

**2017 OPERATION STONEGARDEN (OPSG) OPERATIONS
ORDER AND BUDGET TEMPLATE**
**OMB No: 1660-01258
Expires: 05/31/2020**
PAPERWORK BURDEN DISCLOSURE NOTICE

Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 571 hours per response. The burden estimate includes the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and submitting the form. This collection of information is required to obtain or retain benefits. You are not required to respond to this collection of information unless a valid OMB control number is displayed in the upper right corner of this form. Send comments regarding the accuracy of the burden estimate and any suggestions for reducing the burden to: Information Collections Management, Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, 500 C Street, SW, Washington, DC 20472, Paperwork Reduction Project (1660-0125).

NOTE: DO NOT SEND YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO THIS ADDRESS.

Op Order Name:	SDC OPSG FY17 OP ORDER ANNUAL	
Op Order Number:	18-SDCSDC-12-001 Version 0	
Op Dates:	From: 9/1/2017	To: 5/31/2020
Report Date:	3/5/2018	

Executive Summary

Law enforcement partnerships between federal, state, and local entities are critical to improving operational control of the border. Grant funding in the amount of \$6,900,000 via Operation Stonegarden (OPSG) will be utilized by a total of 22 partner law enforcement agencies from local units of government within San Diego County, Sheriff's Departments from San Diego, Orange, Los Angeles, Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Monterey, and San Mateo Counties, as well as California State Agencies to target border-related crime in the U.S./Mexico Border area and the California coastline. The San Diego County Sheriff's Department will be the OPSG Grant Administrator. The point-of contact (POC) will be Lieutenant Robert Smith, Jr. The San Diego Sector Chief Patrol Agent will have operational oversight. The POC will be Supervisory Border Patrol Agent Steven Pitts.

The San Diego Sector Chief Patrol Agent, in coordination/collaboration with OPSG stakeholders, will determine which areas will be the focus of operations. Security threats and operational hours/activities will be determined jointly between the San Diego Sector unified command staff and the OPSG Integrated Planning Team (IPT). Maritime-specific operations will be coordinated jointly with the San Diego Regional Coordinating Mechanism (ReCoM), Los Angeles/Long Beach ReCoM, Central California Maritime Agency Coordination Group (CenCal MAC), and the San Francisco ReCoM.

Utilizing an all-threats approach in collaboration with U.S. Customs and Border Protection/Border Patrol, state and local law enforcement agencies will exercise their unique jurisdictional capabilities in order to collaboratively address border security issues. Historically, San Diego County has been a highly favored operational area for alien and drug smuggling organizations. The close proximity of Tijuana, Mexico to San Diego, California, population density, significant coastline, and extensive transportation networks leading to the interior immediately north of the border make

San Diego a consistently lucrative target. Now, as the maritime smuggling threat increases, these organizations are looking for smuggling opportunities beyond San Diego County as demonstrated by pangas being discovered more than 400 miles north in San Mateo County. Border-related crime represents an all-threat environment in that the primary criminal activity (drug/human smuggling) often results in cross-border criminal organizations and individuals undertaking secondary and frequently, tertiary criminal activities that involve a wider range of crimes (kidnappings, assaults, murders, money laundering, cross-border weapons trafficking, etc.). These criminal activities, when undertaken in the U.S., constitute a threat to domestic security, subsequently triggering involvement by state and local law enforcement.

I. SITUATION

A. General Situation:

San Diego County (SDC) includes approximate ninety miles of international land border and the responsibility of the San Diego Sector includes the 840 miles of coastal border of the State of California, including beaches and bays. SDC has an effective level of security that is commensurate with known and identified risks associated with criminal organizations. The incidence of border violence associated with competing drug cartels in the Tijuana/Tecate areas has continued and still has great potential to spread into the United States. Frequent assaults against Border Patrol Agents are a common diversionary tactic utilized by smuggling organizations to further their criminal activity. During a particularly volatile situation on July 23, 2009, Border Patrol Agent Robert Rosas was murdered in close proximity to the border fence while responding to alien traffic in the Campo Station AOR. As security of the border is established and/or expanded within key target zones, criminal organizations resort to increasingly elaborate smuggling methods such as sophisticated cross-border tunnels, watercraft in the maritime environment, and ultra-light aircraft. JTF-W (California), the San Diego Sector's FY 2017 enforcement strategy, will address specific threats posed by such organizations and aggressively integrate OPSG assets to reduce violent crime along the border, increase border security, and improve the quality of life within affected communities throughout the San Diego Sector operational AOR.

