



PATRICK HENRY COLLEGE BORDER SECURITY ALERT

13 February 2021 - 20 February 2021

Volume: 19, Issue: 20

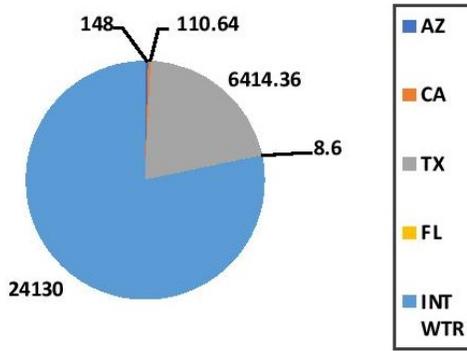
The Border Security Alert (BSA) is a weekly collection of abstracted unclassified news items relating to national security issues on and around the US northern and southern borders, seaports, and airports. Produced by Patrick Henry College's Intelligence Analysis Center, the BSA highlights incidents involving security breaches, weapons and drug trafficking, illegal immigration, and Mexican cartel activity in an attempt to identify developing trends and locate vulnerable areas. Feel free to forward this report. Please acknowledge Patrick Henry College Border Security Alert if you do forward this report to other contacts. If you are routinely forwarding this report, please send an e-mail to the Project Manager so that we can keep track of our distribution. For additional information or to be added to the BSA distribution list, please contact Josh Grantham at projectmanager.bsa@phc.edu.

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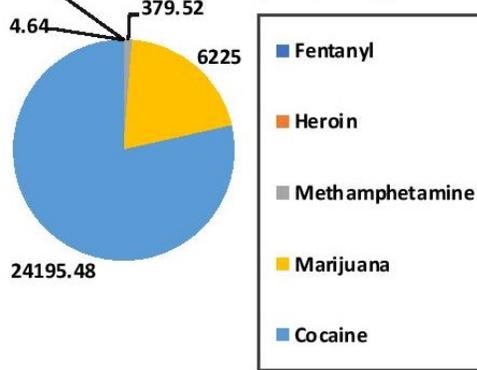
Border Security Alert - Volume 19, Issue 20

Breakout of Incidents Reported between 14 February and 20 February

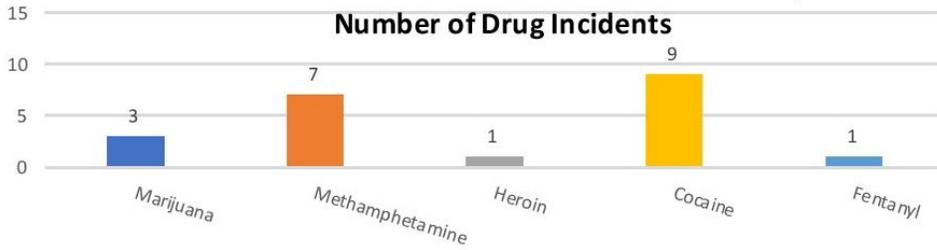
Drug Seizure (Lbs/State)



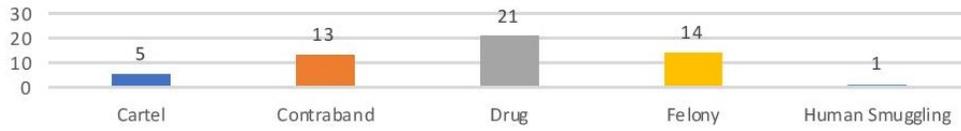
Drug Seizure (Lbs/Drug)



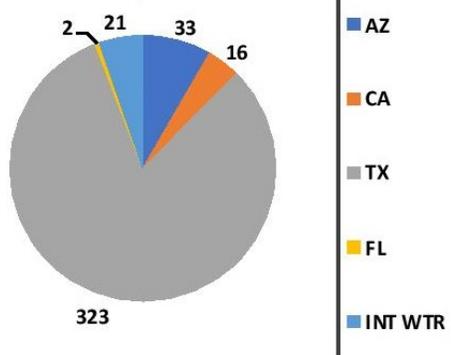
Number of Drug Incidents



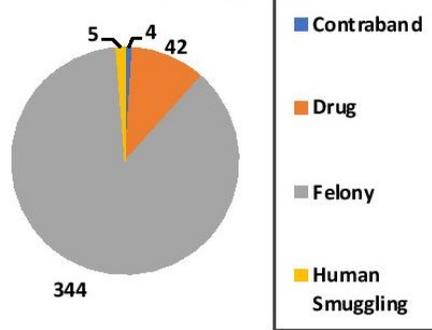
Number of Incidents/Category



Arrests/State



Arrests/Category



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Mexican Cartels Summarized Articles

National Security Incidents

1. Law Enforcement : Cartel Gunmen Mutilate Bodies Of Rival Cartel Gunmen Near Coronado, Chihuahua, MX

On 15 February 2021, cartel gunmen mutilated and dismembered five bodies of gunmen from the Sinaloa Cartel's Gente Nueva after a shootout on a road near Coronado, Chihuahua, MX. Law enforcement officers recovered the bodies and several bullet-riddled vehicles. (Felix Allen, [CARTEL CARNAGE Three DECAPITATED Gangsters' Heads Left On Car Bonnet As El Chapo's Cartel Wages Bloody War](#), The U.S. Sun, 2/15/2021)

2. Law Enforcement : Cartel Leader Escapes Juvenile Detention Facility In Guemez, Tamaulipas, MX

On 15 February 2021, a Cartel X leader escaped a juvenile detention facility in Guemez, Tamaulipas, MX. The means of escape are unknown. However, the prison guards and state police officers are under investigation. The adult Mexican national--a minor at the time of conviction--was serving time for extortion. (Cartel Chronicles, [Adult Cartel Leader Escapes Mexican Border State Juvenile Detention Facility](#), Breitbart Texas, 2/15/2021)

3. Law Enforcement : Mexican National Guard Engage And Arrest 15 Gunmen In Cancun, Quintana Roo, MX

On 16 February 2021, Mexican authorities arrested 15 gunmen and rescued a kidnapping victim in Cancun, Quintana Roo, MX. The National Guard engaged the gunmen near a stash house in the beach resort district. One gunman was killed while a member of the National Guard was injured in the shootout. (Ildefonso Ortiz and Brandon Darby, [15 Gunmen Arrested After Shootout In Cancun](#), Breitbart Texas, 2/17/2021)

4. Law Enforcement : Government Officials Discover Alleged Cartel Coca Fields In Atoyac, Guerrero, MX

On 18 February 2021, government officials discovered alleged cartel experimental coca fields in Atoyac, Guerrero, MX. The coca plantation is located in an area accustomed to heroin production. (Gerald Tony Aranda, [Mexican President Confirms Discovery Of 'Experimental' Cartel Coca Field](#), Breitbart Texas, 2/18/2021)

5. Law Enforcement : Mexican Authorities Discover 18 Trash Bags Filled With Human Remains In Zapopan, Jalisco, MX

On 14 February 2021, Mexican authorities discovered 18 trash bags filled with several human remains in Zapopan, Jalisco, MX. The remains were discovered when an officer spotted what appeared to be a leg, near the soccer stadium Akron. The area is controlled by the CJNG. (Ildefonso Ortiz and Brandon Darby, [18 Trash Bags Full Of Human Remains Found Near Mexican Soccer Stadium](#), Breitbart Texas, 2/14/2021)

Ports Summarized Articles

Drug Incidents

[6. Seizure/Arrest: USCG Arrests Seven Smugglers And Seizes 2,161 Pounds Of Cocaine, 1,600 Pounds Of Marijuana In International Waters Of The Pacific Ocean](#)

As reported on 18 February 2021, USCG arrested seven smugglers and seized 2,161 pounds of cocaine and 1,600 pounds of marijuana in international waters of the Pacific Ocean. The Coast Guard Cutter Harriet Lane, with assistance from the Colombian Navy, interdicted two suspicious vessels in which they discovered the narcotics. (, [Coast Guard Cutter Harriet Lane Returns Home Following 71-day Patrol](#), Coast Guard News, 2/18/2021)

[7. Seizure/Arrest: USCG Arrests Smugglers And Seizes 7,250 Pounds Of Cocaine In International Waters Of The Pacific Ocean](#)

As reported on 14 February 2021, USCG arrested smugglers and seized 7,250 pounds of cocaine in international waters of the Pacific Ocean. The Coast Guard Cutter Campbell seized the narcotics during a routine patrol. (, [Weigh To Go: Coast Guard's Three Ton Cocaine Haul](#), The Westside Gazette, 2/15/2021)

[8. Seizure/Arrest: USCG Arrests Five Smugglers And Seizes 4,000 Pounds Of Cocaine In International Waters Of The Caribbean Sea](#)

As reported on 14 February 2021, USCG arrested five smugglers and seized 4,000 pounds of cocaine in international waters of the Caribbean Sea. The Coast Guard Cutter Mohawk made four interdictions during a two-month patrol. (, [U.S. Coast Guard Racks Up Drug Busts With \\$70M Cocaine Haul](#), The Maritime Executive, 2/14/2021)

[9. Seizure/Arrest: USCG Arrests Nine Smugglers And Seizes 9,119 Pounds Of Cocaine In International Waters Of The Pacific Ocean](#)

As reported on 17 February 2021, USCG arrested nine smugglers and seized 9,119 pounds of cocaine in international waters of the Pacific Ocean. The Coast Guard cutters Munro and Bertholf worked with an unidentified "partner nation" to seize the narcotics over the course of one week. (Rick Hurd, [Two Alameda-Based U.S. Coast Guard Cutters Seize More Than \\$150 Million In Drugs](#), The Mercury News, 2/17/2021)

Immigration and Trade Incidents

[10. Seizure : CBP Officers Seize Over \\$800K In Counterfeit Items At Port Of Entry In Louisville, KY](#)

On 11 February 2021, CBP officers seized over \$800,000 in counterfeit goods at the port of entry in Louisville, KY. (CBP, [1,569 Counterfeit Items Worth Over \\$800K Snatched By CBP Louisville](#), cbp.gov, 2/18/2021)

11. Seizure : CBP Seizes 108,000 Counterfeit Surgical Masks At The Port Of Cincinnati

On 11 February 2021, CBP seized 108,000 counterfeit surgical masks at the Port of Cincinnati, OH. The shipment originated from Hong Kong and was addressed to be sent to Montreal, Canada. (Jeanne Houck, [Customs Officers Seize 108,000 Counterfeit Surgical Masks In Cincinnati](#), Cincinnati Enquirer, 2/18/2021)

12. Seizure : CBP Officers Seize 44 Pounds Of Cocaine-Soaked Cereal In Cincinnati, OH

On 13 February 2021, CBP officers seized 44 pounds of cocaine in Cincinnati, OH. After a canine detection alert, CBP officers discovered the cereal coated in cocaine. ([That's Not Frosted Flakes: Cincinnati CBP Snares 44 Pounds Of Cocaine-Soaked Cereal](#), CBP, 2/19/2021)

International Airport Security

13. Seizure/Arrest: CBP Officers Seize 8.6 Pounds Of Cocaine And Arrest Passenger At Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport

On 15 February 2021, CBP officers seized 8.6 pounds of cocaine and arrested a passenger at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport. Officers discovered the drugs in a passenger's luggage during an inspection, when owner of the bag attempted to flee and was subsequently arrested. (Local Media Release, [CBP In Fort Lauderdale Seizes Luggage Filled With Cocaine](#), U.S. Customs and Border Protection, 2/17/2021)

14. Seizure/Arrest: CBP Officers Seize Cocaine And Arrest Smuggler At Miami International Airport

On 19 February 2021, CBP officers seized cocaine smuggled in sandals as well as 28 pellets and arrested internal smuggler. The smuggler concealed the drugs in sandals and other items weighing 1.3 pounds, and swallowed 28 pellets of cocaine. CBP officers detained the man and brought him to a local hospital for an x-ray examination. (Local Media Release, [CBP In Miami Seizes Cocaine In Sandals And Smuggled Internally](#), U.S. Customs and Border Protection, 2/19/2021)

15. Law Enforcement : TSA Officers Discover Loaded Handgun At Chicago O'Hare International Airport

On 16 February, 2021, TSA officers discovered a loaded handgun at Chicago O'Hare International Airport. Officers found the weapon using an x-ray machine at an airport security checkpoint. (Local Press Release, [TSA Intercepts Guns At Chicago O'Hare International Airport](#), Transportation Security Administration, 2/17/2021)

16. Law Enforcement : TSA Officers Stop Handgun And Ammunition At Chicago O'Hare International Airport

On 15 February 2021, TSA officers stopped a handgun and ammunition at Chicago O'Hare International Airport. Officers discovered the weapon and ammunition at a security checkpoint x-ray machine. (Local Press Release, [TSA Intercepts Guns At Chicago O'Hare International Airport](#), Transportation Security Administration, 2/17/2021)

[17. Law Enforcement : TSA Officers Discover Loaded Handgun At Chicago O'Hare International Airport](#)

On 13 February 2021, TSA officers discovered a loaded handgun at Chicago O'Hare International Airport. Officers found the weapon at a security checkpoint x-ray machine. (Local Press Release, [TSA Intercepts Guns At Chicago O'Hare International Airport](#), Transportation Security Administration, 2/17/2021)

