

**U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection  
Operations Order Report**

**Op Order Name:** Operation Stonegarden – Nueces County

**Operation Name Op Order Number:** OPSG OO TX Nueces FY20 21-RGVRGV-10-007 V0

**Op Dates: From:** 09/01/2020      **Operation Start-date To:** 08/31/2023

**Report Date:** 10/30/2020

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## **Executive Summary**

The Nueces County Sheriff’s Office has qualified and applied for funding through Operation Stonegarden. The County was identified as an integral part of the U.S. Border Patrol’s strategy to enhance cooperation and coordination among Federal, State and Local agencies in a joint mission to secure the United States borders. Approved funding through OPSG will be used to enhance enforcement efforts along routes of ingress and coastal waterways. The County’s participation will achieve border control by establishing a substantial probability of apprehension through improved enforcement, improved rapid mobility and intelligence driven resource deployments. Additionally, the County will involve a number of collaborators to assist in the stated mission of OPSG and will promote a collaborative enforcement effort that extends our border outward while strengthening a defense in depth posture.

### **I. SITUATION**

#### **A. General Situation:**

The Nueces County is located within the area of responsibility of the Rio Grande Valley Sector (RGV), Corpus Christi Border Patrol Station (CCT). The county’s jurisdiction includes a number of ingress/egress routes that lead to and from the immediate border area. Additionally, the county’s jurisdiction includes a number of coastal waterways. These waterways include the Port of Corpus Christi, the Port Aransas and Packery Ship Channel along with a number of other potential landing sites for foreign borne vessels. Nueces County is located between Kleberg and San Patricio Counties. It has a population of approximately 325,000 and staffs a Sheriff’s Office that is comprised of more than 300 employees. The county includes the following incorporated cities within its jurisdiction: Corpus Christi, Port Aransas, Robstown, Driscoll, Banquete, Agua Dulce, Petronila, and Bishop. The Sheriff’s Office maintains a working relationship which each of the city police

departments as well as with the Nueces County Constable's Offices in Precincts 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

As a participating entity with OPSG, Nueces County Sheriff's Office (NCSO), with the assistance of the Corpus Christi, Robstown, and the Nueces County Constables of Precincts 1, 3 and 5 will increase enforcement efforts along identified routes of ingress/egress to include, but not limited to, U.S. Highway 77 and State Highway 44. Intelligence information, to include prior statistical data, indicates that these are the two primary routes utilized by the criminal element to further their illegal entry and smuggling activities to locations within the United States.

The participation of these agencies, made possible by funding through OPSG, will significantly impact the ability of criminal organizations to operate within the Rio Grande Valley, Corpus Christi Border Patrol Station area of responsibility (AOR). The enhanced enforcement posture will strengthen border security by providing a stronger defense in depth mechanism.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Texas Department of Public Safety will also be available to assist the County if necessary.

**B. Terrain/Weather:**

The unincorporated areas of Nueces County, aside from the municipalities, consist mainly of farm and ranchlands, as well as open highways. Weather is normally hot and humid. The threat of natural disasters such as hurricanes and tornadoes exist during the Gulf/Atlantic hurricane season, which runs from June to November.

**C. Criminal Element:**

A number of individuals, as well as organized criminal enterprises operate in and around Nueces County. The major thoroughfares, that include Interstate 37, State Highways 77 and 44, offer an immediate and direct route from the international border to locations within the interior of the United States. These routes provide direct access to major U.S. cities, such as San Antonio, Dallas and Houston. It is widely known that these cities serve as distribution locations for both human and narcotic smuggling loads. Additionally, intelligence information indicates that the coastal waterways in and around Nueces County are experiencing an increase in smuggling activity. This information is corroborated by an increased number of narcotics being found along the shorelines.

**D. Friendly Forces:**

Federal:

U.S. Border Patrol, Corpus Christi Station

Local:

Nueces County Sheriff's Office  
Corpus Christi Police Department  
Robstown Police Department  
Nueces County Constable Precinct 3  
Nueces County Constable Precinct 5  
Texas Department of Public Safety

## **II. MISSION**

The mission of the Nueces County Sheriff's Office (NCSO) is to provide an enhanced enforcement capability within specific areas and choke points in the County's jurisdiction that will substantially increase the probability of identification and/or apprehension of criminal elements operating within the same. The NCSO will accomplish this mission by working with identified collaborators that include the U.S. Border Patrol, the Corpus Christi, Robstown, the Nueces County Constable's Office of Precincts 3, and 5.

