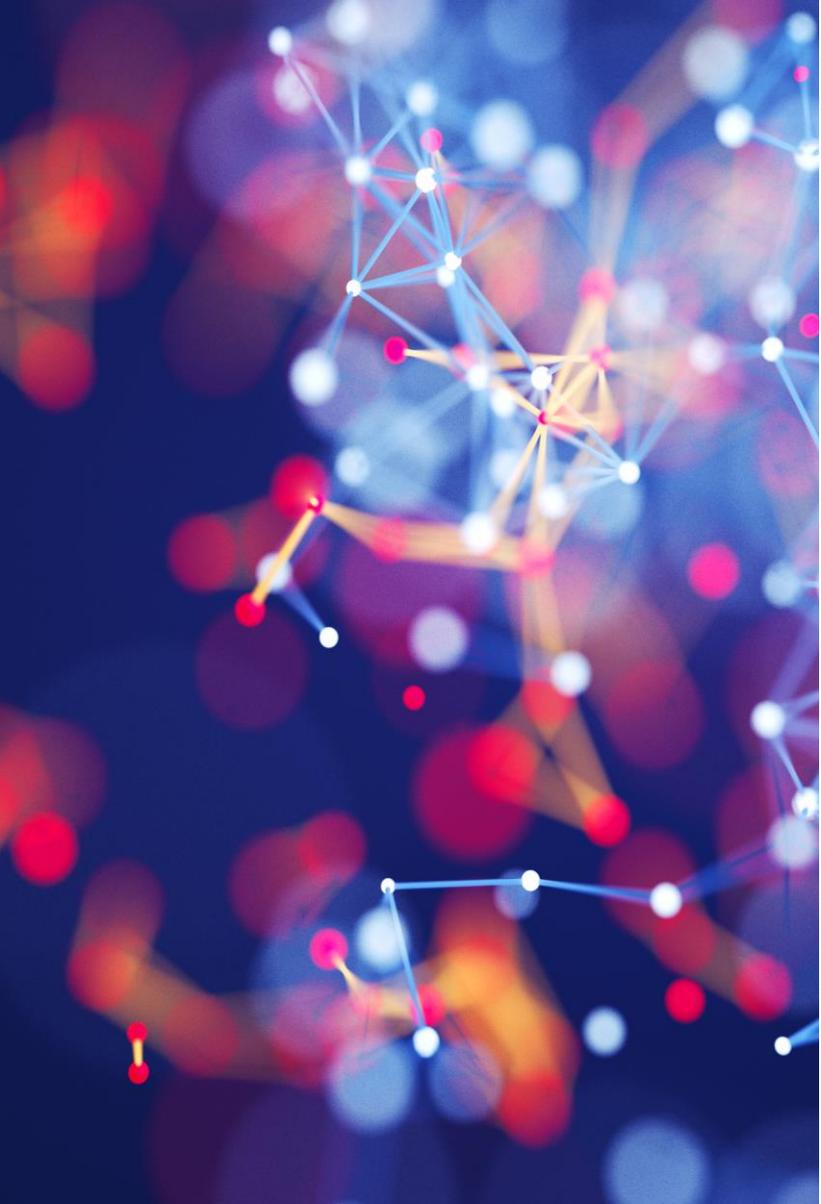


Date: June 27, 2024

U.S. Border Patrol Foreign Operations Division Missing Migrant Program (MMP)





Disclaimer

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U.S. Border Patrol – Foreign Operations Division Disclosure

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Operations Division

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WARNING

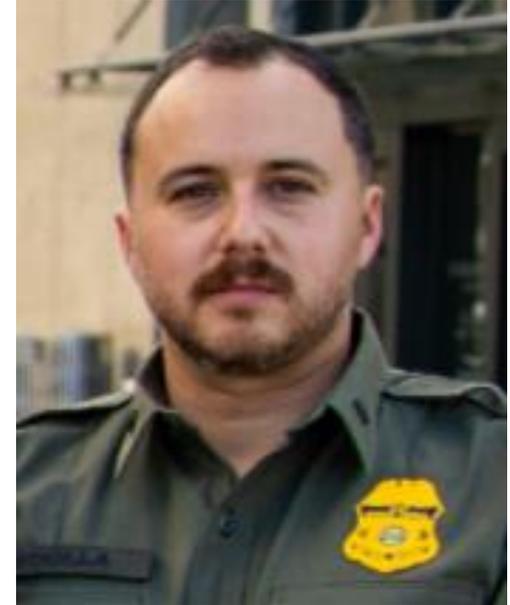
This presentation contains graphic images that are sensitive in nature which may be considered triggering to some audiences.