[18. Seizure : TSA Seizes Loaded Handgun At John Glenn Columbus International Airport](#)

On 15 February, 2021, TSA officers seized a loaded handgun at John Glen Columbus International Airport. Officers discovered the weapon at an airport security checkpoint, where they confiscated the gun and fined the passenger for a first offense carrying a loaded gun into a TSA checkpoint. (NBC4 Staff, [TSA Confiscates Loaded Gun At John Glenn Airport](#), NBC4i, 2/17/2021)

[19. Seizure : TSA Officers Stop Loaded Handgun At Norfolk International Airport](#)

On 16 February 2021, TSA officers stopped a loaded handgun at Norfolk International Airport. Officers detected the weapon using an x-ray machine at an airport security checkpoint, where they notified airport police who confiscated the weapon. (Kaylynn Stephens, [TSA Stops Man With A Loaded Gun At Norfolk International Airport](#), 10 Wavy, 2/17/2021)

Southern Border Summarized Articles

Drug Incidents

[20. Seizure/Arrest: USBP Agents Arrest 8 Mexican Nationals And Seize 148 Pounds Of Methamphetamine In Yuma, AZ](#)

On 14 February 2021, USBP agents arrested eight Mexican nationals and seized 148 pounds of methamphetamine in Yuma, AZ. Agents detected the illegal border crossers and found the narcotics in four backpacks. (Macario Mora, [Agents Arrest Group, Seize 148 pounds Of Meth In Remote Desert](#), cbp.gov, 2/16/2021)

[21. Seizure/Arrest: USBP Agents Arrest Smuggler And Seize 41.33 Pounds Of Methamphetamine Near San Clemente, CA](#)

As reported on 13 February 2021, on 10 February 2021, USBP agents arrested a suspect and seized 41.33 pounds of methamphetamine on the I-5 near San Clemente, California. After a canine detection alert, agents seized the

narcotics from the vehicle during a traffic stop and the driver confessed to possession. (Caleb Fernandez, April Hettinger, [Over 40 Pounds Of Meth Intercepted](#), kyma.com, 2/13/2021)

[22. Seizure/Arrest: USBP Agents Arrest Smuggler And Seizes 10.59 Pounds Of Cocaine Near Oceanside, CA](#)

As reported on 16 February 2021, on 09 February 2021, USBP agents arrested a smuggler and seized 10.69 pounds of cocaine on I-5 North near Oceanside, California. After a canine alert during a traffic stop, USBP agents discovered the narcotics in the spare tire of a US citizen's vehicle. (, [USBP Seizes Cocaine On I-5](#), U.S. Customs and Border Protection, 2/16/2021)

[23. Seizure/Arrest: USBP Agents Arrest US Citizen And Seize 2.08 Pounds Of Methamphetamine Near Niland, CA](#)

As reported on 16 February 2021, on 12 February 2021, USBP agents arrest a US citizen and seize 2.08 pounds of methamphetamine at the Highway 111 Checkpoint near Niland, CA. After a canine detection alert, agents discovered the narcotics in the front passenger seat during secondary inspection. (Macario Mora, [Border Patrol Agents Seize Over A Quarter Of A Million Dollars In Deadly Illegal Narcotics Over Valentine's Day Weekend](#), U.S. Customs and Border Protection, 2/16/2021)

[24. Seizure/Arrest: USBP Agents Arrest Subject And Seizes 397 Pills Of Tramadol Hydrochloride In Niland, CA](#)

As reported on 16 February 2021, on 12 February 2021, USBP agents arrested a subject and seized 397 pills of tramadol hydrochloride at the Highway 86 Immigration Checkpoint near Niland, CA. After a canine detection alert, agents found the narcotics when performing a safety pat down on the driver during secondary inspection. (Macario Mora, [Border Patrol Agents Seize Over A Quarter Of A Million Dollars In Deadly Illegal Narcotics Over Valentine's Day Weekend](#), U.S. Customs and Border Protection, 2/16/2021)

[25. Seizure/Arrest: USBP Agents Arrest Subject And Seizes 4.64 Pounds Of Fentanyl And Oxycodone Near Niland, CA](#)

On 13 February 2021, USBP agents arrested a subject and seized 4.64 pounds of fentanyl and oxycodone at the Highway 86 Checkpoint near Niland, CA. After a canine alert, agents found the narcotics hidden inside a fire extinguisher during secondary inspection. (Macario Mora, [Border Patrol Agents Seize Over A Quarter Of A Million Dollars In Deadly Illegal Narcotics Over Valentine's Day Weekend](#), U.S. Customs and Border Protection, 2/16/2021)

[26. Seizure/Arrest: USBP Agents Arrest US Citizen And Seize 51.99 Pounds Of Methamphetamine Near Salton City, CA](#)

On 14 February 2021, USBP agents arrested a US citizen and seized 51.99 pounds of methamphetamine near Salton City, CA. Agents found 50 plastic wrapped packages containing the narcotic in the vehicle's gas tank during secondary inspection. (Macario Mora, [Border Patrol Agents Seize Over A Quarter Of A Million Dollars In Deadly Illegal Narcotics Over Valentine's Day Weekend](#), U.S. Customs and Border Protection, 2/16/2021)

27. Seizure : USBP Agents Seize Abandoned Packages Of Methamphetamine In Calexico, CA

On 13 February 2021, USBP agents seized packages containing 5.27 pounds of methamphetamine in Calexico, CA. Agents located and seized the packages after Remote Video Surveillance Systems recorded individuals throwing objects over the border fence. (Sumiko Keil, Christian Galeno, [Meth Packages Worth \\$13K Found Near Border](#), kyma.com, 2/16/2021)

28. Seizure/Arrest: USBP Agents Arrest U.S. Citizen And Seize 11.64 Pounds Of Cocaine And 2012 Chrysler In Brownsville, TX

As reported on 16 February 2021, on 09 February 2021, USBP agents arrested a U.S. citizen and seized 11.64 pounds of cocaine as well as a 2012 Chrysler at the Gateway International Bridge in Brownsville, TX. Agents found five packages of cocaine in the vehicle during secondary inspection. (, [Brownsville CBP Officers Seize \\$357K In Narcotics In Three Seizures](#), U.S. Customs and Border Protection, 2/16/2021)

29. Seizure/Arrest: USBP Agents Arrest U.S. Citizen And Seize 6.7 Pounds Of Cocaine And 2015 Chrysler In Brownsville, TX

As reported on 16 February 2021, on 10 February 2021, USBP agents arrested a 35-year-old U.S. citizen male and seized 6.7 pounds of cocaine as well as a 2015 Chrysler at the Brownsville and Matamoros International Bridge in Brownsville, TX. Agents found three packages of the narcotics within the subject's vehicle during secondary inspection. (, [Brownsville CBP Officers Seize \\$357K In Narcotics In Three Seizures](#), U.S. Customs and Border Protection, 2/16/2021)

30. Seizure/Arrest: USBP Agents Arrest U.S. Citizen And Seize 27.95 Pounds Of Cocaine And 2005 Chrysler In Brownsville, TX

On 14 February 2021, USBP agents arrested a U.S. citizen and seized 27.95 pounds of cocaine as well as a 2005 Chrysler at the Brownsville and Matamoros International Bridge in Brownsville, TX. Agents found 12 packages of the narcotics within the vehicle during secondary inspection. (, [Brownsville CBP Officers Seize \\$357K In Narcotics In Three Seizures](#), U.S. Customs and Border Protection, 2/16/2021)

31. Seizure/Arrest: USBP Agents Arrest U.S. Citizen And Seize 18.25 Pounds Of Methamphetamine And Chevy Malibu In Hidalgo, TX

As reported on 16 February 2021, on 11 February 2021, USBP agents arrested a U.S. citizen and seized 18.25 pounds of methamphetamine as well as a Chevy Malibu at the Hidalgo-Reynosa International Bridge in Hidalgo, TX. Agents found eight packages of the narcotics in the vehicle during secondary inspection. (, [CBP Officers At Hidalgo International Bridge Detect \\$365K In Methamphetamine](#), U.S. Customs and Border Protection, 2/16/2021)

32. Seizure/Arrest: CBP Officers Arrest U.S. Citizen And Seize 84.66 Pounds Of Methamphetamine And Toyota Camry In Hidalgo, TX

On 13 February 2021, CBP officers arrested a U.S. citizen and seized 84.66 pounds of liquid methamphetamine as well as a Toyota Camry at the Hidalgo-Reynosa International Bridge in Hidalgo, TX. Officers found the narcotics within the vehicle gas tank using a non-intrusive imaging system during secondary inspection. (, [CBP Field Operations At Hidalgo International Bridge Arrests Woman With \\$1.6 Million In Methamphetamine](#), U.S. Customs and Border Protection, 2/17/2021)

33. Seizure/Arrest: USBP Agents Arrest Cuban National And Seize 6.96 Pounds Of Heroin And 2004 Chrysler In Brownsville, TX

On 16 February 2021, USBP agents arrested a Cuban national and seized 6.96 pounds of heroin as well as a 2004 Chrysler at the Gateway International Bridge in Brownsville, TX. USBP agents found the narcotics within the national's vehicle during secondary inspection. (, [Brownsville CBP Officers Seize \\$743K Worth Of Narcotics In Two Seizures](#), U.S. Customs and Border Protection, 2/18/2021)

34. Seizure/Arrest: USBP Agents Arrest U.S. Citizen And Seize 24.25 Pounds Of Methamphetamine And 8.95 Pounds Of Cocaine And 2010 Chrysler In Brownsville, TX

On 16 February 2021, USBP agents arrested a U.S. citizen and seized 24.25 pounds of methamphetamine and 8.95 pounds of cocaine in addition to a 2010 Chrysler at the Gateway International Bridge in Brownsville, TX. USBP agents found 21 packages of meth and four packages of cocaine hidden within the vehicle during secondary inspection. (, [Brownsville CBP Officers Seize \\$743K Worth Of Narcotics In Two Seizures](#), U.S. Customs and Border Protection, 2/18/2021)

35. Seizure : USBP Agents Seize 5,280.07 Pounds Of Marijuana And 2004 Volvo Tractor Trailer In Laredo, TX

On 13 February 2021, USBP agents seized 5,280.07 pounds of marijuana and a 2004 Volvo tractor trailer at the World Trade Bridge in Laredo, TX. Agents found the narcotics inside the trailer during secondary inspection. (César Rodriguez, [Marijuana Worth \\$1M Seized At World Trade Bridge](#), Laredo Morning Times, 2/18/2021)

36. Seizure : USBP Agents Seize 395 Pounds Of Marijuana In Laredo, TX

On 17 February 2021, USBP agents seized 395 pounds of marijuana in Laredo, TX. USBP agents found four bundles of abandoned marijuana after responding to observations of several subjects carrying bundles across the Rio Grande. (Justin Reyes, [Agents Foil Two Drug Smuggling Attempts](#), KGNS-TV, 2/19/2021)

[37. Seizure : USBP Agents Seize 550 Pounds Of Marijuana in Laredo, TX](#)

On 17 February 2021, USBP agents seized 550 pounds of marijuana in Laredo, TX. USBP agents found the narcotics abandoned after agents observed individuals carrying bundles across the Rio Grande, and the subjects fled back abandoning the marijuana near the river. (Justin Reyes, [Agents Foil Two Drug Smuggling Attempts](#), KGNS-TV, 2/19/2021)

Immigration and Trade Incidents

[38. Seizure/Arrest: USBP Agents Arrest 2 US Citizens And 4 Mexican Nationals And Seize Handgun, Methamphetamine, Narcotics Pills, Marijuana, Drug Paraphernalia, And Vehicle In Yuma, AZ](#)

On 18 February 2021, USBP agents arrested two US citizens and four Mexican nationals and seized a handgun, methamphetamine, narcotic pills, marijuana, drug paraphernalia, and a vehicle in Yuma, AZ. After a canine detection alert, agents discovered a national on the floorboard and 3 more in the trunk during secondary inspection. (Macario Mora, [Canine Detects 3 Illegal Aliens Hiding In Trunk At Immigration Checkpoint](#), cbp.gov, 2/16/2021)

[39. Arrest : USBP Agents Rescue 2 Cuban Nationals From Salinity Canal In Yuma, AZ](#)

On 16 February 2021, USBP agents rescued two Cuban nationals from the Salinity Canal in Yuma, AZ. Agents observed the nationals struggling in the canal and rescued them. (Macario Mora, [Agents Rescue 2 Illegal Aliens From Salinity Canal](#), cbp.gov, 2/16/2021)

[40. Arrest : USBP Agents Apprehend US Citizen And 18 Mexican Nationals For Illegal Entry In Yuma, AZ](#)

On 17 February 2021, USBP agents apprehended a US citizen and 18 Mexican nationals in Yuma, AZ. Agents intercepted the nationals crossing the border in a vehicle. (Macario Mora, [Agents Intercept Vehicle Containing Several Illegal Aliens](#), cbp.gov, 2/18/2021)

[41. Arrest : USBP Agents Arrest 5 Subjects For Human Smuggling Near Campo, CA](#)