Funding obtained through OPSG will be utilized to accomplish a high visibility enforcement presence that will detect, deter and/or interdict criminal and/or terrorist activity occurring in and around Nueces County. This will be accomplished through utilization of overtime as a force multiplier and acquisition of specialized equipment.

## **III. EXECUTION**

### **A. Management/Supervisor Intent:**

Nueces County and its collaborating local agencies will enforce local/state laws within their jurisdiction but will not enforce immigration laws on behalf of U.S. Border Patrol. Each participating agency will conduct enforcement activities that have a nexus and contribute to border security.

Through collaboration with participating agencies, targeted areas of the County will increase the capability to prevent, protect against, and respond to border security issues. The collective collaboration of the participating agencies will provide an opportunity for intelligence based operations and further refinement of deployment strategies.

### **B. General Concept:**

Through OPSG approved funding, participating agencies will enhance their current deployment capabilities through expenditure of overtime and equipment acquisition. Deployment strategies will be adjusted based on intelligence information and historical data that supports the need for increased operations within certain areas of the county. Intelligence liaisons between the CCT and the participating agencies, to include the Coastal Bend JOIC, will facilitate the exchange of information to ensure resource deployments are consistent with current and developing intelligence information. The operation will center its efforts around the prevention, detection and interdiction of crimes and criminals who have a border security nexus. Operation Stonegarden does not authorize extension of Federal authority to state or local law enforcement agencies to enforce Federal Immigration Laws. When Federal immigration violations are encountered, state and local agencies will refer those violations to the Border Patrol for appropriate action.

## **C Specific Responsibilities:**

### **Nueces County Sheriff's Office:**

Consistent with the guidelines required by OPSG, the NCSO and partners have developed an operational plan that utilizes overtime expenditures and equipment acquisition to enhance enforcement efforts throughout strategic locations of Nueces County. The plan was developed in collaboration with the CCT.

The NCSO will be specifically responsible for providing enforcement enhancements in rural areas of the county that fall outside the defined jurisdictions of other participating agencies.

### **Nueces County Constables, Precinct 3:**

Precinct 3 is located on the southern border of Nueces County and consists of an area of 185 sq. miles that encompass the cities of Bishop, Driscoll and Petronila, as well as numerous subdivisions and colonias. The Nueces County Constable in the Pct 3 office currently maintains four (4) full-time Constable Deputies whose primary duties are patrol, civil court process, warrants, as well as CID and narcotics. The cities of Driscoll and Bishop maintain their own police departments. The area of responsibility consists mainly of farm and ranch lands, as well as open highways. The major thoroughfares that run through Precinct 3 are US 77, FM 70 and FM 665. All of these roads are known to be routes of travel utilized by individuals participating in illicit activity, such as drug smugglers and human traffickers. The Nueces County Precinct 3 Constable's Office will, and has worked with, the United States Border Patrol and Texas Department of Public Safety, as well as other police agencies in CCT's AOR to combat illegal activity.

### **Nueces County Constables, Precinct 5:**

Precinct 5 consists of a 320 square mile area and contains the cities of Robstown, Banquete, Agua Dulce, and Bluntzer, as well as a number of smaller communities and subdivisions scattered throughout the Precinct. Precinct 5 currently maintains 11 full-time deputies whose duties primarily consist of patrol, civil court process, criminal investigations, and narcotics. Precinct 5 also maintains a substation in Agua Dulce.

Major thoroughfares that run through Precinct 5 are Highways 77 and Highway 44. Both of those highways are known to be routinely traveled by smugglers of aliens and/or narcotics. The Precinct 5 Constable's Office will enhance enforcement efforts along those corridors to detect, deter, and interdict illegal activity.

### **Corpus Christi Police Department:**

The City of Corpus Christi is the largest metropolitan area located within Nueces County. The City's population is estimated at 280,000 and the Police Department is staffed with 448 sworn officers.

The City of Corpus Christi is situated along two primary corridors leading away from the immediate border area. The corridors are Highway 77 and the Padre Island National Seashore. Additionally, the city is surrounded by a number of smaller roads that are adjacent

to both Highways 77 and 281. These avenues of egress/ingress are utilized by criminal organizations operating within both the Rio Grande Valley and Laredo, Texas areas.

