

A wide-angle, low-angle photograph looking up into the ornate, light-colored stone dome of the Texas State Capitol. The dome features a large circular pattern of recessed panels and a central star. The surrounding architecture includes multiple concentric circles of columns and a balcony level.

2013

# TEXAS PUBLIC SAFETY THREAT OVERVIEW

UNCLASSIFIED



# **Texas Public Safety Threat Overview 2013**

A State Intelligence Estimate

Produced by the Texas Department of Public Safety

In collaboration with other law enforcement and homeland security agencies

February 2013

## **Executive Summary**

(U) Texas faces the full spectrum of threats, and the state's vast size, geography, and large population present unique challenges to public safety and homeland security. Texas employs a systematic approach to detect, assess, and prioritize public safety threats within seven categories: crime, terrorism, motor vehicle crashes, natural disasters, public health threats, industrial accidents and cyber threats.

(U) Crime threatens the safety, security and freedom of people. Sadly, one needs only to look to our neighbor to the south to view the impact that organized crime can have on a nation and its citizens. Some 60,000 men and woman have been killed in Mexico since 2006, with a substantial number of brutal tortures and beheadings.

(U) Index crimes measured by the Uniform Crime Reporting system have decreased throughout Texas and the nation, which is encouraging, as the eight index crimes include homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, motor vehicle theft, larceny, and arson. These are referred to as index crimes because they were selected in the 1930s to provide an index of the general level of criminal activity. From 2010 to 2011, the most recent year for which complete data is available, the volume of index crimes in Texas declined 6.4 percent and the crime rate declined 8.3 percent. Compared to 2001, the volume of index crimes in 2011 declined 9.2 percent and the crime rate decreased by 24.6 percent.

(U) This is good news, as the reduction in these crimes in both number and per capita improves the safety in our communities. An important caveat to the decreased numbers is that the eight index crimes do not reflect the general level of organized crime activity, which also affects the safety, security, and quality of life in our communities. There is not sufficient crime reporting data at this time in Texas to determine if crime is being reduced as reflected in the index crimes, or if it is simply being replaced by other crimes that also impact the safety and security of communities but that are not currently measured by this system.

(U) For example, the majority of the crimes committed in Texas by the Mexican cartels and transnational and state-wide gangs go unreported, and include crimes such as drug trafficking, human trafficking, kidnapping, extortion, public corruption, money laundering, and the recruitment and use of children in criminal operations. If there were a national organized crime index in the Uniform Crime Report, Texas would most likely lead the nation as a direct result of Mexican cartel and gang activity along the border and throughout the state.

(U) The Mexican cartels are the most significant organized crime threat to Texas, with six of the eight cartels having command and control networks operating in the state and using it as a transshipment center for the movement of marijuana, cocaine, methamphetamine, heroin, and people into and throughout Texas and the nation, and transporting bulk cash, weapons, and stolen vehicles back to Mexico.

(U) The second most significant organized crime threat in Texas is the existence of state-wide prison gangs, many of whom now work directly with the Mexican cartels, gaining substantial profits from drug and human trafficking, including prostitution. Prison gangs operate within and

## Texas Public Safety Threat Overview 2013

outside of prison and are responsible for a disproportionate amount of violent crime. With access to the large profits from drug and human trafficking, they are less dependent upon robberies, burglaries, and larcenies as a source of income.

(U) The impact of crime on children is multifaceted and a serious public safety concern. The tragic murder of 20 first grade girls and boys at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut is a bitter reminder of how vulnerable children are to crime in Texas. The Mexican cartels, Texas gangs, and other criminals engage in child trafficking for the sexual enslavement of children to profit from the pedophiles who seek them out. These same organizations recruit our children as criminal labor along the Texas-Mexico border, and use them to conduct criminal operations on both sides of the border. Gangs have expanded their operations into prostitution and they seek out runaways and vulnerable children to compel them into prostitution by guile and force. During 2012 alone, Texas State Troopers identified and rescued 29 such children being transported on the highways between cities. There are currently 76,272 sex offenders registered in Texas, and at least 60,871 of these offenders had a child victim. Additionally, drug traffickers and gangs have introduced heroin called “cheese” into Texas middle schools and high schools in the Dallas area with tragic consequences.

(U) Another crime-related public safety concern exists from criminal aliens, who may not be affiliated with the cartels and gangs but act alone to commit crime in Texas. From October 2008 to December 2012, Texas identified a total of 141,982 unique criminal alien defendants booked into Texas county jails. These individuals, identified through the Secure Communities initiative, are responsible for at least 447,844 individual criminal charges over their criminal careers, including 2,032 homicides and 5,048 sexual assaults.

(U) The threat of terrorism is ever-present as global terrorist organizations such as Al Qaeda and Hezbollah still seek to destroy the U.S. and our way of life through asymmetric tactics. Most recently, terrorism has become disaggregated with individual and would-be terrorists acting alone engaged in jihad. Nidal Hasan is the most prominent example of this type of terrorist, killing 13 U.S. servicemen at Fort Hood, Texas on November 5, 2009. Over the past five years in Texas, there have been four other Islamic extremist plots and two antigovernment terrorist plots.

(U) Other terrorist activities in Texas include fundraising in support of terrorism. Hezbollah, which is closely associated with Iran, has long been operating in the Tri-Border area of South America: Paraguay, Argentina, and Brazil. Most recently, there have been reports that Hezbollah is operating in Mexico. Some reports suggest that Hezbollah may be collaborating with the Mexican cartels, but at this time the Texas Department of Public Safety does not possess sufficient specific or credible information to confirm that this is indeed happening.

(U) There have been documented incidents of foreign nationals with links to terrorism entering the U.S. from Mexico using existing human trafficking and human smuggling networks operated by the cartels, though not in an active conspiracy with the cartels.

(U) Motor vehicle crashes killed 3,353 people in Texas in 2012. The high volume of commercial motor vehicles on Texas' roadways, including some that violate the law and operate unsafely, is a particular concern because of the increased potential for loss of life and serious bodily injury when the large mass of a commercial vehicle is involved in a crash.

## **Texas Public Safety Threat Overview 2013**

(U) Natural disasters such as floods, hurricanes and tropical storms, tornadoes, drought, and wildfires represent a continued and highly unpredictable public safety threat. These disasters result in deaths, loss of infrastructure, and billions of dollars in personal property damage and economic losses.

(U) Emerging infectious viruses such as West Nile, which has been responsible for 95 deaths in Texas since 2010, and reemerging infectious diseases such as highly drug resistant tuberculosis are a serious concern to health professionals and the public because of their potential health consequences to people and animals.

(U) Major industrial accidents are a potential threat to public safety, considering the large industrial base in Texas, which includes the petrochemical industry, 212,000 miles of regulated gas and oil pipeline, and the tons of hazardous materials that are shipped by rail across 10,384 miles of freight rail track, some of which is in the most populated areas of the state. It is important to note that the state's large and varied industrial base operates safely for the large majority of the time, and that serious accidents are rare.

(U) Cyber threats are an emerging area of concern, and have the potential to cause serious consequences to Texas. We are particularly concerned about the threat to critical infrastructure and agencies that provide essential services to the public, including utilities, public health, firefighting, and law enforcement.

## Texas Public Safety Threat Overview 2013

### Table of Contents

Title Page .....	1
Executive Summary .....	2
Table of Contents .....	5
Acknowledgments .....	6
State Intelligence Estimates .....	7
Introduction .....	8
Threat Overview .....	11
Crime .....	12
Terrorism .....	36
Motor Vehicle Crashes .....	41
Natural Disasters .....	44
Public Health Threats .....	49
Industrial Accidents .....	52
Cyber Threats .....	54
Appendix 1: Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources in Texas .....	56
Appendix 2: Contributing Agencies .....	66
References.....	72

## **Acknowledgments**

(U) The Texas Department of Public Safety collaborated with law enforcement, homeland security, and other government agencies across Texas and the United States in the production of this State Intelligence Estimate to serve as a high level overview of the public safety threats to Texas. Their contributions were invaluable to developing an assessment of the threats to public safety in Texas. This collaboration underscores the commitment among agencies across the state to share information, intelligence and capabilities to effectively address public safety threats across all jurisdictions and disciplines at all levels, and we are grateful to the numerous agencies that contributed to this assessment, some of which are listed in Appendix 2.

## State Intelligence Estimates

(U) To enhance the state's ability to detect, assess and prioritize threats to the safety and security of its citizens, the Texas Department of Public Safety implemented a State Intelligence Estimate process after consultation with the National Intelligence Council, based in part on the model of the National Intelligence Estimate.

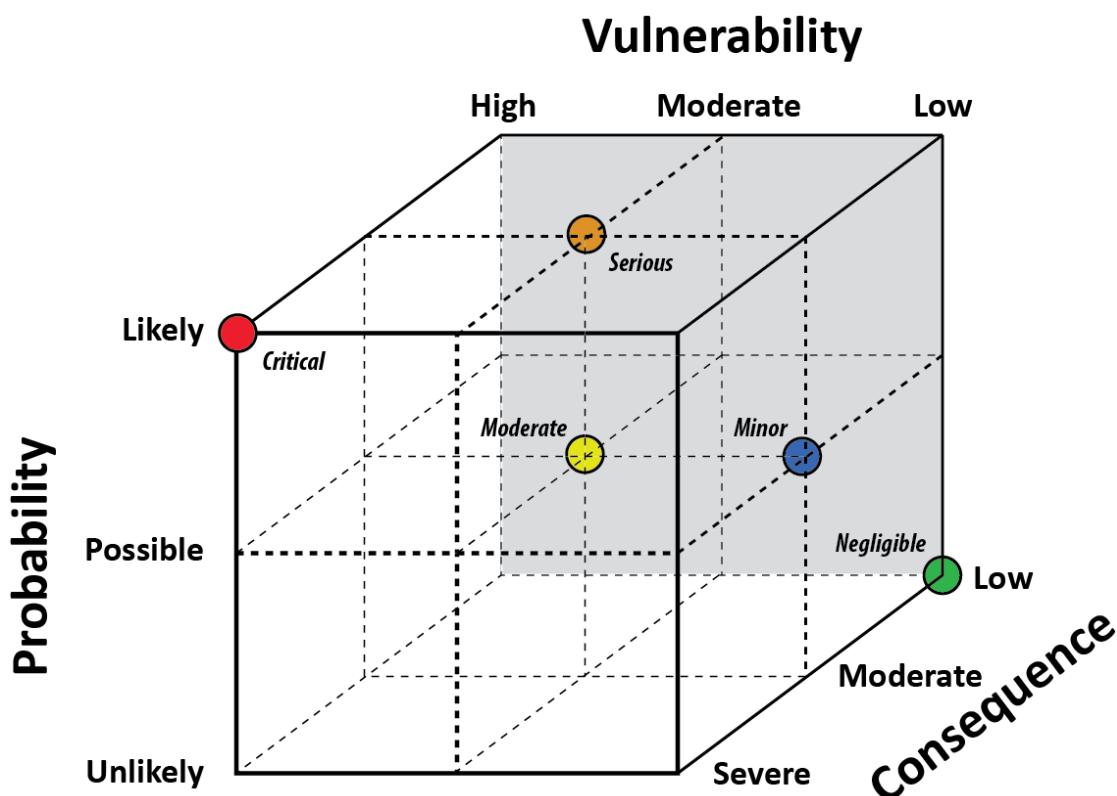
(U) State Intelligence Estimates are multi-agency assessments on issues relating to homeland security and public safety in Texas. They serve as the most authoritative and comprehensive analysis of these issues, and they are designed to provide law enforcement and government officials with the most accurate evaluation of current information on a given topic. State Intelligence Estimates are intended to provide an assessment on the current status of an issue, but they may also include estimative conclusions that make forecasts about future developments and identify the implications for Texas.

(U) Unlike reports and assessments produced by an individual agency or center, State Intelligence Estimates draw on the information and expertise of multiple law enforcement and homeland security agencies across Texas. Such an approach is essential to developing a comprehensive assessment of issues that affect the state as a whole. By incorporating the perspectives and information from multiple agencies, the Texas Department of Public Safety is better able to produce assessments that support the development of proactive strategies and policies to address current and evolving threats to the state.

(U) Texas benefits from a cooperative law enforcement and homeland security community and a statewide intelligence and information sharing framework that leverages a network of fusion centers located in key areas throughout the state. The 82<sup>nd</sup> Texas State Legislature established the Texas Fusion Center Policy Council, which provides state-level coordination and policy guidance to fusion centers in Texas to ensure their effectiveness and strict adherence to laws and regulations regarding privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties.

## Introduction

(U) Proactive and preventive strategies require sufficient data and analysis to support tactical and strategic decision making at all levels in today's rapidly evolving threat environment. Texas employs a systematic approach to detect, assess, and prioritize public safety threats within seven categories: crime, terrorism, natural disasters, motor vehicle crashes, public health, industrial accidents and cyber threats. Aligning threats within categories facilitates threat analysis and prioritization. Texas employs three risk variables that are commonly used in risk models: Probability, Vulnerability, and Consequence. These are used to assess the current or likely threat, in a formula that is expressed as Threat = Probability x Vulnerability x Consequence.



(U) In this standard model, Probability takes into account the frequency or likelihood that a harmful event or condition will occur. Vulnerability considers the extent to which the state is susceptible to a harmful event or condition. Consequence represents the impact that the harmful event or condition is likely to have on the state if it does occur. This threat assessment framework is particularly useful in delineating those threats that are high consequence and low probability from those that are more likely and that have comparatively moderate consequences. For example, the vulnerability of the Houston Ship Channel to a Category 4 or 5 hurricane is high and the consequences substantial, and even though the probability of it occurring is low based on historical trends, a comprehensive and well rehearsed region-wide response plan is essential to minimizing the danger.

Public Safety Threat Assessment Matrix				
		Probability		
Consequence	Vulnerability	Likely	Possible	Unlikely
Severe	High	1	1	2
	Moderate	1	2	3
	Low	2	3	4
Moderate	High	1	2	3
	Moderate	2	3	4
	Low	3	4	5
Low	High	2	3	4
	Moderate	3	4	5
	Low	4	5	5
Overall Threat Codes				
1: Critical		2: Serious	3: Moderate	4: Minor
5: Negligible				
Consequence				
Severe	Catastrophic consequences, including loss of life, serious economic impact, loss of critical infrastructure, other major property damage, or other impact requiring major recovery effort			
Moderate	Moderate consequences, including injury, moderate economic impact, damage to critical infrastructure, moderate property damage, or other impact requiring moderate recovery effort			
Low	Low consequences, including minimal injury, little economic impact, low damage to critical infrastructure, low property damage, or other impact requiring little recovery effort			
Vulnerability				
High	No measures, controls or protection in place			
Moderate	Some measures, controls or protection in place			
Low	Planning, training, or resources in place to mitigate vulnerabilities			
Probability				
Likely	Occurs frequently or is likely to continue to occur			
Possible	Occurs occasionally or may possibly occur			
Unlikely	Occurs rarely or is unlikely to occur			

**(U) Transnational Threats**

(U) Some vulnerabilities transcend threat categories. For example, an unsecure border with Mexico increases the threat from transnational crime, terrorism, public health and vehicle crashes.

(U) Mexican cartels exploit an unsecure Texas-Mexico border to smuggle thousands of tons of drugs and hundreds of thousands of people into the U.S. and billions of dollars of bulk cash, stolen vehicles and weapons into Mexico. Cartels operate human stash houses, holding illegal aliens for extended periods without food and water, ransoming them for extortion payments, and sexually assaulting the females. Criminals and potential terrorists from around the world use human trafficking networks to cross the border undetected, undocumented aliens with contagious diseases are smuggled into and throughout Texas, and cartel operatives are directed to engage in high speed pursuits from law enforcement using blocking vehicles and spikes that endanger the public.

**Figure 1: Smuggling and Trafficking Routes Into and Through Texas**



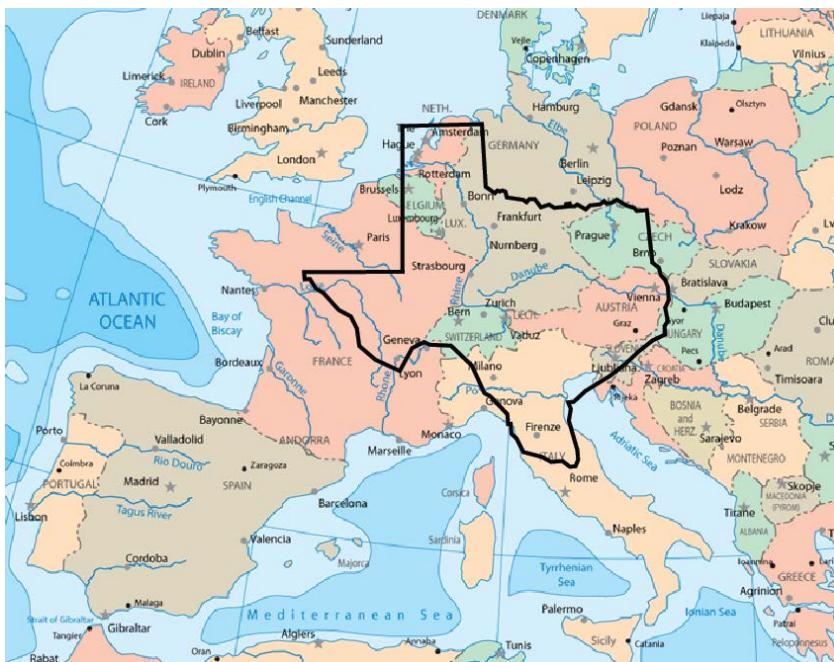
## Threat Overview

(U) Texas faces the full spectrum of threats. The globalization and convergence of crime and terrorism; an unsecure border with Mexico, powerful and ruthless Mexican cartels, violent transnational and statewide gangs, and serial criminals; worldwide terrorist organizations and lone wolf actors; cyber intrusions and threats; the unpredictability of catastrophic natural disasters and pandemic diseases; the high loss of life from vehicle crashes; the large amount of critical infrastructure in Texas, and the dramatic and continued increases in the state's population – all of these factors have resulted in an asymmetric threat environment in our state requiring constant vigilance to minimize the danger to our citizens and their families.

(U) Texas has 27 ports of entry, 1,254 miles of international border with Mexico, 367 miles of coastline and over 267,000 square miles, making it larger than France and twice the size of Germany. It is larger than the combined size of 14 other U.S. states and the District of Columbia with enough square miles left over to again cover the states of Maryland, Massachusetts and Connecticut.

(U) Texas is also demographically diverse, with a large population that is quickly growing. The state's 25 million residents are concentrated in large urban and suburban areas, but also spread across vast rural areas. The Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex has more than 6.5 million people, and the Harris County/Houston area has more than 4 million. At the other end of the spectrum, several Texas counties have small populations. Texas' vast distances create challenges with regard to communications and capabilities.