As reported on 16 February 2021, on 12 February 2021, USBP agents arrested five subjects including a US citizen for human smuggling near Campo, CA. Agents pulled over a black Honda Accord which the US citizen used to smuggle the four other subjects into the country. (Macario Mora, [USBP Arrests 2 Felons Over Holiday Weekend](#), U.S. Customs and Border Protection, 2/16/2021)

[42. Arrest : USBP Agents Arrest Convicted Sex Offender For Illegal Entry Near Otay Mesa Port Of Entry, CA](#)

On 13 February 2021, USBP agents arrested a convicted sex offender for illegal entry near the Otay Mesa Port of Entry in San Diego, CA. (Macario Mora, [USBP Arrests 2 Felons Over Holiday Weekend](#), U.S. Customs and Border Protection, 2/16/2021)

[43. Arrest : USBP Agents Arrest Convicted Sex Offender For Illegal Entry Near Calexico, CA](#)

On 15 February 2021, USBP agents arrested a Mexican national who is a previously convicted sex offender for illegal entry near the Calexico Port of Entry near Calexico, CA. After apprehending the national, agents discovered the national's previous conviction during processing. (Macario Mora, [Border Patrol Arrest Sex Offender In Calexico](#), U.S. Customs and Border Protection, 2/16/2021)

[44. Arrest : USBP Agents Arrest 3 Abandoned Mexican Nationals Near Dulzura, CA](#)

On 16 February 2021, USBP agents and agents assigned to the FOB arrested three abandoned Mexican nationals on Otay Mountain near Dulzura, CA. Agents searched and found the abandoned nationals after the USBP Foreign Operations Branch was notified of the suspects' presence by Mexican government officials. (, [USBP Agents Rescue Abandoned Migrants](#), U.S. Customs and Border Protection, 2/19/2021)

[45. Arrest : USBP Agents Coordinate With BORSTAR To Arrest Unspecified Number Of Subjects For Illegal Entry Near El Centro, CA](#)

On 18 February 2021, USBP agents coordinated with BORSTAR to arrest an unspecified number of subjects for illegal entry in the Jacumba Wilderness near El Centro, CA. BORSTAR agents extracted one of the migrants who was showing signs of medical instability. (Macario Mora, [BORSTAR Agents Perform Rescue](#), U.S. Customs and Border Protection, 2/19/2021)

[46. Seizure/Arrest: CBP Officers Arrest Subject And Seize \\$254,010 In Undeclared Currency In Eagle Pass, TX](#)

On 13 February 2021, CBP officers arrested a subject and seized \$254,010 in undeclared currency in Eagle Pass, TX. Officers discovered the currency in a compartment of the subject's vehicle after it was referred for inspection. (, [CBP Officers Disrupt A Smuggling Attempt Of Over \\$254K In Unreported Currency At Eagle Pass Port Of Entry](#), CBP, 2/18/2021)

[47. Seizure/Arrest: CBP Officers Arrest Mexican National And Seize \\$140,750 In Undeclared Currency In Laredo, TX](#)

On 13 February 2021, CBP officers arrested a Mexican national and seized \$140,750 in undeclared currency in Laredo, TX. After referring the national's vehicle to secondary inspection, officers discovered the currency in the

national's personal belongings during secondary inspection. (, [CBP Officers Seize \\$140K In Unreported Currency At Laredo Port Of Entry](#), CBP, 2/16/2021)

48. Arrest : USBP Agents Arrest Mexican National For Illegal Entry In Laredo, TX

On 17 February 2021, USBP agents arrested a Mexican national for illegal entry in Laredo, TX. Agents discovered the national after the national called 911 in distress for not having sufficiently clothing to handle the freezing temperatures. (Sara Melendez, [Despite Freezing Temperatures Laredo Sector Border Patrol Agents Continue Rescues](#), CBP, 2/17/2021)

49. Arrest : USBP Agents Arrest 7 Mexican, Guatemalan, And El Salvadoran Nationals For Illegal Entry In Laredo, TX

On 17 February 2021, USBP agents arrested seven Mexican, Guatemalan, and El Salvadoran nationals for illegal entry in Laredo, TX. The agents rescued the nationals after they called 911 in distress due to the rainy conditions and low temperatures. (Sara Melendez, [Despite Freezing Temperatures Laredo Sector Border Patrol Agents Continue Rescues](#), CBP, 2/17/2021)

50. Arrest : USBP Agents Arrest 14 Guatemalan, Honduran, And Mexican Nationals For Illegal Entry In Cotulla, TX

On 15 February 2021, USBP agents arrested 14 Guatemalan, Honduran, and Mexican nationals for illegal entry in Cotulla, TX. Agents discovered the nationals after they spotted them aboard a northbound freight train and requested the train be stopped for inspection. (Sara Melendez, [Border Patrol Agents Apprehend Several Train Jumpers](#), CBP, 2/16/2021)

51. Arrest : USBP Agents Apprehend 126 Nationals Near Mission, TX

On 17 February 2021, USBP agents apprehended 126 nationals near Mission, TX. The group apprehended mainly consisted of families and unaccompanied children. (, [Border Patrol Agents Arrest Over 200 Undocumented Immigrants](#), Local23 Valleycentral.com, 2/19/2021)

52. Arrest : USBP Agents Apprehend 140 Nationals Near Mission, TX

On 18 February 2021, USBP agents apprehended 140 nationals near Mission, TX. The group came from Central America and consisted of mostly families and unaccompanied children. (, [Border Patrol Agents Arrest Over 200 Undocumented Immigrants](#), Local23 Valleycentral.com, 2/19/2021)

53. Arrest : USBP Agents Arrest Sex Offender Near Hidalgo, TX

On 17 February 2021, USBP agents arrested a sex offender near Hidalgo, TX. After the primary inspection, agents arrested the subject after discovering a warrant for the subject on child indecency charges. (, [CBP Field Operations At Hidalgo International Bridge Arrests Man Wanted On Child Indecency Charges](#), U.S. Customs And Border Protection, 2/19/2021)

54. Arrest : USBP Agents Apprehend 2 Honduran Nationals Near Kingsville, TX

On 14 February 2021, USBP agents apprehended two Honduran nationals near Kingsville, TX. After responding to a 911 call, agents rescued the two Honduran nationals from the freezing weather after several hours of searching. (Sandra Sanchez, [Border Patrol Agents Carry Out Multiple Rescues During South Texas Deep Freeze](#), KXAN, 2/17/2021)

55. Arrest : USBP Agents Rescue Subject Near Mission, TX

On 14 February 2021, USBP agents rescued a subject near Mission, TX. Agents assisted the subject as the subject gave birth in freezing weather near the Rio Grande River. (Sandra Sanchez, [Border Patrol Agents Carry Out Multiple Rescues During South Texas Deep Freeze](#), KXAN, 2/17/2021)

56. Arrest : USBP Agents Apprehend 23 Nationals Near Harlingen, TX

On 13 February 2021, USBP agents apprehended 23 nationals near Harlingen, TX. After multiple 911 calls were made, agents rescued 23 nationals from freezing weather in the Rio Grande Valley. (Samantha Garza, [Border Patrol Rescues 23 Undocumented Immigrants From Frigid Temperatures, CBP Says](#), Local23 Valleycentral.com, 2/17/2021)

57. Arrest : USBP Agents Rescue 10 Nationals Near Van Horn, TX

On 13 February 2021, USBP agents rescued 10 nationals near Van Horn, TX. Agents sent 10 nationals from Ecuador, Mexico, Guatemala, and Honduras to region hospitals due to freezing weather. (Adry Torres, [More Than 200 Migrants Are Rescued From Freezing Temperatures In Texas After Being Dumped By Traffickers](#), Dailymail.com, 2/18/2021)

Index of Articles

1. Law Enforcement :CARTEL CARNAGE Three DECAPITATED Gangsters' Heads Left On Car Bonnet As El Chapo's Cartel Wages Bloody War

Felix Allen

The U.S. Sun

2021-2-15

THREE severed heads were displayed on a car bonnet after a bloody shootout between rival gangs in Mexico.

At least five people were reportedly killed when thugs from El Chapo's cartel were ambushed by another mob.

Police found five bodies among several bullet-riddled vehicles on a rural road near Coronado, in southern Chihuahua state.

Members of the criminal group Gente Nueva were "surprised by a large contingent of armed men", reports El Financiero.

After a shootout on Saturday, the killers decapitated three victims and left their heads on the bonnet of a pickup truck.

They also displayed some of the victims' limbs further down the road as a grisly warning, reports say.

Gente Nueva - described as the armed wing of El Chapo's Sinaloa cartel - is under the command of gangster Antonino Leon, known as El 300.

According to the State Prosecutor's Office, the group has control of the harvest and trafficking of drugs in the region, which for several years has been disputed by the Juárez Cartel.

The latest bloodshed comes after almost 250 people were slaughtered in a month of warfare between El Chapo's sons and the Jalisco New Generation.

Mexican newspaper Zeta Tijuana reports 246 homicides were recorded in the Baja California region in the first 28 days of January.

Eight in ten of the 2,938 murders committed in Baja California last year are related to drug feuds, according to authorities.

Many of these are believed to involve "Los Chapitos" - the sons of drug lord "El Chapo" Guzman, who is currently

imprisoned in the US.

Infobae reports Jesus Alfredo, Ivan Archivaldo and Ovidio Guzman are waging a brutal campaign to establish control over the region once ruled by their father.

Rivals the Jalisco New Generation, ruled by Nemesio "El Mencho" Oseguera Cervantes, have now consolidated power in at least 35 states across Mexico and Puerto Rico.

The cartel are renowned for their brutality - ripping out victims' hearts, dissolving their bodies in barrels of acid, and even targeting pregnant women.

2. Law Enforcement :Adult Cartel Leader Escapes Mexican Border State Juvenile Detention Facility

Cartel Chronicles

Breitbart Texas

2021-2-15

An adult cartel lieutenant broke out of a Tamaulipas juvenile detention facility where he was serving time for extortion. State authorities are tight-lipped about the escape and the probes into jailers who aided in the escape. The man belongs to a new Mexican border state organization going by the name "Cartel X."

Over the past weekend, 22-year-old Mario Otoniel Garza Mendez slipped out of a state juvenile detention center in Guemez, law enforcement sources revealed to Breitbart Texas. The fugitive is a top leader within the newly formed Cartel X, which is fighting against the Cartel Del Noreste faction of Los Zetas and the Gulf Cartel for control of the state capital, Ciudad Victoria.

Even though he is now an adult, Garza Mendez was a minor at the time of his conviction. He must therefore serve his full sentence in his original facility.

The Tamaulipas government has not released any formal statements about the case, however, law enforcement sources tell Breitbart Texas that prison guards and some state police officers are under investigation for letting Garza Mendez walk out the front door. The guards claim the fugitive scaled a perimeter wall to freedom, however.

Garza Mendez is considered a close associate of Jesus Gilberto "El Cholo" Acuña Jurado, the founding leader of Cartel X. Authorities in Chihuahua arrested El Cholo in July 2020 for extortion in Tamaulipas. The new organization is responsible for executions, abductions, and arson as a way of pressuring businesses to change the recipients of protection fees.

Originally a member of the CDN-Los Zetas, Garza Mendez was tied to criminal activity since his early teen years and used the nickname "El Soberano." However, a betrayal within CDN-Los Zetas led to the kidnapping of Garza Mendez. He was tortured and left for dead. After he recuperated, he and El Cholo began to recruit Los Zetas

deserters to form Cartel X. The fledgling organization initially focused on meth sales but recently branched into protection rackets.

3. Law Enforcement :15 Gunmen Arrested After Shootout In Cancun

Ildefonso Ortiz and Brandon Darby

Breitbart Texas

2021-2-17

Authorities in Cancun arrested 15 gunmen and rescued a kidnapping victim following an afternoon clash in the beach resort hub.

The case took place on Tuesday afternoon when authorities raided a stash house that was being used by gunmen to hold kidnapping victims. According to the local news outlet NotiCaribe, as police forces neared the house, gunmen began shooting. While authorities were able to rescue one kidnapping victim and arrested several gunmen, a second victim was found dead. A member of Mexico's national guard was injured and a gunman died.

The Quintana Roo Attorney General's Office revealed that the case began earlier in the day when authorities were able to intercept six gunmen in two vehicles who had been linked to other violent crimes. The gunmen led authorities to the stash house where the victims were kept.

The high-profile shootout in Cancun comes at a time when the popular tourist resort area is seeing a dramatic spike in violence. Earlier this month, gunmen shot and killed two men outside a hotel on the same day that the city saw two more shootouts and a kidnapping.

Despite assurances by public officials in Quintana Roo, the violence is getting worse. While not a drug trafficking route, the once peaceful resort hub is considered a hotspot for criminal organizations and their protection rackets.

4. Law Enforcement :Mexican President Confirms Discovery Of 'Experimental' Cartel Coca Field

Gerald Tony Aranda

Breitbart Texas

2021-2-18

Mexico's president confirmed the discovery of experimental coca fields in the coastal state of Guerrero, signaling a potential new venture for cartels.