### **Robstown Police Department:**

The City of Robstown is located at the crossroads of State Highway 77 and State Highway 44 in the center of Nueces County. Robstown is the second largest city in Nueces County, with a population of 12,900 residents. The City of Robstown is surrounded by farm and ranch land with a number of small sub-divisions within a ten mile radius of the city. Robstown has its own police department, which consists of 24 sworn personnel, five (5) dispatchers and two (2) non-sworn office personnel. A total of 12.1 square miles are patrolled by Robstown Police Officers. Robstown has the only dual-certified K-9 in Nueces County. This K-9 Team is requested and utilized by all agencies in Nueces County. The Robstown Police Department intends to use funds from Operation Stonegarden to provide extra patrol and engage in operational activities intended to detect, deter and interdict criminal and terrorist activity in and around the City of Robstown, and in support of other departments within Nueces County

### **Border Patrol Responsibilities:**

1. Station Point of Contact (POC) will get with station Command Staff and Intel department to identify areas that OPSG can be deployed.
2. Station OPSG coordinator will coordinate with friendly forces to create a deployment schedule.
3. When the Tactical Operation Center (TOC) supervisors receive a call from an OPSG friendly force officer, they should type in the deployment on Tracking, Sign-cutting, and Modeling (TSM) in order to track the deployments. Annotate the following information:
  - a. Officer name
  - b. Officer number
  - c. Area WC deployed officer or designee
  - d. WC star number or designee
  - e. Requests For Information (RFIs)
4. Station POCs should use TSM to validate the submitted DARs in the OPSG Website.

### **Friendly Force Responsibilities:**

1. Each friendly force will identify how many officers will be available to work Operation Stonegarden (OPSG), what days and what time they will be available.
2. Each friendly force will contact their respective Station Point of Contact (POC) to create a schedule.
3. When an officer is scheduled to begin working using OPSG funds he/she **must** call their respective Border Patrol Station Tactical Operation Center (TOC) to receive work assignment and any relevant intelligence information **from the on duty Watch Commander (WC) or designee**.
4. The officer should write down the agent's star number to include in his or her report.
5. At the end of the officer's shift under OPSG, he/she will call the Border Patrol TOC in order to inform them he/she is no longer operating under OPSG.
6. **Each officer should write a brief narrative to be included in the OPSG Daily Activity Report (DAR), which is submitted through the Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN).**

- a. The narrative should include:
  - i. The Star number of the agent he/she spoke with at the Border Patrol Station TOC
  - ii. A summary of what he/she did during operating under OPSG
  - iii. Answer any informational questions the Border Patrol might have been requested
7. If submitting one DAR for multiple officers then you can consolidate the narratives onto one (1) document and attach to the DAR
8. The sub-recipient (The County) may set additional reporting requirements for participating friendly forces.

The County will help enforce state law and local ordinances against violators in the target areas to help reduce criminal activity associated with alien and drug smuggling. Sub-recipients and associated friendly forces will not enforce Title 8 (U.S. Immigration Law) nor will they be granted any additional authorities or powers. Sub-recipients and associated friendly forces will enforce state law and local municipality codes against violators in target areas to help reduce criminal activity associated with transnational criminal activity to increase border security.

#### **D. Coordinating Instructions:**

All participating agencies that are funded by OPSG, will coordinate their enforcement efforts with the CCT and the NCSO. OPSG enhancements will be utilized in direct response to known or developing intelligence information provided through a liaison with the CCT. Deployment areas identified within this plan are subject to adjustment based on jurisdictional limitations and the nature of the actionable intelligence information received.

The CCT will coordinate with the RGV's Sector Intelligence Unit to establish a statistical tracking method that will be used for performance evaluations and future resource allocations or adjustments to established plans.

Plans for adjustment of allocations or major deviations from the established deployment strategies will be coordinated through the NCSO and the CCT, along with a representative of the affected adjustment area.

“SLTTs will submit a DAR within 48hrs. Sector Coordinators/Station POCs will approve DARs within a timely manner.

#### **Points of Contact:**

*USBP Corpus Christi Station:*

SOS ISMAEL GONZALEZ Office: 361-879-4348 Email: [Ismael.gonzalez-jr@cbp.dhs.gov](mailto:Ismael.gonzalez-jr@cbp.dhs.gov)

Corpus Christi Station: 361-879-4300

Nueces County SO:

Cynthia Martinez: 361-887-2225: [cynthia.martinez@nuecesco.com](mailto:cynthia.martinez@nuecesco.com)

Precinct 3:

Felicia Montoya Office: 361-584-3262 Email: [felicita.montoya@nuecesco.com](mailto:felicita.montoya@nuecesco.com)

Precinct 5:

Efrain Perez Office: 361-767-5204 Email: [efrain.perez@nuecesco.com](mailto:efrain.perez@nuecesco.com)

Robstown PD.:

Benjamin Gomez Office: 361-563-2359 Email: [bgomez@robstown-pd.us](mailto:bgomez@robstown-pd.us)

Texas DPS

James Mcarty Office: 361-947-5845 Email: [jamesm@cctexas.com](mailto:jamesm@cctexas.com)

**E. Public/Open Records Request:**

In order to accomplish the Operation Stonegarden mission, law enforcement sensitive information is shared between Federal, State, and local friendly forces. This information includes: intelligence sharing, CONOPS/Applications, Operations Orders, Fragmentary Orders, Daily Activity Reports, After Action Reports, and more. OPSG records and documents are Law Enforcement Sensitive and are to be secured by all parties involved in OPSG operations from release of data or information to individuals or entities without a legally sufficient need to know.

OPSG documents, data, and information must also be protected from inadvertent or improper distribution.

State Administrative Agencies, Sub-Recipients, and Friendly Forces should while maintaining state and local policy also notify their local USBP Sectors Staff when a Public disclosure request is received. USBP Sector Staff will notify the appropriate USBP HQ Staff about the request for awareness. USBP HQ will provide applicable assistance to insure the appropriate handling of the request to insure maximum protection of Personally Identifiable Information (PII) and Operations Security (OPSEC) of OPSG documents, data, and information.

**IV. ADMINISTRATION/LOGISTICS**

**A. Cost Estimates/Funding Issue**

Administration/Logistics/Budget		Narrative Justification (Computation of Items)	Federal Request
<b>Law Enforcement Operational Overtime</b> * Over 50% in OT funding needs a Personal Cap Waiver request letter		Nueces CO. S.O.; \$165,000.00 Precinct 3; \$24,830.33 Precinct 5; \$28,968.71 Robstown P.D. \$65,025.55 Corpus Christi P.D.; \$157,121.04; TX DPS: \$130,082.7	\$571,028.33
<b>Fringe Benefits for Law Enforcement</b>		Nueces CO. S.O.; \$34,353.00 Precinct 3; \$5,169.67 Precinct 5; \$6,031.29 Robstown P.D. \$4,974.45 Corpus Christi P.D.; \$49,665.96	\$100,194.37
		<b>Overtime and Fringe Total</b>	\$671,222.70
<b>General Equipment</b> * Justification Letter needed for \$100K or more purchases *If more space is needed show total equipment cost and list all equipment in justification section of budget.		N/A	\$0.00
<b>Special Equipment</b> * Needs Justification Letter		N/A	\$0.00
<b>Vehicles, Watercraft, other type of vehicles</b> * Needs Justification Letter		N/A	\$0.00
<b>Regional Capability Building Equipment</b> * Needs Justification Letter		TX DPS Air; Item #1 = \$300,000.00	\$300,000.00
		<b>Equipment Total</b>	\$300,000.00
<b>Vehicle</b>	<b>Fuel Cost</b>	Nueces County S.O. \$15,147.00 TX DPS: \$8,000.00	\$23,147.00
	<b>Maintenance Cost</b>	Nueces County S.O. \$20,000.00 TX DPS; \$331,979.70	\$351,979.70
	<b>Mileage Cost</b>	N/A	\$0.00



	For Deployed LE and/or Federally Sponsored (DHS/FEMA) border security task force meetings (IPTs)	N/A	\$0.00	
<b>Travel, Lodging, and Per diem</b>				
<b>State M&amp;A</b>		State can take up to 2.5% of total allocation	\$35,958.00	
<b>County M&amp;A</b>	subtract state M&A from allocation and total county M&A cannot exceed 5%	Nueces County S.O. \$15,500.00 Texas DPS; \$40,529.60	\$56,029.60	
		<b>Total M&amp;A</b>	\$91,987.60	
<b>Indirect Costs</b>	If using Indirect Costs a letter must be attached explaining FEMA's agreed percentage	<b>Sub-recipient's Indirect cost total</b>	\$0.00	
<b>Unallocated Funds</b>		Individual total of unallocated funds for each Sub-recipient and Friendly Force	\$0.00	
			<b>Total Funding Cost</b>	\$1,438,337.00