(U) Finally, Texas has a large and diversified economy, with a gross domestic product of more than \$1.2 trillion. Texas accounts for large amounts of international trade with Mexico and other nations. The state also plays a vital role in the nation's agriculture, defense, and energy industrial activity. Some of these industries and associated facilities have been designated as nationally important critical infrastructure and key resources. Appendix 1 provides an overview of critical infrastructure sectors and their importance to Texas.



# **1. Crime**

(U) Crime affects all Texans in some way, and while some crimes are highly visible, a significant amount of criminal activity goes undetected. This section assesses some of the most significant criminal threats to Texas.

## **1.1 Exploitation and Trafficking of Children**

(U) Mexican cartels, transnational gangs, human trafficking groups, and other criminal organizations engage in a wide range of criminal activity in Texas, including murder, kidnapping, assault, drug trafficking, weapon smuggling, and money laundering. However, by far the most vile crime in which these organizations and other criminals are engaged is the exploitation and trafficking of children. These crimes are also carried out and enabled by prostitution rings, manufacturers and viewers of child pornography, sexual predators, and other criminals. Regardless of who perpetrates these crimes or their motives, this category of criminal activity is especially heinous, as it takes advantage of children and subjects them to violence, extortion, forced labor, sexual assault, or prostitution.

(U) Some children are more vulnerable to exploitation, such as unaccompanied alien children (UAC). Since FY2010, there have been 58,763 UAC apprehensions along the US-Mexico border, including 33,474 in Texas sectors.<sup>1</sup> <sup>a</sup> The number of UAC apprehensions in Texas increased 81 percent from FY2010 to FY2012. UAC apprehensions have also become increasingly concentrated in the state. Texas sectors accounted for 65 percent of all UAC apprehensions along the border in FY2012, up from 48 percent in FY2010.

(U) Some human trafficking organizations operate prostitution rings across the state, including the trafficking of children. These organizations operate in various locations, such as on the street, or fronted as legitimate businesses.

(U) Children who are lost, missing, or abducted are also vulnerable to exploitation and trafficking. Approximately 800,000 children are reported missing every year in the US, or about 2,000 per day,<sup>2</sup> though the vast majority of these children are recovered quickly and they include juvenile runaways, lost children, abductions, and others. Of these 800,000, an estimated 200,000 are abducted by family members and 58,000 by nonfamily members, the primary motive for which is sexual. In Texas, 46,808 juveniles were reported missing in 2011, down from 52,332 in 2009,<sup>3</sup> and of these, an estimated 1,800 cases each year involve abduction by a stranger.

(U) Finally, criminals that manufacture or use child pornography contribute to the exploitation of children, as do sexual predators who target children. Of the more than 47,000 leads from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's CyberTipline that were referred to law enforcement in 2011, more than 8 percent came from Texas.

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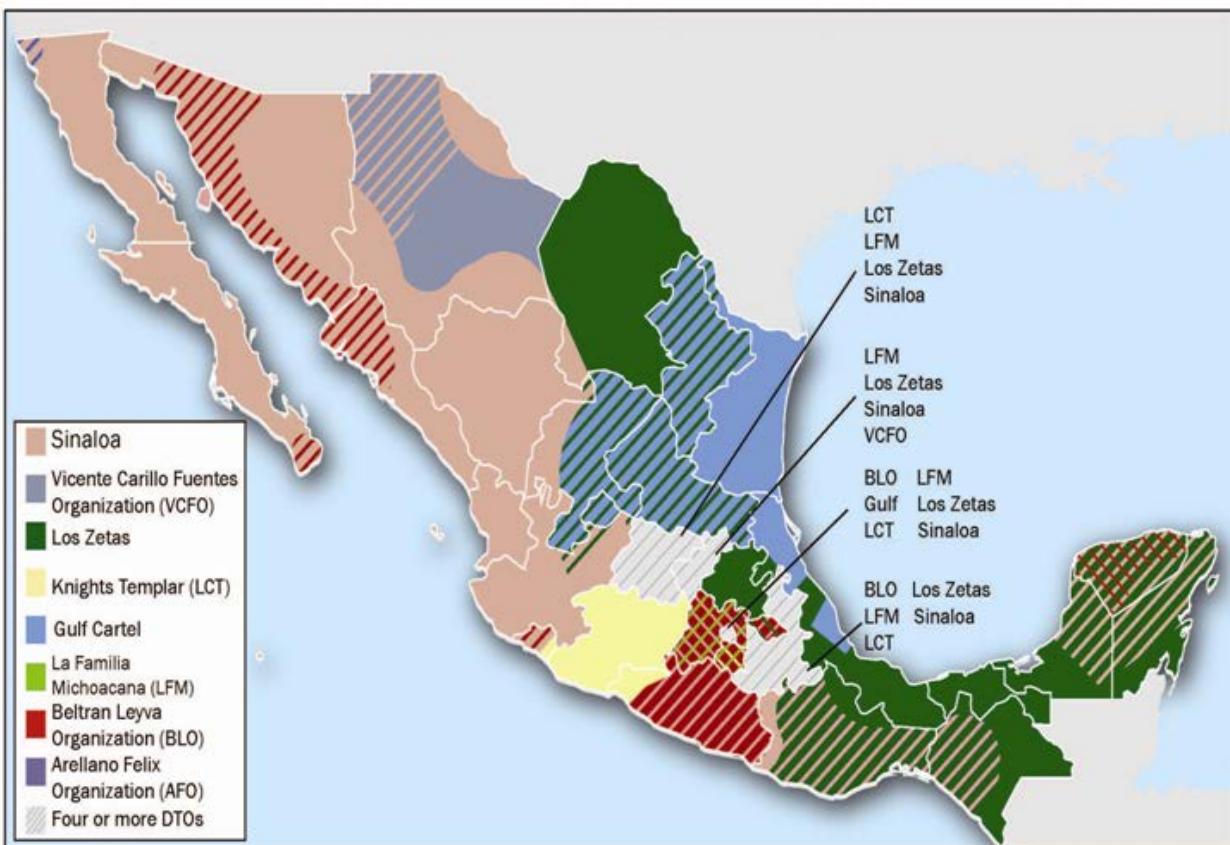
<sup>a</sup> Texas sectors include the Rio Grande Valley, Laredo, Del Rio, Big Bend, and El Paso sectors, as identified by Border Patrol

## Texas Public Safety Threat Overview 2013

### 1.2 Mexican Cartels

(U) Mexican cartels constitute the greatest organized crime threat to Texas. These powerful and ruthless criminal organizations use military and terrorist tactics to battle each other and the government of Mexico for control over the lucrative US drug and human smuggling markets. The violence associated with this conflict has increased significantly since 2006. Some 60,000 lives have been lost, and cartel tactics in Mexico have escalated with the continued use of torture and beheading, improvised explosive devices, military-grade weapons such as grenades, and attacks against US officials and diplomatic facilities. The cartels have also expanded their involvement in other criminal activities beyond drug trafficking, to include profiting from violent crimes such as extortion, kidnapping for ransom, and robbery.

**Figure 2: Approximate Areas of Cartel Operation in Mexico<sup>4</sup>**



(U) Simultaneously, the cartels have not been confined to Mexico. Instead, they have persistently expanded their presence in the United States, primarily for the purpose of controlling drug distribution networks. This expansion has facilitated their involvement in other cross-border criminal activities, including the smuggling and trafficking of weapons, people, currency, and other illicit commodities.

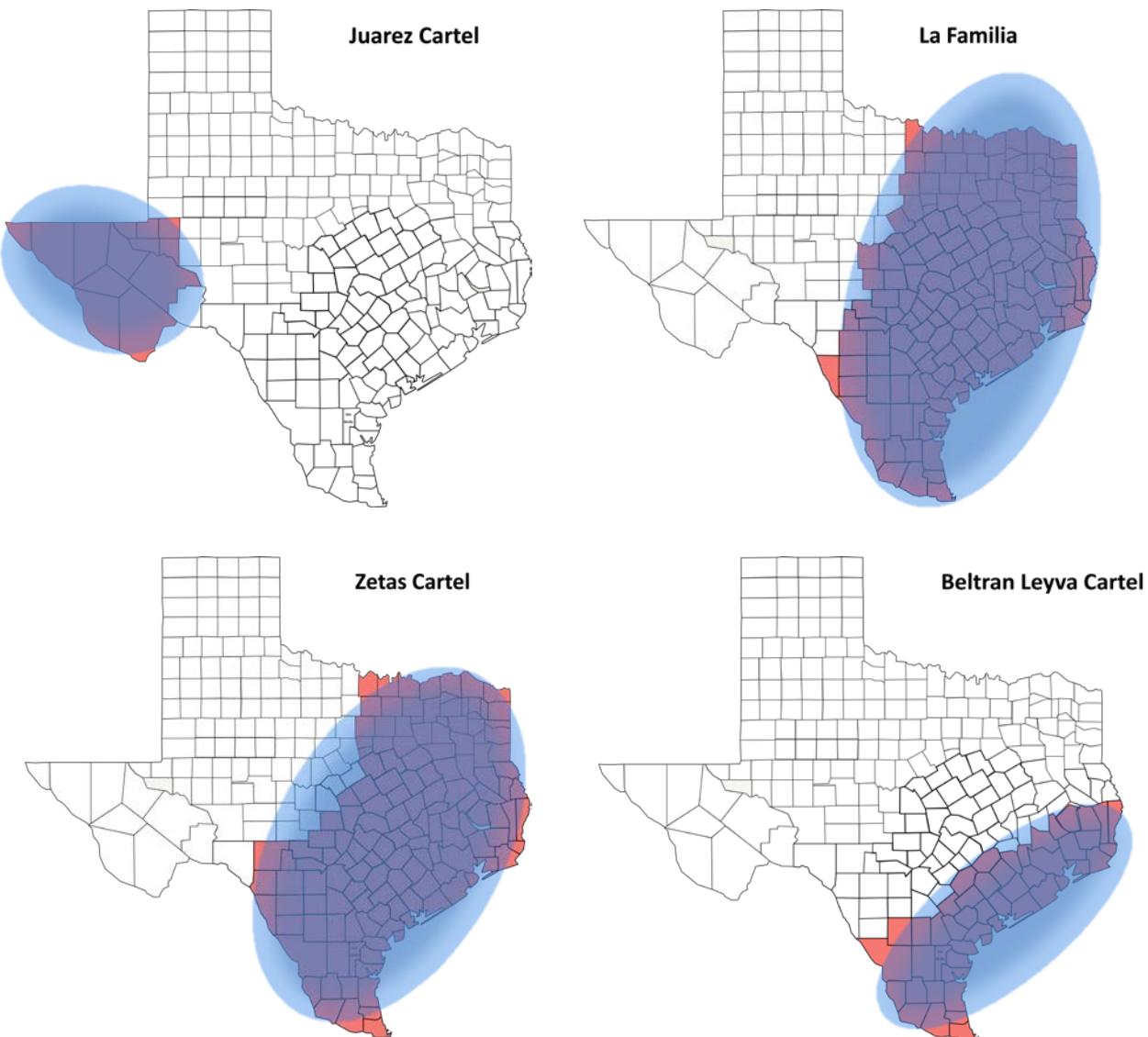
(U) The combination of these trends – increasing violence and northward expansion – has increased the threat of violence and other crimes associated with Mexican cartels taking place in

## Texas Public Safety Threat Overview 2013

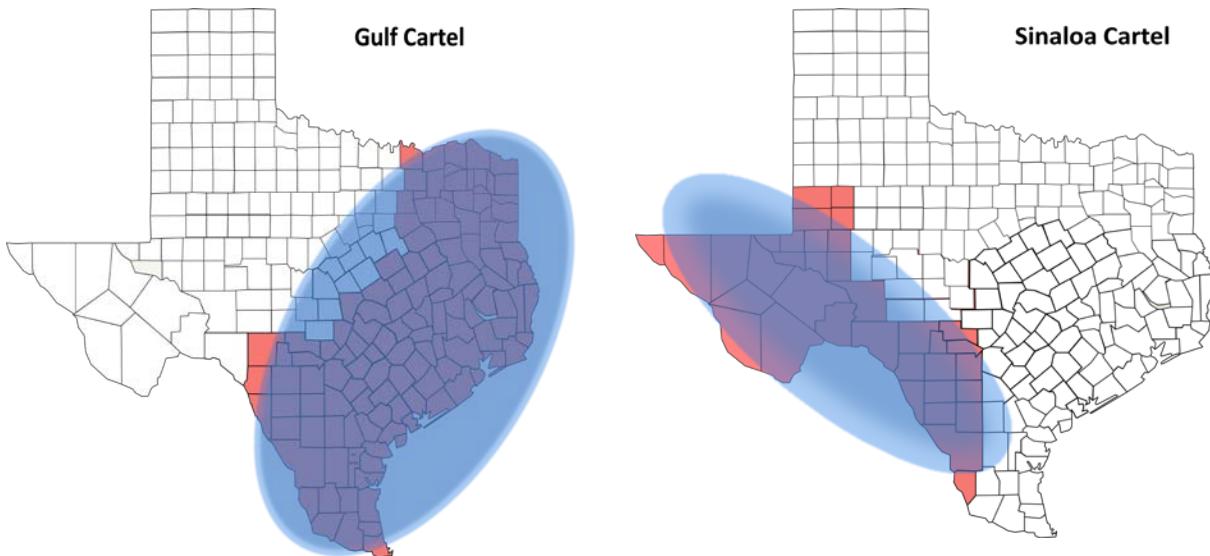
the United States. Within this context, the threat to Texas is significant due to the prevalence of lucrative trafficking routes and smuggling networks throughout the state, as well as the state's proximity to cities and towns steeped in cartel violence and influence just across the border in Mexico.

(U) Six of the eight major Mexican cartels are currently operating in Texas: Los Zetas, the Gulf Cartel, the Sinaloa Cartel, the Beltran Leyva Organization, La Familia Michoacana, and the Juarez Cartel. Over the years, law enforcement investigations have resulted in the arrest and prosecution of hundreds of Mexican cartel members and associates who had been operating in Texas. Since 2007, these arrests have included at least 107 from the Gulf Cartel, 9 from the Juarez Cartel, 165 from La Familia Michoacana, 80 from Los Zetas, and 2 from the Sinaloa Cartel.<sup>5</sup>

**Figure 3: Approximate Cartel Areas of Operation in Texas<sup>6</sup>**



## Texas Public Safety Threat Overview 2013



(U) The threat from Mexican cartels is particularly high due to the wide range of criminal activity in which they are engaged, both in Mexico and in Texas. Cartel members and associates are involved in the cross-border trafficking of people, weapons, drugs, and currency. This involvement is either direct through the use of cartel members, or indirect through other affiliated criminal organizations paying fees to transit cartel territory.

(U) Of particular concern from a public safety perspective is the evolution of cartel tactics in Mexico, which now include the use of torture, beheading, intimidation, and terrorist tactics. Cartel weapons now also include improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and conventional military ordnance and weapons. Most recently, several cartels in Mexico have begun using vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices (VBIEDs).

## Texas Public Safety Threat Overview 2013

### (U) Mexican Cartels' Use of Explosives in Mexico

(U) The use of explosive weapons – including VBIEDs, other IEDs, and conventional military weapons and ordnance – by Mexican cartels represents a significant and emerging threat to Texas. We are concerned about the potential that cartels could use these weapons in Texas or that Texas-based gang members or others could acquire training or explosive materials and weapons from the cartels.

(U) The use of VBIEDs has been disproportionately concentrated in relatively close proximity to Texas: all but one of the twelve incidents have occurred in Tamaulipas, Nuevo Leon, and Chihuahua, which are Mexican states that are adjacent to Texas. Large VBIEDs have the potential to cause large numbers of casualties and mass destruction. They are less precise than other common cartel weapons, and pose a greater threat due to their size.



(U) Cartel members and associates have a presence in Texas and a demonstrated ability to carry out attacks and other criminal activity in the state, as well as elsewhere in the United States.<sup>7</sup>

(U) Recently, smugglers and others associated with Mexican cartels have shown an increase in aggression toward US law enforcement officers, including shootings, vehicle assaults, and other threats to officer safety. Some of this aggression has been targeted toward US officers operating in Mexico, but multiple incidents in Texas have occurred. Since 2009, there have been 76 incidents in which shots were fired at 83 law enforcement officers in Texas.

(U) Mexican cartels also have connections to many Texas-based gangs; most of the Tier 1 and Tier 2 gangs in Texas are connected to cartels, as are other gangs. These relationships provide an opportunity for gang members and others to obtain training and weapons from the cartels.

(U) In some cases, explosive weapons or components have been smuggled from Mexico into Texas and cartel members and associates have been encountered in the state in possession of explosive weapons. This trend is particularly concerning, due to the potential for these powerful weapons to be used in Texas.

## Texas Public Safety Threat Overview 2013

(U) Cartel operatives and associates have engaged in home invasions and other acts of violence in Texas.

(U) On June 17, 2012, three suspected Los Zetas members broke into a house in San Antonio to intimidate a woman whose boyfriend had been suspected of money laundering activities for the cartel. The incident appears to have been motivated by the suspects' suspicion that the woman had cooperated with law enforcement and provided information that led to her boyfriend's arrest. The home invasion led to a standoff with law enforcement and ended with the surrender of the suspects.<sup>8</sup>

(U) On June 12, 2012, a group of armed men attempted to raid the home of a former Mexican police officer illegally residing in Mission, TX. The man fired shots through his front door at the suspects, who returned fire.<sup>9</sup>

(U) In late November 2011, a multi-agency task force was in the process of covertly monitoring a tractor trailer driven by a confidential informant in Houston, Texas, when three vehicles cut off the tanker and sprayed the cab with bullets, killing the informant. A Sheriff's deputy was shot in the leg by friendly fire. The three suspect vehicles contained individuals who claimed to be members of Los Zetas.<sup>10</sup>

(U) In late October 2011, a Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office deputy was dispatched to a possible kidnapping near Elsa, Texas. Upon initiation of a stop of a suspected vehicle, several PRM gang members, working on behalf of the Gulf Cartel, exited the vehicle and began shooting at the deputy, who was wounded.<sup>11</sup>

## Texas Public Safety Threat Overview 2013

### (U) *Narco-Blockades in Texas*

(U) One dangerous cartel tactic that has recently emerged in Texas is the narco-blockade, a tactic that had previously only been used in Mexico. In narco-blockades in Mexico, criminals deploy large vehicles at intersections to isolate a geographic area during their operations, preventing access by first responders that might be able to disrupt their plans. Multiple blockades can be conducted simultaneously, and, in Mexico, the vehicles are typically disabled or ignited, making their removal even more difficult.