During a news conference, Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador spoke about the discovery of a coca plantation in Atoyac, Guerrero.

"We know that you are there in Guerrero experimenting with coca growths," Lopez Obrador said. "We are already investigating that. We have found some coca growths in Atoyac."

While Guerrero has vast poppy fields and is considered a heroin production area, this is one of the first times that Mexican officials confirmed coca growths in the region. Breitbart Texas consulted with Mexican federal law enforcement officials who confirmed that criminal organizations are working to develop coca fields to establish full cocaine production processes in Mexico. Authorities have found experimental growths in Chiapas and in Guerrero, the law enforcement source revealed.

In 2014, Mexican soldiers seized 1,639 coca plants in a field in Tapachula, Chiapas. That raid came after the arrests of three suspects who had more than 360 pounds of coca leaves in a house per case file 711/CO49-2014. Six years after that raid, Mexico's government has released very limited information about the case.

During his news conference, Lopez Obrador did not specify which criminal organization was responsible for the coca growth but spoke about improving government aid to farmers to keep them from growing drugs.

5. Law Enforcement :18 Trash Bags Full Of Human Remains Found Near Mexican Soccer Stadium

Ildelfonso Ortiz and Brandon Darby

Breitbart Texas

2021-2-14

Authorities in Mexico found 18 trash bags filled with what appear to be severed human remains in the coastal state of Jalisco. The discovery took place near a large sporting complex where one of Mexico's top professional soccer teams play.

The gruesome discovery took place this week in the town Zapopan, near the Akron Stadium in the Guadalajara metropolitan area. According to information released by the Jalisco Attorney General's Office, a group of local police officers was patrolling the streets when they spotted what appeared to be a human leg on one of the avenues near a soccer stadium. The location of the discovery is just a few yards away from Akron Stadium, where the Mexican soccer team Chivas de Guadalajara plays.

The local cops called state investigators who began a search of the area. Police found a shallow pit near an overpass that passes by Bosques de la Primavera Avenue and Periferico. In that pit, authorities found 18 trash bags filled with various human remains. It remains unclear how many bodies were inside the trash bags.

As Breitbart Texas reported, there have been numerous mass graves discovered in recent months in the state of Jalisco — an area controlled by Cartel Jalisco Nueva Generacion who uses extreme violence and social media videos to spread fear. In 2020 authorities found more than 185 bodies in three separate mass graves in the town of Tlajomulco.

In December, a group of hitmen assassinated the former governor of Jalisco, Jose Aristoteles Sandoval, in a ritzy bar in the tourist resort town of Puerto Vallarta, Breitbart Texas reported. The triggerman was able to reach the

politician and shoot him even though he had a squad of bodyguards and police officers to defend him. That crime is also believed to be linked to the struggle between cartels for control of the region.

6. Seizure/Arrest:Coast Guard Cutter Harriet Lane Returns Home Following 71-day Patrol

Coast Guard News

2021-2-18

The Coast Guard Cutter Harriet Lane returned to their homeport in Portsmouth, after a 71-day counter-drug patrol Feb. 12.

In support of the Coast Guard's 11th District and Joint Interagency Task Force South, the Harriet Lane crew worked throughout the duration of the patrol in conjunction with a deployed aviation detachment from the Helicopter Interdiction Tactical Squadron based in Jacksonville, Fla. HITRON specializes in the execution of airborne use of force for the purpose of disabling non-compliant vessels suspected of illicit drug smuggling.

Harriet Lane joined forces with the Colombian Navy to conduct joint maritime operations in the Caribbean, focusing on interoperability, communications, and counter-narcotics efforts. Upon crossing into the Pacific via the Panama Canal, the Harriet Lane crew and her embarked aviation detachment interdicted two non-compliant vessels suspected of illicit drug smuggling. These interdiction's included the seizure of 980 kilograms of cocaine and 1,600 pounds of marijuana, an estimated street value of \$40 million. Harriet Lane also detained seven suspected drug smugglers associated with the interdiction's. Between operational tasking, the cutter crew completed aviation, damage control, seamanship and navigation training to maintain operational readiness and prepare for future multi-mission deployments.

"I could not be more proud of the crew of Harriet Lane for their perseverance and operational success amid the continued pandemic," said Cmdr. Dorothy Hernaez, commanding officer of the Harriet Lane. "The crew flawlessly executed COVID-19 mitigation protocols leading up to and during the deployment to remain healthy and operationally ready throughout. The success we had during this deployment would not have been possible without the continued support of our families and friends, who we are looking forward to seeing again upon our return to port."

Prior to returning home, Harriet Lane stopped in Port Everglades, Fla. to transfer 17 suspected drug smugglers and \$206 million of illicit drugs to partner agencies for prosecution. In addition to the interdiction's by Harriet Lane, persons and drug evidence transferred in this evolution came from interdiction's in the eastern Pacific and Caribbean by Coast Guard Cutters Bertholf, Munro, and Mohawk as well as the USS William P. Lawrence with Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment Team 101 and USS Comstock with Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment Team 403. Harriet Lane is a 270-foot medium endurance cutter responsible for a variety of Coast Guard missions, including search and rescue, enforcement of laws and treaties, maritime defense, and protection of the marine environment.

7. Seizure/Arrest: Weigh To Go: Coast Guard's Three Ton Cocaine Haul

The Westside Gazette

2021-2-15

The Coast Guard Cutter Campbell crew and crane operator offloaded approximately 7,250 pounds of cocaine at Port Everglades in Florida in the United States on Feb. 4.

A video shared by United States Coast Guard officials shows footage confirming the seizure of cocaine from international drug smugglers that is worth almost \$100 million.

The United States Coast Guard officials Campbell crew offloaded more than three tons of cocaine estimated to be worth more than \$97 million in an operation to obstruct transnational crime organizations.

The Coast Guard crew apprehended the contraband from drug runners in the Pacific Ocean, then transferring the contents to Port Everglades in Fort Lauderdale, Florida on 4th February 2021.

Cocaine crack (a cheaper and less pure form of cocaine) and cocaine powder together make the highest percentage of drugs smuggled in the United States. As per a report by United States Sentencing Commission, cocaine crack makes up 9.5 percent of the drugs smuggled to the US, and cocaine powder makes 20.5 percent of the total drugs.

As per American Addiction Center, a large portion of the drugs coming in the United States are from Mexico.

“The DEA puts much of its focus on trafficking from Mexican drug cartels because not only do they control a large share of the drug smuggling into the U.S., they are also responsible for much of the drug distribution within the U.S.” states the American Addiction Center.

The recent data about drug smuggling in the USA show that cocaine trafficking is on a downward trend whereas trafficking related to methamphetamine and heroin has been on a constant increase since 2009.

The number of drug overdose deaths was 67,367 as of 2018 as reported by the Centres for disease control and prevention.

Drug overdose deaths more than doubled from 2000 to 2015, and deaths involving opioid more than tripled during the same time frame. In 2000, the death rate from drug poisoning was 6.2 per 100,000 people and in 2015, the rate jumped to 16.3 per 100,000 people.

“With an influx of trafficked drugs, users cannot be sure if what they are buying is truly a prescription opioid or if it's laced with other harmful adulterants like fentanyl, carfentanil, or pink. In 2014, 129 people died every day from a drug overdose, and 2017 saw a majority of overdose deaths involving synthetic opioid” states a study published by JAMA.

Drug-poisoning deaths increased from 17,415 in 2000 to 52,404 in 2015, the age-adjusted death rate per 100,000 population increased from 6.2 to 16.3, with most of the increase related to opioid deaths.

“The Campbells crew patrolled the Eastern Pacific Ocean in support of enhanced counter-narcotics operations in the Western Hemisphere to disrupt transnational criminal organizations” said the Defense Visual Information Distribution Service on their website along with pictures of the operation.

The Campbell ship routinely patrols parts of the Atlantic Ocean, starting from the Gulf of Maine up to the Caribbean Sea, especially designed and prepared for carrying out multiple mission tasks in law enforcement.

The video shows of the drugs weighing 7,250 pounds (2.3 tonnes) being offloaded were shot by United States Coast Guard video by Petty Officer 3rd Class Jose Hernandez.

8. Seizure/Arrest:U.S. Coast Guard Racks Up Drug Busts With \$70M Cocaine Haul

The Maritime Executive

2021-2-14

On Friday, the Coast Guard cutter Mohawk returned home to Key West after a successful two-month patrol in the Caribbean. Over the course of the mission, the crew interdicted four drug vessels, detained five suspected smugglers and seized about 4,000 pounds of cocaine with a street value of nearly \$70 million.

During the patrol, Mohawk’s crew worked with the Dominican Republic navy and Panamanian law enforcement to track down smugglers and deter illegal fishing.

"These interdictions reflect teamwork and the unwavering resolve between the Coast Guard, federal law enforcement, Department of Defense, and our international partners," said Cmdr. James L. Jarnac, Mohawk's commanding officer. "The crew of Mohawk demonstrated remarkable enthusiasm and commitment during the execution of our missions over the last eight weeks, and it remains my pleasure to serve with and for them."

The successful anti-trafficking patrol is just one of four that the U.S. Coast Guard and the U.S. Navy have concluded in the past two weeks. Altogether, the seizures total to nearly \$700 million worth of narcotics, almost exclusively in cocaine (by value).

On February 8, the Coast Guard cutter Campbell returned to her home port in Kittery, Maine after two months in the Eastern Pacific. Campbell's crew interdicted or disrupted a total of about 11,600 pounds of cocaine, worth an estimated \$215 million. She also apprehended six suspected smugglers.

On the same day, the cutter Harriet Lane offloaded another \$200-plus million in seized cocaine at Port Everglades, Florida. The week earlier, on February 1, the LCS USS Gabrielle Giffords delivered about \$200 million worth of

cocaine captured in the Eastern Pacific to a secure pier at the Port of San Diego.

9. Seizure/Arrest: Two Alameda-Based U.S. Coast Guard Cutters Seize More Than \$150 Million In Drugs

Rick Hurd

The Mercury News

2021-2-17

U.S. Coast Guard crews aboard two cutter boats intercepted three different ships earlier this year and seized more than 9,000 pounds of cocaine worth about \$156 million, the agency said Wednesday.

The drugs were seized between Jan. 26 and Feb. 1 in the Eastern Pacific Ocean, according to a statement from the agency. The crews were aboard the Coast Guard cutters Munro and Bertholf, both of which are based in Alameda.

Nine people were arrested during the seizures, all of them suspected of drug trafficking, the Coast Guard said. None were identified.

According to the Coast Guard, the Munro crew boarded a fishing boat on Jan. 26, and exercised a “bilateral agreement with a partner nation” to search the ship. Crews found 1,300 pounds of cocaine aboard that boat, the agency said.

The Coast Guard did not identify the partner nation.

Hours later, a patrol aircraft discovered another boat that appeared suspicious and directed the Munro to it. The Coast Guard said crews went aboard that ship and discovered 3,439 pounds of cocaine.

“Having back-to-back cases lasting 31 hours pushed our limits, but our crew took on the challenge,” Capt. Blake Novak, the Munro’s commanding officer, said in a statement.

On Feb. 1, crews from the Bertholf intercepted another boat and seized more than 4,380 pounds of cocaine, the Coast Guard said.

The seizures were part of the fight by authorities against drug cartels in the Eastern Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean.

10. Seizure :1,569 Counterfeit Items Worth Over \$800K Snatched By CBP Louisville

CBP

cbp.gov

2021-2-18

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers in Louisville seized a large shipment carrying various counterfeit items on Feb 11. The shipment contained 1,569 counterfeit items, and were destined to an address in Plymouth, Minnesota. Had the items been real they would have had a Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price (MSRP) of \$821,495.

The CBP officers detained the shipment to determine the admissibility of its contents in accordance with CBP regulations. Officers uncovered a trove of various high end items. Everything from hair clips, to necklaces, to bracelets, to masks were found, and all of them displayed the protected trademark emblems of designers like Gucci, Dior, Chanel, Louis Vuitton, Calvin Klein, and even Mickey Mouse.

Sold in underground outlets and on third party e-commerce websites, counterfeit commodities fund smugglers and members of organized crime. Consumers often believe they are buying a genuine product but soon realize the item is substandard and potentially dangerous.

"Finding a parcel containing almost 1,600 items of counterfeit apparel is shocking, as criminals continue to push their agenda," said Thomas Mahn, Port Director-Louisville. "Our officers did an outstanding job finding these counterfeit items before they flooded the market. Items like these weaken our economy and prey on American consumers."

CBP Trade protects the intellectual property rights of American businesses through an aggressive Intellectual Property Rights enforcement program, safeguarding them from unfair competition and use for malicious intent while upholding American innovation and ingenuity. Suspected violations can be reported to CBP here.

Every year, CBP seizes millions of counterfeit goods from countries around the world as part of its mission to protect U.S. businesses and consumers. These goods include fake versions of popular products, such as smartphones and related accessories, electronics, apparel, shoes, cosmetics, and high-end luxury goods, as well as goods posing significant health and safety concerns, such as counterfeit pharmaceuticals, bicycle and motorcycle helmets, medical devices, supplements and other consumables. Sold online and in stores, counterfeit goods hurt the U.S. economy, cost Americans their jobs, threaten consumer health and safety, and fund criminal activity. Visit the National IPR Coordination Center for more information about IPR including counterfeiting and piracy.

