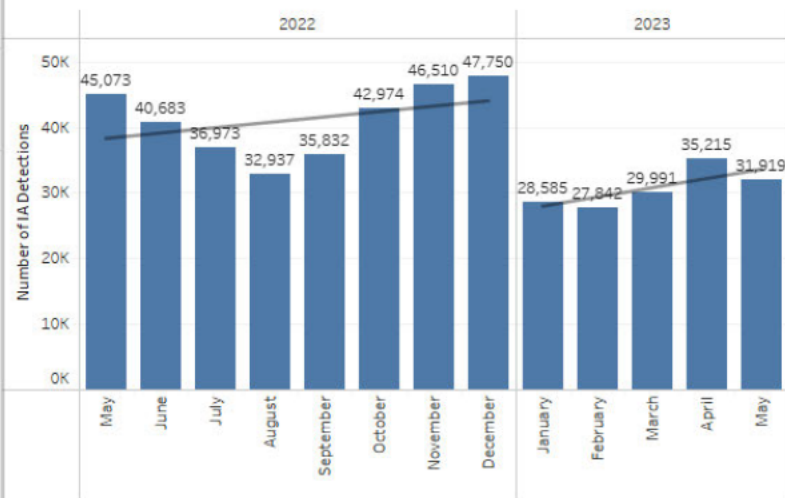
On 12 MAY, a Gonzales Co SO deputy conducted a traffic stop on a gray 2017 Ford F-150 on IH-10 in Gonzales, when a **pursuit** ensued. The deputy observed five occupants inside the vehicle, including the driver. The vehicle was driven onto a ranch, and the deputy lost sight of the vehicle. Later, the vehicle was located abandoned and impounded.



Statistical Summary – MAY 2023



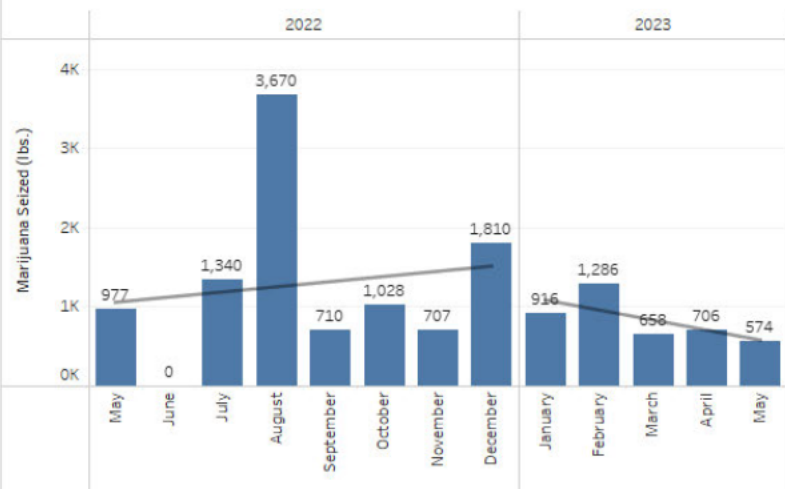
Drawbridge IA Detections



Operation Drawbridge Totals: May 2022 - May 2023

	Grand Total
IAs Detected	482,284
Marijuana Seized (lbs.)	14,382
Cocaine Seized (lbs.)	16
Heroin Seized (lbs.)	0
Meth Seized (lbs.)	0
Firearms Detected	4

