



LOUISIANA DRUG GUARD

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Highway stop produces fruitful harvest

LAFAYETTE—Homemakers aren't the only ones who keep a sharp eye out for moldy produce these days.

State Troopers seized just over 1,600 pounds of marijuana from an 18-wheeler after the quality of its cargo—oranges—aroused the suspicion of the officer.

After finding discrepancies in the bill of lading, the trooper got written permission to search the truck's cargo.

The 35 pallets of oranges appeared "old and deteriorated," said a spokesman for the State Police.

Upon closer inspection, the trooper discovered bundles of marijuana hidden under the fruit.

The street value of the marijuana is between \$1,500 and \$2,500 a pound, meaning the cargo seized by the

troopers would be valued between \$2.4 million and \$4 million.

For a seizure of this size, officials said they typically inventory and weigh the drugs, take samples of each bundle and then consult with the district attorney. If the SA consents, the police get a court order allowing them to destroy the majority of the seizure, which saves on storage space.

The troopers believed the driver, of Mercedes, Texas, was unaware that he was transporting illegal drugs.

An investigation is underway to discover if any fruit companies were involved in similar transport of marijuana in the past.

Staff Sgt. Leo Davis III, supports LSP Narcotics

Wooden crates reveal more than 600 pounds of marijuana

NEW ORLEANS---In late September, a vessel from Vera Cruz Mexico enroute to Canada, was selected for a lower level physical verification of the manifested quantity. This is where containers are selected for 100 percent examination.

Of the containers selected, one was manifested to contain plastic bottles. Upon stripping the container, 33 wooden crates were discovered in the nose of the container by USCS Inspectors and members of the Louisiana National Guard Counter Drug Task Force.

Further inspection of the wooden crates revealed packages which field tested positive for marijuana.

Inside the 33 crates were 274 packages of marijuana. Each package weighed approximately one kilogram.

The total amount of the marijuana was 603 pounds with a street value of \$1.8 million.

Master Sgt. Clarence Wilson, Staff Sgts Jerry Young, Patrick Tyrrell, Sgts Emmitt Brown, Simmie Brown, Paul Dey, Cory Speakman, John Carter, Jason Horne, and Spec. Greg Kily support U.S. Customs Service River Investigations Group

Interviews with the people who make up the Counter Drug Task Force

The 3rd degree

Master Sgt. John M. Harris is a nine-year veteran with the CTF. He is assigned to DEA New Orleans and is also the computer guru for the program. **What's this about teaching kids to tumble in your spare time? I own and operate a tumbling gym on the Westbank and teach over 200 kids per week ranging from 2 years to adult. How did you get into this sport in the first place?** *I was a gymnast when I was a kid. I coached my way through college, and after I got married to Kendall, she was a dance teacher, it was logical that we open a mutual business that encompassed both of our talents. I hear your contact with these kids goes beyond the gym. I do volunteer work for nearly every boy scout and cub scout troop that goes to the gym. I have displays set up and I will be running a flag cremation (retiring the flag) ceremony for a troop at the young marines camp on the Naval Air Station during the airshow. I bet you've seen a lot of changes with a lot of kids. By far the biggest change we see in the kids is their level of self esteem. When you motivate someone to do something that they have never done before, it gives them belief in themselves that they didn't have before. They become willing to try new things because they believe in themselves.*

Nurses distribute illegal meds

NEW ORLEANS—The Gretna Police Department Narcotics Division, along with the DEA Diversion Unit, arrested two registered nurses employed by the New Orleans Narcotic Treatment Center.

An undercover agent with the Gretna PD made several undercover

purchases. The nurses were arrested with the possession and distribution of approximately 100 DU of Methadone. The four undercover purchases totaled 163 DU of Methadone with a street value estimated at \$7,335.

Staff Sgt. Daryl Grush supports Gretna PD

False ID leads trooper to hidden cargo

LAKE CHARLES—After being pulled over on Interstate 10 for a traffic violation, the driver of a late model car gave the trooper a fictitious driver's license. This alerted the officer that something was not quite right. A search of the vehicle disclosed 80 pounds of marijuana inside three duffel bags in the trunk.

As it turned out, the female is a convicted drug trafficker and resident of Westwego. She told officers she was returning to New Orleans from Lake Jackson Texas. Not this time she's not.

Sgt. Brian Lavergne supports LSP Narcotics in Lake Charles

Warrant proves profitable with large seizure

MARRERO—Agents of the Terrebonne Narcotic Task Force assisted agents from the Jefferson Parish Narcotic Division with a search warrant in Marrero. More than 74 pounds of marijuana and \$20,779 in U.S. currency were seized from the residence. *Staff Sgt John Fos supports Terrebonne Parish Sheriffs Office*

Gulf Coast HIDTA uncovers area meth labs

NEW ORLEANS--- The DEA-led Major Investigations Team of the Gulf Coast High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area adds to their scorecard identifying and confiscating four clandestine methamphetamine labs in the past two months.

The lab in LaPlace, La. led investigators to a second lab in Covington, La. The LaPlace lab was found in a residential neighborhood while the other in a shed out back. In fact, one of the houses was next door to a sheriff's relative. Chemicals and drugs

were seized from these two cases, as well as several arrests made.

Another lab, in a French Quarter hotel, turned up only chemicals. And the fourth lab was discovered at an undisclosed location. In all over 12 arrests were made in the four cases. The suspects were all users making the drugs for sale and distribution.

The MIT is made up of agents from DEA, FBI, IRS, LSP, New Orleans PD and Jefferson Parish SO.

Staff Sgt. Kristi Moon supports the GC HIDTA

Honor all veterans November 11th