# Transportation Checks and Roving Enforcement

First Semiannual, Fiscal Year 2023

*July 21, 2023*

Fiscal Year 2023 Report to Congress

Homeland Security

*U.S. Customs and Border Protection*

# Message from the Acting Deputy Commissioner of CBP

July 21, 2023

I am pleased to submit the following report, "Transportation Checks and Roving Enforcement, First Semiannual, Fiscal Year 2023," which was prepared by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP).

This report was compiled pursuant to direction set forth in the Joint Explanatory Statement and the House Report 117-396, which accompany the FY 2023 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act (P.L. 117-328). The report provides a description of CBP authorities governing enforcement actions relating to roving patrol stops and requested statistics for October 1, 2022, through March 31, 2023.

Pursuant to congressional requirements, this report is provided to the following Members of Congress:

The Honorable David Joyce
Chair, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Henry Cuellar
Ranking Member, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Chris Murphy
Chair, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Katie Britt
Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

I would be pleased to respond to any questions that you may have. Please do not hesitate to contact my office at (202) 344-2001.

Sincerely,

Pete R. Flores
Acting Deputy Commissioner
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

# Executive Summary

This report includes the number of recorded roving patrol stops and transportation check and checkpoint statistics by U.S. Border Patrol Sector for October 1, 2022, through March 31, 2023, as well as a description of CBP policies governing enforcement actions of this nature.

# Transportation Checks and Roving Enforcement
# First Semiannual, Fiscal Year 2023

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# I.   Legislative Language

This document was compiled pursuant to direction set forth in the Joint Explanatory Statement and the House Report 117-396, which accompany the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act (P.L. 117-328).

Joint Explanatory Statement states:

> In addition to direction in House Report 117–396, the required reporting shall include the total amount of drugs, currency, and firearms seized as a result of transportation checks.

House Report 117-396:

> CBP shall continue to collect and report publicly on its website data pertaining to all checkpoints, transportation checks, and roving patrol stops, to be updated semiannually with all necessary redactions of personally identifiable information about specific individuals.
>
> For roving patrols, the data should include:
> (1) the total number of use of force incidents and arrests by location;
> (2) the citizenship status of subjects arrested; and
> (3) the amount and type of property seized.
>
> For transportation checks, the data should include:
> (1) a description of the boarding of public conveyance by CBP in air, maritime and ground stations, ports, and terminals when an arrest is made;
> (2) the total number of use of force incidents and arrests by location;
> (3) the citizenship status when an arrest is made; and
> (4) the amount and type of property seized.
>
> For checkpoints, the data should include:
> (1) the location of all tactical and permanent checkpoints that were in operation for any period of time;
> (2) the total number of use of force incidents and arrests by location;
> (3) the citizenship status of subjects arrested following secondary inspection;
> (4) the amount and type of property seized; and
> (5) a description of how the agency uses information collected by cameras and license plate readers.

# II.   Background

U.S. Border Patrol (USBP), a component of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), is responsible for securing U.S. borders between ports of entry.  To secure the borders, USBP uses a layered approach, which includes patrolling the border itself and nearby areas, along with populated areas, where undocumented individuals can fade quickly into the general population.  Additional approaches to border security include roving patrols and operating both permanent and temporary checkpoints.

Roving patrols are an integral part of USBP's in-depth defense strategy and are intelligence-driven, targeted enforcement actions, designed to contribute to CBP's goal of securing U.S. borders.  Roving patrols contribute to disruption and degradation of transnational criminal organizations by targeting enforcement efforts against high-priority threats.  Roving patrols also enhance situational awareness and instill safety in the traveling public and nearby communities.

In the maritime environment, Air and Marine Operations (AMO), another component of CBP, stops and boards vessels, generally within 12 nautical miles of the U.S. coast, exercising authorities under 19 U.S. Code (U.S.C.) § 1581, Boarding Vessels, and 19 U.S.C. § 1587, Examination of Hovering Vessels.  Most of these stops occur as part of interdiction efforts in Southern California, the Caribbean, and South Florida, but also in the Great Lakes, in the waters of the Pacific Northwest, and on the Gulf Coast.