Overtime					Fringe	
Agency name	Officers	Estimated Hours (per Officer)	Estimated Overtime Rate	Estimated Overtime total	Estimated Fringe Rate	Estimated Fringe total
Nueces County S.O.	20	275.00000	\$30.00	\$165,000.00	20.82%	\$34,353.00
Precinct 3	5	198.64264	\$25.00	\$24,830.33	20.82%	\$5,169.67
Precinct 5	5	231.74968	\$25.00	\$28,968.71	20.82%	\$6,031.29
Robstown P.D.	10	260.10220	\$25.00	\$65,025.55	7.65%	\$4,974.45
Corpus Christi P.D.	5	785.60520	\$40.00	\$157,121.04	31.61%	\$49,665.96
Texas DPS-Air Operations Division	2	296.82103	\$78.28	\$46,470.30	0.00%	\$0.00
Texas DPS Tactical Marine Unit	11	113.50048	\$66.97	\$83,612.40	0.00%	\$0.00
				<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$100,194.37</b>

Regional Capability Building Equipment						
Agency name	Item Number	AEL #	Equipment name	Quantity	Price	Total
Texas DPS-Air Operations Division	1	04MD-01- IRED	L3 MX15 ISR IR Camera-Regional Project	1	\$300,000.00	\$300,000.00
L3 MX15 ISR IR Camera- will be used to support Border Patrol Agents on the ground in support of OPSG.						
					Total	\$300,000.00

Maintenance		
Agency name	Maintenance Item	Estimated Maintenance Total
Texas DPS-Tactical Marine Unit	Repair/Upgrade	\$50,000.00
Texas DPS-Air Operations Division	\$950.00 per flight hour X 296.821 Approx. hours = \$281,979.70	\$281,979.70
Nueces County Budget Table	Vehicle Maintenance	\$20,000.00
Total		\$351,979.70

Fuel			
Agency name	Estimated miles	Estimated Fuel Rate	Estimated Fuel Total
Nueces County	7,573.50000	\$2.00	\$15,147.00
TX DPS Tactical Marine Unit	2,539.6825 gallons	\$3.15	\$8,000.00
Total			\$23,147.00

B Travel:

N/A.

C Lodging:

N/A.

D. Reception of Detailed Personnel:

N/A.

E. Uniform and Equipment:

All personnel assigned to this operation will utilize the approved agency uniform in accordance with each agency Standard Operating Procedure (SOP). No deviations from these SOPs are anticipated.

- F Special Equipment:  
N/A.
- G. Processing:  
Apprehended individuals and seized property will be processed in accordance with federal, state, and local laws, policies and guidelines.
- H. Medical:  
Medical emergencies will be handled by the closest available medical facility, and in accordance with established departmental policy.
- I. Detention/Transportation:  
Apprehended individuals will be transported in accordance with federal, state and local laws, policies, agreements and guidelines of the arresting agency.”
- J. Vehicles:  
Agency issued and assigned vehicles

## V COMMAND/CONTROL/COMMUNICATION

### A. Chain of Command:

Participating agencies will maintain their individual chains of command as dictated by internal policies and guidelines. The Chief Patrol Agent of the Rio Grande Valley Sector will approve operations Orders for specific Operation Stonegarden activities.

### B. Unit Command:

Rio Grande Valley Sector Headquarters:  
Chief Patrol Agent Brian S. Hastings  
(A)Deputy Chief Patrol Agent Lloyed M. Easterling

Corpus Christi Border Patrol Station:  
Patrol Agent in Charge Brian L. Pigg  
Deputy Patrol Agent in Charge Roger G. Kemp

Nueces County Sheriff's Office:  
Sheriff Jim Kaelin and Captain Daniel Lorberau

### C. Communication Details:

Participating agencies will maintain their individual chains of command as dictated by internal policies and guidelines. The Chief Patrol Agent of the Rio Grande Valley Sector will approve operations Orders for specific Operation Stonegarden activities.

- Primary: Hand Held issued Radio

- Alternate: Vehicle Radio
- Contingency: Cellular Telephone/ Satellite Phone

**D. Map Coordinates:**

<b>Notes:</b>	<b>Longitude</b>	<b>Latitude</b>
<b>Degrees : Minutes : Seconds</b>	27:45:46.4	97:40:34.9
<b>Decimal</b>	27.7628891	-97.676365

**Location Zone:** Central

**ANNEX**

**A. Administration Annex:**

N/A.

**B. Execution Annex:**

Participating agencies will execute their missions within the parameters and scope of their authorities.

**C. Air Annex:**

**D. Media Action Plan:**

All media border related issues will be directed to the USBP Sector Public Information Office at or Chief Deputy Ronnie Jones in collaboration with RGV's Communication Department (956) 289-4990.

**E. Legal Review:**

All legal issues will be coordinated between the BCSO and CBP Counsel.

**F. Risk:**

No risks have been associated with this Op Order.

**G. Map**

N/A