Nationwide in Fiscal Year 2020, CBP seized 26,503 shipments containing goods that violated intellectual property rights. The total estimated value of the seized goods, had they been genuine, was nearly \$1.3 billion. CBP has established an educational initiative to raise consumer awareness about the consequences and dangers that are often associated with the purchase of counterfeit and pirated goods. Information about the Truth Behind Counterfeits public awareness campaign can be found at <https://www.cbp.gov/FakeGoodsRealDangers>.

CBP's border security mission is led at ports of entry by CBP officers from the Office of Field Operations. Please visit CBP Ports of Entry to learn more about how CBP's Office of Field Operations secures our nation's borders. Learn more about CBP at www.CBP.gov.

11. Seizure :Customs Officers Seize 108,000 Counterfeit Surgical Masks In Cincinnati

Jeanne Houck

Cincinnati Enquirer

2021-2-18

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers in Cincinnati say they have seized 450 boxes of counterfeit 3M surgical masks.

A total of 108,000 counterfeit masks were in the boxes found Feb. 11, Customs said in a news release Thursday.

The release said the boxes came from a logistics company in Hong Kong and were headed to a logistics company in Montreal, Canada. They would have been worth about \$137,160 had they been genuine.

Throughout the past year, criminal enterprises have exploited the COVID-19 pandemic to sell counterfeit, unapproved and unsafe personal protection equipment and pharmaceuticals, the release said.

“Counterfeiting is no longer confined to street vendors and flea markets,” Cincinnati Port Director Richard Gillespie said in the release.

“The past year has strained our supply chains on many levels, leading e-commerce to be invaluable to supply consumers with needed goods. However, e-commerce venues also represent ideal platforms for trademark infringement and piracy.

“Our officers and specialists have amplified their efforts to prevent dangerous and potentially faulty products like these from reaching unsuspecting consumers,” he said.

12. Seizure :That’s Not Frosted Flakes: Cincinnati CBP Snares 44 Pounds Of Cocaine-Soaked Cereal

CBP

2021-2-19

On February 13, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers in Cincinnati intercepted smuggled narcotics in a shipment of cereal originating from South America. The shipment contained about 44 pounds of cocaine coated corn flakes, which could have a street value of up to \$2,822,400.

CBP Narcotic Detector Dog “Bico” was working incoming freight from Peru when he alerted to a large shipment of cereal headed to a private residence in Hong Kong. When officers opened the box to take a closer look, they saw that the cereal contained white powder, and the flakes were coated with a grayish substance. Officers tested the flakes and powder and found they contained cocaine, a schedule II substance under the Controlled Substances Act.

Cincinnati Port Director Richard Gillespie emphasized that smugglers will hide narcotics in anything imaginable.

“The men and women at the Port of Cincinnati are committed to stopping the flow of dangerous drugs, and they continue to use their training, intuition, and strategic skills to prevent these kinds of illegitimate shipments from reaching the public.”

Cocaine abuse can lead to many adverse health consequences including cardiac arrhythmias, heart conditions, cardiac arrest, convulsions, stroke, and death.

CBP conducts operations at ports of entry throughout the United States, and regularly screens arriving international passengers and cargo for narcotics, weapons, and other restricted or prohibited products. CBP strives to serve as the premier law enforcement agency enhancing the Nation’s safety, security, and prosperity through collaboration, innovation, and integration. On a typical day in Fiscal Year 2020, CBP seized 3,677 pounds of drugs at ports of entry across the nation.

Follow CBP on Twitter @CBPChicago and @DFOChicago.

13. Seizure/Arrest:CBP In Fort Lauderdale Seizes Luggage Filled With Cocaine

Local Media Release

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

2021-2-17

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers assigned to the Anti-Terrorism Contraband Enforcement Team (A-TCET) at Fort Lauderdale—Hollywood International Airport seized over eight pounds of cocaine concealed within luggage arriving from the Bahamas on Monday. CBP officers seized over eight pounds of cocaine.

During an inspection, CBP officers discovered four bricks weighing approximately 8.6 pounds. The bricks contained a white powdery substance that field-tested positive for cocaine. The estimated street value of the drugs is over \$200,000.

An individual claiming the bag attempted to flee and was subsequently arrested.

“CBP officers work vigilantly every day to intercept dangerous drugs and contraband as part of efforts to protect the American people,” said Fort Lauderdale—Hollywood International Airport Port Director Dylan J. DeFrancisci. “CBP officers play a critical counter-narcotics role and are committed to keeping illicit drugs far away from local communities.”

CBP routinely conducts random inspections on international passengers and cargo and searches for narcotics, unreported currency, weapons, prohibited agriculture, and other illicit products. On a typical day, CBP seizes 3,677 pounds of illicit drugs along our nation’s borders.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection operations in Florida include travel and trade facilitation and securing over

1,200 miles of the coastal border. Follow CBP's Office of Field Operations in Florida on Twitter at @DFOFlorida @CBPFlorida and on Instagram at @DFOFlorida for breaking news and information updates.

14. Seizure/Arrest:CBP In Miami Seizes Cocaine In Sandals And Smuggled Internally

Local Media Release

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

2021-2-19

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers at Miami International Airport discovered an internal smuggler this week with two pounds of cocaine.

During a baggage inspection, CBP officers discovered a white powdery substance and a tiny drug balloon, or pellet, concealed within a pair of sandals. The items weighed approximately 1.3 pounds and field tested positive for cocaine. CBP officers discovered cocaine within a pair of sandals.

Upon questioning, the Jamaican traveler admitted to swallowing cocaine and was taken to a local hospital for an X-ray examination. The X-ray showed the presence of foreign objects and the individual later passed 28 pellets testing positive for cocaine.

"Swallowing drugs is an extremely dangerous method of concealment and CBP officers are highly skilled at thwarting smuggling attempts," said Miami International Airport Acting Port Director Robert Del Toro. "It's important to deter this type of illegal activity which can be fatal if a pellet bursts."

"This is latest example of dedicated CBP officers using training and expertise to interdict illegal narcotics," said Miami/Tampa Field Office Director of Field Operations Vernon T. Foret. "Smugglers looking to bring in illicit drugs will be caught no matter what the concealment method is." More than two dozen pellets tested positive for cocaine.

CBP's border security mission is led at ports of entry by CBP officers from the Office of Field Operations. CBP officers screen international travelers and cargo and search for illicit narcotics, unreported currency, weapons, counterfeit consumer goods, prohibited agriculture, and other illicit products that could potentially harm the American public, U.S. businesses, and our nation's safety and economic vitality.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection operations in Florida include travel and trade facilitation and securing over 1,200 miles of the coastal border. Add @CBPPortDirMia, @DFOFlorida and @CBPFlorida on Twitter for news and information updates.

15. Law Enforcement :TSA Intercepts Guns At Chicago O'Hare International Airport

Local Press Release

Transportation Security Administration

2021-2-17

Transportation Security Administration officers at Chicago O'Hare International Airport (ORD) stopped three handguns in separate and unrelated incidents from Saturday, Feb. 13 through Tuesday, Feb. 16.

The details of the incidents are:

Saturday, Feb. 13: A .38 revolver loaded with five rounds of ammunition was caught in a checkpoint X-ray machine.

Monday, Feb. 15: A firearm and ammunition in a carry-on bag were stopped by a TSA officer at a X-ray checkpoint.

Tuesday, Feb. 16: A loaded 9mm firearm in a carry-on bag was stopped at a checkpoint X-ray machine.

In all incidents, TSA officers contacted Chicago Police Department for further action. Individuals may face arrest and criminal charges. Travelers who bring firearms to an airport security checkpoint or who transport guns or ammunition improperly in checked baggage could face stiff Federal civil penalties.

“Individuals who want to fly with their firearms are permitted to do so as long as they follow the regulations for transporting their weapon,” said Dereck Starks, TSA’s Federal Security Director for Illinois. “If you want to travel with your firearm, the first thing you should do is make sure it is unloaded. Then pack it in a hard-sided case and lock the case. Upon arriving at the airport, take the case to the airline check-in counter and declare that you want to fly with it. The airline will make sure it is stored securely in the underbelly of the plane so that nobody has access to it during the flight.”

TSA reserves the right to issue a civil penalty to travelers who have guns with them at a checkpoint. A typical first offense for carrying a loaded handgun into a checkpoint is \$4,100 and can go as high as \$13,669 depending on any aggravating circumstances. This applies to travelers with or without concealed gun carry permits because even though an individual may have a concealed carry permit, it does not allow for a firearm to be carried onto an airplane. The complete list of civil penalties is posted online. If a traveler with a gun is a member of TSA PreCheck®, that individual will lose their TSA PreCheck privileges.

When an individual shows up at a checkpoint with a firearm, the checkpoint lane comes to a standstill until the police resolve the incident. Guns at checkpoints can delay travelers from getting to their gates.

Passengers are permitted to travel with firearms in checked baggage if they are properly packaged and declared at their airline ticket counter. TSA has details on how to properly travel with a firearm posted on its website. Travelers should also contact their airline as they may have additional requirements for traveling with firearms and ammunition.

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18. Seizure :TSA Confiscates Loaded Gun At John Glenn Airport

NBC4 Staff

NBC4i

2021-2-17

Transportation Security Administration (TSA) officers stopped a loaded gun from being taken onto a plane at John Glenn Columbus International Airport Monday.

According to a TSA release, the incident happened at approximately 3:30 p.m. when the passenger told Columbus Regional Airport Authority Police she forgot the firearm was in her carry-on bag.

TSA stops loaded gun at John Glenn Columbus International Airport checkpoint
Officers cited the traveler and confiscated the firearm, which was loaded with six bullets.

The first offense for carrying a loaded gun into a TSA checkpoint is \$4,100.

“Guns are not allowed to be carried onto planes,” said Ohio TSA Federal Security Director Donald Barker. “That’s no secret as this prohibition has been enforced for decades. Our officers are excellent at stopping weapons and other prohibited items from being carried onto airplanes. I encourage others who want to transport their guns do so in checked baggage following the guidelines that can be found on the TSA website.”

This is the fourth gun confiscated at a TSA checkpoint in 2021.

19. Seizure :TSA Stops Man With A Loaded Gun At Norfolk International Airport

Kaylynn Stephens

10 Wavy

2021-2-17

TSA officers at Norfolk International Airport stopped a gun from getting through the checkpoint on Tuesday.

Officials said it was the third gun caught at the checkpoint during just the first seven weeks of 2021.

The 9mm handgun found was loaded with 15 bullets including one in the chamber, Transportation Security Administration officers said.

A TSA officer detected the gun in the checkpoint X-ray machine and the Norfolk Airport Authority Police were alerted. Officers responded to the checkpoint and confiscated the weapon.

The man from Cape Charles, Virginia was issued a summons and the case was forwarded to the Norfolk Commonwealth’s Attorney for possible criminal prosecution.

He also faces a Federal financial civil penalty for carrying a gun to a TSA checkpoint, according to officials.

“Our officers are excellent at stopping weapons and other prohibited items from being carried onto airplanes. I encourage others who want to transport their guns to do so in checked baggage following the guidelines that can be found on the TSA website,” said Chuck Burke, TSA’s Federal Security Director for the airport.

TSA reserves the right to issue a civil penalty to travelers who have guns and gun parts with them at a checkpoint and a typical first offense for carrying a loaded handgun into a checkpoint is \$4,100 and can go as high as \$13,669 depending on circumstances.

Officials said in a press release, passengers are allowed to travel with firearms in checked baggage if they are properly packaged and declared at their airline ticket counter to be transported in the belly of the plane.

Guns are not permitted to be carried onto planes. The TSA said checked firearms must be unloaded, packed in a hard-sided case, locked, and packed separately from ammunition.

The following chart lists the TSA Firearms caught at the Norfolk International Airport checkpoints from 2017 to 2021.

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020*	2021*
Guns Caught	10	21	15	12	3

*Significantly fewer passengers than previous years due to the pandemic.

20. Seizure/Arrest: Agents Arrest Group, Seize 148 pounds Of Meth In Remote Desert

Macario Mora

cbp.gov

2021-2-16

Yuma Sector Border Patrol agents assigned to the Wellton Station apprehended a group of illegal border crossers with backpacks full of methamphetamine in the remote desert southeast of Yuma.

At approximately 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, agents detected and subsequently apprehended a group of eight Mexican nationals in the desert several miles south of Interstate 8. The group was found to be carrying four backpacks that contained 148 pounds of methamphetamine. The methamphetamine had an estimated street value of \$266,000.

Each member of the group was wearing camouflage clothing and carpet booties over their shoes. Agents arrested and transported the group to the Wellton Station for further processing and seized the methamphetamine.

“Setting aside the inherent risks of operating in today’s environment, the brave men and women of Wellton Station

remain steadfast in disrupting the efforts of smugglers as they attempt to poison the streets of America with dangerous narcotics,” said Kevin Villegas, Patrol Agent in Charge for Wellton Station.