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Border Patrol Agent – Programs (BPA-P)

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Branch

Missing Migrant Program (MMP) –
Coordinator



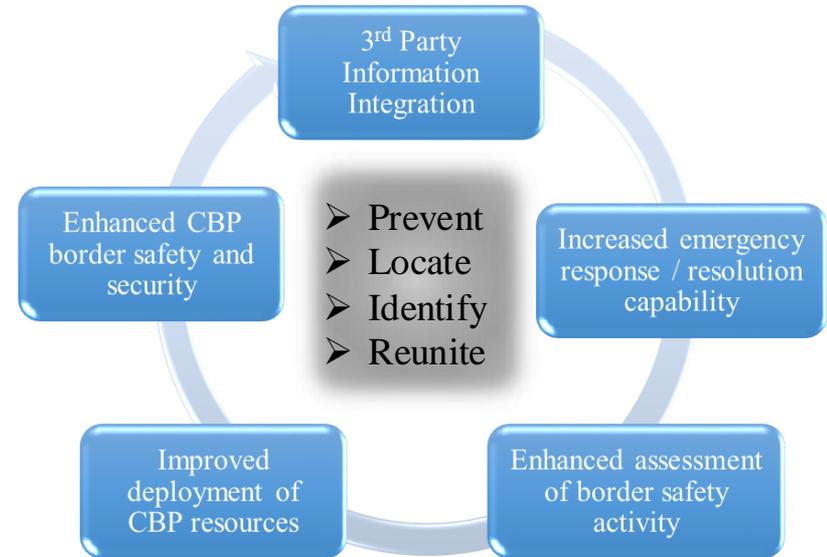
Sergio Vergara

Sergio Vergara, Border Patrol Agent –
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Border Patrol Targeting & Intelligence
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Missing Migrant Program (MMP)
Coordinator



Nine Southwest Border Sectors plus Miami, Swanton, and Ramey Sectors

- Highlights U.S. Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) commitment to humanitarian efforts.
- Focuses on border safety, the rescue of migrants in distress, the mitigation of migrant deaths, and the identification and reunification of decedents in the border region.
- Creates and fosters relationships with federal/state/tribal partners, first responder communication systems (911), foreign consulates, medical examiner/coroner offices, non-governmental organizations (NGO), landowners, and families.
- Congressional Mandate: Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains Act of 2019
 - Annual Report to Congress on Fiscal Year Unidentified Remains and Rescue Beacons



MMP Lines of Effort:

PREVENT

- Strategic messaging in various languages (QR Code, Inform of Dangers, 911 Placards)
- Institutionalized information exchange with foreign consulates, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), other agencies (OAs)

LOCATE

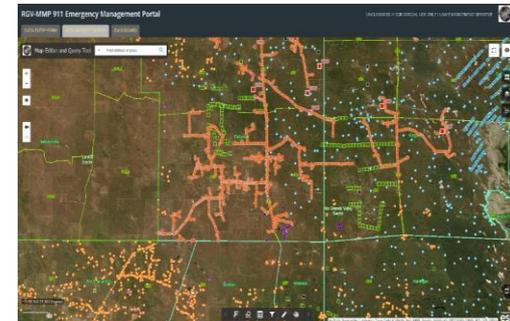
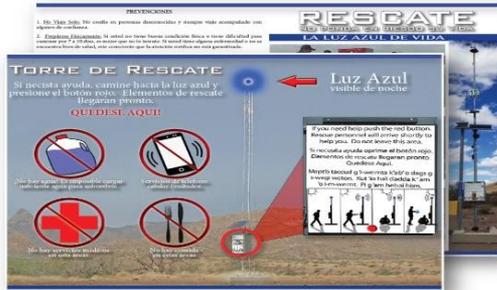
- Database searches
- Rescue Placards/Rescue Beacons/Command Operating Post (COP)
- Initiate Search and Rescue Missions

IDENTIFY

- Forensic collection and collaboration with medical examiners, coroners, justices of the peace, foreign consulates, and National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs)
- Biographic information exchange and database searches

REUNITE

- Repatriate identified remains via foreign consulates to their native countries/families via consular engagement (closure)
- Identify and prosecute smugglers by coordinating with Department of Justice (DOJ)



Prevent:

- Strategic messaging via internal and external partners
- Created a QR code that links to the MMP CBP webpage with educational material on program, link to YouTube videos with testimonials, 911 call and Rescue Beacon messaging

Programs and Special Operations

What is the Missing Migrant Program?

