Transportation Checks and Roving Enforcement

Second Semiannual, Fiscal Year 2023

March 11, 2024
Fiscal Year 2023 Report to Congress

Homeland Security

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Message from the Acting Deputy Commissioner of CBP

March 11, 2024

I am pleased to submit the following report, "Transportation Checks and Roving Enforcement, Second 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 Fiscal Year (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 April 1, 2023, through September 30, 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 data related to recorded roving patrol stops, transportation checks, and checkpoints conducted by U.S. Border Patrol Sector for April 1, 2023, through September 30, 2023, as well as a description of CBP policies governing enforcement actions of this nature.

Transportation Checks and Roving Enforcement
Second 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 defense in-depth strategy and are intelligence-driven, targeted enforcement actions, designed to contribute to CBP's goal of securing U.S. borders. Roving patrols contribute to the 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 requiring inspection of a pilot's operating certificate and related aircraft documents 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 second half of FY 2023 (April 1, 2023, to September 30, 2023).

Roving Patrol Stops April 1, 2023 – September 30, 2023					
Sector	Roving Patrol Stops	Average Duration in Minutes	e3 Events	Apprehensions Deportable	Total Encounters
Big Bend Sector, Texas (BBT)	4,755	18.49	49	147	235
Blaine Sector, Washington (BLW)	528	12.47	32	98	120
Buffalo Sector, New York (BUN)	77	12.41	13	25	34
Del Rio Sector, Texas (DRT)	4,781	14.42	703	1,408	2,898
Detroit Sector, Michigan (DTM)	621	5.27	8	17	19
El Centro Sector, California (ELC)	1,326	7.13	257	673	963
El Paso Sector, Texas (EPT)	3,200	11.25	206	1,013	1,485
Grand Forks Sector, North Dakota (GFN)	301	11.10	8	48	53
Havre Sector, Montana (HVM)	151	7.64	6	15	18
Houlton Sector, Maine (HLT)	668	8.25	12	42	47
Laredo Sector, Texas (LRT)	11,251	7.25	123	405	566
Miami Sector, Florida (MIP)	85	26.96	40	65	87

	Roving Patrol Stops	Average Duration in Minutes	e3 Events	Apprehensions Deportable	Total Encounters
Sector	**Roving Patrol Stops**	**Average Duration in Minutes**	**e3 Events**	**Apprehensions Deportable**	**Total Encounters**
New Orleans Sector, Louisiana (NLL)	17	16.22	71	117	139
Ramey Sector, Puerto Rico (RMY)	213	3.16	3	35	39
Rio Grande Valley Sector, Texas (RGV)	8,927	12.31	182	371	469
San Diego Sector, California (SDC)	2,295	3.24	506	1,035	1,804
Spokane Sector, Washington (SPW)	591	16.92	7	11	17
Swanton Sector, Vermont (SWB)	727	15.59	154	655	740
Tucson Sector, Arizona (TCA)	7,000	15.51	1,429	4,415	6,923
Yuma Sector, Arizona (YUM)	1,870	16.62	130	322	411
Totals	**49,384**	**11.72**	**3,939**	**10,917**	**17,067**

Table title: Roving Patrol Stops, April 1, 2023 – September 30, 2023

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 when 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 data 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 and Transportation Checks

Immigration checkpoints are a significant component of USBP's defense in-depth 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 and transportation checks. The date range is for the second half of FY 2023 (April 1, 2023, to September 30, 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, as they are deployed based on station identified operational needs.

USBP Nationwide Transportation Check* Apprehensions, Drugs in Pounds, Money, and Firearm Seizures Not at a Checkpoint *April 1, 2023 – September 30, 2023* *Apprehensions Data Include Deportable and Non-deportable Individuals*	
Deportable Individuals	640
Non-deportable Individuals	55
Marijuana (in pounds (lbs.))	0.16
Other (in lbs.)	0.29
Total Drugs	0.45
Money	$0.00
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 (April 1, 2023 – September 30, 2023)	268

USBP Checkpoint Apprehensions Data include Deportable and Non-deportable Individuals *April 1, 2023 – September 30, 2023*			
Border	**Sector**	**Deportable**	**Non-deportable**
SB	BBT	955	918
	DRT	669	267
	ELC	28	52
	EPT	1,435	911
	LRT	1,113	642
	RGV	1,683	1,278
	SDC	133	174
	TCA	337	414
	YUM	18	68
SB Total		**6,371**	**4,724**
NB	BLW	0	0
	BUN	6	0
	DTM	0	0
	GFN	0	0
	HLT	5	4
	HVM	0	0
	SPW	0	0