In the air environment, AMO fosters a positive relationship between the general aviation community and law enforcement partners through intelligence-based targeting and pilot interactions.  AMO agents enforce laws where a pilot's operating certificate and related aircraft documents are inspected in conjunction with an individual's operation of an aircraft, regardless of an aircraft's connection to the border.

# III. Data Report

## A. Roving Patrol Stops

Roving patrol stops and associated investigative data are logged and maintained in the Intelligent Computer-Assisted Detection (ICAD) suite of applications. Border Patrol Agents (BPA) and support personnel, such as law enforcement communications assistants, enter pertinent operational and administrative data associated with roving patrol stops into the ICAD system. Examples of pertinent data include each instance of requested record checks, roving patrol stops, detection, apprehension, or seizure. These data points are required entries into ICAD, per agency policy. In addition to the ICAD suite of applications, apprehension and seizure data are logged into the e3 application, which is CBP's system of record for these subsets of operational data.

This report covers the first half of FY 2023 (October 1, 2022, to March 31, 2023).

| Roving Patrol Stops October 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023 | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sector | Roving Patrol Stops | Average Duration in Minutes | e3 Events | Apprehensions Deportable | Total Encounters |
| Big Bend Sector, Texas (BBT) | 3,723 | 19.95 | 59 | 91 | 276 |
| Blaine Sector, Washington (BLW) | 493 | 9.17 | 10 | 29 | 30 |
| Buffalo Sector, New York (BUN) | 50 | 16.57 | 16 | 31 | 39 |
| Del Rio Sector, Texas (DRT) | 6,120 | 15.85 | 768 | 261 | 3,510 |
| Detroit Sector, Michigan (DTM) | 419 | 6.56 | 6 | 16 | 19 |
| El Centro Sector, California (ELC) | 1,559 | 6.34 | 101 | 95 | 373 |
| El Paso Sector, Texas (EPT) | 3,575 | 11.73 | 326 | 322 | 2,263 |
| Grand Forks Sector, North Dakota (GFN) | 135 | 13.87 | 2 | 16 | 16 |
| Houlton Sector, Maine (HLT) | 111 | 6.50 | 3 | 4 | 4 |
| Havre Sector, Montana (HVM) | 532 | 8.05 | 8 | 23 | 30 |
| Laredo Sector, Texas (LRT) | 11,473 | 6.76 | 118 | 109 | 455 |
| Miami Sector, Florida (MIP) | 46 | 25.82 | 11 | 18 | 23 |

| Roving Patrol Stops<br>October 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023 | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sector | Roving Patrol Stops | Average Duration in Minutes | e3 Events | Apprehensions Deportable | Total Encounters |
| New Orleans Sector, Louisiana (NLL) | 25 | 11.82 | 83 | 133 | 166 |
| Rio Grande Valley Sector, Texas (RGV) | 2,708 | 1.27 | 3 | 7 | 7 |
| Ramey Sector, Puerto Rico (RMY) | 9,142 | 12.25 | 206 | 229 | 633 |
| San Diego Sector, California (SDC) | 3,421 | 3.82 | 533 | 394 | 1,937 |
| Spokane Sector, Washington (SPW) | 596 | 15.39 | 5 | 13 | 14 |
| Swanton Sector, Vermont (SWB) | 557 | 14.97 | 106 | 340 | 404 |
| Tucson Sector, Arizona (TCA) | 8,164 | 14.82 | 1818 | 3296 | 9173 |
| Yuma Sector, Arizona (YUM) | 1,626 | 16.10 | 171 | 347 | 639 |
| **Totals** | **54,475** | **10.80** | **4,353** | **5,774** | **20,011** |

Data in the table are drawn from ICAD and e3 data sets. The Roving Patrol Stops column reflects the total number of agent dispatch events related to roving patrol investigative activity. Examples of investigative activity include agent requests for vehicle registration and criminal or border-crossing database information. Therefore, the total number of agent dispatches does not reflect the total number of roving patrol stops initiated by BPAs during this reporting period. Dispatch duration is determined by time-stamped updates, which indicate that the reporting agent resolved an investigative action or engaged in additional investigative activity.