(U) In early November 2012, law enforcement agents from McAllen encountered several vehicles strategically placed in this manner while attempting to apprehend two subjects carrying bundles in the same area. The tactic impeded agents from apprehending the subjects, however one bundle containing 22 lbs. of cocaine was seized. The two subjects, with one bundle, were able to abscond back to Mexico.

(U) In late November 2012, law enforcement agents from McAllen seized a bundle of marijuana weighing 89 lbs. in Hidalgo, Texas. During the smuggling attempt, the seizing agents were assaulted with rocks by subjects in the brush. Responding agents encountered a total of 4 vehicles in the area attempting to block the road leading to the location of the seizure and assault.

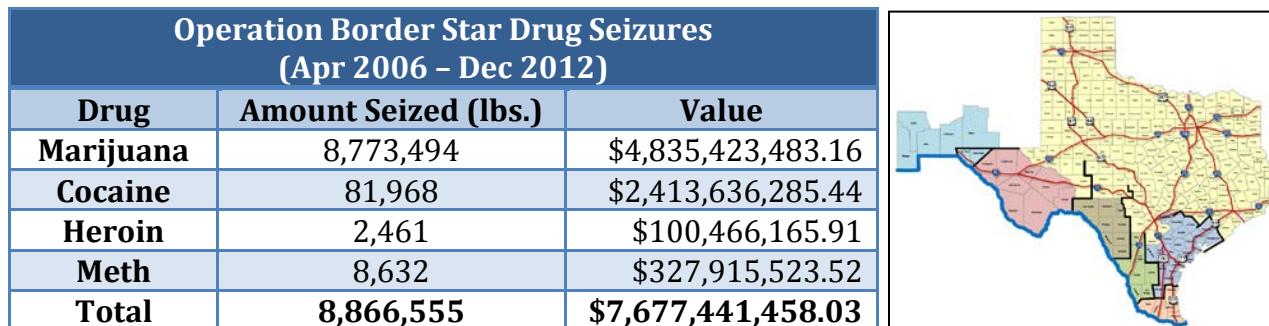


(U) The emergence of this tactic in Texas represents a serious escalation, and highlights the brazen nature of the cartels. The fact that this tactic has been used on two occasions in the Rio Grande Valley also shows the sophistication, resources, planning, and personnel that are used in trafficking operations.

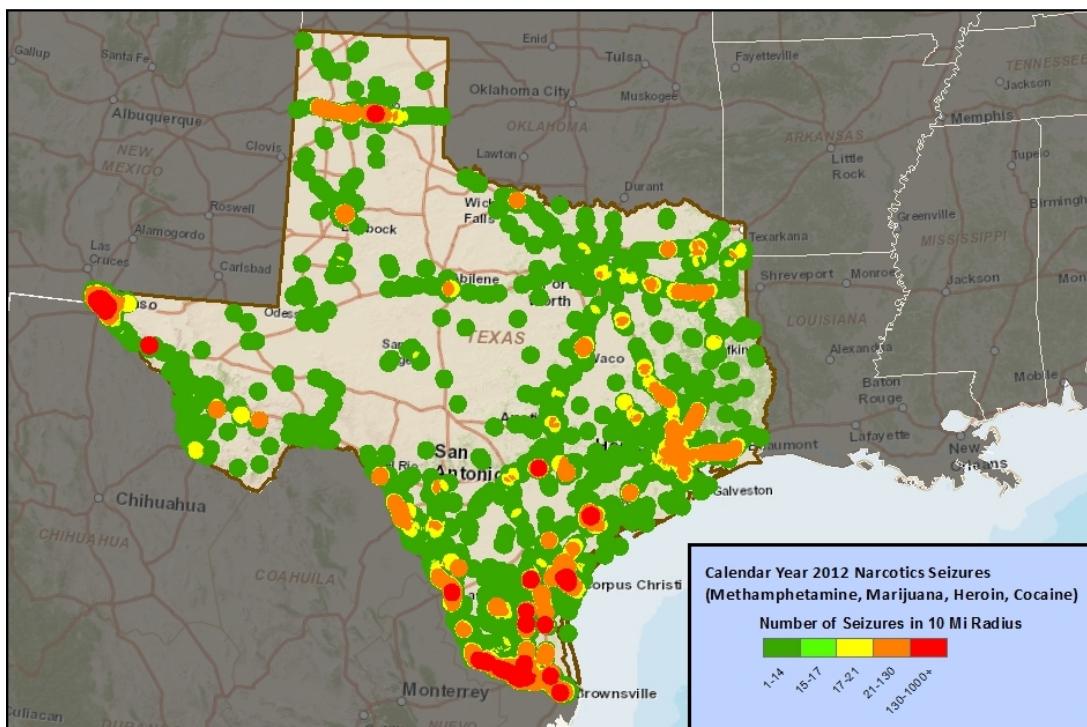
### ***Drug Trafficking***

(U) The Mexican cartels dominate the lucrative US drug and human smuggling markets and use the resulting billions of dollars of profit to battle each other and the government of Mexico to maintain control, or expand their smuggling operations into the US. Approximately 95 percent of the estimated cocaine flow toward the United States transits the Mexico-Central America corridor from its origins in South America, which generates billions in profit each year. Mexico is also a major supplier of heroin, marijuana, and methamphetamine to the United States. Mexico's share of global poppy production has been increasing in recent years; estimates show that Mexico surpassed Burma as the world's second largest poppy cultivator in 2009. The table below shows the quantity of drugs seized in the 54 Operation Border Star counties. Outside of these counties, the Texas Department of Public Safety seized an additional 24,946 pounds of marijuana, 1,575 pounds of cocaine, 68 pounds of heroin, and 752 pounds of meth in 2012.

## Texas Public Safety Threat Overview 2013



**Figure 4: 2012 Drug Seizures in Texas**



(U) The cartels take advantage of the large volume of legitimate travel and trade between Texas and Mexico for their criminal objectives. Mexican cartels use stolen commercial vehicles, as well as legitimately registered commercial vehicles, for transporting large quantities of drugs, weapons and bulk cash. In 2011 alone, there were 307 interdictions of commercial vehicles by law enforcement officers in Texas, which resulted in the seizure of approximately 2,250 lbs of cocaine, 200 lbs of heroin, 200 pounds of methamphetamine, and 503,000 lbs of marijuana.

(U) As drugs are flowing into the United States, cash is flowing out. Estimates for the amount of cash that travels from the US to Mexico to fuel the criminal operations of drug cartels range from \$19 billion to \$39 billion each year. Since 2006, agencies participating in Operation Border Star have seized \$178,650,831 in currency.

## Texas Public Safety Threat Overview 2013

(U) Drug traffickers are also increasingly using tactics that are dangerous to law enforcement in Texas. In some cases, officers have been subjected to surveillance and vehicle assault, while officers patrolling the border region have been targeted by shootings, rocket assaults, and other dangerous tactics.

(U) Since 2009, there have been 71 cartel-related splashdowns, where drug smugglers drive their vehicle into the river in order to evade law enforcement officers, while boat retrieval teams enter the river from Mexico to recover the drug loads. In addition to the actual splashdown itself, criminals that engage in splashdowns commit multiple offenses, such as drug trafficking, vehicle flight, and reckless driving. Some of these criminals also use dangerous weapons as they flee from law enforcement and attempt to destroy evidence.

**Figure 5: Law enforcement recovering a truck from the Rio Grande following a splashdown**



(U) The impact of illegal drug use and the growing availability of illegal drugs can also be seen in the lives lost due to addiction. For example, cheese heroin, which first gained prominence in 2006 and 2007, remains a threat in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Cheese heroin is a highly addictive and dangerous drug that contains black tar heroin mixed with pharmaceutical medication. It has been identified in Dallas-area middle schools and high schools, and it accounts for approximately 37 percent of drug use by students, who can purchase it for as little as \$2 per dose.<sup>12</sup> Cheese heroin may have contributed to 27 overdose deaths in Dallas County in 2012, including several teenagers.<sup>13</sup>

## Texas Public Safety Threat Overview 2013

### (U) Texas Drug Corridors

(U) The Texas–Mexico border area is one of the most active drug smuggling areas in the United States. There are 27 land Ports of Entry (POEs) spread along the border, including El Paso, Del Rio, Eagle Pass, Laredo, McAllen, Brownsville, and numerous small border towns. The five principal Texas corridors are West Texas, Central Texas, Gulf Coast, Panhandle, and East Texas. These corridors coincide with clusters of POEs along the border and major highways throughout the state. The Southwest Border remains the primary gateway for moving illicit drugs into the United States, mostly through overland smuggling.

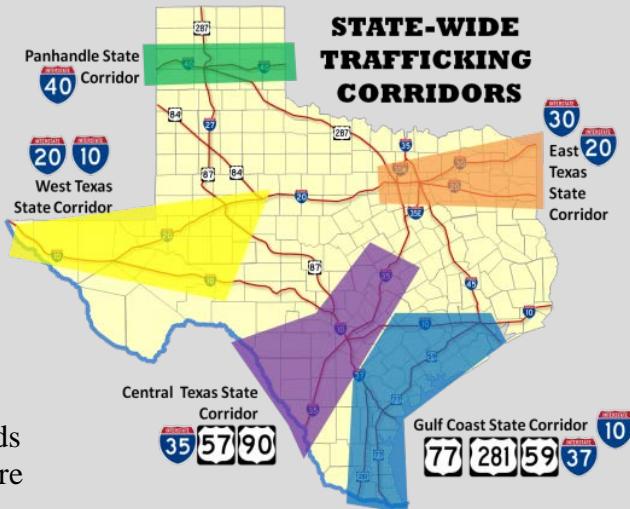
(U) West Texas: There are four land POEs in El Paso. IH10 is the main route into and out of the El Paso region. IH10 crosses the country from California to Florida, serving as a trans-continental smuggling corridor. Once on IH10, traffickers can travel to San Antonio or Houston, or to Dallas-Fort Worth via IH20.

(U) Central Texas: The Central Texas Corridor includes the Laredo area and extends up to the Del Rio/Eagle Pass region. There are three major highways: 57, 90, and IH35. All three are used regularly by traffickers going to and from San Antonio, Dallas, and Austin.

(U) Gulf Coast: This corridor extends along the border from Brownsville to the Rio Grande Valley area, north to Houston and San Antonio. It includes highways US281, US77, IH37, IH10, and US59. These highways provide direct routes to and from Houston, San Antonio, and Dallas-Fort Worth, all of which are major consolidation points for drugs and currency.

(U) Panhandle: The main highway in the panhandle corridor, IH40, is a main artery for drug trafficking movement from Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and California to other states.

(U) East Texas: IH20, IH30, and IH35 are the main highways in the East Texas Corridor. IH20 and IH30 leave the east side of Dallas and connect with numerous other interstates and secondary roadways, while IH35 provides access to the north.



## Texas Public Safety Threat Overview 2013

### (U) *Cloned Vehicles Used for Trafficking Operations in Texas*

(U) Mexican cartels use innovative tactics to avoid law enforcement detection as they traffic drugs into and through Texas. One such tactic is the use of cloned vehicles that are equipped and painted to appear as belonging to a company or government agency. The use of these vehicles, especially those that are designed to resemble law enforcement vehicles, represents a threat to the public, as well as to the safety of law enforcement officers. Some recent examples of cloned vehicles interdicted by law enforcement are described below.

(U) In January 2013, law enforcement officers in Falfurrias observed and attempted to stop a black Chevrolet Tahoe that resembled an unmarked police vehicle.<sup>14</sup> The Tahoe displayed dark tinted windows and other features. When the officers attempted to stop the vehicle, the Tahoe activated its red and blue emergency lights and evaded the officers, with the driver and approximately 12 passengers exiting the Tahoe and absconding. A search of the Tahoe revealed two police light bars and other modifications.



(U) In October 2012, an officer observed a Laredo ISD school bus in McMullen County. He ran the license plate, and it returned as a canceled plate registered to another ISD, and he made a traffic stop on the bus. As he approached the vehicle, the driver fled on foot. A subsequent search revealed that the bus had been completely modified to transport drugs. Mannequin heads were placed to appear as students on the bus. The driver was later apprehended with the assistance of a DPS helicopter, and 2,772 lbs of marijuana were seized.



(U) In January 2012, an officer stopped the driver of an AT&T cloned vehicle in Hidalgo County. The officer observed indicators of criminal activity, and the subject fled on foot, but was later apprehended. Multiple bundles of marijuana were located in the vehicle, totaling 2,168.4 lbs, in the vehicle storage compartments.



## Texas Public Safety Threat Overview 2013

### ***Human Smuggling and Human Trafficking***

(U) Mexican cartels control most of the human smuggling and human trafficking routes and networks in Texas. The nature of the cartels' command and control of human smuggling and human trafficking networks along the border is varied, including cartel members having direct organizational involvement and responsibility over human smuggling and human trafficking operations, as well as cartel members sanctioning and facilitating the operation of human smuggling and human trafficking organizations. In other circumstances, human smuggling organizations are required to pay the cartels for operating their networks and routes in their territory.



(U) The high number of illegal aliens in Texas represents a large population of potentially vulnerable victims. From FY2006 to FY2012, US Border Patrol reported 1,338,541 illegal alien apprehensions in Texas sectors.<sup>15</sup> And while the number of apprehensions in Arizona and California has been decreasing over the past few years, apprehensions in Texas sectors increased 40 percent from FY2010 to FY2012. Consequently, Texas accounted for 50 percent of all apprehensions along the border in FY2012, up from 28 percent in FY2010.

(U) Nearly all illegal aliens that enter the US make use of human smugglers. Since FY2010, at least 7,435 suspected human smugglers have been apprehended by USBP along the border, including 3,981 in Texas sectors.<sup>16</sup> This number does not include smugglers who are US citizens or who are in the country legally. The number of USBP human smuggling cases in the Rio Grande Valley increased to 2,737 cases involving 32,138 aliens in FY2012, from 2,204 cases involving 12,473 aliens in FY2011, with the increase probably due to enhanced law enforcement efforts and other factors.<sup>17</sup>

## Texas Public Safety Threat Overview 2013

(U) Once across the border, smugglers routinely hold illegal aliens in stash houses. In the Rio Grande Valley sector alone, law enforcement responded to 237 stash houses, where they apprehended 4,752 illegal aliens in FY2012, up from 178 stash houses with 1,945 illegal aliens in FY2011.<sup>18</sup> The increase is probably due to multiple factors, including focused enforcement efforts aimed at identifying these locations. The number of aliens that had been held in those locations over time is much higher than the number who were apprehended during law enforcement discovery. And stash houses are not located only near the border – they have been reported near San Antonio, Austin, Odessa, Houston, and elsewhere.



(U) The methods and means used by smugglers to transport and hold aliens subject them to high degrees of risk. Unsafe vehicles and drivers, squalid conditions in stash houses, rugged terrain, and harsh elements create dangerous circumstances. Hundreds of illegal aliens have died in Texas and elsewhere along the border. Since FY2008, 2,008 deaths of suspected illegal aliens have been reported along the border, including 839 in Texas sectors.<sup>19</sup> These include deaths due to environmental exposure (heat and cold), train and motor-vehicle-related deaths, drownings, other causes, and cases in which skeletal remains were recovered or a cause could not be determined. FY2012 was a record year for such deaths in Texas sectors, increasing 198 percent from 91 in FY2010 to 271 in FY2012. An even greater number of illegal aliens have been rescued from such conditions by law enforcement; since FY2008, 6,375 people have been rescued along the border, including 3,020 in Texas.<sup>20</sup>

(U) In addition to these dangerous methods and means, smugglers also regularly use violence, extortion, and unlawful restraint against illegal aliens. In some cases, they are forced to perform labor, and females – including minors – may be sexually assaulted. Some are subjected to physical assaults if payments are not received, and several have died while being held in stash houses in Texas. And just as drug traffickers may attempt to steal drug loads from rival traffickers, criminals sometimes attempt to steal or hijack groups of aliens from smugglers.

**(U) *Criminal Aliens in Texas***

(U) Some immigrants who illegally enter the country end up committing crimes in Texas. These criminal aliens constitute a form of transnational crime. From October 2008 to December 2012, Texas identified a total of 141,982 unique criminal alien defendants booked into Texas county jails for state crimes. These individuals have been identified through the Secure Communities initiative, in which Texas has participated since October 2008.

(U) A review of these 141,982 defendants shows that they are responsible for at least 447,844 individual criminal charges over their criminal careers, including 2,032 homicides and 5,048 sexual assaults. Note that these numbers include only those aliens whose fingerprints were already in the federal system when they were booked, and it does not necessarily include all those who are incarcerated in federal prison. The impact of these crimes on Texas can be seen in several recent cases.

(U) An illegal alien in Houston was sentenced in June 2012 for the intoxication manslaughter death of a Houston Police Department officer in 2011. The defendant, whose blood alcohol content was more than twice the legal limit, was travelling at approximately 90 mph when he drove through a police roadblock and struck the officer, who had been investigating a traffic crash.

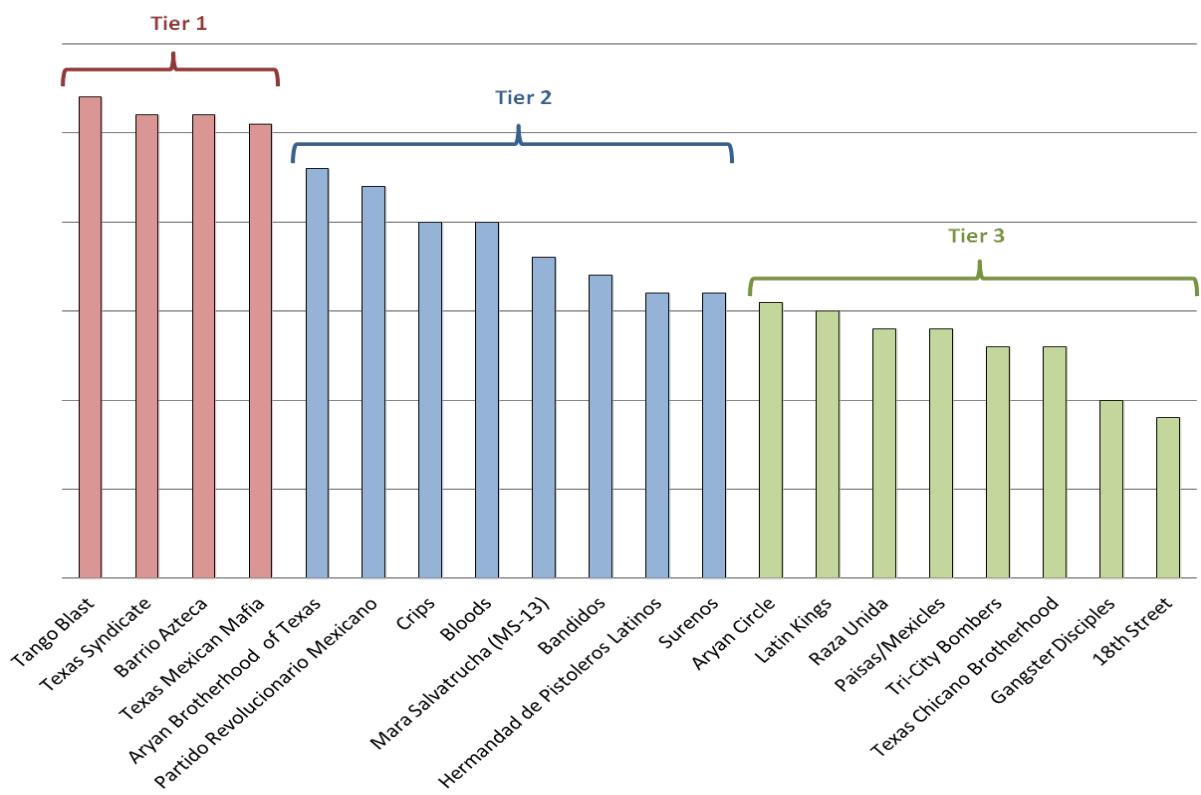
(U) In March 2009, a Houston police officer was wounded when he was shot in the face by an illegal alien from El Salvador during the execution of a search warrant. The suspect had previously been arrested multiple times.