The Missing Migrant Program (MMP) seeks to prevent the loss of life amongst the migrant population traversing through the southern border in accordance with the Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains Act of 2019. This complex objective is sought through MMP's efforts and relationships with law enforcement partners, foreign consulates, medical examiners, land owners, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), institutions of higher learning, and families. Moreover, the established processes and relationships seek to meet the MMP's objectives of prevention, location, identification, and reunification.

In FY21, USBP HQ implemented the MMP Internal Operating Procedure for all southern border sectors, leading to standardization in reporting. MMP is utilizing a rescue beacon suitability model to determine the most suitable deployment locations using spatial data science. Data sets, such as historic trends, land access, elevation, and Agent response time, can be weighted according to criteria unique to each sector, allowing for maximum effectiveness in each operating environment.

MP continued the deployment of 911 rescued placards and there are currently 2,279 placards deployed in strategic locations along the southwest border.

MMP has four lines of effort:

- Prevent
- Locate
- Identify
- Reunite



For More Information on our "Say No to the Coyote" Campaign please visit <https://www.cbp.gov/coyote-criminal>



Prevent:

NO SE ARRIESGUE!

POR SU BIENESTAR, SEGURIDAD Y EL DE DE SU FAMILIA

PUNTO DE ORIGEN

Antes de comprometerse a un viaje peligroso hacia la frontera de los Estados Unidos, considere que es lo que deja atrás.

- la estabilidad de su hogar y de su patria por algo desconocido e inseguro,
- su familia y esos que dependen de usted,
- sus amistades,
- su historia,
- deja seguridad por inseguridad con esa inseguridad, vienen varias preocupaciones y dudas

Infórmese: cada año mueren cientos de personas intentando cruzar la frontera de los Estados Unidos. No sea una estadística más.

EN TRANSITO

Consideren la realidad. El intentar cruzar la frontera a los Estados Unidos, es muy peligroso. Para esas personas que inician su viaje en Centro o Sur América, se arriesgan a un camino con peligro:

- dificultades geográficas,
- brecha del Darien,
- robos,
- asaltos,
- abusos por parte de los coyotes,
- dificultades financieras,
- y se puede convertir en víctima en el tráfico de personas

¡El cruzar por México produce los mismos riesgos y lo más peligroso es toparse con la MUERTE! Ya en ese caso lo más probable es la posibilidad que sus seres queridos no sepan más de usted, y se la pasen imaginando lo peor.

LLEGADA A LA FRONTERA

Si piensa cruzar la frontera hacia los Estados Unidos ilegalmente, considere los riesgos y los peligros.

- Se les advierte que no lo hagan.
- ¡Si cruzas la frontera y necesitas ayuda, marca al 911 inmediatamente!
- ¡No piense en que lo va a detener la Patrulla Fronteriza, piense en su vida!



PARA EMERGENCIAS MARQUE



*Cruzar entre las garitas de entrada puede resultar en deportación y restricción de entrada a los Estados Unidos por 5 años. Es importante que inmigrantes sigan la ley y solo se presenten en una garita de entrada. Inmigrantes fuera de los Estados Unidos pueden usar la aplicación CBP One en un teléfono celular para empezar su proceso de asilo.



Locate: CBP Database Search

- Utilization of biographic data to search CBP Database Systems
 - CBP Database Systems collect a large amount of data during daily operations.
 - Apprehended migrants are entered into databases daily.
 - Travelers applying for Immigrant/Non-Immigrant Visas.
 - Tourists enter and exit through Ports of Entry daily.
 - Compared to the FBI database which collects for criminal cases, CBP collects for various business requirements.
 - MMP limits information sharing to law enforcement partners, respective foreign consulates or foreign government partners.
 - This is done to protect identities of migrants who are missing.
 - Migrants not located can be entered into NamUs.