Although backpacking marijuana through the desert has been a mainstay for drug smugglers over the years, they have recently shifted to hard narcotics, which can be moved in smaller amounts and have a higher value. By wearing camouflage clothing, the smugglers attempt to blend in with their surroundings to avoid detection. The booties they wear also help to conceal their shoe prints as they cross roads that are regularly monitored by Border Patrol agents.

-USBP-

Follow us on social media:

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Careers – <https://sforce.co/3nFsNbZ>

21. Seizure/Arrest:Over 40 Pounds Of Meth Intercepted

Caleb Fernandez, April Hettinger

kyma.com

2021-2-13

U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) agents arrested a man Wednesday morning for transporting 41 pounds of methamphetamine in his vehicle.

At about 11:30am, the arrestee was observed on Interstate 5 near San Clemente driving erratically. When agents pursued him, he quickly cut across traffic, exited at a nearby rest stop and then parked.

Agents questioned the 20-year-old U.S. citizen at the rest stop and received consent to search his 1998 Ford Mustang. When a service K-9 alerted to the vehicle, the driver admitted fault to possessing narcotics in the vehicle.

“These drugs could have wreaked havoc on any American community. Thankfully, our agents prevented that from happening,” shared San Diego Sector’s Chief Patrol Agent Aaron Heitke.

Upon arrest, the man was transported to a nearby Border Patrol station for processing. Agents found 30 suspicious packages in the trunk of the car when further investigated. Testing confirmed methamphetamine within the

packages.

Total confiscation weighed exactly 41.33 pounds with an approximate street value of over \$40,000. Both the driver and narcotics were turned over to the Drug Enforcement Administration. The man awaits federal prosecution. His vehicle was also seized by the USBP.

22. Seizure/Arrest:USBP Seizes Cocaine On I-5

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

2021-2-16

U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) agents arrested a man in North San Diego County yesterday who was transporting cocaine in his vehicle.

At approximately 2 a.m. on February 9, agents pulled over a suspicious male driver just north of Highway 76 on Interstate 5.

As agents questioned the 19-year-old U.S. citizen driver, their K-9 alerted to his silver BMW X5. Searching further, agents discovered several plastic-wrapped packages inside the SUV's spare tire. The packages contained 10.69 pounds of cocaine.

The man and the narcotics were turned over to the Drug Enforcement Administration for further investigation. The U.S. Border Patrol seized the vehicle.

"These drugs could have made their way into any American community," said Chief Patrol Agent Aaron M. Heitke. "Thankfully the vigilance of our agents prevented that."

For Fiscal Year 2021 year to date, San Diego Sector has seized more than 625 pounds of cocaine, 479 pounds of methamphetamine, 62 pounds of heroin, and 252 pounds of fentanyl.

23. Seizure/Arrest:Border Patrol Agents Seize Over A Quarter Of A Million Dollars In Deadly Illegal Narcotics Over Valentine's Day Weekend

Macario Mora

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

2021-2-16

El Centro Sector Border Patrol agents seized approximately \$364,840 in illegal narcotics over the weekend in four separate events.

The first incident occurred Friday at approximately 11:30 a.m., when a burgundy Dodge Journey approached the Highway 111 Immigration Checkpoint. Agents directed the vehicle to enter the secondary inspection area for

further investigation after one of its two occupants failed to provide identification.

During their inspection, a Border Patrol K-9 detection team alerted to the vehicle. Agents discovered several plastic wrapped packages of suspected narcotics in the front passenger seat area. The crystal like substance inside the packages tested positive for the characteristics of methamphetamine. Agents arrested the occupants and held him for further processing.

The total weight of the methamphetamine was approximately 2.08 pounds with an estimated value of \$5,200.

El Centro Sector turned over the driver, a 32-year-old United States citizen, the passenger, a 33-year-old United States citizen, the vehicle and the narcotics to Drug Enforcement Administration.

The second incident occurred Friday at approximately 3:40 p.m., when a silver Nissan Sentra approached the Highway 86 Immigration Checkpoint. A Border Patrol K-9 detection team alerted to the vehicle in the primary inspection lane. Agents directed the vehicle to enter the secondary inspection area for further investigation.

During their inspection, agents conducted a safety pat down of the driver, which revealed 397 pills inside a plastic bag. The contents inside the packages tested positive for the characteristics of tramadol hydrochloride. Agents arrested the driver and held him for further processing.

The total number of pills found were 397, with an estimated value of \$98,145.

El Centro Sector turned over the driver, a 26-year-old United States citizen, the vehicle and the narcotics to Imperial County Sherriff's Office.

The third incident occurred Saturday at approximately 10:30 p.m., when a gray Kia Soul approached the Hwy 86 Checkpoint. A Border Patrol K-9 detection team alerted to the vehicle in the primary inspection lane. Agents directed the vehicle to enter the secondary inspection area for further investigation.

During their inspection, agents discovered three plastic wrapped packages of suspected narcotics hidden inside of a fire extinguisher. The crystal like substance inside one of the packages tested positive for the characteristics of fentanyl. The other two packages containing small blue pills tested positive for characteristics of oxycodone. Agents arrested the driver and held him for further processing.

The total weight of the three packages was approximately 4.64 pounds with an estimated value of \$131,520.

El Centro Sector turned over the driver, a 29-year-old United States citizen, the vehicle and the narcotics to Drug Enforcement Administration.

The fourth incident occurred Sunday at approximately 6:56 p.m., when a gray Honda Accord approached the Hwy

86 Checkpoint. A Border Patrol K-9 detection team alerted to the vehicle in the primary inspection lane. Agents directed the vehicle to enter the secondary inspection area for further investigation.

During their inspection, agents discovered 50 plastic wrapped packages of suspected narcotics hidden inside the gas tank. The crystal like substance inside the packages tested positive for the characteristics of methamphetamine. Agents arrested the driver and held him for further processing.

The total weight of the methamphetamine was approximately 51.99 pounds with an estimated value of \$129,975.

El Centro Sector turned over the driver, a 19-year-old United States citizen, the vehicle and the narcotics to Drug Enforcement Administration.

24. Seizure/Arrest: Border Patrol Agents Seize Over A Quarter Of A Million Dollars In Deadly Illegal Narcotics Over Valentine's Day Weekend

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El Centro Sector turned over the driver, a 29-year-old United States citizen, the vehicle and the narcotics to Drug Enforcement Administration.

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During their inspection, agents discovered 50 plastic wrapped packages of suspected narcotics hidden inside the gas tank. The crystal like substance inside the packages tested positive for the characteristics of methamphetamine. Agents arrested the driver and held him for further processing.

The total weight of the methamphetamine was approximately 51.99 pounds with an estimated value of \$129,975.

El Centro Sector turned over the driver, a 19-year-old United States citizen, the vehicle and the narcotics to Drug Enforcement Administration.

25. Seizure/Arrest:Border Patrol Agents Seize Over A Quarter Of A Million Dollars In Deadly Illegal Narcotics Over Valentine's Day Weekend

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The total weight of the methamphetamine was approximately 51.99 pounds with an estimated value of \$129,975.

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26. Seizure/Arrest:Border Patrol Agents Seize Over A Quarter Of A Million Dollars In Deadly Illegal Narcotics Over Valentine's Day Weekend

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Enforcement Administration.

27. Seizure :Meth Packages Worth \$13K Found Near Border

Sumiko Keil, Christian Galeno

kyma.com

2021-2-16

Border Patrol agents seized drug packages near the border over the weekend.

El Centro Sector said a remote video surveillance system alerted agents patrolling downtown Calexico of several people throwing objects over the border fence near Heffernan Avenue and First Street.

When they responded to the scene, they found three packages on the ground. The packages tested positive for methamphetamine and weighed 5.27 pounds with a value of \$13,182.

28. Seizure/Arrest:Brownsville CBP Officers Seize \$357K In Narcotics In Three Seizures

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

2021-2-16

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers at the Brownsville Port of Entry intercepted alleged narcotics in three separate enforcement actions that have a combined estimated street value of \$357,000.

“Our officers remain committed to the security of our borders and the mission of CBP. Their experience and attention to detail led to these seizures,” said Port Director Tater Ortiz, Brownsville Port of Entry.

The first seizure took place on Tuesday, Feb. 9, at the Gateway International Bridge when a 20-year-old male United States citizen from Brownsville, Texas applied for entry into the United States driving a 2012 Chrysler. The vehicle was referred to CBP secondary for further examination after a primary inspection. In secondary, with the aid of a non-intrusive imaging system (NII), CBP officers discovered five packages hidden within the 2012 Chrysler which contained a total of 11.64 pounds of alleged cocaine.

The second seizure took place on Wednesday, Feb. 10, at the Brownsville and Matamoros International Bridge when a 35-year-old male United States citizen from Houston, Texas, applied for entry into the United States as the driver of a 2015 Chrysler. The vehicle was referred to CBP secondary for further examination after a primary inspection. In secondary, with the aid of a canine unit, CBP officers discovered three packages hidden within the 2015 Chrysler which contained a total of 6.7 pounds of alleged cocaine.

The third seizure took place on Sunday, Feb. 14, at the Brownsville and Matamoros International Bridge when a 28-year-old female United States citizen from Brownsville, Texas, applied for entry into the United States as the driver of a 2005 Chrysler. The vehicle was referred to CBP secondary for further examination after a primary inspection.

In secondary, with the aid of a canine unit, CBP officers discovered 12 packages hidden within the 2005 Chrysler which contained a total of 27.95 pounds of alleged cocaine.

The estimated street value of the narcotics from the seizures is approximately \$89,760, \$51,680 and \$215,560 respectively.

CBP officers seized the narcotics along with the vehicles, arrested the drivers and turned them over to the custody of Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) special agents for further investigation.

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The first seizure took place on Tuesday, Feb. 9, at the Gateway International Bridge when a 20-year-old male United States citizen from Brownsville, Texas applied for entry into the United States driving a 2012 Chrysler. The vehicle was referred to CBP secondary for further examination after a primary inspection. In secondary, with the aid of a non-intrusive imaging system (NII), CBP officers discovered five packages hidden within the 2012 Chrysler which contained a total of 11.64 pounds of alleged cocaine.

The second seizure took place on Wednesday, Feb. 10, at the Brownsville and Matamoros International Bridge when a 35-year-old male United States citizen from Houston, Texas, applied for entry into the United States as the driver of a 2015 Chrysler. The vehicle was referred to CBP secondary for further examination after a primary inspection. In secondary, with the aid of a canine unit, CBP officers discovered three packages hidden within the 2015 Chrysler which contained a total of 6.7 pounds of alleged cocaine.

The third seizure took place on Sunday, Feb. 14, at the Brownsville and Matamoros International Bridge when a 28-year-old female United States citizen from Brownsville, Texas, applied for entry into the United States as the driver of a 2005 Chrysler. The vehicle was referred to CBP secondary for further examination after a primary inspection. In secondary, with the aid of a canine unit, CBP officers discovered 12 packages hidden within the 2005 Chrysler which contained a total of 27.95 pounds of alleged cocaine.

The estimated street value of the narcotics from the seizures is approximately \$89,760, \$51,680 and \$215,560 respectively.

CBP officers seized the narcotics along with the vehicles, arrested the drivers and turned them over to the custody of Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) special agents for further investigation.

30. Seizure/Arrest:Brownsville CBP Officers Seize \$357K In Narcotics In Three Seizures

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

2021-2-16

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers at the Brownsville Port of Entry intercepted alleged narcotics in three separate enforcement actions that have a combined estimated street value of \$357,000.

“Our officers remain committed to the security of our borders and the mission of CBP. Their experience and attention to detail led to these seizures,” said Port Director Tater Ortiz, Brownsville Port of Entry.

The first seizure took place on Tuesday, Feb. 9, at the Gateway International Bridge when a 20-year-old male United States citizen from Brownsville, Texas applied for entry into the United States driving a 2012 Chrysler. The vehicle was referred to CBP secondary for further examination after a primary inspection. In secondary, with the aid of a non-intrusive imaging system (NII), CBP officers discovered five packages hidden within the 2012 Chrysler which contained a total of 11.64 pounds of alleged cocaine.

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CBP officers seized the narcotics along with the vehicles, arrested the drivers and turned them over to the custody of Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) special agents for further investigation.

31. Seizure/Arrest:CBP Officers At Hidalgo International Bridge Detect \$365K In Methamphetamine

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

2021-2-16

U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Office of Field Operations (OFO) at the Hidalgo International Bridge arrested a man from Mission, Texas after detecting \$365,000 worth of alleged methamphetamine concealed within the vehicle he was driving.

“Our frontline officers detected and intercepted this compact but significant seizure of hard narcotics and kept these drugs from entering into our communities,” said Port Director Carlos Rodriguez Hidalgo/Pharr/Anzalduas Port of Entry.

On Feb. 11, 2021, a 29-year-old male U.S. citizen driving a Chevy Malibu arrived at the Hidalgo-Reynosa International Bridge from Mexico and a CBP officer referred him for further inspection. Utilizing all available tools and resources, officers conducting the secondary examination discovered eight packages of alleged methamphetamine weighing 18.25 pounds (8.28 kg) hidden within the vehicle.