## Texas Public Safety Threat Overview 2013

### 1.3 Gangs

(U) Gangs represent a significant public safety threat to Texas. The Texas Department of Public Safety uses a threat assessment matrix to evaluate the threat posed by individual gangs on a statewide level. This matrix includes multiple factors that are important in determining the threat posed by each gang. Each factor is rated using a weighted, point-based system in order to achieve a composite score. This composite score provides a measurement of the overall threat level of each gang. The most significant gangs are classified as Tier 1, with other significant gangs classified as Tier 2 and Tier 3. Considering that thousands of gangs operate in Texas, this threat assessment matrix is an essential tool in prioritizing the gangs that pose the greatest threat on a statewide scale.

**Figure 6: Texas Gang Rankings - 2012**



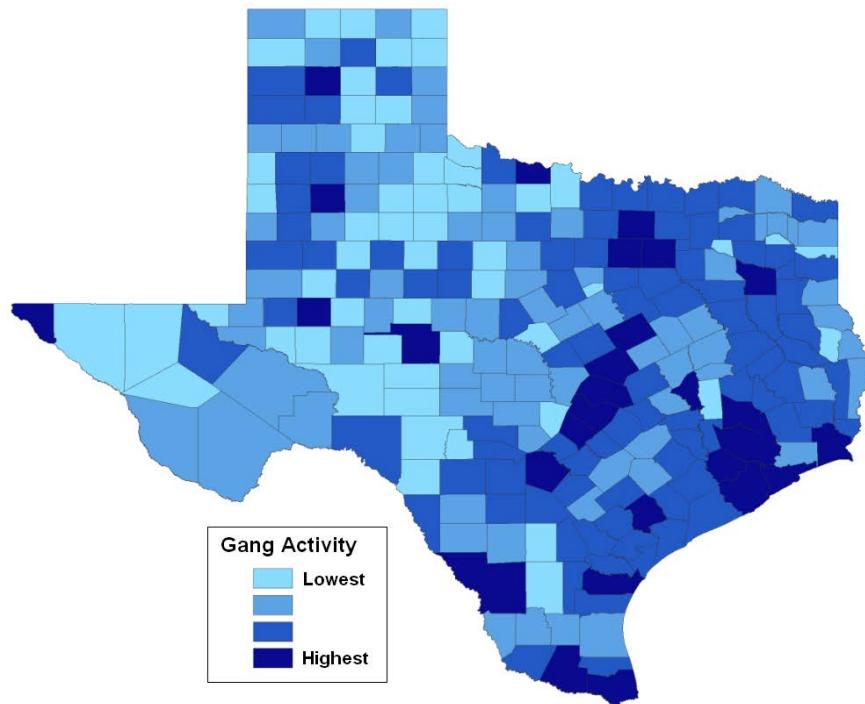
(U) The Tier 1 gangs in Texas are Tango Blast, Texas Syndicate, Barrio Azteca, and Texas Mexican Mafia. These organizations pose the greatest gang threat to Texas due to their relationships with Mexican cartels, large membership numbers, high levels of transnational criminal activity, and organizational effectiveness.

(U) Gangs are responsible for a disproportionate amount of crime in our communities. The 2009 National Gang Threat Assessment reported that gangs may be responsible for as much as 60 percent of all criminal activity in some communities, while the 2011 National Gang Threat Assessment stated that some jurisdictions in Texas and other states reported that gangs are

## Texas Public Safety Threat Overview 2013

responsible for more than 90 percent of crime. Of incarcerated members of Tier 1 and Tier 2 gangs in Texas, more than half are serving a sentence for a violent crime.

**Figure 7: Concentration of Gang Activity in Texas<sup>21</sup>**



(U) Mexican cartels continue to use gangs in Texas as they smuggle drugs, people, weapons, and cash across the border. Members of Tier 1 gangs and other gangs have been recruited by the cartels to carry out acts of violence both in Texas and in Mexico.

(U) Gang activity in Texas is growing, with the current number of gang members in the state likely exceeding 100,000. National gang membership estimates increased 40 percent from 2009 to 2011. More than 2,500 gangs have been identified throughout the state, ranging from small gangs with few members and limited geographic reach to large gangs composed of thousands of members operating in all regions of Texas.

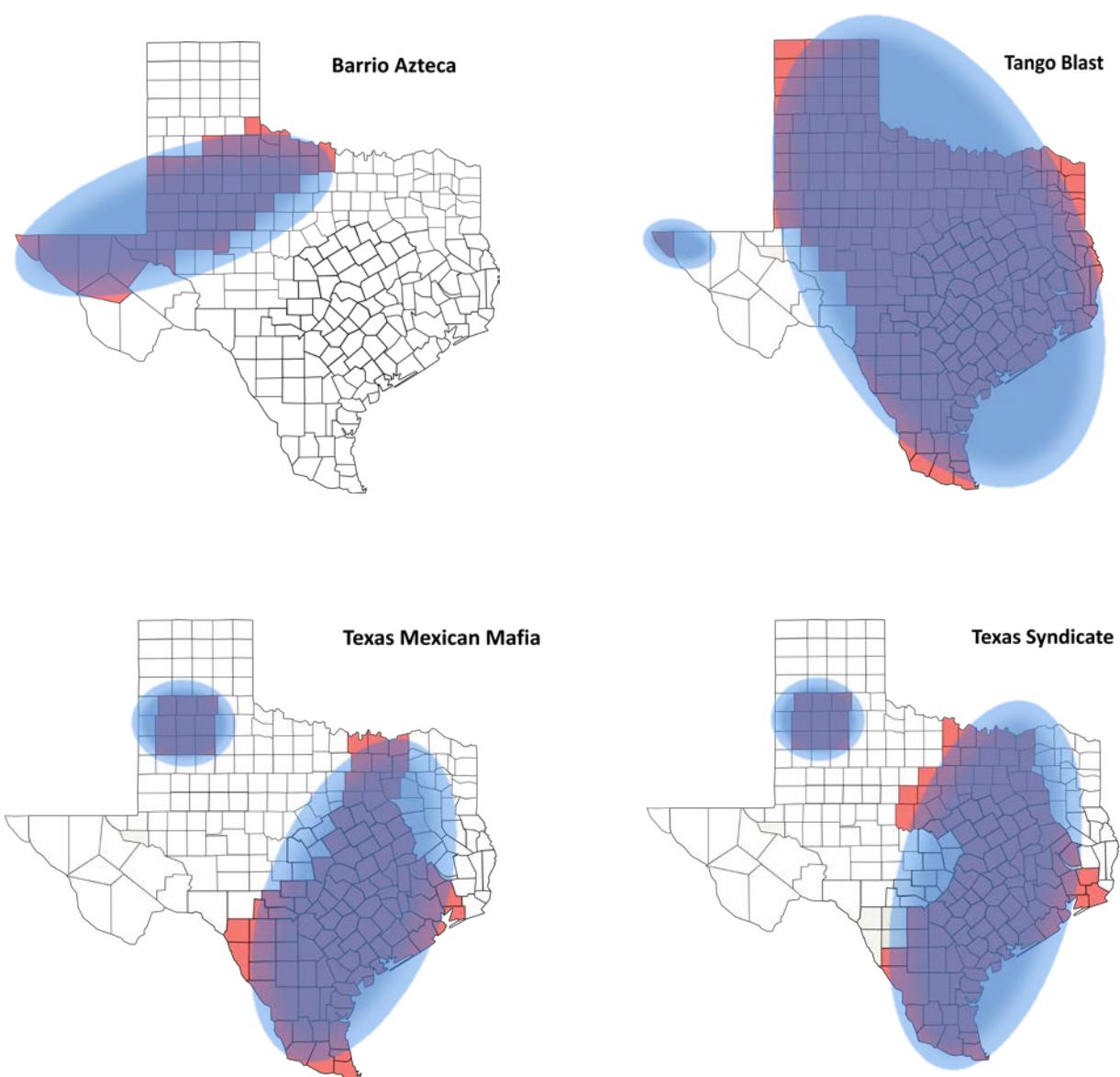
(U) Some gangs focus their recruitment on juveniles, seeking them out on the Internet and in schools and neighborhoods. Gangs are also responsible for a significant portion of juvenile crime in Texas.

(U) Juvenile gang activity appears to occur disproportionately along the Texas–Mexico border. For example, the 14 Texas counties adjacent to Mexico represent approximately 9.7 percent of the Texas population, yet since 2008, these counties have accounted for 21.8 percent of felony referrals of juveniles with confirmed gang affiliation and 14.3 percent of other referrals of juveniles with confirmed gang affiliation.<sup>22</sup> Juvenile membership is more common in some

## Texas Public Safety Threat Overview 2013

gangs than in others. The majority of juvenile gang activity is associated with large street gangs. Many prison gangs tend to have lower levels of juvenile involvement.

**Figure 8: Approximate Areas of Tier 1 Gang Activity**



## Texas Public Safety Threat Overview 2013

(U) Gangs in Texas are also engaged in human trafficking, exploiting victims in situations of forced labor and the sex trade, and most Tier 1 and Tier 2 gangs are involved in human smuggling. Some Texas-based gangs have also been reported to extort money from other criminals engaged in human trafficking. Unlike crimes such as robbery or burglary in which a gang member faces a higher risk of being arrested, compelling prostitution and human trafficking are perceived by some gang members as lower risk crimes in which they can use the same victims repeatedly to turn profits over an extended period of time.

### ***(U) Gangs' Relationships with Mexican Cartels***

(U) One of the most serious issues facing Texas is the fact that many gangs have developed relationships with Mexican cartels. Gangs working with the Mexican cartels are involved in a level of crime that affects the entire state. Their criminal activity is no longer just a problem for a specific city or region. In certain instances, these gangs are contracted to commit assassinations, kidnapping, and assaults in Texas and Mexico on behalf of the cartels.

(U) From the perspective of the gangs and cartels, the benefits of these relationships are fairly obvious. From a public safety perspective, the danger of these relationships is equally obvious. The gangs increase their power and acquire wholesale quantities of drugs at lower prices, while the cartels extend their network of connections deeper into the United States.

## Texas Public Safety Threat Overview 2013

### **1.4 High Threat Criminals**

(U) Criminals associated with organized crime are not the only individuals who pose a significant criminal threat to Texas. A traditional and now outdated approach to analyzing criminal activity has been simply to distinguish between violent and non-violent offenses. However, this distinction does not explicitly take into account other factors that assist in illustrating and understanding this threat. Certainly murders, rapists, armed robbers, serial burglars and arsonists are high threat criminals, but others are as well. These include those engaged in organized crime activities such as extortion, kidnapping, public corruption, drug and human trafficking, and compelling prostitution, as well as those who prey on children and the elderly. High threat criminals include pedophiles and other sex offenders; gang members; career criminals; criminals that prey on children, the elderly, and other vulnerable victims; and criminals that are statistically likely to re-offend. As such, the Texas Department of Public Safety identifies as High Threat Criminals those individuals whose criminal activity poses a serious public safety or homeland security threat.

(U) Serial criminals who operate across jurisdictions and who commit multiple crimes not only affect their immediate victims, but also have the potential to cause fear and have other psychological and behavioral impacts on the general population. These crimes of mass effect represent challenges to the investigators and prosecutors who work to arrest and convict these criminals, but they are among the highest priority for law enforcement agencies. In response to several high-profile crimes of mass effect in Texas, the Texas Department of Public Safety established task forces composed of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to investigate these crimes that targeted multiple victims over a span of time and had a reverberating impact on the community. These task forces included the dedication of substantial resources, in the form of Texas Rangers, Troopers, Agents, surveillance, intelligence analysts, forensic teams, and others.

### (U) *Crimes of Mass Effect*

(U) In January 2011, the Twilight Rapist Task Force confirmed the arrest of an individual suspected of 18 incidents that involved physical assault, sexual assault, attempted sexual assault, burglary, and attempted burglary. The crimes occurred between January 2009 and January 2011 in DeWitt, Lavaca, Leon, Falls, Caldwell, McLennan and Bell counties. The victims were women ranging in age from 59 to 91, and several of the victims were targeted more than once.

(U) In January and February of 2010, a series of fires occurred at ten churches in Henderson, Van Zandt, and Smith counties, as well as attempted break-ins at three churches in Smith county. An extensive investigation involving local, state, and federal law enforcement resulted in the arrest of two defendants, who pled guilty and were sentenced to life terms. The fires and thefts had severe consequences for the affected churches. Until the suspects were apprehended, the fires frightened church members across a wide area of Texas – some of whom stood guard at their churches around the clock – as well as a concern for historical churches.



(U) In April 2008, in response to an outcry, law enforcement officers executed state and federal search warrants in Schleicher County at the Yearning for Zion Ranch, which was under the control of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (FLDS) and its self-proclaimed prophet, Warren Jeffs. Over 800 members were found on the premises including underage females who were either pregnant or had already given birth. Females as young as 12 years old were married to older FLDS men in weddings sanctioned by church elders and Jeffs. A total of 468 children were removed from the facility by Child Protective Services and law enforcement. An extensive investigation led to guilty verdicts and plea agreements by 11 defendants, which resulted in almost 300 years imprisonment, including a life sentence for Jeffs.



(U) The seriousness of these kinds of crimes can also be illustrated in another crime of mass effect: the Beltway Sniper attacks. During a three-week period in October 2002, ten people were killed and several wounded in a series of shootings in Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. The indiscriminate killings of random victims in public areas had a profound psychological and behavioral impact on the public across a wide area, including at schools, parking lots, gas stations, and other public areas.

### **(U) Metal Thieves Targeting Municipal Utility Districts**

(U) As the price of metals such as copper and aluminum has increased over the past few years, so too has the criminal demand for these commodities. Thieves steal these metals from residences, commercial facilities, construction sites, and other locations. These thefts can result in thousands of dollars in losses, and some incidents have led to the death of the perpetrators. However, in some cases, the consequences of metal theft are more serious, with implications for homeland security and public safety. In the cases of thieves targeting Municipal Utility Districts, these crimes affect not only the companies but also their customers.

(U) Municipal Utility District (MUD) locations in Harris County have been the targets of copper wire, battery and diesel fuel thefts, targeting operating components of the emergency back-up generators in the sewer treatment plants and water treatment plants that supply services to sub-divisions and other entities in and around Harris County. Over 500 MUD locations in Harris County are operated by independent districts.

(U) Many of the sites have been victims of theft multiple times. The thieves seem to have a working knowledge of electrical power systems and target the copper cables leading from the generator to the power control unit because those cables are not powered up when the generator is not running and there is a high copper content in each cable. They also disconnect or steal the batteries for the generator to ensure the generator will not activate while they are stealing the cable.

(U) From May 2010 to September 2012, 88 incidents of burglary, theft and property damage were reported in this area. An additional 62 incidents were reported between September 2012 and November 2012. Although it is difficult to estimate the exact monetary loss from each case, many of the incidents listed above cost between \$30,000 and \$90,000 to repair or replace.

(U) In response to this series of incidents and the potential threat to public safety and homeland security from compromised MUDs, the Texas Department of Public Safety worked with multiple local law enforcement agencies to identify and apprehend the criminals that were responsible for the thefts, resulting in several arrests.

(U) Since the arrest of the theft group's suspected ringleader in early December 2012, MUDs have reported only one theft of copper wire, as of February 2013. Some other members of the group may continue to steal copper wire, but appear to be avoiding MUDs due to the increased enforcement.

## Texas Public Safety Threat Overview 2013

### **(U)    *Threats to Schools***

(U)    The most important resource in Texas is our children. In Texas there are 4.9 million children at the state's 9,239 public schools, and an additional 1.4 million students at 172 campuses of higher education. Some of these students are transported daily on 40,612 school buses, including 8,792 special needs buses.

(U)    Schools represent potential soft targets that are vulnerable to a range of threats. School shootings have been a topic of concern for law enforcement and homeland security for many years, as schools in the United States and elsewhere have experienced attacks by terrorists, criminals, and others, including several noteworthy incidents that have occurred in Texas.

(U)    August 1, 1966: A man armed with several firearms ascended the clock tower of The University of Texas at Austin, and began shooting indiscriminately at people from the observation deck. He ultimately killed more than a dozen people and wounded 32 others before he was shot and killed by law enforcement.

(U)    April 20, 1999: Armed with shotguns, improvised explosive devices, and other firearms, two students at Columbine High School in Colorado killed 12 students and one teacher before committing suicide.

(U)    September 1-3, 2004: Chechen militants occupied a school in Beslan, Russia, holding more than 1,000 hostages over a period of several days, using multiple weapons, including explosives. More than 330 hostages, including 186 children, were killed during the incident, which ended when Russian security forces entered the school.

(U)    April 16, 2007: A student at Virginia Tech University shot 53 students, killing 32, in two separate locations on campus. Prior to the shooting in one of the buildings, the perpetrator chained the doors of the building, hindering law enforcement entry.

(U)    September 28, 2010: A student at The University of Texas at Austin fired several shots from a rifle on campus before fatally shooting himself in a library. No other casualties were reported, and the shooting itself lasted only a few minutes.

(U)    December 14, 2012: A man armed with a rifle shot and killed 20 children and 6 adults at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, before committing suicide as first responders arrived. Before the shooting, he had killed his mother at her home.

## Texas Public Safety Threat Overview 2013

### **1.5 Pharmaceutical Drug Diversion**

(U) The diversion of pharmaceutical drugs takes several forms. Addicts seeking drugs for personal use present counterfeit prescriptions to multiple pharmacies or “doctor shop” in search of multiple prescriptions for the same drug. Organized crime groups also employ doctor shopping, recruiting multiple addicts or individuals to fraudulently obtain large numbers of prescriptions that can be filled and trafficked and sold. In other cases, pain management clinics, pharmacies, and other medical workers are complicit in diversion schemes, while some criminals obtain pharmaceuticals by stealing them from pharmacies, distribution locations, or trucks.