Omar Karin ACOSTA-Beltran	10/02/1974 08/04/1974 10/06/1972 03/14/1983 10/04/1974	"Huilo" or "Guilo" Pedro ACOSTA-Garcia Pedro MARTINEZ-Beltran Pedro MARTINEZ-Garcia Pedro MARTINEZ-Zazueta	12780760
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Locate: Search and Rescue – Migrants in Distress

- Direct - Third Party - 911 reporting:
 - Migrant calls a family member or 911 themselves requesting help.
 - WhatsApp on phone is helpful as it provides Geolocation (GPS).
 - 911 can utilize cell towers to triangulate and provide location.
 - Family member in contact with migrant can also provide Geolocation utilizing WhatsApp.
 - Foreign consulates or NGO may receive reports of migrants in distress, and they are well versed on the process of relaying the information to U.S. Border Patrol Stations and/or MMP.
 - U.S. Border Patrol personnel in the field are notified of the migrant is distress and are provided all location information to initiate a search.
 - If the area warrants, U.S. Border Patrol Search and Rescue Team (BORSTAR) is deployed.

Locate: Search and Rescue – Migrants in Distress



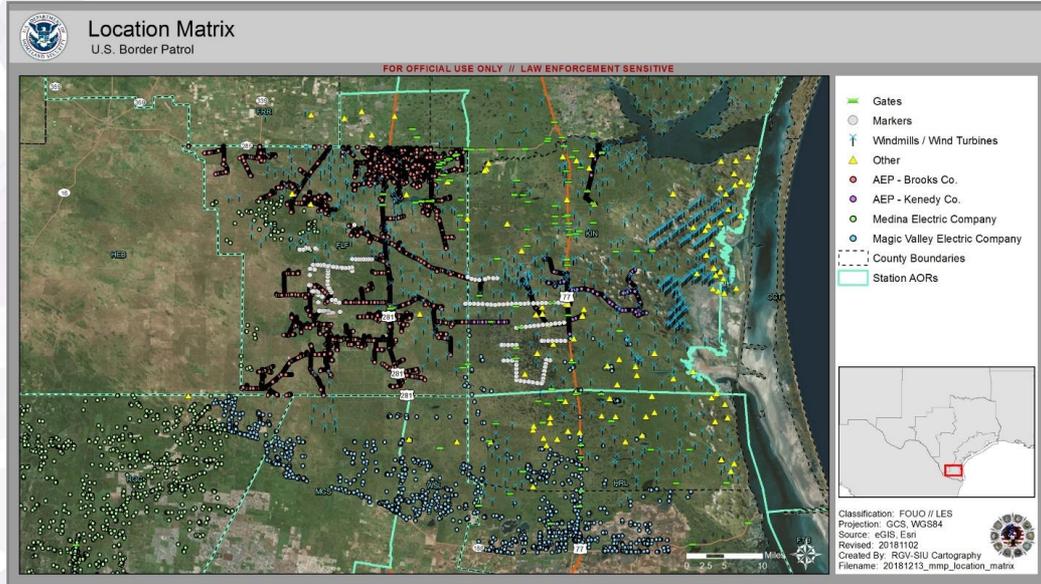
Photos provided by U.S. Border Patrol.

Rescue Beacons: Deployment and Re-Location

Rescue Beacon Suitability Model

- Industry standard that assists in determining the most suitable locations for rescue beacons and other rescue assets using spatial data science.
- What is unique is its ability to capture the operator's perspective and the specific dynamics in each operational environment using weighted variables such as:
 - Enforcement Data (smuggling routes, migrant rescues/deaths)
 - Environment Data (access feasibility, remoteness, and high visibility locations)
 - Response Data (land ownership, agent response time, and terrain)
- Sector specific and can be updated periodically to address changes in Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures (TTP) and shifts in seasonal migration patterns.
- Optimizes the effectiveness of limited resources AND informs the locations for future inventory as it becomes available.

Locate: Geolocation and Marker Initiative



Locate: Geolocation and Marker Initiative

- Partnered with local industry to obtain GPS coordinates for landmarks in border region with unique location identifiers.
- Over 20,000 landmarks have been incorporated into a mapping program.
- No cost to CBP.
- Lost or injured migrants can reference the identifiers on these landmarks which assists USBP rescue response.
- Examples include electric pole lines, transformers, cattle guards, gates, and windmills.



Photos provided by U.S. Border Patrol.

Locate: Search and Recovery of Remains

- MMP receives reports of migrants believed to have died while crossing the border.
 - Reports come from families, citizens, law enforcement partners, NGOs, respective foreign consulates or foreign government partners.
 - Families will also be notified by migrants who crossed with their family member or the foot guide(s)/smuggler(s).
 - Some migrants who saw a member of group die or be left behind, will not report an incident due to fear of legal issues or reprisal from smugglers.
- MMP will provide information to U.S. Border Patrol personnel in the field and BORSTAR, who has trained cadaver canines, if necessary, to begin searching for remains.
- MMP also coordinates with law enforcement partners, NGOs, and respective foreign consulates in sharing of information and will deploy to search for remains.

