

Laredo Sector Border Patrol agents in Texas assist the Laredo Police Department with a distress call from a stash house Feb. 20. The event unfolded after police received a call from a woman stating that she was being held against her will alongside a large group people. A total of 37 individuals were discovered inside the house. CBP photo

Supervisory Border Patrol Agent Kenneth Kroupa could not believe his eyes.

"Just imagine 60 people in an enclosed space with no electricity, running water, or food," he said, describing the conditions in a "stash house," a place where human smugglers cram illegal aliens until they can "distribute" them