(U) Deaths from prescription painkillers have reached epidemic levels in the past decade.<sup>23</sup> The number of these overdose deaths nationally is now greater than the deaths from heroin and cocaine combined. Prescription painkiller overdoses killed nearly 15,000 people in the U.S. in 2008, up from approximately 4,000 people killed by these drugs in 1999. Between 1999 and 2007, the number of deaths in Texas attributed to accidental drug overdose increased 152 percent from 790 to 1,987.

(U) In 2010, approximately 12 million Americans reported non-medical use of prescription painkillers in the past year. Nearly 500,000 emergency room visits nationally are due to people misusing or abusing prescription painkillers. Middle-aged adults have the highest prescription painkiller overdose rates, and people in rural counties are nearly twice as likely to overdose on prescription painkillers as people in large cities.

### **1.6 Public Corruption**

(U) Public servants who engage in illegal activity or conspire with criminal organizations not only contribute to the furtherance of crime, they betray the public trust. In cases of law enforcement corruption, they undermine the criminal justice system and turn a blind eye to the activities of criminal organizations. This form of corruption is especially of concern along the Texas–Mexico border, where corrupt officials who permit traffickers to transit an area without interference potentially allow drugs, people, weapons, and other unknown threats to enter the country.

(U) In particular, Mexican cartels are adept at corrupting law enforcement officers in Mexico, and they also seek to corrupt public officials in the US. Since October 1, 2004, more than 140 CBP employees have been arrested or indicted for acts of corruption, including drug smuggling, alien smuggling, money laundering, and conspiracy.

(U) In January 2013, a Texas Highway Patrol Trooper stopped a vehicle in Carson County driven by a police officer from Indiana. The Trooper searched the vehicle and its contents and located marijuana concealed inside the lining of the suspect’s luggage. Further search revealed additional containers of marijuana, 10 chocolate bars believed to contain THC, and several grams of suspected heroin located underneath the passenger seat.

## **Texas Public Safety Threat Overview 2013**

(U) In December 2012, four law enforcement officers in Hidalgo county were charged on allegations that they assisted drug traffickers in smuggling drug loads into Texas.

(U) In April 2011, the former Chief of the Sullivan City Police Department pleaded guilty to federal charges regarding his role in a drug trafficking operation. He helped drug traffickers cross loads of marijuana by alerting them to the location of U.S. Border Patrol units. He also directed his officers to other locations to avoid them interfering with or intercepting the traffickers as they ran the loads of marijuana from the river into Sullivan City.

## **2. Terrorism**

### **2.1 Religiously-Motivated Terrorism**

(U) Texas continues to face a general threat posed by lone individuals and also by foreign-based entities. Foreign terrorist organizations have continued to orchestrate some attacks in the United States in recent years.

(U) One threat is from attackers already based in the US who could act alone or in small groups, inspired or motivated by violent extremist ideologies. However, it is important to recognize that al Qaeda, Hezbollah, and other foreign terrorist organizations still seek to destroy us and our way of life. We are concerned about the continued threat from these capable, patient, and persistent enemies.

(U) In addition to the 2009 lone-gunner terrorist attack at Fort Hood in which 43 soldiers were killed or wounded, and a foiled 2010 plot by a lone Islamic extremist to bomb a Dallas skyscraper, law enforcement authorities in Texas have:

(U) Convicted Lubbock chemistry student from Saudi Arabia Khalid Ali Aldawsari for planning in 2011 to build and detonate sophisticated bombs for attacks on Dallas restaurants, former President George W. Bush, and targets in New York City. Aldawsari is believed to have acted alone.<sup>24 25</sup>

(U) Convicted US citizen and Army soldier Nassar Jason Abdo of planning a second attack on Fort Hood soldiers. Abdo was found guilty at trial in May 2012 of six federal charges related to his plot to kill soldiers from Fort Hood. Abdo is believed to have acted alone.<sup>26</sup>

(U) Arrested Iranian-born Round Rock, Texas resident Mansour Arbabsiar in 2011 on charges that Iranian intelligence paid him to organize the bombing of a Saudi diplomat in Washington DC. The plot allegedly involved an attempt to hire Los Zetas drug cartel assassins in Mexico.<sup>27 28</sup>

(U) Hezbollah's presence in Latin America also represents a potential threat to Texas, as indicated by the 2012 capture in Mexico of three individuals, including an American parole violator, reportedly affiliated with the group,<sup>29 30</sup> as well as reported presences in the tri-border region of Paraguay, Argentina, Brazil and in Central America. Some information regarding Hezbollah presence in Mexico continues to be reported, though at this time there is no clear indication that Hezbollah is systematically working with Mexican cartels.

(U) We are also concerned about the potential that Hezbollah-related networks could be used to facilitate attacks against U.S. targets, possibly including soft targets in Texas or elsewhere, in the event that hostilities escalate between Iran and Israel and their allies.

## Texas Public Safety Threat Overview 2013

### **(U) Terrorist Travel Across the Southwest Border**

(U) In recent years, a number of individuals with suspected ties to foreign extremist groups have crossed from Mexico into Texas and other border states. These cases highlight the threat posed by the cross-border movement of illegal immigrants known as Special Interest Aliens (SIAs), who are citizens of countries where terrorist groups are known to be present. Although most of the travelers from these countries are likely fleeing economic hardship and war, documented instances since 2010 in which Texas-bound individuals were linked to terrorist groups illustrate the continuing threat this small subset of illegal immigrants pose.

(U) These instances include a San Antonio asylum fraud prosecution that disclosed that FBI investigators believed that Mohammed Ahmed Dhakane, a Somali who had illegally crossed into Texas, was an active al-Shabaab member, guerilla fighter, and human smuggler who knowingly helped move into the US several potentially dangerous Somali terrorists he believed would commit violent acts if ordered to do so.<sup>31</sup>

(U) Even if a majority of those seeking US entry harbor non-violent motives, a continuing underlying concern is that terrorist actors could exploit intercontinental smuggling networks that remain entrenched and capable of moving these illegal immigrants from regions where determined anti-US terrorist organizations continue to plot attacks.

**(U) *The Fidse Case – San Antonio, Texas***

(U) On May 26, 2011, federal prosecutors unsealed a federal asylum fraud indictment in San Antonio that provided a rare public window on the terrorism involvement of two Somali nationals who had themselves been smuggled to the border of Texas. Abdullahi Omar Fidse and Deka Abdalla Sheikh crossed the pedestrian bridge at the Hidalgo, Texas Port of Entry on June 24, 2008, and requested asylum with plausible-sounding stories.<sup>32</sup> Each said they had only met one another en route to Texas and had fled attacks by the Somali terrorist group al-Shabaab that killed family members. In Sheikh's case, the story worked; she was quickly awarded political asylum and took up residence in Madison, Wisconsin.<sup>33</sup>

(U) But Fidse's asylum claim and his sworn story began to fall apart – and unravel Sheikh's – when an FBI informant began covertly recording conversations with Fidse.<sup>34</sup> The FBI learned that Fidse claimed he sympathized with al-Shabaab and Osama bin Laden and had come to the US to conduct an unspecified “operation.” He told the informant that he once was involved in a plan to attack the US ambassador in Kenya, even providing a drawing of how the assassination would be conducted.<sup>35</sup>

(U) Fidse told the informant he had received military training at a facility run by an individual who had fought in Afghanistan, and also that he had acquired extensive knowledge of explosives. In other conversations, Fidse indicated that his involvement with al-Shabaab was not merely as a simple sympathizer. He claimed, for instance, to have purchased a \$100,000 battle wagon for al-Shabaab that was destroyed in a battle that killed all aboard.<sup>36</sup> The FBI learned Sheikh was actually Fidse's wife, not a stranger, and that they had both lied about al-Shabaab killings of family members and their whereabouts in the previous few years to cover up the al-Shabaab associations, coordinating and rehearse false testimony to do so.<sup>37</sup> In September 2012, Sheikh pleaded guilty to lying in immigration proceedings and to attempting to obstruct a terrorism investigation. Fidse pled guilty in December 2012 to similar charges.

## **2.2 Domestic Extremism**

(U) The threat of terrorism and criminal violence is posed not only by religiously-motivated extremists from abroad, but also by American domestic extremists. These may include followers of many kinds of groups holding to violent radical ideologies.

(U) In Texas, historical reporting indicates that antigovernment or racial extremist groups have had significant footholds, including the Ku Klux Klan and Neo-Nazi white supremacist groups such as the Aryan Nation, which follow constitutionally protected ideologies that often do not overtly advocate criminal action. While these groups have not been specifically implicated in any recent attacks, several sole-offender incidents in Texas since 2010, motivated by various personalized antigovernment ideologies, have occurred.

(U) For instance, anti-government Plano resident Anson Chi was arrested in June 2012 after a homemade bomb he had planted under a natural gas pipeline in Plano detonated prematurely, injuring him.<sup>38</sup> A government affidavit and media reports indicated that Chi harbored deep

## Texas Public Safety Threat Overview 2013

resentments against the federal government, and officers searching his residence found a bomb-making lab and literature “dealing with technological slavery and domestic terrorism.”<sup>39</sup>

(U) In June 2012, Kevin Boney, leader of a Liberty County, Texas militia, engaged local sheriff’s deputies in a 90-minute armed standoff when they responded to a domestic violence call at his home. During the standoff, the heavily armed suspect repeatedly told deputies that he did not accept their authority.<sup>40</sup>

(U) In February 2010, tax protestor Joseph Andrew Stack III piloted a Piper Cherokee PA-28 aircraft loaded with barrels of fuel into an Austin office building occupied by employees of the Internal Revenue Service, killing one IRS employee and injuring two others.<sup>41</sup>



(U) Of concern in Texas is the threat to law enforcement posed by small numbers of extremists who adhere to the constitutionally-protected antigovernment “Sovereign” movement. Sovereign extremists typically believe they are exempt from some responsibilities associated with being a US citizen, such as paying taxes, possessing a driver’s license, registering vehicles, or holding a Social Security card. In addition, they do not generally recognize federal or state government authority or laws.

(U) In recent years, confrontations between sovereigns and law enforcement, particularly during traffic stops or during the serving of arrest warrants, have resulted in the killing of officers. For example, James Michael Tesi, a self-described member of a sovereign group who rejected most government authority, was convicted in February 2012 of attempted murder of a police officer after opening fire on a Colleyville, Texas policeman who had tried to arrest him at home on several outstanding warrants, including one for failure to pay a seat belt violation fine.<sup>42</sup> Tesi, who surrendered after being wounded, had in previous municipal and civil court filings declared that he was a "sovereign citizen," and thus not subject to man-made laws. In another notable Texas incident, antigovernment sovereign Victor White used hundreds of rounds of ammunition in an exchange of fire with law enforcement during a 22-hour standoff that erupted at his defensively prepared West Odessa property, injuring two sheriff’s deputies and a civilian.<sup>43</sup>

## Texas Public Safety Threat Overview 2013

### 2.3 Material Support to Terrorism

(U) Another risk of international and domestic extremist activity in Texas occurs in the context of a growing convergence of terrorist networks and criminal networks. In July 2010, for example, Paraguayan authorities arrested US fugitive Moussa Al Hamdan, who had fled a federal indictment in Pennsylvania that alleged he masterminded a Hezbollah fundraising and weapons procurement operation. The investigation stemmed from the November 2009 indictment of 26 members of another alleged Hezbollah cell in the Philadelphia region, including a “procurement officer” who paid an undercover agent a \$20,000 down payment for what he thought was a Stinger Missile.<sup>44</sup>

(U) Also in recent years, law enforcement in the United States has disrupted multimillion-dollar commodities trafficking rings and credit card fraud that benefitted Hezbollah. Some have involved Texas connections. In December 2011, for instance, the US Department of Justice sued a number of Canadian and Lebanese financial institutions that it says helped Hezbollah launder \$250 million in drug money; a widespread US-based operation involving the purchase of US cars from 30 different dealers for export to West Africa.<sup>45</sup>

(U) Texas has figured prominently in several cases of non-violent support for terrorism. One of the nation’s most significant convictions for terrorism support involved the Dallas-based Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development, whose officers were convicted in 2010 of funneling at least \$12 million purportedly raised as charity to Hamas. Such activity continues to present a concern for the state, in light of, for instance, the May 2012 conviction of Hempstead, Texas resident Barry Walter Bujol of attempting to sneak out of the US in order to give al-Qaeda restricted military documents, GPS equipment, and money.<sup>46</sup> Prosecutors presented evidence that Bujol, in coded messages sent to people he believed were members of al-Qaeda, advocated the murder of American soldiers.<sup>47</sup>

(U) Also of concern is the fact that Texas is a regional center for the trafficking of the illegal drug known as khat, a chewable narcotic plant grown in the Horn of Africa whose sale abroad is suspected to benefit Africa-based terrorist organizations such as al-Shabaab.<sup>48</sup> Much of the interdicted Texas-bound khat had been illegally exported from Great Britain, where in May 2012 authorities indicted seven khat traffickers on charges of providing funding to the Somalia-based al-Shabaab terrorist group.<sup>49</sup>



### 3. Motor Vehicle Crashes

(U) Ensuring the safe and efficient flow of people and commerce on Texas' roadways is a responsibility that is shared by law enforcement and other government agencies across the state. Texas has 15,966,095 licensed drivers, including 631,910 licensed teenage drivers.

(U) Each year, motor vehicle crashes account for a significant loss of life and economic loss; according to preliminary data, 3,353 motor vehicle traffic fatalities were reported in 2012.<sup>50</sup> In 2011, motor vehicle crashes accounted for 3,015 deaths and \$21.9 billion in economic losses. These figures represent a decline from 2008, when crashes caused 3,479 deaths and \$22.9 billion in economic losses.<sup>51</sup> Traffic crashes account for more deaths than do murders, as 1,089 murders were reported in the state in 2011.

(U) Large truck traffic on the highways of Texas has grown substantially in the last 15 years as a result of commercial and residential growth, oil and natural gas drilling, and the expansion of commerce with Mexico.

(U) Texas continually leads the nation in fatal crashes involving commercial motor vehicles (CMVs), and crashes involving CMVs have serious consequences and are more likely to be fatal. For example, in 2011, CMV crashes represented 6.3 percent of all crashes in Texas, but they also accounted for 13.7 percent of all fatal crashes in the state. Removing unsafe trucks and drivers from the road is a high priority for law enforcement. In 2012, the Texas Department of Public Safety removed 81,773 unsafe CMVs and 15,632 unsafe CMV drivers from the highway.

(U) CMV crashes pose dangers not only to those directly involved. The frequent transportation of large quantities of hazardous materials poses a potential threat to large areas as explosive, toxic, and radioactive shipments are moved throughout the state.

#### **(U) *Alcohol-Related Fatal Crashes in Texas***

(U) Of all contributing factors to motor vehicle crashes, driving under the influence of alcohol stands out for the number of deaths that it causes. In 2011, there were 1,039 people killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes where a driver was under the influence of alcohol in Texas. This represents 34.5 percent of the total number of people killed in the state in motor vehicle crashes.

(U) The high incidence of DWI-related deaths underscores the impact that this type of criminal activity has on the state on a daily basis, and the need for continued vigilance by the public and law enforcement in their efforts to get intoxicated drivers off the road and prevent these deaths.

## Texas Public Safety Threat Overview 2013

(U) In 2011, the U.S. and Mexican governments signed agreements that restored long haul operations between the two nations, ensuring the continued growth of commercial vehicle traffic in Texas. Since 1994, Texas has been significantly impacted by a steady increase in trade and CMV traffic with Mexico and the rest of the United States. The state's ports of entry historically account for about 68 percent of all CMV crossings from Mexico. This translates into significant CMV traffic throughout the state on highways leading to and from the border. Laredo still leads the nation as the busiest southern port for CMV traffic with 3.4 million truck crossings during 2011. The El Paso and Brownsville port of entry crossings do not rank far behind.

(U) The majority of Texas companies that operate CMVs on our highways obey the law. However, far too many do not. In some cases, so-called chameleon companies that are penalized for unsafe drivers and vehicles may re-incorporate as new entities in an effort to start with a clean record. Some of these companies are suspected of willfully neglecting vehicle repairs and risking public safety in order to bolster their profit margins. Continually changing their name, re-registering with TX DOT, and re-registering with US DOT provides these companies the opportunity to renew their assigned safety rating.

### **(U) *Traffic Crash Risks in the Permian Basin Area***

(U) The Permian Basin is an oil-and-gas-producing area of West Texas and an adjoining part of southeastern New Mexico. The Permian Basin covers an area approximately 250 miles wide and 300 miles long. Recent increased use of enhanced-recovery practices in the Permian Basin has produced a substantial impact on US oil production.<sup>52</sup>

(U) The Permian Basin's permitting and production has increased substantially over the past few years. The number of permits grew from 3,369 in 2009 to 9,347 in 2011. For calendar year 2011, the Texas Permian Basin's crude oil production accounted for 67 percent of Texas' statewide total crude oil production, or approximately 430 million barrels.

(U) The majority of this energy sector boom is concentrated in the following counties: Andrews, Borden, Coke, Crane, Dawson, Ector, Gaines, Glasscock, Howard, Martin, Midland, Pecos, Reagan, Reeves, Sterling, Upton, and Winkler. These counties have seen a significant increase in population and vehicles traveling the roadways.

(U) Coinciding with this increase in production and permitting has been a substantial rise in motor vehicle crashes in the Permian Basin counties since 2009. Traffic crashes have increased from 2,395 in 2009 to 3,114 in 2011. Fatalities resulting from car crashes have increased from 81 persons killed in 73 crashes in 2009 to 128 persons killed in 109 car crashes in 2011.

(U) The rate of increase of commercial motor vehicle crashes has also shown a significant increase. Commercial vehicle-related traffic crashes have increased from 715 in 2010 to 1,015 in 2012. In 2010 there were 14 fatal vehicle crashes in which a commercial motor vehicle was involved. In 2012 the number of fatal vehicle crashes involving commercial motor vehicles increased to 41.

## Texas Public Safety Threat Overview 2013

(U) Another public safety concern involves driving while distracted, especially while texting. The proportion of fatalities reportedly associated with driver distraction increased from 10 percent in 2005 to 16 percent in 2009 nationally. In fact, 20 percent of injury crashes nationally in 2009 involved reports of distracted driving. This deadly trend is mirrored in Texas, where nearly one in four crashes involves driver distraction, according to TxDOT. In 2009 alone, over 100,000 vehicles were involved in crashes where distraction in a vehicle, driver inattention or cell phone use was cited. Of those, 408 were fatal.<sup>53</sup>

### **(U) *Traffic Crash Risks in the Eagle Ford Shale Area***

(U) The energy sector places significant demands on Texas's transportation system. While some energy sector-related traffic can contribute to the degradation of roadways and other infrastructure,<sup>54</sup> of particular concern from a public safety perspective is the fact that increases in oil and gas exploration and production in some areas have coincided with an increase in crashes.