Locate: Search and Recovery of Remains



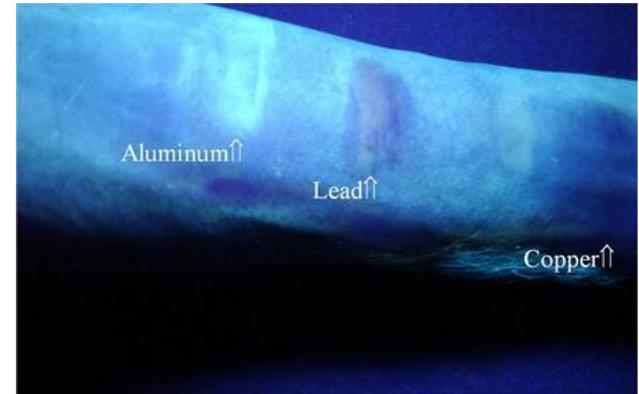
Identify: Assist in Identification of Remains

- MMP works with Medical Examiner and Coroner Offices to assist in identification of remains.
- Documents migrants have in their possession are not sufficient to confirm identity and it is bad practice to do so.
- MMP shares all information with our partners.
 - Documents, notes, fingerprints, and cell phones, etc.
 - We ask for any pocket trash be shared with us so we can look for any information that can help locate family and/or identify a foot guide.
- Some migrants utilize false identity documents to facilitate their movement.



Identify: Assist in Identification of Remains

- USBP Forensic Labs along the southwest border:
 - San Diego Sector
 - Tucson Sector
 - El Paso Sector
 - Laredo Sector
 - Rio Grande Valley Sector
- Forensic Labs capabilities:
 - Latent Print processing
 - DNA
 - Facial recognition
 - Trace Metal detection
 - eTrace
 - AFIP (Attribution Forensic Intelligence Program)
 - Digital forensic examination (Phones, Laptops, hard drives, drones, GPS trackers and vehicle infotainment system)
 - Trace evidence analysis
 - Audio and video enhancement



Photos provided by U.S. Border Patrol.



Identify: Assist in Identification of Remains

Methods:

- Dusting/Powder
- Cyanoacrylate/the "super glue" method
- Chemical developers
- Iodine fuming
- Casting/Milrosil
- Macro-photography



Photos provided by U.S. Border Patrol.

Reunite: Repatriation of Remains

Upon getting a positive identification, the Medical Examiner or Coroner Office will notify MMP personnel and the respective foreign consulate of the decedent's nationality to coordinate the repatriation of remains.



Photos provided by U.S. Border Patrol.

MMP: Current Efforts

- Human Smuggling Prevention Program
 - Partnering with DOJ/Rio Grande Valley MMP
- Expand MMP to the Northern and Coastal Border Sectors (Swanton, Ramey, and Miami)
- Mexico City – Fiscalia General de la Republica (FGR) missing persons searches
- 911 Rescue Placards (Water/Wall)
 - Deployed in strategic areas with cell phone coverage
- 911 emergency call system modernization
- Bi-National Training efforts with Government of Mexico
 - Capacity building and bi-national operations
- CBP Days and MMP Summits
 - NGOs and other internal/external stakeholders
- Bi-national investigations with foreign government stakeholders – present a consequence for smugglers outside the U.S.



MMP: Positive Results

- Hunter in Yuma, AZ found skeletal remains (vertebrae).
 - Partial ID located with remains.
 - MMP collaborated with NGO on their social media platforms.
 - Within hours, a relative responded stating it was her brother.
- Failed smuggling attempt in tractor trailer – 53 deceased.
 - MMP assisted with triage and decedent identification.
 - HSI identified three co-principals in case.
- Brooks County Sheriff's Office assist.
 - Cell phone exploitation, 2011 messages.
 - BP Intel/Mexican Consulate linked number to decedent's sister.
 - Contacted sister and confirmed identification.



Photos provided by U.S. Border Patrol.

MMP: Current Efforts

National Program Manager:
Assistant Chief George Serrano

MMP Forensics Lead:
(A) Assistant Chief Jose Perez

Regional Coordinators:
East: SBPA Uriel Quirino
Central: BPA-P Sergio Vergara
West: BPA-P Luis Bedolla

USBPMISSINGMIGRANTPROGRAM@cbp.dhs.gov

Questions?



Contact Information

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