USBP Checkpoint Apprehensions Data include Deportable and Non-deportable Individuals *April 1, 2023 – September 30, 2023*			
Border	**Sector**	**Deportable**	**Non-deportable**
	SWB	25	2
NB Total		**36**	**6**
Coastal Border (CB)	MIP	0	0
	NLL	0	0
	RMY	0	0
CB Total		**0**	**0**
Nationwide Total		**6,407**	**4,730**

Border	Sector	Apprehensions	Drugs (lbs.)	Money	Firearms
	BBT	955	3,787.70	$137,516	23
	DRT	669	0.62	$17,382	5
	ELC	28	1,052.08	0	1
	EPT	1,435	943.38	$48,288	10
SB	LRT	1,113	440.37	$84,688	10
	RGV	1,683	801.98	$107	36
	SDC	133	1,195.94	$51,976	4
	TCA	337	422.60	$32,513	6
	YUM	18	393.67	0	0
SB Total		**6,371**	**9,038.34**	**$372,470**	**95**
	BLW	0	0	0	0
	BUN	6	0	0	0
	DTM	0	0	0	0
NB	GFN	0	0	0	0
	HLT	5	141.46	$14,372	0
	HVM	0	0	0	0
	SPW	0	0	0	0
	SWB	25	67.57	0	0
NB Total		**36**	**209.03**	**$14,372**	**0**
	MIP	0	0.00	0	0
CB	NLL	0	0.00	0	0
	RMY	0	0.00	0	0
CB Total		**0**	**0.00**	**0**	**0**
Nationwide Total		**6,407**	**9,247.37**	**$386,842**	**95**

Table title: **USBP Nationwide Checkpoint Apprehensions and Property Seizures**
April 1, 2023 – September 30, 2023
Apprehension Data Includes Deportable Migrants Only

AMO Vessel Boardings and General Aviation Encounters

AMO Maritime Operations *April 1, 2023 – September 30, 2023*				
Region	**Branch**	**Missions**	**Underway Hours**	**Boardings**
Northern Region (NR)	Bellingham Air & Marine Branch	195	1,038	7
	Great Lakes Air & Marine Branch	641	3,186	55
NR Total		**836**	**4,224**	**62**
Southeast Region (SER)	Houston Air & Marine Branch	88	577	6
	Jacksonville Air & Marine Branch	285	1,606	27
	Miami Air & Marine Branch	1,142	6,401	174
	New Orleans Air & Marine Branch	89	457	8
	Caribbean Air & Marine Branch	932	3,598	16
SER Total		**2,536**	**12,639**	**231**
Southwest Region (SWR)	McAllen Air & Marine Branch	488	2,480	25
	San Diego Air & Marine Branch	579	2,994	18
SWR Total		**1,067**	**5,474**	**43**
Nationwide Total		**4,439**	**22,337**	**336**

AMO Boardings Resultant Apprehensions, Arrests, and Seizures April 1, 2023 – September 30, 2023						
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	196	8	12	11	55,267
	New Orleans Air & Marine Branch	0	0	0	0	0
	Caribbean Air & Marine Branch	31	2	5	1,002	5,840
SER Total		**227**	**10**	**17**	**1,013**	**$61,107**
SWR	McAllen Air & Marine Branch	0	0	2	0	52
	San Diego Air & Marine Branch	28	1	5	0	70
SWR Total		**28**	**1**	**7**	**0**	**$122**
Nationwide Total		**255**	**11**	**24**	**1,013**	**$61,229**

AMO General Aviation Encounters April 1, 2023 – September 30, 2023		
Region	**Branch**	**Encounters**
NR	Bellingham Air & Marine Branch	3
NR Total		**3**
SER	Caribbean Air & Marine Branch	1
	Jacksonville Air & Marine Branch	2
	Miami Air & Marine Branch	1
SER Total		**4**
National Air Security Operations (NASO)	San Angelo	1
NASO Total		**1**

SWR	Laredo Air Branch	1
	Tucson Air Branch	2
SWR Total		**3**
Nationwide Total		**11**

IV. Conclusion

CBP is committed to securing the Nation's borders while respecting the civil rights and civil liberties of all individuals. Roving patrols, checkpoints, and transportation checks 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