(U) One such area is the Eagle Ford Shale (EFS), a hydrocarbon-producing formation of significant importance due to its capability of producing both gas and more oil than other traditional shale plays. The shale play trends across Texas from the Mexican border up into East Texas, roughly 50 miles wide and 400 miles long.<sup>55</sup>

(U) The majority of EFS activity is concentrated in a small number of counties. Although EFS fields cover 23 counties in South Texas, three out of four completed EFS wells are located in Karnes, LaSalle, Dimmit, Webb, Gonzales, and McMullen counties. The counties of Karnes, LaSalle, and Dimmit alone account for half of all EFS wells.

(U) EFS permitting and production activity has increased substantially over the past few years. The number of permits grew from 94 in 2009 to 2,826 in 2011. Gas production increased from 19 billion cubic feet (BCF) in 2009 to 287 BCF in 2011. Oil production increased from 0.3 million barrels in 2009 to 36.6 million barrels in 2011.

(U) Coinciding with this increase in production and permitting has been a substantial rise in motor vehicle crashes in EFS counties since 2009. The rate of increase has generally been greater for crashes involving a commercial vehicle than for all crashes, and the increases tend to be greater in the counties in which EFS production activity is most concentrated; from 2009 to 2011 in Karnes, LaSalle, and Dimmit counties, the number of crashes involving a commercial vehicle increased 470 percent while the number of total crashes increased 98 percent.

(U) The Texas Highway Patrol has conducted increasing numbers of commercial vehicle inspections in the counties where EFS activity is concentrated. The number of inspections in Karnes, LaSalle, and Dimmit counties increased 255 percent from 649 in 2009 to 2,305 in 2011.

(U) Based on data regarding permitted pending wells, we expect continued high risk of crashes in EFS counties, especially in Karnes, LaSalle, and Dimmit counties. We also expect increasing risks particularly in Dewitt, McMullen, Webb, and Zavala counties, which have significantly more pending wells than completed wells.

## 4. Natural Disasters

(U) Texas faces a diverse array of natural threats, including floods; tornadoes; tropical storms and hurricanes; droughts; wildfires; coastal erosion, coastal retreat and coastal subsidence; dam and levee failure; earthquakes; expansive soil; extreme heat; hailstorms; severe winter storms; and windstorms. This assessment focuses on those natural hazards that are more likely to constitute homeland security threats and major public safety threats (i.e., create a large response or sheltering demand) to Texas, either due to the frequency or impact of their occurrence. The table below lists and ranks the natural hazards facing the state based only on physical damages.<sup>56</sup>

Natural Hazards	
<b>1</b>	<b>Inland Riverine Flooding</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Hurricane &amp; Tropical Storm</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Tornado</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Drought</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Local Windstorm (non-tornado)</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Hailstorm</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Wildfire</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Dam Failure</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Severe Winter Storm</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Extreme Heat</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Expansive Soils</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Coastal Erosion</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Land Subsidence</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Earthquake</b>

### 4.1 Floods

(U) Floods are defined as the accumulation of water within a water body and the overflow of excess water into adjacent floodplain lands. On average, Texas faces over 400 floods annually, and 91 percent of disaster damage in the state is through flooding. Approximately 80 percent of the flooding in Texas occurs in the counties of Harris, Galveston, Brazoria, Montgomery, and Jefferson. While the accumulated damages from floods are severe, and occasionally require the deployment of swift-water rescue teams, most communities are able to handle the response to flooding with internal assets and local sheltering.

(U) Occurring mostly in the spring and fall, floods can last from a day to several months. In the event of a flood, areas are likely to expect a loss of transportation infrastructure and/or loss of citizens' homes. The warning time for a flood is generally between three and six hours, but may be days in advance on major river basins.

### 4.2 Tornadoes

(U) A tornado is defined as a rapidly rotating vortex or funnel of air extending ground-ward from a cumulonimbus cloud. Texas averages 123 tornadoes annually, and since 1953 Texas has had 24 presidential disaster declarations due to tornadoes. The northern two-thirds of Texas is most vulnerable to tornadoes.

(U) Occurring mostly at night during the spring, tornadoes can last from a few minutes to two hours, although the resultant power outages can persist for days. Tornadoes occur with minimal or no warning and are likely to result in power failures. The Enhanced Fujita scale (EF) used to measure the strength of a tornado (in terms of windspeed), is divided into six categories from 0 to 5; zero being the least damaging. Eighty percent of Texas tornadoes are F1 and F0, with only one F5 each decade.

(U) Tornadoes striking a populated area will always generate a large response requirement, from the local triggering of warning systems, opening community tornado saferooms, response to power outages, public sheltering, and debris removal and road clearing. Small communities normally require assistance from their local partners or the State in the event of a tornado touchdown in a populated area. Large communities generally only require outside assistance in the event of multiple touchdowns or in the event of the rare F3 or greater storm.



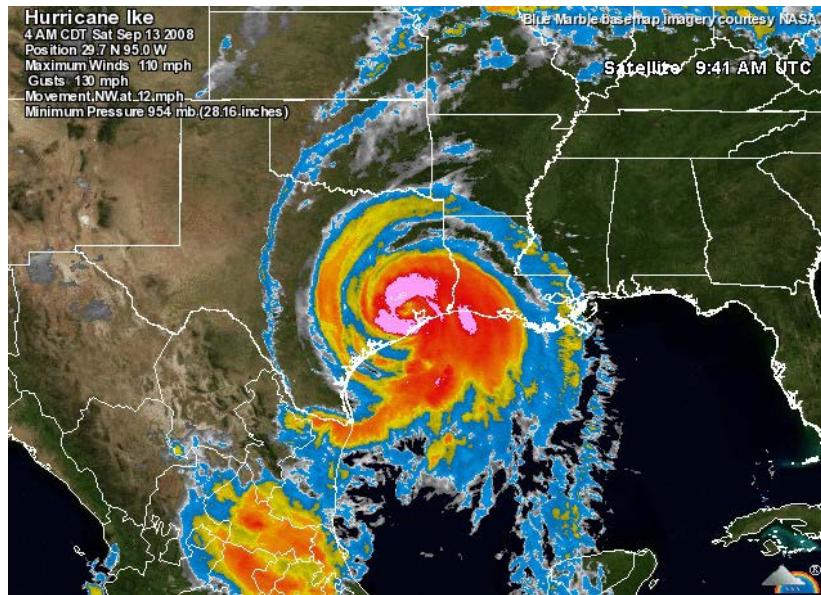
### 4.3 Tropical Storms and Hurricanes

(U) A tropical cyclone is defined as a low pressure area of closed circulation winds that originates over tropical waters. Wind speeds between 39mph and 74mph are classified as a tropical storm. Wind speeds greater than 75mph are classified as a hurricane. Texas has had 20 federal disaster declarations due to tropical storms and hurricanes. The 22 counties of the Gulf Coast, constituting 28 percent of the population of Texas, are the most vulnerable to tropical storms and hurricanes. (The Gulf Coast counties are: Cameron, Willacy, Kenedy, Kleberg, Nueces, San Patricio, Refugio, Aransas, Calhoun, Victoria Jackson, Matagorda, Chambers, Hardin, Newton, Orange, Jefferson, Jasper, Liberty, Brazoria, Harris, and Galveston.) The example of Hurricane Gilbert (Mexico) shows that a hurricane does not have to hit the coastline of Texas for it to cause significant damage. Damage from hurricanes is calculated from wind and storm surge flooding. Damage resulting from inland flooding caused by torrential rains is counted as riverine flood loss. Due to large-scale disruption of the power grid, power outages following a hurricane can last for weeks. Storm surge flooding is typically the most deadly aspect of a hurricane.

## Texas Public Safety Threat Overview 2013

(U) Based upon the last 100 years of historical record, Texas should expect to see a landfalling hurricane an average of every two years, while any particular coastal community should expect to experience hurricane force winds about every twelve years, with the upper Texas coast having a slightly higher incidence. The official hurricane season runs between the months of June and November, but in Texas, the traditional peak is between July and September. Tropical storms and hurricanes last from a few hours to a few days. Hurricanes and tropical storms occur with a minimum of a 12-hour warning, and result in power failures, destroyed infrastructure, inland flooding, tornadoes, and loss of telecommunications. The Saffir-Simpson Scale that is used to measure the intensity of the storm is divided into five categories from 1 to 5; one being the least damaging.

(U) As mentioned above, storms and hurricanes often lead to flooding. An example of this is Hurricane Ike, which hit the upper Texas Gulf Coast in September 2008 causing approximately \$37 billion worth of damage. The hurricane left millions without power. Salt water storm surge flooded most of the businesses and homes on Galveston Island and many more all along the rim of Galveston bay.



### 4.4 Drought

(U) Drought is defined as the consequence of a natural reduction in the amount of precipitation expected over an extended period of time, usually a season or more in length. Texas has had 2,921 multi-county and regional disaster declarations as a result of drought. The area most vulnerable to drought is West Texas: Amarillo, Lubbock, Midland, Odessa, Fort Stockton, San Angelo, Laredo, and El Paso. From 1950 to 1957, Texas experienced the most severe drought in recorded history. By the time the drought ended, 244 of the 254 counties had been declared federal disaster areas. Based on the past occurrences of droughts and disaster declarations, estimated losses are mainly to crops and livestock but can also affect local

## Texas Public Safety Threat Overview 2013

government in higher maintenance costs on roads, parks, and water and waste-water systems, as well as additional costs to secure new water sources when those traditionally used run dry.

(U) In 2011, Texas experienced the state's most severe one-year drought on record.<sup>57</sup> The drought affected the entire state, with more than 80 percent of the state at one point experiencing exceptional drought conditions. The lack of rain and the high temperatures severely affected farmers and ranchers. Causing an estimated \$5.2 billion in agricultural losses, the drought was also estimated to be the most costly on record. Losses included a \$2.06 billion impact on livestock and \$3.18 billion impact on grains. The drought also contributed to significant wildfire activity.

### 4.5 Wildfires

(U) A wildfire is defined as a sweeping and destructive conflagration, especially in a wilderness or a rural area. Since 1970, wildfires have destroyed over 10,000 homes and 20,000 other structures nationwide. Counties of high risk to wildfires are along the I-35 corridor from Dallas to San Antonio and along the I-10 corridor from San Antonio to Houston.

(U) Occurring mostly during dry seasons or droughts, largely due to forest brush and grass fires, wildfires can last from a few hours to a few weeks. Wildfires cause lost crops, killed livestock, burnt structures, downed power-lines and closed roads. In 2011, Texas had had one of its most severe wildfire seasons where 55 fire management assistance declarations were approved by the federal government.

(U) One condition required for a wildfire threat is dryness. The Keetch-Bryam Drought Index judges the expectation of a wildfire based on recent weather conditions and ranges from 0 to 800; with zero implying little to no expectation of a wildfire.

**Figure 9: The Bastrop County Complex Fire of 2011**



## Texas Public Safety Threat Overview 2013

**Figure 10: The Rockhouse Fire of 2011 Threatens McDonald Observatory**



(U) The response to wildfires can be extensive for large fires. Wildfires impose response costs in the area of shared resources, with any large blaze requiring the commitment of shared assets from multiple communities, the State Forest Service, and occasionally federal firefighting resources. Law enforcement resources are required for traffic control during the active firefighting response phase, and to supervise re-entry of burned communities once the fire is out.

## 5. Public Health Threats

(U) Public health threats to Texas are a significant concern. Many public safety and homeland security threats often carry public health consequences. For example, a hurricane or wildfire that displaces residents and causes widespread electrical outages would naturally have a secondary impact on the physical and mental health of affected Texans. However, there are several threats that primarily impact public health.

### 5.1 Emerging Infectious Diseases

(U) Emerging and re-emerging diseases are diseases that are either new or already recognized but have re-emerged with new features or in new areas. These diseases pose a potential threat to Texas health via people and products entering the state through international airports, ports of entry along the Gulf of Mexico, and the 1,200 mile international border with Mexico. In addition, migratory birds and vectors such as mosquitoes and ticks may carry emerging diseases across the state.

#### *Arboviruses*

(U) Texas is both an endemic and epidemic area for three viral diseases (arboviruses) transmitted by mosquitoes: West Nile virus (WNV), dengue (DENV), and St. Louis encephalitis (SLE). WNV and SLE are maintained in cycles involving mosquitoes and wild birds, while DENV is maintained in a cycle involving humans and mosquitoes only. Transmission of WNV and SLE to humans is considered spillover from this natural cycle. Most human infections with these three viruses are asymptomatic or result in a mild flu-like syndrome. However, some infections can result in meningitis or encephalitis, and infection with dengue can result in hemorrhagic syndromes. Neuroinvasive infections may cause death, and those who survive may experience serious neurological complications requiring costly and lengthy medical care. Hemorrhagic disease as a result of DENV infection may also be fatal. Most human arboviral cases occur from July through September, when mosquitoes are most active. Those most at risk for encephalitis and death are the elderly and those with a history of hypertension or immunosuppression, and in the case of DENV, those with a history of prior infection with a different DENV serotype. There is no specific treatment, and no human vaccines are commercially available in the US for any of these viral infections.

(U) Last year was the most serious year ever in Texas for WNV, with 1,834 cases and 86 deaths reported. The 2012 WNV outbreak was characterized by an unusually high incidence of the more severe neuroinvasive disease in those infected, which resulted in a higher fatality rate than in previous years. Data collected during the outbreak is still being analyzed by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to determine whether we can learn more about this disease in Texas. There is also concern about dengue, which, although not highly prevalent in Texas, is considered endemic in Mexico, with most Texas cases identified along the Texas–Mexico border.

## Texas Public Safety Threat Overview 2013

### ***Tuberculosis (TB) and Drug Resistant TB***

(U) Cases of tuberculosis disease were reported in 1,325 people in Texas in 2011, a rate of 5.1 cases per 100,000 people. TB can strike anyone, but is more likely to be found in those born in a foreign country, people with diabetes, people with HIV/AIDS, the homeless, and those who work in health care. Alcohol abuse is associated with more than 18 percent of TB cases, and approximately 9 percent of cases are associated with detention facilities.

(U) According to 2010 data from the CDC, Texas has the third-highest rate of TB in all states with more than 100 reported cases. TB rates are higher along the Texas–Mexico border.

(U) TB is curable with proper treatment. However, some strains of TB are resistant to the drugs used for treatment. In 2011, sixteen cases of TB in Texas were multi-drug resistant (MDRTB), while 74 cases were resistant to at least one of the drugs in the CDC's MDRTB definition.

### ***(U) Extensively Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis***

(U) In November 2012, law enforcement agents apprehended 13 illegal aliens near Sullivan City, Texas. Among those apprehended was a foreign national who was reported to be infected with Extensively Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis (XDR TB) at a detention facility in Texas. The individual had been in contact with law enforcement agents and with other apprehended illegal aliens, some of whom underwent testing due to the exposure risk.

(U) XDR TB is a rare type of multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis, which is caused by an organism that is resistant to the two most potent TB drugs. It is spread the same way as drug-susceptible TB: TB bacteria are put into the air when a person with TB disease of the lungs or throat coughs, sneezes, or shouts. These bacteria can float in the air for several hours, depending on the environment, and persons who breathe in the air containing these TB bacteria can become infected. Because XDR TB is resistant to the most potent TB drugs, the remaining treatment options are less effective, have more side effects, and are more expensive.

(U) This incident underscores the extent to which public health threats can be associated with an unsecure border with Mexico, as well as the importance of a robust system to test, confirm, treat, and follow cases when needed.

## **5.2 Foodborne Illness**

(U) Food-related emergencies involve the unintentional or deliberate contamination of foods that humans eat. A food emergency can occur at any stage of food production from farm to fork. This includes pre-harvest, processing, distribution, preparation, and consumption. An estimated 48 million people suffer from foodborne illnesses each year in the United States, accounting for 128,000 hospitalizations and approximately 3,000 deaths. About one in every six people will experience some sort of foodborne illness each year, and it is estimated that approximately 5

## Texas Public Safety Threat Overview 2013

million Texas residents (16-20 percent of the total population) are at an increased risk of severe foodborne illness due to conditions that compromise their immune system.

(U) Some outbreaks in Texas are small and regionalized. Many of these small outbreaks are not recognized through routine public health surveillance, and go unreported. Other foodborne illnesses in Texas are traced to larger multi-state outbreaks with specific food items determined to be the source. This has been seen in recent years, including salmonella contamination of papayas in 2011, and of serrano peppers in 2008. In 2012 there were 67 salmonellosis and four E. coli O157:H7 clusters or outbreaks that were large enough to prompt investigations by local health departments or regional health departments. While our food supply is the safest in the world, accidental or intentional contamination of food is always possible.

(U) There have been several high profile examples of deliberate food contamination in the US, and one of those instances occurred in Texas. At a Dallas hospital, in 1996, a disgruntled laboratory worker deliberately contaminated food in a laboratory break room with *Shigella dysenteria* type 2, resulting in the illnesses of 12 co-workers. Four victims were hospitalized, and five others were treated in a hospital emergency room. Although there were no deaths, this incident demonstrates how food can be used in committing a crime or an act of terrorism.

### 5.3 Other Recent Public Health Threats

(U) Because of the state's shared border with Mexico, and the difference in environmental and product standards and regulations, there is a constant risk of contaminated products being shipped or brought over the border into Texas for personal use that can have negative public health consequences. In 2011, Texas dealt with an influx of mercury-tainted face cream that resulted in 45 mercury poisonings, mostly among women residing near the border. The investigation showed that the product was being shipped commercially from distributors in Mexico to businesses in Texas and other states. In addition to mercury, lead-contaminated products have also been discovered. Products such as toys and trinkets made in foreign countries are sometimes contaminated with lead-based paint, which can result in illness, especially among children.

(U) Almost every year, Texas experiences incidents of lost or stolen radioactive materials used in oil well drilling operations. When individuals come into contact with these radiation sources, which can be unshielded, they are susceptible to radiation burns and sickness. In both 2011 and 2012, there was at least one significant radioactive source lost or stolen, and subsequently found after extensive searches by the radiation licensee and the Texas Department of State Health Services.

## **6. Industrial Accidents**

(U) The large industrial base in Texas generally operates safely, with minimal homeland security impact. However, due to the size and distribution of this industry and its economic importance, any significant accidents that occur could result in high consequences. Industrial accidents have the potential to threaten the state's security, especially when they result in casualties, the destruction of critical infrastructure, or the disruption of the state's economy.

(U) The table below provides an overview of various industrial and other events, some of which result in the spill or release of chemicals or other hazardous materials.