Instances of investigative activity that result in a seizure or apprehension require creation of a record in e3. These instances are associated with unique e3 event identifiers in the ICAD data. An e3 number is an incident-level record, where single or multiple apprehended individuals or seized item data are logged. Therefore, associated e3 event numbers were referenced in determining the total number of individuals apprehended. The reason for stops resulting in arrests is recorded within the e3 event record, whether by the charge code or within the narrative format.

## B. Use-of-Force Incidents

The Enforcement Action Statistical Analysis and Reporting system does not capture a "roving patrol stop" as a data point within a use-of-force and/or assault incident. Therefore, a statistical analysis query cannot be created to correlate uses of force and assaults to roving patrol stops. Additionally, USBP does not capture citizenship of apprehended individuals on the basis of post-

secondary inspections at checkpoints.  However, CBP does publish use-of-force data on its public website at https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/cbp-use-force.

## C.   Checkpoints

Immigration checkpoints are a significant component of USBP's in-depth defense strategy.  Securing the borders by using interior checkpoints and transportation checks, along with coordinated enforcement operations, is critical in carrying out USBP's mission.  Placing checkpoints in strategic locations increases USBP's ability to deter, detect, and interdict illegal activity in routes of egress.  Use of canine teams and technology significantly enhanced agents' abilities to detect, identify, and interdict narcotics and undocumented individuals at checkpoints.

Please see the following tables for statistics on checkpoints.  The date range is for the first half of FY 2023 (October 1, 2022, to March 31, 2023).

| USBP Checkpoints | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Sector** | **Fixed** | **Tactical Ready*** |
| BBT | 4 | 24 |
| DRT | 5 | 13 |
| ELC | 2 | 3 |
| EPT | 7 | 11 |
| LRT | 5 | 9 |
| RGV | 2 | 3 |
| SDC | 6 | 19 |
| TCA | 0 | 22 |
| YUM | 3 | 7 |
| **Southwest Border (SB) Total** | **34** | **111** |
| BLW | 0 | 7 |
| BUN | 0 | 4 |
| HLT | 0 | 7 |
| SWB | 1 | 60 |
| **Northern Border (NB) Total** | **1** | **78** |
| **Totals** | **35** | **189** |

**\*Not all tactical-ready checkpoints are currently in operation.**

**USBP Nationwide Transportation Check\* Apprehensions, Drugs in Pounds, Money, and Firearm Seizures Not at a Checkpoint from October 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023**
*Apprehensions Data Include Deportable and Non-deportable Individuals*

| | |
|---|---|
| Deportable Individuals | 161 |
| Non-deportable Individuals | 353 |
| *Marijuana (in pounds (lbs.))* | 0.02 |
| *Other (in lbs.)* | 0.00 |
| Total Drugs | 0.02 |
| Money | $5,102.00 |
| Firearms | 1 |

\*Transportation Check includes the following Arrest/Seize Method Code - Descriptions:
- TCA - Transportation Check Aircraft,
- TCB - Transportation Check Bus,
- TCF - Transportation Check Freight Train, and
- TCP - Transportation Check Passenger Train.

| USBP Nationwide Criminal Apprehensions at Checkpoints | |
|---|---|
| **Fiscal Year** | **Apprehensions** |
| **FY 2023 (October 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023)** | 215 |