Drawbridge Initiated Marijuana Seizures



Operation Drawbridge Totals: Jan 2012 - May 2023

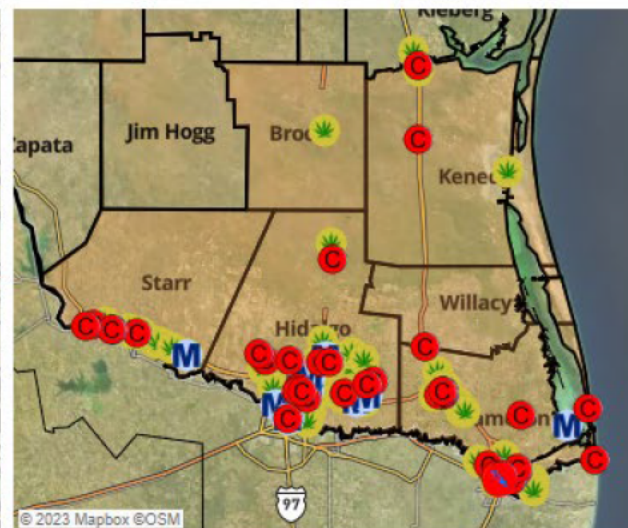
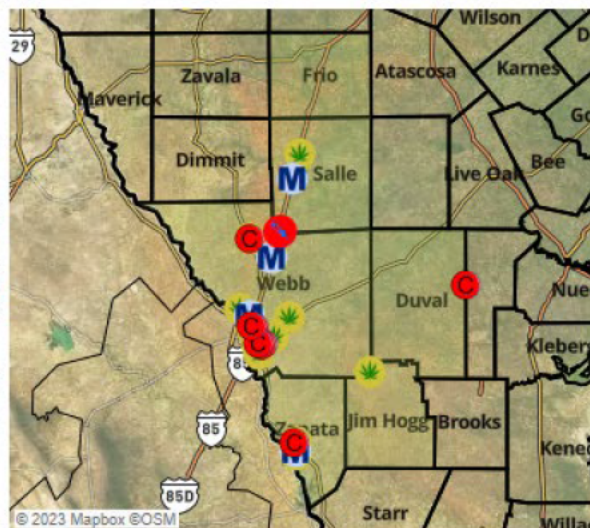
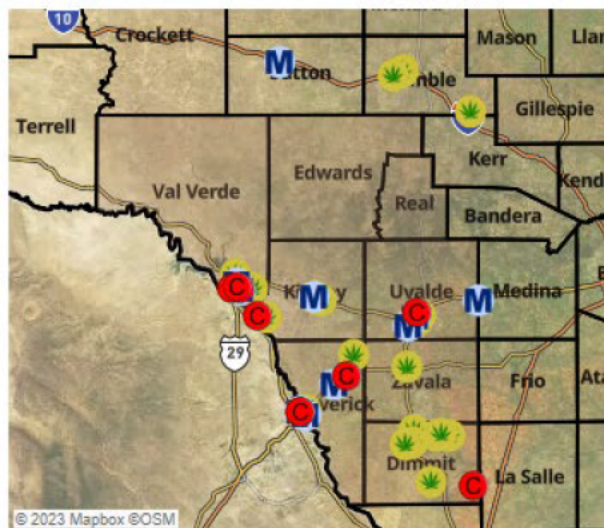
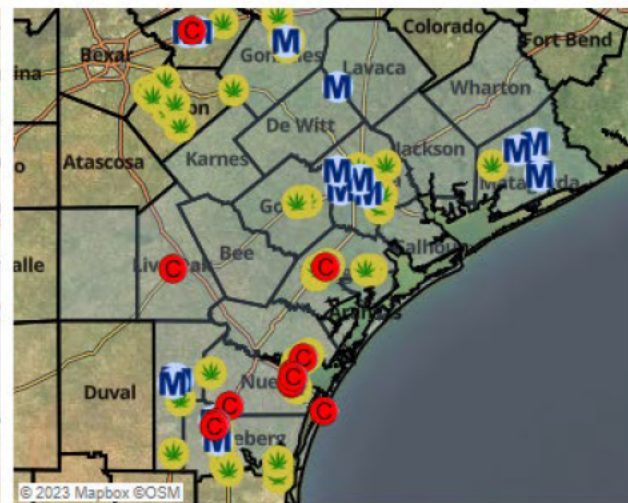
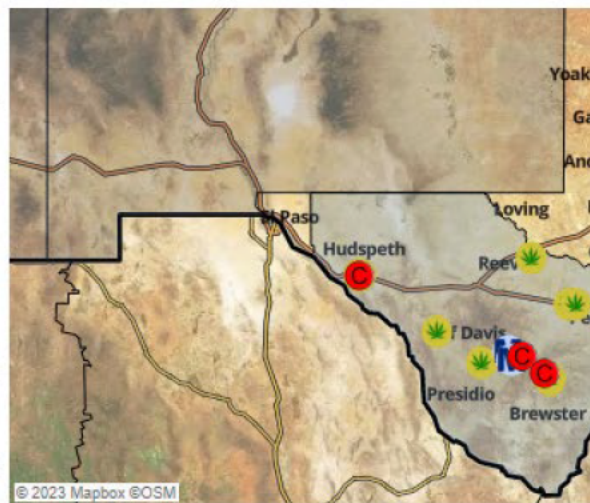
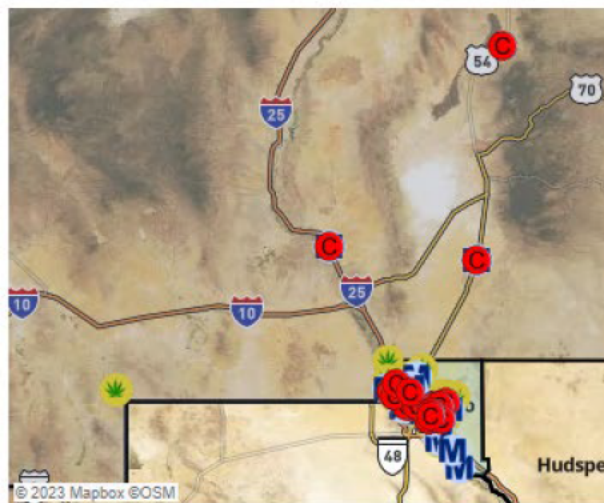
	Grand Total
IAs Detected	1,892,820
Marijuana Seized (lbs.)	636,495
Cocaine Seized (lbs.)	1,533
Heroin Seized (lbs.)	40
Meth Seized (lbs.)	205
Firearms Detected	109



Ranch Border Operations Sector Assessment



01 MAY - 31 MAY, 2023	El Paso	Big Bend	Del Rio	Laredo	Rio Grande Va..	Coastal Bend	Total
Marijuana (lbs)	264	376	1	916	1,341	3	2,901
Cocaine (lbs)	57	32	28	0	210	44	371
Methamphetamine (lbs)	140	4	113	877	20	1	1,155
Heroin (lbs)	7	5	0	0	13	0	26





Ranch Border Operations Sector Assessment



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

	El Paso	Big Bend	Del Rio	Laredo	Rio Grande Valley	Total
Total UA wT42	25,206	1,394	29,566	3,337	38,591	98,094
OTM	15,602	861	23,253	1,002	35,494	76,212

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

	El Paso	Big Bend	Del Rio	Laredo	Rio Grande Valley	Coastal Bend	Total
Pursuits	14	4	117	32	22	15	204
Bailouts	15	5	149	31	26	8	234



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

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
BORDER SECURITY OPERATIONS CENTER

Email: TBSOC@dps.texas.gov

Phone: 512-424-7561

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