**Figure 11: Industrial and Other Events in Texas - 2012**

<b>Event Type</b>	<b>Indus-trial</b>	<b>Non-Ind.</b>	<b>Railroad</b>	<b>Roadway</b>	<b>Water</b>	<b>Event Totals</b>
Chemical - HAZMAT	4	1	0	7	0	<b>12</b>
Chemical Incident	9	2	1	7	2	<b>21</b>
Chemical Spill	29	8	0	5	19	<b>61</b>
Explosion	16	4	0	0	0	<b>20</b>
Fuel Spill	3	1	5	7	3	<b>19</b>
Gas Well Blowout	3	0	0	0	0	<b>3</b>
Hazardous Materials	25	13	3	30	16	<b>87</b>
Natural Gas Incident	5	13	0	0	0	<b>18</b>
Petroleum Incident	10	1	1	5	6	<b>23</b>
Pipeline Incident - HAZMAT	4	0	0	0	0	<b>4</b>
Pipeline Incident - Other	4	13	0	0	0	<b>17</b>
Pipeline Incident - Petroleum	1	2	0	0	0	<b>3</b>
Railroad - HAZMAT	0	0	9	0	0	<b>9</b>
Railroad - Non-HAZMAT	0	1	30	0	0	<b>31</b>
<b>Impact Totals</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>328</b>

(U) The majority of these incidents did not result in mass casualty events, though at least two incidents during 2012 resulted in a large number of people receiving medical attention. In June, twenty-five students were taken to Kendrick's Hospital in Abilene for observation after being exposed to chemicals at a local swimming pool. In November, a train hit a parade float carrying military veterans in Midland, which resulted in at least four fatalities and at least sixteen injured.

## Texas Public Safety Threat Overview 2013

(U) Some historical examples of more significant accidents include the 1947 SS Grandcamp fire and explosion that resulted in the death of more than 500 people and the destruction of the dock area and other infrastructure; the 2005 fire and explosion at a Texas City refinery that resulted in 15 deaths, 170 injuries, and significant economic losses; and the 2010 explosion and fire on an offshore drilling unit that killed 11 people and resulted in the spill of more than 4 million barrels of oil into the Gulf of Mexico over a three-month period.



(U) Railroad operations in Texas are another area of potential concern, given their importance to industries and the large volume of highly hazardous materials that are transported by railroad. Texas has an estimated 14,500 miles of rail line, of which 10,384 miles haul freight, more than any other state in the nation. These rail lines pass through frontier, rural, suburban, and densely populated urban areas. In one city alone, over 500,000 people live within one mile of a railroad track. Texas is the largest origin point and termination destination for chemicals and petroleum products, and border and port areas pose special operating and capacity challenges for freight railroads.

## 7. Cyber Threats

(U) Technology has become a target, a vulnerability, and a tool used by criminals and terrorists, and cyber threats continue to be significant areas of concern. In 2012, the US Intelligence Community expressed increasing concern about cyber threats, indicating that such threats are likely to increase in coming years and eventually constitute the number one threat to the United States.<sup>58</sup>

(U) Terrorists are increasingly cyber savvy, using the Internet to recruit members and supporters, disseminate information, plan operations, and communicate with each other. Hostile foreign nations use cyber tools as a means of espionage as they target sensitive information from governments and businesses. Some cyber criminals target individuals and companies for financial gain, while others steal information and cause damage with ideological motivations.

(U) Cyber threats, to include cyber-terrorism, cyber-warfare, and cybercrime, are increasingly becoming a major threat to the nation's security and show no signs of slowing down. Emerging technologies and the move towards cloud computing, while presenting new opportunities and ease of use, are providing new avenues of exploitation and vulnerability. Cyber threats range from benign low-risk threats that are easily mitigated by current technology to high-risk threats requiring sophisticated countermeasures. Cyber threats can cause massive financial losses, degrade or disrupt services, facilitate extortion, facilitate intellectual property theft, and facilitate identity theft.

(U) We are particularly concerned about the potentially severe consequence of an effective cyber attack against a state agency that could result in denial or disruption of essential services, including utilities, public health, firefighting, and law enforcement. For example, the Texas Department of Public Safety was targeted in thousands of cyber attacks during 2012. This threat underscores the importance of system redundancies and back-up capabilities, given the importance of DPS information technology systems for the law enforcement and criminal justice system across the state, while any network disruption would also compromise the issuance of driver licenses, concealed handgun licenses, and other essential state services. Other state agencies also provide essential services and likely face comparable threats and consequences from cyber attacks.

(U) Some common types of cyber activity include the use of botnets, denial of service, hacking, key stroke logging, malware, phishing, and other activity.

### 7.1 Cyber Threat Actors

(U) The cyber threat encompasses actors on many different levels.

(U) Nation-states: Many nations have some form of information operations capability and are developing greater capability and operational reach every day. Some are actively

## Texas Public Safety Threat Overview 2013

involved in supply chain subversion, placing insiders in targets, and exfiltrating data worldwide to fulfill political, military, and economic goals.

(U) Terrorists: Terrorists use cyber technology for communications, financing, intelligence gathering, planning, propaganda, radicalization, recruitment, and training.

(U) Insiders: Insiders have the potential to cause grave damage due to their access and knowledge of the systems.

(U) Hacktivists: Hacktivists are politically or ideologically motivated cyber actors who conduct web site defacements, redirects, denial-of-service attacks, information theft, virtual sabotage, web site parodies, and software development.

(U) Cybercriminals: Cybercriminals are financially motivated, and will work for whoever will pay.

(U) While the cyber threat from hostile foreign nations is a high-profile, persistent issue to our national security, sophisticated cybercrime continues to be a ubiquitous threat that puts a drain on our financial health and potentially endangers public safety.

### 7.2 Critical Infrastructure

(U) Critical infrastructure networks are potential cyber targets. The Industrial Control Systems of critical infrastructure may be vulnerable to attack due to growing interconnectedness. We are also concerned about the potential consequence of a successful cyber attack on the state's electric grid.

## Appendix 1: Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources in Texas

### Agriculture

(U) This sector consists of establishments primarily engaged in growing crops, raising animals, harvesting timber, and harvesting fish and other animals from a farm, ranch, or their natural habitats. Food establishments transform livestock and agricultural products into products for intermediate or final consumption. The industry groups are distinguished by the raw materials (generally of animal or vegetable origin) processed into food and beverage products. The food and beverage products manufactured in these establishments are typically sold to wholesalers or retailers for distribution to consumers.

(U) Agriculture employs 1 out of every 7 Texans, and contributes more than \$100 billion to the state economy, including \$6 billion in exports to foreign countries.<sup>59</sup> According to the Texas Department of Agriculture, there are 247,500 farms in the state, totaling 130.4 million acres.<sup>60</sup> Texas ranks first among the states in the amount of farmland and the production of cattle, sheep, goats, and cotton.<sup>61</sup>



### Banking/Finance



(U) This sector consists of establishments primarily engaged in financial transactions (transactions involving the creation, liquidation, or change in ownership of financial assets) and/or in facilitating financial transactions. It includes banking and credit establishments, securities and commodities establishments, insurance establishments, and other financial establishments.

(U) As of June 2012, there were 1,122 agencies regulated by the Texas Department of Banking, including 300 state-chartered banks and 244 national banks.<sup>62</sup> The state-chartered and national banks safeguard a combined \$278 billion in deposits and \$338 billion in assets.<sup>63</sup> State banks employed over 36,000 Texans in 2011.<sup>64</sup>

### Chemical

(U) This sector consists of facilities that transform natural, raw materials obtained from the earth, sea, and air into products that are used every day, to include the transportation of these chemicals to intermediate or end users.



## Texas Public Safety Threat Overview 2013

(U) In Texas, the chemical sector employs over 74,000 individuals, and generates over 510,000 jobs indirectly through chemical manufacturing.<sup>65</sup> These jobs total over \$25.7 billion in earnings every year.<sup>66</sup> Chemical facilities also represent the investment of tens of billions of dollars, with a typical investment of \$2-4 billion in new facilities each year.<sup>67</sup>

### Commercial Facilities

(U) This sector consists of commercial businesses and community facilities. Most are privately owned, but some are publicly owned and operated. This includes media and entertainment facilities, gambling facilities (casinos), lodging, outdoor events facilities, assembly locations, real estate facilities, and retail facilities.



(U) As of August 2012, the leisure and hospitality industry (which includes arts, entertainment, recreation, hotels and other accommodations) employed 1.1 million individuals in the state of Texas, which represents over 10 percent of jobs.<sup>68</sup> Retail sales in Texas exceeded \$90 billion in the first quarter of 2012, and arts/entertainment/recreation sales reached nearly 1.2 billion.<sup>69</sup>

### Communications



(U) This sector consists of establishments primarily engaged in operating, maintaining, and/or providing access to facilities for the transmission of voice, data, text, sound, and video. These facilities may be based on single or multiple technologies, including wired communications, wireless communications, satellite communication, the Internet, information services, next-generation networks and regulatory, oversight, industry organizations.

(U) In 2010, the major cable operators in Texas (Time Warner Cable, Suddenlink, Comcast, and Charter) employed 14,826 workers, produced over 100,000 related jobs, and had a \$15.9 billion economic impact on the state.<sup>70</sup> In 2011, the Texas telecommunication equipment manufacturing industry employed 13,514 people in 155 firms, and produced exports valued at \$9.5 billion.<sup>71</sup>

### Dams

(U) This sector consists of dam projects, flood damage reduction systems, hurricane and storm surge protection systems, mine tailings, industrial waste impoundments, and other water retention and water control facilities.

## Texas Public Safety Threat Overview 2013

(U) There are 7,221 dams in Texas, 50 percent of which are less than 25 feet in height, and over 90 percent of which are 50 feet or less in height.<sup>72</sup> Most of these dams are earthen structures built before 1980.<sup>73</sup> The US Army Corps of Engineers reports that 1,743 (24 percent) of the dams in Texas are considered to have either “significant” or “high” hazard potential.<sup>74</sup> Although hydropower from dams had a significant impact on the state’s economy in the 1930s, other forms of power generation quickly replaced it. By 1946, hydropower contributed only 15 percent of the electricity in Texas, and within seven years, it fell to less than half that.<sup>75</sup>



(U) An important role of dams in Texas is the control of flooding and the prevention of property damage. Dam breaks can cause extensive damage downstream, and a major concern regarding their safety is their age. The National Inventory of Dams notes that most of the dams in Texas were built many decades ago: 275 were built before 1900, another 841 predate 1950, 1,069 were built in the 1950s, and 2,755 were built in the 1960s.<sup>76</sup>

### Defense Industrial Base

(U) This sector contains the Department of Defense, government, and private sector industrial complex with capabilities to perform research and development, design, produce, and maintain military weapon systems, subsystems, components and parts to meet military requirements.



(U) Fort Hood is the largest single-site employer in Texas, with more than 52,000 assigned personnel and 9,600 civilian employees.<sup>77</sup> One out of every ten active duty soldiers in the US Army is assigned to Fort Hood, and the 335-square-mile base is ranked number one among the Army’s 97 installations in terms of future capability.<sup>78</sup> The base directly contributes more than \$3 billion to the Texas economy each year; and in 2005, the Texas Comptroller estimated that the overall benefit of Fort Hood to the Texas economy exceeded \$6 billion.<sup>79</sup>

## Texas Public Safety Threat Overview 2013

(U) The defense industry is one of the most important economic contributors for the state of Texas. From 2000 to 2007, there were 11,658 Texas companies that contracted with the Department of Defense for a total of \$197.1 billion, with \$39.5 billion in 2007 alone.<sup>80</sup> In 2007, Texas was second only to Virginia in the ranking of states by total defense-contract values.<sup>81</sup> Defense spending has increased dramatically in Texas over the last decade, and has provided Texas with high-wage jobs with averages of about \$50,000 a year, as well as additional work for thousands of smaller companies such as subcontractors and suppliers.<sup>82</sup>

### Emergency Services

(U) This sector consists of assets involved in emergency response designed to save lives, protect property and the environment, assist in the management of disasters (both natural and manmade), and aid in recovery.



(U) Texas is divided into twenty-two trauma service areas (TSAs), with a regional advisory council (RAC) in each region that develops and implements a regional trauma system plan.<sup>83</sup> Two RACs have been approved as regional trauma systems, and there are 265 designated trauma facilities – including 16 Level I (Comprehensive) Trauma Centers. Overall, Texas has 639 hospitals with 78,348 licensed beds.

### Energy

(U) This sector consists of assets that relate to producing or supplying energy. It includes assets and facilities that produce or supply electricity, petroleum, natural gas, ethanol, biodiesel, hydrogen, coal, and renewable energies.



(U) Texas is the leading crude oil producer in the US; and its 27 petroleum refineries process nearly 4.8 million barrels of crude oil per day, which accounts for more than one-fourth of all domestic refining capability.<sup>84</sup> Likewise, more than one-fourth of all US natural gas production occurs in Texas, making it the nation's leading natural gas producer.<sup>85</sup> Texas leads the nation in renewable energy potential, with large amounts of wind and solar generation capacity.<sup>86</sup> It now has the most wind generation capacity in the country, accounting for 27 percent of the national total, or the equivalent of powering about 1 million homes.<sup>87</sup> Largely as a result of its large population, extensive industrial sector, and hot climate, Texas consumes more electricity than any other state.<sup>88</sup>

(U) Texas has 212,000 intrastate and interstate regulated miles of oil and gas industry pipelines, representing one-sixth of the US total.

## Texas Public Safety Threat Overview 2013

### Government Facilities

(U) This sector consists of buildings and structures associated and owned, leased, or otherwise acquired by federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial government agencies. These buildings and structures provide personnel, service, research, storage and preservation, sensor and monitoring, space system, military and education oriented facilities.

(U) The Texas Facilities Commission plans, provides and manages over a hundred government facilities in over 290 cities in Texas. Managing 24 million square feet of leased and state owned properties, TFC supports the needs of over 55,000 state employees.<sup>89</sup> Texas has 8317 public schools with 4.3 million children in attendance.<sup>90</sup> Including branches and bookmobiles, Texas public libraries total 875, and serve a population of 22.6 million.<sup>91</sup> The Texas Department of Criminal Justice maintains facilities for the incarceration of over 156,000 offenders.<sup>92</sup>



### Information Technology

(U) This sector consists of physical assets and virtual systems and networks that enable key capabilities and services in both the public and private sectors. Functions are sets of processes that produce, provide, and maintain products and services. These functions encompass the full set of processes involved in creating IT products and services, including R&D, manufacturing, distribution, upgrades, and maintenance. They also support the sector's ability to produce and provide high-assurance products, services, and practices that are resilient to threats and can be rapidly recovered. Critical IT Sector facilities, operations, and services provide for the design, development, distribution, and support of IT products (hardware and software) and operational support services that are essential or critical to maintain or reconstitute IT Sector critical functions.

(U) The Department of Information Resources (DIR) is responsible for the statewide leadership and oversight for the management of government information and communications technology.<sup>93</sup>

(U) The official eGovernment Internet portal for Texas, "Texas.gov," provides more than 1,000 online services, such as driver license and vehicle registration renewals, capitol access, and licensing for concealed handguns.<sup>94</sup> From its inception in 2000 through 2011, Texas.gov has had over 200 million site visits, processed nearly 170 million financial transactions, collected over \$23 billion on behalf of Texas public entities, and contributed over \$110 million to the Texas State Treasury.<sup>95</sup>



(U) Makers of computers, semiconductors and electronics equipment exported \$32.1 billion of their goods in 2009, making that sector second only to chemical makers as the largest Texas exporter.<sup>96</sup> Despite a continuing decline in information-industry jobs since 2000, Texas still had 186,900 at the end of FY2011<sup>97</sup>; and the Texas Workforce Commission has identified 10 IT-related occupations (amounting to nearly a quarter of a million jobs in 2006) that are expected to remain vigorous through 2016.<sup>98</sup>

### Manufacturing

(U) This sector consists of establishments engaged in the mechanical, physical, or chemical transformation of materials, substances, or components into new products. These establishments include factories, mills, and plants. Manufacturing includes food, beverage, tobacco, textiles, wood products, paper, petroleum/coal, chemical, plastics/rubber, non-metal minerals, metals, computer/electronics, machinery, transportation, furniture, mining, and oil/gas extraction. The assembling of component parts of manufactured products is considered manufacturing, except in cases where the activity is appropriately categorized in construction. Establishments in this sector are often described as plants, factories, or mills, and characteristically use power-driven machines and material-handling equipment. However, establishments that transform materials or substances into new products by hand or in the worker's home and those engaged in selling to the general public products made on the same premises from which they are sold, such as bakeries, candy stores, and custom tailors, may also be included in this sector. Manufacturing establishments may process materials or may contract with other establishments to process their materials for them. Both types of establishments are included in this sector. Manufacturing establishments often perform one or more activities that are categorized outside this sector.

(U) Texas is a leading manufacturing state. It ranks first in the manufacture of computers and electronic equipment, and second in chemicals (but leading with the production of benzene, ethylene, fertilizers, propylene, and sulfuric acid). Seven percent of the nation's food-processing workers are located in Texas, making it the second largest contributing state<sup>99</sup>, with beverages as majority products.<sup>100</sup> Beer, soft drinks, baked goods, preserved fruits and vegetables, and meat are all important processed products for Texas.<sup>101</sup> Texas leads the states in the total value of its mined products, producing large quantities of oil and natural gas. It is also a leader in the production of cement, crushed stone, lime, salt, and sand and gravel.<sup>102</sup>



## Texas Public Safety Threat Overview 2013

### National Monuments/Icons



(U) This sector includes national monuments, symbols, and icons that represent the nation's heritage, traditions, values, and political power. It includes a wide variety of sites and structures such as prominent historical attractions, monuments, cultural icons, and centers of commerce and business. It includes assets with significance at the local, regional, or national level, as well as both those that are government owned and those that are privately owned. These assets include structures, geographical areas, documents, and objects. Many assets are listed in the Department of Interior's national register of historic places or national historic landmarks.

(U) There are nearly 300,000 Official Texas Historical Markers and National Register of Historic Places properties in Texas.<sup>103</sup> There are 226 Texas landmarks in the national Register of Historic Places alone, including such sites as The Alamo, Johnson Space Center, the State Capitol and Governor's Mansion, the King Ranch, the Sam Houston and LBJ Houses, the Majestic Performing Arts Center, the USS Texas and USS Lexington, and the Spindletop Oil Field. The National Park Service manages 13 units in Texas, two of them being national parks: Guadalupe Mountains and Big Bend. Other protected landscapes include Padre Island, Big Thicket, a section of Rio Grande, Lake Amistad, and Lake Meredith.<sup>104</sup>

### Nuclear Reactors/Materials/Waste

(U) This sector principally consists of (1) commercial nuclear reactors for generating electric power and non-power nuclear reactors used for research, testing, and training; (2) nuclear materials in medical, industrial, and academic settings and facilities that fabricate nuclear fuel; and (3) the transportation, storage, and disposal of nuclear materials and radioactive waste.



