



[Home](#)

ISSUES

[Issue 16](#)
[Issue 15](#)
[Issue 14](#)
[Issue 13](#)
[Issue 12](#)
[Issue 11](#)
[Issue 10](#)

FOLLOW

[Flickr](#)
[Facebook / Twitter](#)
[Blog](#)
[One Picture Look](#)

INFO

[About](#)
[Archive](#)
[Support](#)
[Submissions](#)
[Contact](#)

Center

[Center and Fraction](#)
[About the Awards](#)
[Project Competition](#)
[Project Launch](#)
[Editor's Choice](#)
[Director's Choice](#)
[Curator's Choice](#)

David Taylor's *Working the Line*

For the last four years I have been photographing along the U.S.-Mexico border between El Paso/Juarez and Tijuana/San Diego. The project is organized around an effort to document all of the monuments that mark the international boundary west of the Rio Grande. The rigorous effort to reach all of the approximately 276 obelisks, which were installed between 1891 and 1895, has inevitably led to encounters with migrants, smugglers, Border Patrol agents, minutemen and local residents of the borderlands.

The southwest border is a territory in transition. During the period of my work the United States Border Patrol has doubled in size and the federal government has constructed over 600 miles of pedestrian fencing and vehicle barrier. With apparatus that range from simple tire drags (that erase foot prints allowing fresh evidence of crossing to be more readily identified) to seismic sensors (that detect the passage of people on foot or in a vehicle) the border is under constant surveillance. To date the Border Patrol has attained "operational control" in many areas, however people and drugs continue to cross. Much of that traffic occurs in the most remote and dangerous areas of the southwest desert.

My travels along the border have been done both alone and in the company of Border Patrol agents. I have been granted broad access to photograph field operations and the routine activities that occur within Border Patrol stations.

In total, the resulting pictures are intended to offer a view into locations and situations that we generally do not access. In doing so, I hope to portray a highly complex physical, social and political topography that is most often framed by reductive, ideologically driven polemics.

David Taylor is a photographer, teacher, and Guggenheim fellow based in Las Cruces, NM. To view more of David's work, please visit his [website](#).

Order David's new book *Working the Line* published by Radius Books.



Border Monument No.1 - N 31° 47.036' W 106° 31.781'



Home

ISSUES

- Issue 16
- Issue 15
- Issue 14
- Issue 13
- Issue 12
- Issue 11
- Issue 10

FOLLOW

- Flickr
- Facebook / Twitter
- Blog
- One Picture Look

INFO

- About
- Archive
- Support
- Submissions
- Contact

Center

- Center and Fraction
- About the Awards
- Project Competition
- Project Launch
- Editor's Choice
- Director's Choice
- Curator's Choice



Border Monument No.4 - N 31° 47.034' W 106° 39.738'



Border Monument No.36 - N 31° 47.024' W 108° 05.902'



Home

ISSUES

- Issue 16
- Issue 15
- Issue 14
- Issue 13
- Issue 12
- Issue 11
- Issue 10

FOLLOW

- Flickr
- Facebook / Twitter
- Blog
- One Picture Look

INFO

- About
- Archive
- Support
- Submissions
- Contact

Center

- Center and Fraction
- About the Awards
- Project Competition
- Project Launch
- Editor's Choice
- Director's Choice
- Curator's Choice



Border Monument No.90 - N 31° 20.050' W 109° 49.143'



Border Monument No.106 - N 31° 19.978' W 110° 27.515'



Home

ISSUES

- Issue 16
- Issue 15
- Issue 14
- Issue 13
- Issue 12
- Issue 11
- Issue 10

FOLLOW

- Flickr
- Facebook / Twitter
- Blog
- One Picture Look

INFO

- About
- Archive
- Support
- Submissions
- Contact

Center

- Center and Fraction
- About the Awards
- Project Competition
- Project Launch
- Editor's Choice
- Director's Choice
- Curator's Choice



Border Monument No.126 - N 31° 19.928' W 111° 04.217'



Border Monument No.146 - N 31° 35.344' W 111° 52.763'



Home

ISSUES

- Issue 16
- Issue 15
- Issue 14
- Issue 13
- Issue 12
- Issue 11
- Issue 10

FOLLOW

- Flickr
- Facebook / Twitter
- Blog
- One Picture Look

INFO

- About
- Archive
- Support
- Submissions
- Contact

Center

- Center and Fraction
- About the Awards
- Project Competition
- Project Launch
- Editor's Choice
- Director's Choice
- Curator's Choice



Border Monument No.184 - N 32° 09.347' W 113° 42.403'



Border Monument No.204 - N 32° 29.045' W 114° 46.801'



Home

ISSUES

- Issue 16
- Issue 15
- Issue 14
- Issue 13
- Issue 12
- Issue 11
- Issue 10

FOLLOW

- Flickr
- Facebook / Twitter
- Blog
- One Picture Look

INFO

- About
- Archive
- Support
- Submissions
- Contact

Center

- Center and Fraction
- About the Awards
- Project Competition
- Project Launch
- Editor's Choice
- Director's Choice
- Curator's Choice



Border Monument No.210 - N 32° 42.352' W 114° 54.596'



Border Monument No.244 - N 32° 34.624' W 116° 37.214'



Home

ISSUES

- Issue 16
- Issue 15
- Issue 14
- Issue 13
- Issue 12
- Issue 11
- Issue 10

FOLLOW

- Flickr
- Facebook / Twitter
- Blog
- One Picture Look

INFO

- About
- Archive
- Support
- Submissions
- Contact

Center

- Center and Fraction
- About the Awards
- Project Competition
- Project Launch
- Editor's Choice
- Director's Choice
- Curator's Choice