**USBP Checkpoint Apprehensions**
**Data include Deportable and Non-deportable Individuals**
*October 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023*

| Border | Sector | Deportable | Non-deportable |
|---|---|---|---|
| **SB** | BBT | 455 | 919 |
| | DRT | 557 | 711 |
| | ELC | 21 | 38 |
| | EPT | 456 | 3,811 |
| | LRT | 391 | 2,004 |
| | RGV | 664 | 2,740 |
| | SDC | 90 | 324 |
| | TCA | 282 | 564 |
| | YUM | 50 | 97 |
| **SB Total** | | **2,966** | **11,208** |
| **NB** | BLW | 0 | 0 |
| | BUN | 0 | 0 |
| | DTM | 0 | 0 |
| | GFN | 0 | 0 |
| | HLT | 0 | 0 |
| | HVM | 0 | 0 |
| | SPW | 0 | 0 |

| USBP Checkpoint Apprehensions<br>Data include Deportable and Non-deportable Individuals<br>*October 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Border** | **Sector** | **Deportable** | **Non-deportable** |
| | SWB | 6 | 3 |
| **NB Total** | | **6** | **3** |
| **Coastal Border (CB)** | MIP | 0 | 0 |
| | NLL | 0 | 0 |
| | RMY | 0 | 0 |
| **CB Total** | | **0** | **0** |
| **Nationwide Total** | | **2,972** | **11,211** |

| Border | Sector | Apprehensions | Drugs (lbs.) | Money | Firearms |
|--------|--------|---------------|--------------|-------|----------|
| **USBP Nationwide Checkpoint Apprehensions and Property Seizures** _October 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023_ _Apprehension Data Includes Deportable Migrants Only_ | | | | | |
| SB | BBT | 455 | 1,366.62 | $72,145 | 7 |
| | DRT | 557 | 5.06 | $4,084 | 12 |
| | ELC | 21 | 178.38 | $753,690 | 1 |
| | EPT | 456 | 1,966.75 | $294,745 | 5 |
| | LRT | 391 | 221.40 | $161,542 | 13 |
| | RGV | 664 | 4,364.50 | $103,973 | 51 |
| | SDC | 90 | 443.52 | $22,836 | 6 |
| | TCA | 282 | 272.78 | $27,417 | 11 |
| | YUM | 50 | 205.38 | $3,129 | 3 |
| **SB Total** | | **2,966** | **9,024.38** | **$1,443,561** | **109** |
| NB | BLW | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0 |
| | BUN | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0 |
| | DTM | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0 |
| | GFN | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0 |
| | HLT | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0 |
| | HVM | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0 |
| | SPW | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0 |
| | SWB | 6 | 14.20 | $6,366 | |
| **NB Total** | | **6** | **14.20** | **$6,366** | **0** |
| CB | MIP | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0 |
| | NLL | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0 |
| | RMY | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0 |
| **CB Total** | | **0** | **0.00** | **0** | **0** |
| **Nationwide Total** | | **2,972** | **9,038.58** | **$1,449,927** | **109** |

**AMO Vessel Boardings and General Aviation Encounters**

| AMO Maritime Operations October 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023 | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Region** | **Branch** | **Missions** | **Underway Hours** | **Boardings** |
| Northern Region (NR) | Bellingham Air & Marine Branch | 88 | 471 | 1 |
| | Great Lakes Air & Marine Branch | 157 | 663 | 1 |
| **NR Total** | | **245** | **1,134** | **2** |
| Southeast Region (SER) | Houston Air & Marine Branch | 74 | 475 | 3 |
| | Jacksonville Air & Marine Branch | 232 | 1,331 | 10 |
| | Miami Air & Marine Branch | 1,110 | 6,067 | 164 |
| | New Orleans Air & Marine Branch | 104 | 542 | 13 |
| | Caribbean Air & Marine Branch | 883 | 3,652 | 23 |
| **SER Total** | | **2,403** | **12,067** | **213** |
| Southwest Region (SWR) | McAllen Air & Marine Branch | 362 | 1,775 | 27 |
| | San Diego Air & Marine Branch | 465 | 2,541 | 4 |
| **SWR Total** | | **827** | **4,316** | **31** |
| **Nationwide Total** | | **3,475** | **17,517** | **246** |

