

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP)

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Marfa Sector Nabs Two Marijuana Loads

Sierra Blanca Agents Get Over 1,200 Pounds

MARFA, Texas – Agents of the Border Patrol, a division of U. S. Customs and Border Protection, made two significant seizures early this week totaling 1,234 pounds of marijuana.

Monday morning, the driver of a 1998 Freightliner refused to stop at the Sierra Blanca Checkpoint. Marfa Sector Border Patrol agents followed and were able to stop the truck a short distance away. Agents examined the trailer and discovered the seal had been broken. A closer inspection of the trailer revealed 13 bundles of marijuana hidden in boxes. The marijuana weighed 695 pounds and has an estimated value of \$556,000. The driver, a United States Citizen from North Carolina, the tractor-trailer and the marijuana were turned over to the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Tuesday morning, Border Patrol agents attempted to stop a 1986 Mercury Grand Marquis near the Rio Grande River west of Sierra Blanca for an immigration inspection. The vehicle pulled over to the side of the road and two men got out of the vehicle. The men ran back towards the Rio Grande River and crossed into Mexico. In the trunk of the vehicle, agents found 120 bundles and several burlap sacks containing 539.5 pounds of marijuana. The marijuana has an estimated value of \$431,500. The vehicle and marijuana were turned over to the Hudspeth County Sheriff's Office.

Since Oct. 1, 2002, the Marfa Border Patrol Sector has seized almost 66,000 pounds of marijuana. The sector has seized nearly \$96 million in drugs this fiscal year.

The Border Patrol is a division of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, a new agency within the Department of Homeland Security responsible for managing and securing our Nation's borders.

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