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Surveillance Drones Don't Live Up To Expectations

Nearly two years after Predator B drones were [deployed](#) along the Texas/Mexico international border, the unmanned surveillance aircraft have proven to be, well, not worth it. The drones were intended to augment the presence of border agents and physical barriers such as some 700 miles of intermittent border fencing along the Rio Grande River. *The Hill* reported on June 10, 2010 that setting up a single drone in Corpus Christi, Texas (on the Gulf Coast), would have an estimated cost of between \$20 and \$80 million to focus on the Texas border alone.



Even the governor of the Lone Star State, [Rick Perry](#) had more faith in the aircraft than has been borne out. He told a New Hampshire audience last August, “Because if we will commit to that, [using predator drones] I will suggest to you that we will be able to drive the drug cartels away from that border.”

But, according to the *Los Angeles Times* for April 30, 2012 “Mixed results show a