



NEWS RELEASE

January 13, 2003

McAllen Sector Has Seized More Than 43 Tons of Marijuana *3,007 Pounds Seized Jan. 10 at Falfurrias Checkpoint*

McALLEN, Texas – Chief Patrol Agent Jose E. Garza announced that Border Patrol Agents of the McAllen Border Patrol Sector have seized a total of 96,713 pounds of marijuana, more than 43 tons, valued at \$77,376,808 in fiscal year 2003 thru Jan. 12. Fiscal year 2003 seizures are less than the 113,741 pounds of marijuana seized during the same time period in fiscal year 2002.

The most recent marijuana seizure occurred at the traffic checkpoint on Highway 281 located 13 miles south of Falfurrias, Texas. The seizure totaled 3,007 pounds of marijuana valued at \$2,405,600.

Friday, Jan. 10, Agents of the Falfurrias Border Patrol Station assigned to the traffic checkpoint inspected a White 1994 Freightliner and trailer. The driver, a 49-year-old United States citizen from Monet, Va., drove into the traffic checkpoint at approximately 10:40 p.m. An agent asked him as to his citizenship as another conducted a free-air inspection of the exterior of the vehicle with his canine.

The canine alerted positively to the presence of humans or drugs concealed within the trailer portion of the vehicle. The driver was referred to the secondary inspection area for a closer inspection of the vehicle. The canine alerted a second time and the driver consented to a search of the trailer. Closer inspection of the contents of the trailer revealed 157 bundles of marijuana wrapped in clear cellophane that was found in several of the boxes mixed amongst the cabbage that was covered in shaved ice. The 157 bundles weighed a total of 3,007 pounds valued at \$2,405,600. The driver was arrested and charged with Possession of Marijuana with Intent to Distribute. The driver and the marijuana were turned over to the Drug Enforcement Administration in Corpus Christi, Texas, for prosecution.

In fiscal year 2002, McAllen Sector seized 27% of all the marijuana and 58% of all the cocaine along the southwest border as compared to the other eight southwest Border Patrol Sectors. “The highly trained and diligent Agents of the McAllen Border Patrol Sector work 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, rain or shine, to protect our nations borders against threats and serve our communities with pride and professionalism.”

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