

Yuma County Sheriff's Office

Who is in charge: Leon Wilmot.

Where he stands: “There hasn’t been any kind of changes as far as our operations here that weren’t already in effect years ago.”

How it’s documented: Classifies most referrals and assists to immigration authorities as “assist federal agency,” a category that doesn’t include cases where a more serious crime was suspected because the system codes incidents by worst of-fense.

What the Star reviewed: A synopsis report with assist federal agency incidents from Jan. 1, 2010 – Feb. 28, 2013; a report without summaries from March 1, 2013 – Sept. 30, 2013; and 27 full incident reports.

Findings

- The data provided include very few deputy-initiated traffic stops resulting in an immigration referral. Those stops totaled 13 from January 2012 through February 2013, the period for which Yuma provided summaries. Four of those were in the period after SB 1070 took effect. In one of those cases, Border Patrol showed up before they were even called.
- Yuma cooperates heavily with Border Patrol and Customs and Border Protection. The summaries showed three-quarters of immigration-related cases since the status-check mandate took effect involved deputies helping federal agents with tasks other than referrals. That includes tracking footprints in the desert and helping out at checkpoints. The data available from before SB 1070 showed an even higher share.
- At least 92 calls since September 2012 were part of Operation Stonegarden, a Department of Homeland Security grant program that pays officers overtime to help with immigration-related tasks. In December 2012 alone, there were 42 incident reports associated with the program.
- The reports the Star reviewed showed Yuma deputies documented far less in immigration-related incidents than deputies and officers in other areas. In an interview, the sheriff said he would question a report that did not include information on how officers moved from conducting a routine traffic stop to inquiring about a person’s immigration status. “In any case that you have, you have to spell out who, what, when, where, why and how,” he said. That’s the minimum standards.” Yet a third of the reports the Star reviewed were missing at least some of that information.



Leon Wilmot

Overview

Sworn officers: 84

Immigration-related incidents the year after SB 1070 took effect that the agency provided: 890

Share of total incidents: <1%