



## U.S. Customs and Border Protection

# Border Patrol Search, Trauma, and Rescue (BORSTAR)

The Border Patrol Search, Trauma, and Rescue (BORSTAR) Unit was created in 1998 in response to the growing number of injuries to Border Patrol agents and migrant deaths along our nation's borders. BORSTAR is located at the U.S. Border Patrol's Special Operations Group (SOG) Headquarters in El Paso, Texas.

BORSTAR provides specialized law enforcement, search and rescue response from conventional to high-risk Border Patrol Operations, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) mission assignments, national search and rescue operations, national special security events and specialized training support directed by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for both domestic and foreign government agencies.

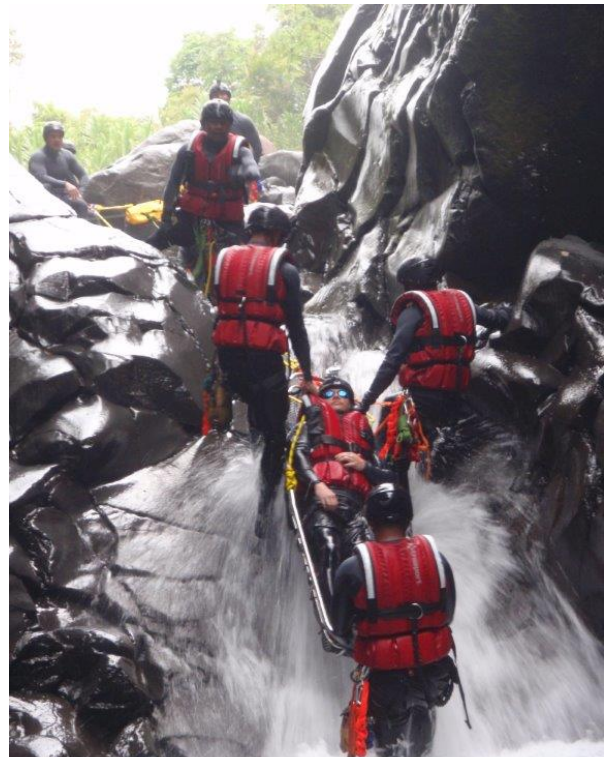
BORSTAR is the only national law enforcement search and rescue entity with the capability to conduct tactical medical, search and rescue training for Federal, state, local and international government agencies. Since the inception of BORSTAR in 1998, the unit has evolved and enhanced its capabilities to better fulfill the missions of DHS, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and U.S. Border Patrol, both domestically and abroad.

On a national level, BORSTAR is strategically located to rapidly deploy along the Southwest Border, Northern Border, Coastal Regions, and throughout the United States. As part of Sector Special Operations Detachments, BORSTAR supports the *2012–2016 Border Patrol Strategic Plan* by conducting intelligence-driven operations to target transnational criminal organizations, high-risk areas, and cross-border criminal activity.

BORSTAR is comprised of experienced Border Patrol agents selected from all U.S. Border Patrol sectors to attend and successfully complete the BORSTAR Selection and Training Course (STC).

The BORSTAR STC is a physically and mentally demanding course in which candidates are evaluated in various search and rescue techniques, tactical medicine, technical rescue, land navigation, communication, swift-water rescue, air operations, and the ability to work in a cohesive unit.

Upon completion of the BORSTAR STC, BORSTAR agents receive additional advanced specialized training in emergency medical; tactical medicine; technical rope rescue; paramedic; austere medic; load planner; helicopter rope suspension training; rescue watercraft/boat operator; cold-weather operations; personnel recovery; small unit tactics; tactical combat casualty care; operations management and planning; and advanced dive, swift-water, and technical rope rescue operations. ❖



BORSTAR Agents conducting swift-water rescue training.