(U) The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Region IV Office in Arlington is responsible for carrying out the agency's duties in Texas.<sup>105</sup> Texas is an Agreement State, with no NRC-licensed nuclear fuel cycle facilities.<sup>106</sup> The state has two nuclear plants (Comanche Peak in Glen Rose and the South Texas Project in Palacios) with two reactors each,<sup>107</sup> and a combined capacity of 4,927 MWe (approximately 4.8 percent of the US total).<sup>108</sup> Texas received 10.3 percent of its electricity from its nuclear plants in 2006.<sup>109</sup> The South Texas Project Electric Generating Station is one of the newest and largest nuclear power plants in the US. Its two reactors went online in August 1988 and June 1989.<sup>110</sup> In addition to its plants, Texas has two "research and test" reactors, located at the campuses of Texas A&M University and The University of Texas at Austin.<sup>111</sup>

## Texas Public Safety Threat Overview 2013

(U) Uranium deposits in Texas are found in relatively narrow bands that parallel the coastline, deposited by uranium-laden water flowing toward the Gulf of Mexico.<sup>112</sup> As a result of its mining operations, Texas produced 1,260,000 pounds of yellowcake in 2006. One pound of yellowcake is equivalent to 10 tons of coal, meaning that Texas uranium mines produced an equivalent to 12.6 million tons of coal, with a total energy content of 262 trillion Btu.<sup>113</sup>

(U) In 2009, a new low-level nuclear waste (LLW) storage facility was licensed in Texas by Waste Control Specialists in Texas in 2009, and the company is also seeking to take LLW from other states.<sup>114</sup>

### Postal/Shipping

(U) This sector consists of assets related to the delivery of letters and small parcels. This includes the United States Postal Service; couriers, such as UPS, FedEx, DHL and Airborne; and other postal and shipping facilities.

(U) As of 2012, Texas ranks third among the states for the number of US postal workers, with a total of 40,610.<sup>115</sup> The average annual wage for Texas postal workers in 2011 was \$57,388.<sup>116</sup>



### Public Health/Healthcare

(U) This sector consists of assets related to the provision of health-related services to individuals (generally referred to as “healthcare”), the provision of health-related services to populations, including the general community, at the workplace, at academic institutions, and in the military (generally referred to as “public health”), and the provision of health-related supporting services. It includes both public and private facilities.



(U) Health and human services in Texas are provided by five agencies: the Health and Human Services Commission, the Department of Family and Protective Services, the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, the Department of Aging and Disability Services, and the Department of State Health Services.<sup>117</sup> The agencies spend more than \$30 billion a year, with the administration of over 200 programs and the employment of about 56,000 state workers in over 1,300 locations around the state.<sup>118</sup>

## Texas Public Safety Threat Overview 2013

### Transportation Systems

(U) This sector consists of a multitude of networks of transportation systems. Systems vary in size and complexity, but all modes of transportation have one element in common: they have defined origin and destination points, and the assets that make up the system of interest exist for the sole purpose of facilitating the flow of either people or products.

(U) A 2009 state data report by the Bureau of Transportation Statistics indicated that Texans drive an average of nearly 645 million miles every day.<sup>119</sup> As of 2006, the economic impact of transportation on employment was 3.4 percent of total employment in Texas, or an average of 421,774 jobs.<sup>120</sup>



(U) Transportation infrastructure statistics include: 312,910 miles of public roads, 3,234 miles of interstates, 52,337 bridges, 10,384 miles of freight railroad track (41 percent more than the next highest state), 834 miles of inland waterways, and 382 public use airports.<sup>121</sup> Seven of the top 50 water ports (by total tonnage) in the US are in Texas, and Texas leads the nation in the amount of products and goods shipped in and out.<sup>122</sup>

(U) Over the last 25 years, Texas' population increased by 57 percent and road use grew by 95 percent, but the state's road capacity grew by just 8 percent. The Texas Department of Transportation estimates that the state's population will increase by another 64 percent over the next 25 years; road use will grow by 214 percent; and state road capacity will increase by just 6 percent, if current financing patterns continue.<sup>123</sup> Continued population is expected to present challenges for the transportation system in Texas, forcing the state to increase capacity, repair deteriorating infrastructure facilities, decrease or at least control traffic congestion and address safety issues – while also meeting state and federal air pollution standards.<sup>124</sup>

### Water

(U) This sector is concerned with various aspects of water, such as the supply, transmission, storage of raw water, physical and chemical treatment facilities, treated water storage, distribution centers, monitor and distribution control centers, wastewater facilities, and regulatory organizations for the system.

(U) Texas has three state agencies with jurisdiction over water issues: the Texas Water Development Board is responsible for planning and funding projects that enhance water availability; The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality is responsible for protecting the state's water quality and allocating the use of surface water; and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department ensures that the state's wildlife, including the vital fish, shrimp and oyster industries, have sustainable supplies of fresh water.<sup>125</sup> In general, groundwater (which represents more than half of water use in Texas) is neither allocated nor managed by a state agency.<sup>126</sup>

## Texas Public Safety Threat Overview 2013

(U) Texas has 191,000 miles of rivers and streams that provide about 40 percent of the total water used in the state (15.5 million acre-feet in 2004); and 23 surface water basins, 15 of which are major river basins, and 8 of which are coastal river basins.<sup>127</sup> There are 196 lakes in Texas, but only one of them is not man-made: Caddo Lake in East Texas.<sup>128</sup>

(U) Water used for human consumption in municipalities is piped to water treatment plants that filter and chemically treat the water to bring it to drinking water standards, and then pumped through water delivery pipes to the end users.<sup>129</sup> Treatment and distribution is an energy-intensive process – up to 80 percent of treatment costs are due to electricity consumption.<sup>130</sup>



(U) Treated drinking water is distributed by various entities including municipal water services, in most urban areas; “municipal utility districts” (MUDs), authorized by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) at the request of property owners and by private water supply companies. In Texas, TCEQ enforces the federal laws that set quality standards for such water systems, including the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act set water quality standards for such water systems.<sup>131</sup>

## **Appendix 2: Contributing Agencies**

Countless agencies contributed to the production of this assessment and work together on an ongoing and regular basis. This collaboration underscores the commitment among agencies to share information in order to enhance public safety. Some of these agencies are listed below, as are agencies that participate in Operation Border Star and contributors to the TxGang database.

Office of the Attorney General, State of Texas  
Texas Department of Criminal Justice  
Texas Department of State Health Services  
Texas Department of Transportation  
Texas Railroad Commission  
Texas Department of Juvenile Justice  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Federal Bureau of Prisons  
National Gang Intelligence Center  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration  
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement,  
    Homeland Security Investigations  
Houston High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area  
West Texas High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area  
South Texas High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area  
North Texas High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area

**Agencies participating in Operation Border Star are listed below.**

<b>Sheriff's Offices</b>					
<b>COASTAL BEND</b>	<b>RGV</b>	<b>LAREDO</b>	<b>DEL RIO</b>	<b>MARFA</b>	<b>EL PASO</b>
Aransas Co SO	Cameron Co SO	Duval Co SO	Dimmit Co SO	Brewster Co SO	El Paso Co SO
Bee Co SO	Hidalgo Co SO	Frio Co SO	Kinney Co SO	Culberson Co SO	Hudspeth Co SO
Brooks Co SO	Kenedy Co SO	Jim Hogg Co SO	Maverick Co SO	Hudspeth Co SO	Dona Ana Co SO (NM)
Calhoun Co SO	Willacy Co SO	La Salle Co SO	Real Co SO	Jeff Davis Co SO	Grant Co SO (NM)
Dewitt Co SO	Starr Co SO	Webb Co SO	Val Verde Co SO	Pecos Co SO	Hidalgo Co SO (NM)
Goliad Co SO		Zapata Co SO	Uvalde Co SO	Presidio Co SO	Luna Co SO (NM)
Gonzales Co SO			Zavala Co SO	Reeves Co SO	Otero Co SO (NM)
Jackson Co SO				Terrell Co SO	
Jim Wells Co SO					
Kleberg Co SO					
Lavaca Co SO					
Live Oak Co SO					

## Texas Public Safety Threat Overview 2013

McMullen Co SO					
Nueces Co SO					
Refugio Co SO					
San Patricio Co SO					
Victoria Co SO					
<b>Volunteer Sheriff's Offices</b>					
COASTAL BEND	RGV	LAREDO	DEL RIO	MARFA	EL PASO
Matagorda Co SO			Edwards Co SO	Midland Co SO	
Wharton Co SO				Ward Co SO	
Guadalupe Co SO				Eddy Co SO (NM)	
<b>Police Departments</b>					
COASTAL BEND	RGV	LAREDO	DEL RIO	MARFA	EL PASO
Corpus Christi PD	Alamo PD	Laredo PD	Del Rio PD	Alpine PD	El Paso PD
Kingsville PD	Brownsville PD	Dilley PD		Fort Stockton PD	El Paso ISD PD
Victoria PD	Donna PD	Pearsall PD		Odessa PD	Anthony PD
	Edcouch PD			Pecos PD	Horizon PD
	Edinburg PD			Presidio PD	Socorro PD
	Elsa PD				Ysleta Del Sur PD
	Harlingen PD				El Paso Community College PD
	Hidalgo PD				UT – El Paso PD
	La Ferir PD				Texas Tech University PD
	La Grulla PD				
	La Joya PD				
	Los Fresnos PD				
	McAllen PD				
	Mercedes PD				
	Mission PD				
	Palmview PD				
	Penitas PD				
	Pharr PD				
	Raymondville PD				
	Roma PD				
	Rio Grande City PD				
	San Benito PD				
	Weslaco PD				
<b>Volunteer Police Departments</b>					
COASTAL BEND	RGV	LAREDO	DEL RIO	MARFA	EL PASO
Alice PD	Alamo PD		Uvalde PD	Odessa PD	
Bay City PD	Donna PD				
Corpus Christi Port Authority PD	Falfurrias PD				
Driscoll PD	Palmhurst PD				
El Campo PD	Port Isabel PD				
George West PD	UT-Pan American				
Hallettsville PD	UT-Brownsville				
Orange Grove PD					

## Texas Public Safety Threat Overview 2013

Port Lavaca PD					
Robstown PD					
Rockport PD					
Seguin PD					
Sinton PD					
Three Rivers PD					
<b>Volunteer Other Locals</b>					
<b>COASTAL BEND</b>	<b>RGV</b>	<b>LAREDO</b>	<b>DEL RIO</b>	<b>MARFA</b>	<b>EL PASO</b>
Nueces Co Precinct 3 Constable	Hidalgo Co Precinct 3 Constable		38th Judicial District		El Paso Constables
	Hidalgo Co Precinct 4 Constable		Dimmit Co Constable		
			Dimmit Co Constable 2		
			Zavala Co Constable		
<b>State</b>					
<b>COASTAL BEND</b>	<b>RGV</b>	<b>LAREDO</b>	<b>DEL RIO</b>	<b>MARFA</b>	<b>EL PASO</b>
DPS	DPS	DPS	DPS	DPS	DPS
TMF	TMF	TMF	TMF	TMF	TABC
TxDOT					Texas AG Ofc – El Paso
TPWD	TPWD	TPWD	TPWD	TPWD	Texas Comptroller's Ofc
					TMF
					TPWD
<b>Federal</b>					
<b>COASTAL BEND</b>	<b>RGV</b>	<b>LAREDO</b>	<b>DEL RIO</b>	<b>MARFA</b>	<b>EL PASO</b>
ATF	CBP-OFO	ATF	CBO-OFO	CBO-OFO	CBP-OFO
CBO-OFO	ICE	CBO-OFO	DEA	ICE	DEA
DEA	Starr Co HIDTA	DEA	ICE	NPS	ICE
FBI	USBP	FBI	NPS	West TX HIDTA	US State Dept (US Diplomatic Protection Service
Houston HIDTA	USCG	ICE	South TX HIDTA	USBP	US Marshals Service
South TX HIDTA	US Fish & Wildlife	USBP	USBP		West TX HIDTA
ICE	Texas Military Forces	US Marshals	US Marshals		
PINS-US Park Service					
USBP					
USPS					
USCG					
<b>Private</b>					
<b>COASTAL BEND</b>	<b>RGV</b>	<b>LAREDO</b>	<b>DEL RIO</b>	<b>MARFA</b>	<b>EL PASO</b>
Union Pacific RR PD					Union Pacific RR PD

## Texas Public Safety Threat Overview 2013

**Agencies that have contributed to the TxGang database are listed below:**

Addison Police Department  
Alice Police Department  
Amarillo Police Department  
Beeville Police Department  
Bell County Juvenile Probation Services  
Bexar County Sheriff's Office, San Antonio  
Brownsville Police Department  
Bryan Police Department  
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives – Beaumont  
Carrollton Police Department  
Clute Police Department  
College Station Police Department  
Comal County Sheriff's Department – New Braunfels  
Community Supervision & Corrections Department  
Conroe Police Department  
Constable's Office PCT 1 – Richmond  
Converse Police Department  
Corpus Christi Police Department  
District Attorney's Office – Fort Worth  
Donna ISD Police Department  
DPS Bureau of Information Analysis  
DPS Communications – Amarillo  
DPS Communications – San Antonio  
DPS Criminal Investigations Division – Region VI  
DPS Criminal Law Enforcement – Region III, Corpus Christi  
DPS Criminal Law Enforcement – Region II, Houston  
DPS Criminal Law Enforcement – Region V, Lubbock  
DPS Criminal Intelligence Service  
DPS Criminal Law Enforcement – Region 1, Garland  
DPS Criminal Law Enforcement Headquarters  
Dumas Police Department  
Edinburg Police Department  
Ellis County Sheriff's Office – Waxahachie  
Erath County Sheriff's Office – Stephenville  
Everman Police Department  
Farmers Branch Police Department – Dallas  
Forney Police Department  
Fort Bend County Sheriff's Department  
Gainesville Police Department  
Galveston County Sheriff's Office – Galveston  
Garland Police Department  
Georgetown Police Department  
Haltom City Police Department  
Harris County Sheriff's Office – Houston

## Texas Public Safety Threat Overview 2013

Hays County Gang Task Force  
Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office – Edinburg  
Hill County Sheriff's Office – Hillsboro  
Houston Police Department  
Humble ISD Police Department  
Hunt County Sheriff's Office – Greenville  
Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Detention and Removal  
ICE, Office of Intelligence (OI), Resident Agent in Charge – Austin  
ICE OI, Detention and Removal Operations (DRO) – Harlingen  
ICE San Antonio DRO Field Office  
Irving Police Department  
Jersey Village Police Department – Houston  
Jim Wells County Sheriff's Office  
Juvenile Probation Office – Waco  
Kenedy Police Department  
Kerr County Sheriff's Office – Kerrville  
Kilgore Police Department  
Killeen Police Department  
La Marque Police Department  
Lancaster Police Department  
Lewisville Police Department  
Longview Police Department  
Lubbock County Sheriff's Office – Lubbock  
Lubbock Police Department  
Mansfield Police Department  
McAllen Police Department  
McLennan County Sheriff's Office – Waco  
Mesquite Police Department  
Metropolitan Transit Authority Police Department – Houston  
Midland Police Department  
Missouri City Police Department  
Montgomery County Sheriff's Office – Conroe  
Nacogdoches County Sheriff's Office – Nacogdoches  
New Braunfels Police Department  
Nueces County Sheriff's Office – Corpus Christi  
Onalaska Police Department  
Parker County Sheriff's Office – Weatherford  
Pharr Police Department  
Plano Police Department  
Robstown Police Department  
Rockport Police Department  
Rosenberg Police Department  
San Angelo Police Department  
Sante Fe Police Department  
Seguin Police Department  
Sherman Police Department

## **Texas Public Safety Threat Overview 2013**

Spring Branch ISD Police Department  
Sugar Land Police Department  
Temple Police Department  
Texas City Police Department  
Texas DPS DNA Crime Laboratory – Houston  
Texas State Operations Center – Austin  
The Colony Police Department - The Colony  
Tiki Island Police Department  
Tom Green County Sheriff's Office – San Angelo  
Travis County Sheriff's Office – Austin  
Tyler Police Department  
Weatherford Police Department  
Wharton Police Department  
Wichita Falls Police Department  
Williamson County Sheriff's Office – Georgetown

## Texas Public Safety Threat Overview 2013

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- <sup>3</sup> Texas DPS Missing Persons Clearinghouse 2011 Annual Report
- <sup>4</sup> U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- <sup>5</sup> Numbers are based on US DOJ press releases that specifically identify defendants as members or associates of named Mexican cartels.
- <sup>6</sup> These maps represent areas where each cartel is assessed to have its strongest area of operation. The concentration of the cartels' presence varies within the shaded region, and the lack of shading does not necessarily represent a lack of cartel presence. The assessed areas are based on information over several years from the National Drug Intelligence Center and from federal and state law enforcement investigations, intelligence, and prosecutions.
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- <sup>15</sup> US Border Patrol unofficial data
- <sup>16</sup> US Border Patrol unofficial data
- <sup>17</sup> CBP unofficial information
- <sup>18</sup> CBP unofficial information
- <sup>19</sup> US Border Patrol unofficial data on Border Safety Initiative
- <sup>20</sup> US Border Patrol unofficial data on Border Safety Initiative
- <sup>21</sup> Map based on information compiled from multiple sources, showing the concentration of gang activity across Texas. The absence of shading in a county does not necessarily indicate the absence of gang activity.
- <sup>22</sup> Information provided by TJPC
- <sup>23</sup> <http://www.cdc.gov/homeandrecreationsafety/rxbrief/>
- <sup>24</sup> (U)USA versus Khalid Ali-M Aldawsari, Verdict Form, Document 197, Cause No. 5-11-cr-00015, Northern District of Texas, 27 June 2012.
- <sup>25</sup> (U)USA versus Khalid Ali-M Aldawsari, Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals ruling, Document 210, Cause No. 5-11-cr-00015, Northern District of Texas, 3 August 2012.
- <sup>26</sup> (U)USA versus Naser Jason Abdo, Verdict Form, Document 141, Cause No. 6-11-cr-0182, Western District of Texas, 24 May 2012.
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- <sup>28</sup> (U)USA versus Mansour Arbabsiar, et. al, Memorandum of Law in Opposition to Defendant's Motion to Suppress, Document 48, Cause No. 1-11-cr-00807, Southern District of New York, 3 October 2012
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<sup>36</sup> (U) USA versus Abdulahi Omar Fidse & Debkah Abdallah Sheikh, Document 3, Unsealed Indictment, Cause No. 5-11-cr-00425, Western District of Texas, 25 May 2011

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## Texas Public Safety Threat Overview 2013

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## Texas Public Safety Threat Overview 2013

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