

# Impedance and Denial Operational Requirements Document

## Annex: Rio Grande Valley (RGV) Sector



**Figure 1: RGV Sector divided into three barrier groups (A, B, & C)**

**Stations:** RGC, MCS, WSL, HRL, BRP, FTB

**Sector size:** (b) (7)(E)

**Existing barrier:** (b) (7)(E)

**Proposed barrier:** (b) (7)(E)

**Group size:** (b) (7)(E)

Comparative Statistics FY 16/FY 17 TD		
Category	FY 16	FY 17
Apprehensions	186,746	126,803
OTMs	140,444	100,063
Narcotics		
Marijuana	321,606.27	232,504.52
Cocaine	1,541.56	1,063.29
Meth	1,089.93	1,904.04
Agent Assaults	86	87

OTM: Other than Mexican

### *Sector Narrative*

RGV leads the nation in total alien apprehension and is second in total marijuana seizures. The current priority is focusing assets and manpower in the most volatile zones along the Southwest Border. Operations are target at mitigating threats posed by alien and drug trafficking organizations in areas with (b) (7)(E) (b) (7)(E). CBP intelligence has estimated that 31.5 tons of marijuana is being smuggled

through the volatile zones on a weekly basis. Shooting related border violence has been recorded during FY 2017.

The topography of the sector consists of ranch lands and farmlands with few population centers located along the U.S./Mexico border and Gulf of Mexico Coastline. The footprint of private ranch and farm properties within the RGV sector operational area creates a variety of access and resource mobility challenges for USBP. Private landowners put tight restrictions on TI and operational assets that can be placed or operated on their property. Some landowners restrict all access to USBP.

National Wildlife Refuge areas are also located along the RGV Sector. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service owns approximately 83,000 acres of land throughout the RGV Sector area in which about 40% borders the river. Wildlife refuge or protected status of these lands prevent USBP from operating freely and establishing roads and structures to detect and interdict illicit activities. Adversaries are aware of these areas of constraint and leverage the vulnerability to facilitate their illicit smuggling activities.

RGV Sector includes moderate size metropolitan areas along the U.S./Mexico border in addition to the fifth largest port in the U.S. that serves as a passenger cruise ship terminal. Many of the illicit alien and drug smuggling organizations that operate along the U.S./Mexico border have a direct nexus to the Houston area.

*Current Capabilities*

(b) (7) (E)



*Threats*

Current Threats to the RGV Sector are a mixture of alien and narcotics smuggling from local Transnational Criminal Organizations (TCOs). The TCOs use a variety of breaching/smuggling methods that include:

(b) (7)(E)



**Figure 3:** (b) (7)(E)

*Operational requirements*

Agents in the RGV sector need the capability to surveil the threats in current areas of high traffic. As TCOs evolve, the current area of high traffic may shift to other remote areas, therefore the surveillance technology needs to be mobile and easily shifted to meet USBP capability needs. Agents need the lateral ability to respond to detected incursions to maximize the probability of apprehension.

The inclusion of moderate size metropolitan areas in the RGV Sector creates an environment for low vanishing times. USBP agents need an increase to the vanishing times of adversaries, particularly in areas with dense populations. The TI needs to maintain the safety of USBP agents and provide agents with minimal lateral access more time to respond to detected incursions.

USBP need capabilities in remote and desolated areas in the RGV Sector that currently have no deployments. The adversaries are aware of these areas and fully take advantage of it. USBP agents need access to roads in these areas in order to reach the TI for maintenance and patrol. In areas along the river, the (b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E)

The TI will need to be built on diverse terrain varying from low, dense brush to semi-arid flatland with low-lying dense vegetation along the immediate area of the Rio Grande River. There are areas of irrigated farmland with areas of thick brush. The I&D capabilities will need to take into consideration the coast where there are salt flats and sand with many changes in elevation. In order to provide the USBP agents with a high probability of apprehension within the diverse terrain and topography of RGV Sector, USBP agents need the capability to detect an intrusion, identify the source, classify the identification, and determine the direction of the unlawful entry.

USBP needs a TI structure that will not require continuous maintenance issues that can overwhelm the sector Technology and TI team. The structure should be supported and sustained by the Office of Facilities and Asset Management (OFAM), Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure (BPFTI) Program Management Office (PMO) through Comprehensive Tactical Infrastructure Maintenance and Repair (CTIMR) contracts.

The Rio Grande River is highly convoluted in this region, making issues of access, both of USBP to the operational patrol region and of private land holders to areas beyond any infrastructure, salient. I&D infrastructure in this sector will likely not follow the convolutions of the river and thus shall not impede legitimate actors from crossing. Also of note, the International Water and Boundary Commission flood control levee system runs the majority of Cameron County where it ends just west of the (b) (7)(E) [REDACTED]. This levee system averages (b) (7)(E) in height and in most areas provides the point of highest elevation in Cameron County. Any newly installed I&D infrastructure will need to account for these levees and shall not disrupt flood controls in the sector.

Lastly, the I&D capabilities need to be integrated with current relocatable and portable surveillance and detection technology currently deployed and planned for the upcoming fiscal year.

### *Constraints*

The placement of future TI structures will be constrained because there are areas in RGV that include private farms and ranches as well as federal fish and wildlife refuge. The Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge is located within RGV Sector. There are less than optimal lateral access along the Rio Grande River due to issues with private landowners and the lack of improved access roads. In addition, the planned development of roads are on the current levee system causing political and federal concerns for flood.

### *Hazards*

Environmental hazards of the RGV Sectors include rough terrain, eroding river banks, pre-historic oyster beds, and road washouts.

### *Groups*

RGV Sector is separated into three groups based on the assessed priority of I&D investments (see Figure 1).

#### Group A

Priority: 3rd of 3

Included Zones: (b) (7)(E)

Mileage: (b) (7)(E)

Group-specific operational requirements: N/A

#### Group B

Priority: 2nd of 3

Included Zones: (b) (7)(E)

Mileage: (b) (7)(E)

Group-specific operational requirements: N/A

#### Group C

Priority: 1st of 3

Included Zones: (b) (7)(E)

Mileage: (b) (7)(E)

Group-specific operational requirements: N/A