| Region | Branch | Apprehensions | Arrests | Seized Vessels | Seized Drugs (lbs.) | Seized Currency (USD) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| NR | Bellingham Air & Marine Branch | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Great Lakes Air & Marine Branch | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **NR Total** | | **0** | **0** | **0** | **0** | **0** |
| SER | Houston Air & Marine Branch | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Jacksonville Air & Marine Branch | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Miami Air & Marine Branch | 464 | 4 | 12 | 220 | 0 |
| | New Orleans Air & Marine Branch | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Caribbean Air & Marine Branch | 19 | 5 | 21 | 6,653 | 903 |
| **SER Total** | | **483** | **9** | **33** | **6,873** | **$903** |
| SWR | McAllen Air & Marine Branch | 5 | 15 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| | San Diego Air & Marine Branch | 37 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| **SWR Total** | | **42** | **16** | **8** | **0** | **0** |
| **Nationwide Total** | | **525** | **25** | **41** | **6,873** | **$903** |

Table title: **AMO Boardings Resultant Apprehensions, Arrests, and Seizures
October 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023**

| Region | Branch | Encounters |
|---|---|---|
| NR | Great Lakes Air & Marine Branch | 1 |
| **NR Total** | | **1** |
| SER | Caribbean Air & Marine Branch | 1 |
| | Jacksonville Air & Marine Branch | 6 |
| | Miami Air & Marine Branch | 2 |
| **SER Total** | | **9** |
| National Air Security Operations (NASO) | San Angelo | 1 |
| **NASO Total** | | **1** |
| SWR | Yuma Air Branch | 9 |
| **SWR Total** | | **9** |
| **Nationwide Total** | | **20** |

Table title: **AMO General Aviation Encounters
October 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023**

# IV. Conclusion

CBP is committed to securing the Nation's borders while respecting the civil rights and civil liberties of all individuals.  Roving patrols and checkpoints are essential tools in a multifaceted enforcement strategy to impede illicit cross-border activity.

# V. Appendix: List of Abbreviations

| Abbreviation | Definition |
|---|---|
| AMO | Air & Marine Operations |
| BBT | Big Bend Sector, Texas |
| BLW | Blaine Sector, Washington |
| BPA | Border Patrol Agent |
| BUN | Buffalo Sector, New York |
| CB | Coastal Border |
| CBP | U.S. Customs and Border Protection |
| DHS | Department of Homeland Security |
| DRT | Del Rio Sector, Texas |
| DTM | Detroit Sector, Michigan |
| ELC | El Centro Sector, California |
| EPT | El Paso Sector, Texas |
| FY | Fiscal Year |
| GFN | Grand Forks Sector, North Dakota |
| HLT | Houlton Sector, Maine |
| HVM | Havre Sector, Montana |
| ICAD | Intelligent Computer-Assisted Detection |
| lbs. | pounds |
| LRT | Laredo Sector, Texas |
| MIP | Miami Sector, Florida |
| NASO | National Air Security Operations |
| NB | Northern Border |
| NR | Northern Region |
| NLL | New Orleans Sector, Louisiana |
| RGV | Rio Grande Valley Sector, Texas |
| RMY | Ramey Sector, Puerto Rico |
| SB | Southwest Border |
| SDC | San Diego Sector, California |
| SER | Southeast Region |
| SPW | Spokane Sector, Washington |
| SWB | Swanton Sector, Vermont |
| SWR | Southwest Region |
| TCA | Tucson Sector, Arizona |
| U.S.C. | U.S. Code |
| USBP | U.S. Border Patrol |
| YUM | Yuma Sector, Arizona |