Border Monument No.245 - N 32° 34.420' W 116° 39.528'



Border Monument No.258 - N 32° 32.072' W 117° 07.36



Home

ISSUES

- Issue 16
- Issue 15
- Issue 14
- Issue 13
- Issue 12
- Issue 11
- Issue 10

FOLLOW

- Flickr
- Facebook / Twitter
- Blog
- One Picture Look

INFO

- About
- Archive
- Support
- Submissions
- Contact

Center

- Center and Fraction
- About the Awards
- Project Competition
- Project Launch
- Editor's Choice
- Director's Choice
- Curator's Choice



U.S./Mexico border near El Paso/Juarez



Drag, New Mexico



Home

ISSUES

- Issue 16
- Issue 15
- Issue 14
- Issue 13
- Issue 12
- Issue 11
- Issue 10

FOLLOW

- Flickr
- Facebook / Twitter
- Blog
- One Picture Look

INFO

- About
- Archive
- Support
- Submissions
- Contact

Center

- Center and Fraction
- About the Awards
- Project Competition
- Project Launch
- Editor's Choice
- Director's Choice
- Curator's Choice



Smugglers, Sonora



Seismic Sensor, Texas



Home

ISSUES

- Issue 16
- Issue 15
- Issue 14
- Issue 13
- Issue 12
- Issue 11
- Issue 10

FOLLOW

- Flickr
- Facebook / Twitter
- Blog
- One Picture Look

INFO

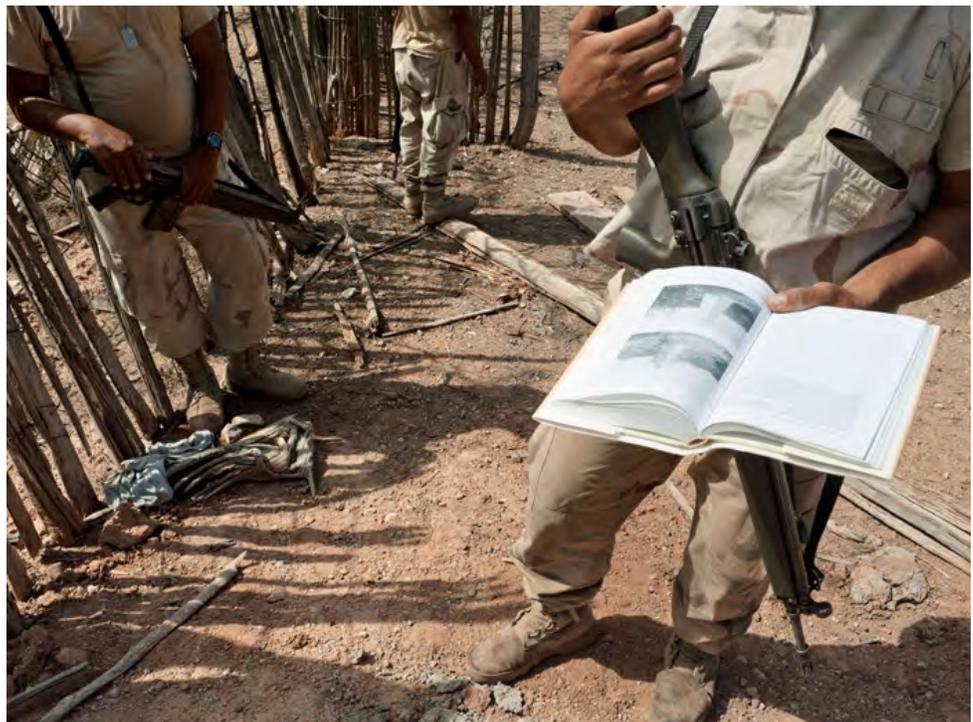
- About
- Archive
- Support
- Submissions
- Contact

Center

- Center and Fraction
- About the Awards
- Project Competition
- Project Launch
- Editor's Choice
- Director's Choice
- Curator's Choice



Detention Cell (with serape), New Mexico



Mexican Soldiers, U.S. - Mexico Border



Home

ISSUES

- Issue 16
- Issue 15
- Issue 14
- Issue 13
- Issue 12
- Issue 11
- Issue 10

FOLLOW

- Flickr
- Facebook / Twitter
- Blog
- One Picture Look

INFO

- About
- Archive
- Support
- Submissions
- Contact

Center

- Center and Fraction
- About the Awards
- Project Competition
- Project Launch
- Editor's Choice
- Director's Choice
- Curator's Choice



Drop-off and Border Fence, Sonora



Intell Info, Texas



Home

ISSUES

- Issue 16
- Issue 15
- Issue 14
- Issue 13
- Issue 12
- Issue 11
- Issue 10

FOLLOW

- Flickr
- Facebook / Twitter
- Blog
- One Picture Look

INFO

- About
- Archive
- Support
- Submissions
- Contact

Center

- Center and Fraction
- About the Awards
- Project Competition
- Project Launch
- Editor's Choice
- Director's Choice
- Curator's Choice



Seized Bales, Arizona



Trophy Belt and Novels, FOB Camp Desert Grip, Arizona



Home

ISSUES

- Issue 16
- Issue 15
- Issue 14
- Issue 13
- Issue 12
- Issue 11
- Issue 10

FOLLOW

- Flickr
- Facebook / Twitter
- Blog
- One Picture Look

INFO

- About
- Archive
- Support
- Submissions
- Contact

Center

- Center and Fraction
- About the Awards
- Project Competition
- Project Launch
- Editor's Choice
- Director's Choice
- Curator's Choice



Awaiting Processing, Arizona



Office Work (shared desk), Texas