CBP OFO seized the narcotics, the vehicle and arrested the driver who was then turned over to the custody of agents with Homeland Security Investigations for further investigation.

32. Seizure/Arrest:CBP Field Operations At Hidalgo International Bridge Arrests Woman With \$1.6 Million In Methamphetamine

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

2021-2-17

U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Office of Field Operations (OFO) at the Hidalgo International Bridge arrested a 25-year-old woman, a U.S. citizen from McAllen, Texas in connection with a failed drug smuggling attempt of alleged methamphetamine worth \$1,693,000.

“Our frontline CBP officers employ their inspections experience along with persistence and this has proven effective in detecting contraband and keeping it out of our communities, as this seizure demonstrates,” said Port Director Carlos Rodriguez, Port of Hidalgo/Pharr/Anzalduas.

On Feb. 13, 2021, the woman arrived from Mexico at the Hidalgo-Reynosa International Bridge driving a silver Toyota Camry and a CBP officer referred her for further examination.

With the use of a non-intrusive imaging (NII) system, officers conducting the secondary inspection discovered that the vehicle’s gas tank contained liquid methamphetamine. Officers extracted a total of 84.66 pounds (38.40 kg) of the alleged drug.

CBP OFO seized the narcotics, the vehicle and arrested the woman who was turned over to the custody of agents with Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) while they continue the investigation.

33. Seizure/Arrest:Brownsville CBP Officers Seize \$743K Worth Of Narcotics In Two Seizures

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

2021-2-18

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers at the Gateway International Bridge intercepted alleged narcotics in two separate enforcement actions that have a combined estimated street value of \$743,632.

“These significant narcotics seizures are a testament to our officers’ dedication and ongoing commitment to keeping our borders secure,” said Port Director Tater Ortiz, Brownsville Port of Entry.

The first seizure took place on Tuesday, Feb. 16, at the Gateway International Bridge when a 37-year-old male Cuban citizen from Houston, Texas, applied for entry into the United States driving a 2004 Chrysler. The vehicle was referred to CBP secondary for further examination after a primary inspection. In secondary, with the aid of a canine unit, CBP officers discovered three packages hidden within the 2004 Chrysler. CBP officers removed the packages, which contained a total of 6.96 pounds of alleged heroin.

The second seizure also took place on Tuesday, Feb. 16, at the Gateway International Bridge when a 27-year-old female United States citizen from Brownsville, Texas, applied for entry into the United States driving a 2010 Chrysler. The vehicle was referred to CBP secondary for further examination after a primary inspection. In secondary, with the aid of a canine unit, CBP officers discovered 21 packages which contained 24.25 pounds of alleged methamphetamine and four packages which contained 8.95 pounds alleged cocaine hidden within the 2010 Chrysler.

The estimated street value of the narcotics seized is approximately \$743,632.

CBP officers seized the narcotics along with the vehicles, arrested the drivers and turned them over to the custody of Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) special agents for further investigation.

34. Seizure/Arrest:Brownsville CBP Officers Seize \$743K Worth Of Narcotics In Two Seizures

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

2021-2-18

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was referred to CBP secondary for further examination after a primary inspection. In secondary, with the aid of a canine unit, CBP officers discovered three packages hidden within the 2004 Chrysler. CBP officers removed the packages, which contained a total of 6.96 pounds of alleged heroin.

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The estimated street value of the narcotics seized is approximately \$743,632.

CBP officers seized the narcotics along with the vehicles, arrested the drivers and turned them over to the custody of Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) special agents for further investigation.

35. Seizure :Marijuana Worth \$1M Seized At World Trade Bridge

César Rodriguez

Laredo Morning Times

2021-2-18

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers seized approximately \$1 million in marijuana from a trailer carrying auto parts at the World Trade Bridge, authorities said.

The seizure occurred Feb. 13, when CBP officers referred a 2004 Volvo tractor and trailer to secondary inspection. K-9 and X-ray inspections resulted in the discovery of 336 packages containing 5,280.07 pounds of marijuana inside the trailer.

CBP said the marijuana was worth an estimated street value of \$1,056,003.

“Officers at the World Trade Bridge have heightened their enforcement strategies when targeting these high-risk commodities, successfully disrupting the flow of illegal narcotics from reaching our communities,” said Acting Port Director Eugene Crawford, Laredo Port of Entry.

CBP officers seized the narcotics and tractor-trailer. Homeland Security Investigations special agents are investigating the smuggling attempt.

36. Seizure :Agents Foil Two Drug Smuggling Attempts

Justin Reyes

KGNS-TV

2021-2-19

Several bundles of illegal narcotics are off the streets thanks to the work of Border Patrol.

The seizure happened on Feb. 17 when agents at the Laredo Sector Marine Unit noticed several individuals carrying bundles while crossing the Rio Grande into west Laredo.

The individual abandoned the bundles on the U.S. side and fled to Mexico.

Agents confiscated four bundles of marijuana which weighed 395 pounds and had an estimated street value of \$315,920.

Nearly two hours later, agents encountered another group of people carrying bundles across the river near a junkyard in west Laredo.

The individuals left the marijuana near the river and fled back to Mexico.

Agents were able to seize 550 pounds of marijuana which weighed \$440,000.

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38. Seizure/Arrest: Canine Detects 3 Illegal Aliens Hiding In Trunk At Immigration Checkpoint

Macario Mora

cbp.gov

2021-2-16

A Yuma Sector canine alerted to a vehicle in which three Mexican nationals were found hiding in the trunk on Thursday at the Interstate 8 immigration checkpoint.

Yuma Sector Border Patrol agents assigned to the checkpoint encountered a Chrysler sedan at approximately 7:45 a.m. Agents referred the vehicle to the checkpoint's secondary inspection area due to the suspicious behavior of the driver and passenger.

While in secondary, a canine alerted to the vehicle. A search of the vehicle revealed three Mexican nationals hiding in the vehicle's trunk. A fourth Mexican national was also discovered hiding on the floorboard behind the driver and passenger seat; however, he exited the vehicle with the driver and passenger prior to the canine sniff.

In addition, agents found a loaded handgun, and personal use amounts of methamphetamine, narcotic pills, marijuana and drug paraphernalia. The driver and passenger, U.S. citizens from California, were arrested and the drugs, paraphernalia and vehicle were seized. The four Mexican nationals were transported to the Wellton Station for further processing.

Smugglers have no regard for human life as evidenced by this recent alien smuggling event. Three adult men were crammed into the trunk of this sedan with little room to move. Smugglers will take whatever measures necessary to avoid detection by Border Patrol agents working checkpoints like this one.

39. Arrest :Agents Rescue 2 Illegal Aliens From Salinity Canal

Macario Mora

cbp.gov

2021-2-16

Yuma Sector Border Patrol agents assigned to the Yuma Station rescued two illegal aliens who entered the Salinity Canal and began struggling in the current.

Just before 4.p.m. on Sunday, agents observed a man and woman enter the canal near County 17 ½ Street. As they struggled in the water, Border Patrol agents responded to the scene and threw a rescue disc and were able to pull one subject from the water while the other was able to pull himself out of the current.

The two Cuban nationals, a 22- and 23-year-old, were evaluated on scene and found to be in good health. They

were subsequently transported to the Yuma Station for further processing.

Illegal aliens often underestimate the dangers they face as they illegally cross the border into the United States. This is just one example of the perils these border crossers often face and how Border Patrol agents are always at the ready to save a life.

-USBP-

Follow us on social media:

Facebook – US Border Patrol Yuma Sector

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Twitter – @USBPChiefYUM and @USBPDepChiefYUM

Careers – <https://sforce.co/3nFsNbZ>

40. Arrest :Agents Intercept Vehicle Containing Several Illegal Aliens

Macario Mora

cbp.gov

2021-2-18

Yuma Sector Border Patrol agents intercepted a vehicle after it illegally crossed the border in the desert south of Yuma and apprehended 18 Mexican nationals and one U.S. citizen early Wednesday morning.

At approximately 1 a.m., Yuma Sector video surveillance captured a black Dodge Durango crossing the border south of the Foothills. Several subjects loaded into the vehicle and then it continued east along the border. As agents closed in on the vehicle, it left the dirt road and headed north into the desert where it became disabled.

The driver and passengers fled the vehicle. Agents apprehended 18 illegal aliens and then encountered an additional subject west of the area as he attempted to climb the border fence and return to Mexico. The subject fell from the fence and sustained injuries. An agent trained as an emergency medical technician provided initial care while waiting for an ambulance. The subject, a 36-year-old Mexican national, was transported to Yuma Regional Medical Center and subsequently flown to a Phoenix hospital for treatment.

The illegal aliens and U.S. citizen were arrested and will be processed accordingly. Initial record checks conducted on the U.S. citizen, a 23-year-old male, revealed an extraditable warrant for failing to appear in court after being caught with 26 pounds of methamphetamine. In addition, two of the illegal aliens will face felony charges for re-entering the U.S. after previous deportations.

-USBP-

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Careers – <https://sforce.co/3nFsNbZ>

41. Arrest :USBP Arrests 2 Felons Over Holiday Weekend

Macario Mora

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

2021-2-16

San Diego Sector Border Patrol agents arrested two convicted felons over the weekend during two separate incidents in San Diego County.

On Friday, at 5:09 p.m., agents patrolling State Route 94 near Campo pulled over a Black Honda Accord near Star Ranch Rd. Agents questioned the driver and three passengers. The passengers were determined to be illegally present in the U.S. All four subjects were taken to a nearby Border Patrol Station for further processing. At the station, agents discovered that the driver, a 28-year-old United States citizen, was a documented gang member with an extensive criminal history. The four undocumented migrants were processed for removal and the driver is facing human smuggling charges.

In a second event on Tuesday afternoon, agents arrested a convicted sex offender near Otay Mesa.

On Saturday, at 2 p.m., agents on patrol encountered a man north of the primary wall who had crossed the border illegally west of the Otay Mesa Port of Entry. The man was transported to a nearby Border Patrol Station where record checks revealed that he had a prior conviction for lewd acts with a child under 14, and a felony conviction for re-entry after a prior removal. The individual will be processed for removal.

“I am proud of the vigilance displayed by our agents,” said Chief Patrol Agent Aaron Heitke. “Their hard work keeps our neighborhoods safe, by keeping criminals out of our communities.”

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“I am proud of the vigilance displayed by our agents,” said Chief Patrol Agent Aaron Heitke. “Their hard work keeps our neighborhoods safe, by keeping criminals out of our communities.”

43. Arrest :Border Patrol Arrest Sex Offender In Calexico

Macario Mora

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

2021-2-16

U.S. Border Patrol agents assigned to the El Centro Sector arrested an illegal alien Monday night with a prior conviction for a sexual offense.

The incident occurred at approximately 10:45 p.m., when agents assigned to the Calexico Station encountered a man who illegally entered the United States one mile west of the Calexico Port of Entry. Agents placed the man under arrest and transported him to the El Centro Sector Rally Point for further processing.

Records checks revealed that the man, a 23-year-old illegal alien from Mexico, was convicted on October 18, 2018, for Sexual Battery, out of Sonoma, California. He was sentenced to 36 months' probation for his sex crime and is required to register as a sex offender.

The man was processed criminally for 8 USC 1326, Reentry of Removed Aliens and will be held in federal custody pending his hearing.

In fiscal year 2021, which began Oct. 1, 2020 El Centro Sector Border Patrol agents arrested and or removed nine individuals either convicted or wanted on sexual offense charges.

44. Arrest :USBP Agents Rescue Abandoned Migrants

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

2021-2-19

U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) agents rescued three abandoned migrants on Otay Mountain late Tuesday night.

Tuesday, at approximately 11:30 p.m., agents assigned to the USBP Foreign Operations Branch (FOB) were notified by Mexican government officials that a group of illegal border crossers were abandoned by their smuggler while they slept.

The lost migrants were exposed to near freezing temperatures coupled with high winds and minimal food or water. Members of USBP's Border Patrol Search, Trauma, and Rescue (BORSTAR) coordinated with FOB to determine an approximate location of the group. BORSTAR members rapidly deployed to the area on foot, with cold-weather equipment.

At approximately 2:00 a.m., the group was located, and were determined to be ambulatory. The group consisted of two Mexican adult males and a fifteen-year-old unaccompanied Mexican male. All three were unlawfully present in the United States. The group was provided hand-warmers and warm fluids. After a medical evaluation, all three people were transported to a nearby Border Patrol station for processing.

"Regardless of harsh weather conditions, our agents continue saving lives," said Chief Patrol Agent Aaron M. Heitke. "I am very proud of their efforts."

45. Arrest :BORSTAR Agents Perform Rescue

Macario Mora

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

2021-2-19

U.S. Border Patrol agents from the El Centro Sector successfully rescue an illegal alien Thursday evening.

The rescue occurred at approximately 6:10 p.m., when agents apprehended a group of illegal aliens in the Jacumba Wilderness mountain region of El Centro Border Patrol Station's area of responsibility. While interviewing the group, a female subject had problems standing up and answering questions. Agents requested the assistance from Border Search Trauma and Rescue unit (BORSTAR).

