



# U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Office of Public Affairs

[www.cbp.gov](http://www.cbp.gov)

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# News Release

## *March in the Millions*

### **A whopping \$20 million in narcotics seized by the San Diego Field Office in first two weeks of March**

**SAN DIEGO** – U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers assigned to the San Diego Field Office (SDFO) are commended for their tenacity and relentless work in seizing 131 pounds of cocaine, 11 pounds of heroin, 10,967 pounds of methamphetamine, and 213 pounds of fentanyl in 73 separate smuggling attempts from March 1 to March 17. The total estimated street value of these narcotics is \$20,600,000.

"Narcotics smuggling continues to be on the rise, and our officers are dedicated to ensuring the safety of our communities," said Sidney Aki, CBP Director of Field Operations for San Diego. "Our officers are effectively trained to stay alert for any suspicious activities and to detect unusual travel patterns."

Suspects in these incidents were arrested and turned over to Homeland Security Investigations for further investigation. The narcotics and any associated vehicles used to smuggle the drugs were seized by CBP officers. SDFO will continue to work closely with federal, state, and local law enforcement to crack down on drug smuggling.

These seizures are part of Operation Apollo. Operation Apollo is a joint regional operation comprised of federal, state, and local agencies working to combat the threat from fentanyl, and other illicit synthetic narcotics. More information about Operation Apollo can be found [here](#).

The San Diego Field Office is comprised of the following ports of entry: San Ysidro, Otay Mesa, San Diego air and seaport, Calexico East/West, Tecate, and Andrade.

The CDC states that more than 150 people die every day from drug overdoses related to synthetic opioids derived from fentanyl. <https://www.cdc.gov/stopoverdose/fentanyl/index.html>

Follow the Director of CBP's San Diego Field Office on Twitter at [@DFOSanDiegoCA](https://twitter.com/DFOSanDiegoCA) for breaking news, current events, human interest stories and photos.

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*U.S. Customs and Border Protection is the unified border agency within the Department of Homeland Security charged with the management, control, and protection of our nation's borders at and between official ports of entry. CBP is charged with keeping terrorists and terrorist weapons out of the country while enforcing hundreds of U.S. laws.*