As the Maritime threat continues to increase in San Diego Sector's AOR, it has been necessary to provide additional funding and support north along the coast to address emerging maritime Panga smuggling events approximately 489 miles north in Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Mateo counties.

Since its inception, the intent of OPSG has been to enhance law enforcement preparedness and operational readiness along the nation's borders. The Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act 2010 (PL 111-83), via the Homeland Security Grant Program, allocated \$55 million in FY2017 for use by local units of government to increase coordination and enforcement capabilities in support of Department of Homeland Security (DHS) goals including those

outlined in the Border Patrol National Strategy. The San Diego Sector has been awarded \$6,900,000 in FY2017 OPSG Homeland Security Grant funds.

B. Terrain/Weather:

Terrain features within the San Diego Sector include beaches, estuaries, coastal plains, steep canyons and ravines, high desert, and mountains over six thousand feet in elevation. There are numerous environmentally sensitive and protected areas. Dense, low lying brush and scrub trees cover much of the rural terrain throughout.

San Diego County's western corridor is one of the most densely populated areas in the United States. The corridor includes the cities of San Diego, Imperial Beach, Chula Vista, Coronado, Encinitas, Carlsbad, and Oceanside. The County's central corridor is comprised primarily of a blend of sparsely populated remote and rural wilderness areas. The eastern corridor consists of rural mountain and ranching enclaves with populations ranging from a few hundred up to several thousand.

Orange County through San Mateo County represents a rugged coastline along with varying weather. Los Angeles County includes the Islands of Catalina and San Clemente. Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties include the Channel Islands. These islands are remote and desolate and represent an area of great concern for the San Diego Sector.

California State Parks and the California Highway Patrol are working together in remote areas from Ventura to San Mateo with the Sheriff's Offices in each of those counties as the Maritime threat continues to move north along the California Coast.

Weather conditions vary greatly throughout the San Diego Sector. The western corridor generally maintains year round mild temperatures that average 50 to 80 degrees. The central and eastern corridors can experience extremes in temperatures ranging from subfreezing to well over 100 degrees. Eastern portions of the County can experience occasional snowfall and high winds. In addition, the western portion of the San Diego Sector experiences frequent coastal eddies (a combination of low clouds and fog), which extend several miles inland.

Wildfires are a very real and persistent threat throughout the San Diego Sector. The fire season extends from May through November. Historically, wildfires have resulted in the devastating loss of life and property.

The combination of climatic extremes, rugged terrain, dense urban corridors, and protected environmental areas presents a complex challenge to conducting daily operations. As such, enforcement entities operating within the counties utilize considerable ingenuity and flexibility in order to achieve their missions.

C. Criminal Element:

Alien and drug smuggling organizations continue to pose significant threats throughout the area. These organizations have become increasingly sophisticated and use counter surveillance, diversionary tactics, night vision devices, and secure communications while conducting operations. Human trafficking, trans-border kidnappings, extortion, murder, and intimidation are common results of cartel competition for lucrative territory. Debriefings of aliens and foot guides, examination of pocket trash, and officer observations indicate substantial intelligence gathering efforts against law enforcement operations by area criminal organizations.

Smugglers frequently utilize dangerous tactics in order to further their cargo into the United States. Among these are failures to yield when vehicle or checkpoint stops are initiated, abandonment of the smuggling vehicle by the driver while it is still in motion, wrong-way driving on freeways north through the Mexican Port of Entry into the southbound lanes of Interstate 5, and the overloading of boats with human cargo. The abandonment of individuals or entire groups by their guides in remote, inhospitable environments is not uncommon and has resulted in a significant number of deaths. Smuggling organizations using these, and other tactics, have been historically responsible for several assaults on Border Patrol Agents and local law enforcement officers.

D. Friendly Forces:

U.S. Customs and Border Protection/Border Patrol
CBP Air and Marine
CBP Field Operations
U.S. Coast Guard
Immigration and Customs Enforcement
San Diego County Sheriff's Department
San Diego County Probation Department
San Diego Police Department
San Diego Harbor Police
Carlsbad Police Department
Chula Vista Police Department
Coronado Police Department
Escondido Police Department
La Mesa Police Department
National City Police Department
Oceanside Police Department
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
Monterey County Sheriff's Office
Orange County Sheriff's Department
Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office
San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Office
San Mateo County Sheriff's Office

Ventura County Sheriff's Office
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
California Highway Patrol
California Department of Parks and Recreation
University of California San Diego Police Department