BORSTAR agents arrived, evaluated the female, and determined that she had a weak pulse. At this time, intravenous fluids were administered to improve her condition. After her condition improved, she was extracted from the mountains with the assistance of BORSTAR agents. Agents and the group of illegal aliens arrived at Interstate 8 nearly three hours later.

The illegal aliens were evaluated once more and cleared to be transported. The subjects stated they required no medical attention and were then transported to the El Centro Sector immigration rally point where they were expelled back to Mexico.

46. Seizure/Arrest:CBP Officers Disrupt A Smuggling Attempt Of Over \$254K In Unreported Currency At Eagle Pass Port Of Entry

CBP

2021-2-18

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Office of Field Operations (OFO) officers working outbound operations seized over \$254,000 in undeclared currency in a single enforcement act over the weekend.

“This seizure of unreported currency is a direct reflection of our continuous commitment to enforce federal currency reporting requirements,” said Port Director Paul Del Rincon, Eagle Pass Port of Entry.

On Saturday, February 13, officers assigned to outbound operations referred a 2016 Cadillac SRX traveling to Mexico for examination. Upon physical inspection of the vehicle and subject’s personal belongings, 26 packages containing \$254,010 of undeclared currency were discovered inside a non-factory compartment of the vehicle.

The vehicle and unreported currency were seized by CBP. The driver was arrested and the case was turned over to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement-Homeland Security Investigations (ICE-HSI) special agents for further investigation.

47. Seizure/Arrest:CBP Officers Seize \$140K In Unreported Currency At Laredo Port Of Entry

CBP

2021-2-16

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Office of Field Operations (OFO) officers working outbound operations seized over \$140,000 in undeclared currency in a single enforcement act over the weekend.

“CBP’s national security mandate is complex, ranging from anti-terrorism to more traditional counter-drug operations,” said Acting Port Director Eugene Crawford, Laredo Port of Entry. “This seizure is a direct reflection of our continuous commitment to enforce federal currency reporting requirements.”

The enforcement action occurred on Saturday, February 13th, when officers assigned to outbound operations selected a 2014 Volvo bus traveling to Mexico for inspection. A 26-year-old male Mexican citizen passenger was referred for a secondary examination. Upon physical inspection of the subject's personal belongings, packages containing \$140,750 in undeclared currency were discovered.

The currency was seized by CBP. The subject was arrested and the case was turned over to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement-Homeland Security Investigations (ICE-HSI) special agents for further investigation.

48. Arrest :Despite Freezing Temperatures Laredo Sector Border Patrol Agents Continue Rescues

Sara Melendez

CBP

2021-2-17

With temperatures falling below freezing levels, U.S. Border Patrol agents from the Laredo Sector continue to locate and rescue individuals from the dangerous elements. During the past 48 hours, over 40 individuals have been rescued throughout the Sector.

During the very early morning of February 17, agents from the Laredo South Station rendered aid to seven lost individuals that were located south of Laredo, Texas after an individual from the group called Webb County 911 Emergency Services. The individuals stated they were lost and in distress due to the rainy conditions and temperatures that were near 31 degrees Fahrenheit with a wind chill factor of 23 degrees. Agents were able to communicate with the caller and quickly located the group. The seven individuals were medically screened in the field and determined to be in good health.

A second incident occurred during the same hours when agents from the Laredo West Station responded to another 911 call from a lost individual approximately 30 miles northwest of Laredo, Texas. Agents quickly responded to the location and made contact with the lost individual. The individual, who is a Mexican national, was not clothed to handle the freezing temperatures. First aid was rendered by responding agents and verified that the individual did not require further medical treatment.

All of the rescued individuals were illegally in the United States and are from the countries of Mexico, Guatemala and El Salvador. In addition to the physical and environmental risks faced by individuals hoping to cross illegally into the U.S., they are also vulnerable to life-threatening abuse and neglect by unscrupulous smuggling organizations. Criminal entities fill their pockets while exploiting a vulnerable population and have no regard for the safety of migrants. The criminal organizations often attempt to smuggle individuals inside trailers which with the recent low temperatures, the inside can become as cold as a freezer.

“Despite the difficult weather conditions, our agents remain steadfast in their commitment to protecting our country and saving lives. I am proud of their lifesaving work and the sacrifices they endure to carry out these often dangerous rescues,” said Chief Patrol Agent Matthew Hudak.

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“Despite the difficult weather conditions, our agents remain steadfast in their commitment to protecting our country and saving lives. I am proud of their lifesaving work and the sacrifices they endure to carry out these often dangerous rescues,” said Chief Patrol Agent Matthew Hudak.

50. Arrest :Border Patrol Agents Apprehend Several Train Jumpers

Sara Melendez

CBP

2021-2-16

U.S. Border Patrol agents from the Cotulla Station apprehended several individuals north of Cotulla, Texas attempting to illegally continue their journey into the United States via train jumping.

The incident occurred during the late evening, when agents observed several individuals aboard a northbound freight train near Cotulla, Texas. The agents contacted the rail service company and requested the train be stopped at the nearest siding for inspection. Agents apprehended 14 individuals who are illegally in the United States and from the countries of Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico.

This dangerous method of illegal entry into the United States by illegal immigrants is strongly discouraged as it often results in serious injury or death especially during this time of dangerous weather conditions. The Laredo Sector Border Patrol continues to warn against the dangers of crossing illegally into the United States through dangerous and hazardous means.

Despite the ongoing global pandemic, U.S. Border Patrol agents of the Laredo Sector continue to stand at the ready to secure the nation's borders, prevent the flow of illegal immigration, the exploitation by human smugglers, and the spread of COVID-19.

51. Arrest :Border Patrol Agents Arrest Over 200 Undocumented Immigrants

Local23 Valleycentral.com

2021-2-19

On Wednesday and Thursday night U.S. Border Patrol agents apprehended a total of 266 people in two separate events. Both groups entered the United States illegally near Mission, said the agency's news release.

On Wednesday night, agents assigned to the McAllen Border Patrol Station arrested a group of 126 undocumented immigrants, consisting mainly of family units and unaccompanied children.

On Thursday McAllen Border Agents arrested another group of 140 people near the same location as the previous day.

The second group also consisted mainly of families and unaccompanied children from Central America.

In addition to the dangers normally faced when entering the United States illegally, the Rio Grande Valley is experiencing record low temperatures, said the news release.

In recent days, Border Patrol has conducted multiple rescues of individuals who were abandoned in the brush by smugglers, some of which required medical attention after being exposed to frigid temperatures, said the Border Patrol.

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53. Arrest :CBP Field Operations At Hidalgo International Bridge Arrests Man Wanted On Child Indecency Charges

U.S. Customs And Border Protection

2021-2-19

U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Office of Field Operations (OFO) at the Hidalgo International Bridge arrested Primitivo Rico Garza, a 67-year-old man, a U.S. citizen from McAllen, Texas after discovering he had a warrant from that city's police department for child indecency charges.

"Helping our law enforcement partners locate fugitives of the law, especially those sought for allegedly causing harm to children is one of the many duties CBP officers perform daily," said Port Director Carlos Rodriguez, Port of Hidalgo/Pharr/ Anzalduas.

On Feb. 17, 2021, CBP officers at the Hidalgo-Reynosa International Bridge encountered Mr. Garza arriving from Mexico as a pedestrian. During the primary inspection, it was discovered that he was a possible match to an arrest warrant therefore officers escorted him to secondary where biometric verification confirmed the outstanding warrant from the McAllen Police Department. The warrant was issued on Feb. 16 for an incident where Mr. Garza allegedly had inappropriate contact with a minor female under the age of 17 and was charged with two counts of indecency with a child, both second-degree felonies.

Criminal charges are merely allegations. Defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law.

Visit CBP's website for more information on the Immigration Inspection Program

Follow the Director of CBP's Laredo Field Office on Twitter at @DFOLaredo and on Instagram at @dfolaredo for breaking news, current events, human interest stories and photos.

54. Arrest :Border Patrol Agents Carry Out Multiple Rescues During South Texas Deep Freeze

Sandra Sanchez

KXAN

2021-2-17

The frigid arctic air that blasted South Texas did not dissuade many migrants who still tried to enter the United States and were rescued by U.S. Border Patrol agents suffering from hypothermia, federal officials told Border Report.

"It's been a very busy 24 hours," Christian Alvarez, special operations supervisor for the Border Patrol's Rio Grande Valley Sector said. "Our agents have been responding to activity all across the Rio Grande Valley."

This included Border Patrol agents conducting "multiple rescues in the vast ranchlands of Brooks, Kenedy, and Kleberg counties," he said, adding that some rescued migrants were sent for emergency medical care and were showing signs of hyperthermia.

These three counties are some of the least populated in the state yet geographically span hundreds of miles and are filled with rough terrain and brush and are areas that have long been favorite spots of drug cartel and human traffickers to force migrants to walk for days on foot to cross. The U.S. Border Patrol checkpoint near Falfurrias, Texas, is located in Brooks County where rural ranches are spaced miles apart and the terrain is filled with rattle snakes and migrants have died from dehydration, hypothermia and hyperthermia.

Rescues included helping several lost migrants and that wasn't easy on Sunday night as sleet, snow and freezing rain moved into the region. Plus, when a lost individual dials 911, the GPS coordinates the dispatch operator receives are not of the person's exact location but of a cell tower that is in their proximity.

During one rescue operation on Sunday night in Kingsville, agents received a report of two lost Honduran women and "after several hours of searching, Falfurrias agents found the pair approximately 16 miles away from the original (coordinates)," Alvarez said.

He said agents "performed these actions several times" and came across multiple undocumented migrants who "were too lost or too weak to continue walking."

The temperatures were in the 20s on Sunday night and Monday and were expected to drop into the teens tonight.

On Sunday night, Border Patrol agents assisted a woman who gave birth in the brush on the banks of the Rio Grande near the South Texas town of Mission. The temperatures were below freezing and the newborn was wrapped in Mylar thermal blankets until EMS arrived.

Alvarez said that in addition to helping migrants, Border Patrol agents also assisted local law enforcement officials on multiple calls including road closures on areas deemed too dangerous or icy for vehicles.

The weather also affected the activation of specialty Border Patrol units, like the horse patrol, ATVs and boat patrols, he said.

55. Arrest :Border Patrol Agents Carry Out Multiple Rescues During South Texas Deep Freeze

Sandra Sanchez

KXAN

2021-2-17

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56. Arrest :Border Patrol Rescues 23 Undocumented Immigrants From Frigid Temperatures, CBP Says

Samantha Garza

Local23 Valleycentral.com

2021-2-17

Since Saturday, Customs Border Patrol agents rescued 23 undocumented immigrants from the cold temperatures, CBP said.

Agents responded to 911 calls made by the undocumented immigrants, requesting help because they were lost, “cold, and had no food or water.”

The Rio Grande Valley has experienced record breaking cold weather over the past five days, leaving residents cold and without power.

According to the press release sent by CBP, two people were sent to the hospital after showing signs of hyperthermia to receive further treatment.

CBP agents responded to the calls in Mission, Rio Grande and Kleberg County. The other 21 people were provided with medical aid upon their rescue.

57. Arrest :More Than 200 Migrants Are Rescued From Freezing Temperatures In Texas After Being Dumped By Traffickers

Adry Torres
Dailymail.com
2021-2-18

U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents assigned to west Texas have rescued more than 200 undocumented immigrants after most of them were abandoned by human traffickers as Winter Storm Uri slammed the area.

A spokesman with the Big Bend Sector Border Patrol confirmed to DailyMail.com that border agents and local police discovered the dead body of a male migrant.

The victim's death was most likely a result of being exposed to the freezing weather.

His age and nationality have not been made public.

CBP said that as many as 10 people were taken to region hospitals for treatment to extreme weather exposure, frostbite or other serious medical conditions.

The majority of the migrants were located between Saturday and Tuesday morning by Big Bend Sector agents in the towns of Sierra Blanca and Van Horn.

Most of the migrants were citizens of Ecuador, Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras.

CBP said the migrants called 911 for emergency assistance while others sought help by stopping motorists on highways.

CBP also received missing persons reports from family members looking for their lost loved ones, prompting additional searches and lives saved.

The migrants were placed in custody of the Big Bend Sector Border Patrol, which provides border surveillance for 77 towns in Texas and each of the 78 border cities in Oklahoma.

The massive storm wrecked havoc across Texas, leaving close to 3.4 million residents without heat, electricity and running water for five days, including 1.4 million in Houston.

President Joe Biden declared an emergency in Texas and provided federal aid to the state. The crisis has sparked concerns about how the energy landscape may change amid the push to rely on renewable energy instead of fossil fuels.

On Thursdays, Biden is also scheduled to formally introduce legislation to Congress that is aimed at reforming the immigration system.

The bill features an eight-year path to citizenship for least 11 million people who were living in the United States unlawfully on January 1, 2021.

Undocumented immigrants will be eligible to receive a permanent residency card, or 'green card,' after five years if they meet certain requirements, including background checks, and will be allowed to apply for citizenship after three years.

Additionally, many undocumented immigrants with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals [DACA] protection, otherwise known as 'Dreamers,' who were brought to the United States illegally as children and people with Temporary Protected Status would immediately be eligible to apply for a green card and would have a three-year path to citizenship.

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