

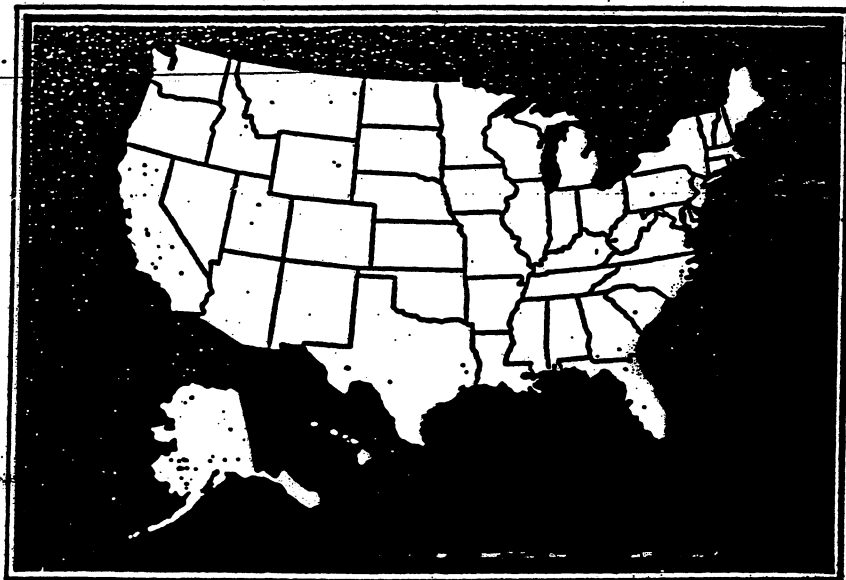
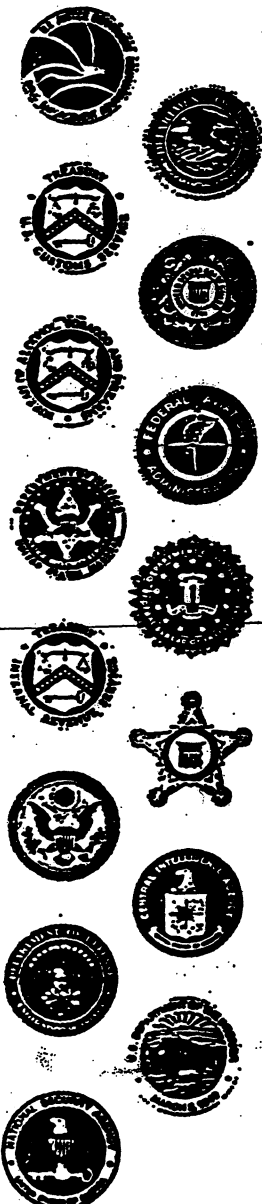
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U.S. Department of Justice
Drug Enforcement Administration
El Paso Intelligence Center

DEA
EPIC Domestic Quarterly Threat Brief October -
December 1997
100712
Colmar and Associates, Inc.

EPIC

Domestic Quarterly Threat Brief



DTB-04-97
OCT. - DEC. 1997

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(DS) On November 18, Buffalo Grove, Illinois, police officers seized 100 kilograms of cocaine from a Russian national traveling in a 1994 Jeep Cherokee. The cocaine may have come from Florida. The cocaine was inside two suitcases located on the floor in the rear area. An additional 175 kilograms of cocaine were seized at a residence. The cocaine packages were marked with a picture of a sail boat, a picture of Uncle Sam holding a coin bag, "S" inside a circle, "NN," "IZ," "QAP," "CM," a blue star of David, "XXB," "NIKE," "RMBI," "ZT," "PDTD," "RUBI," "R OR B UB," or a picture of a watch band with a soccer ball for the face on a green soccer field.

(DS) On November 25, Illinois State Police officers seized \$324,065 from a rented 1994 Ford F-350 pickup towing the driver's 1980 Volkswagen truck, both with California plates. A Mexican couple, residents of Lynwood, California, was en route to Los Angeles, California, from Chicago, Illinois. The currency was concealed in a hidden compartment built into the walls of the Volkswagen truck.

(DS) On December 4, Illinois State Police officers seized \$400,000 from a male Venezuelan national resident of Melrose Park, Illinois, driving a van in Cook County. The currency was in bags located in the rear of the van.

(DS) On December 6, USCS Inspectors at the Chicago, Illinois, international airport seized 7.7 kilograms of heroin from two express mail packages arriving from Thailand and destined for Joliet and Pontiac, Illinois. The heroin was concealed in the bottom of cooking pots.

(DS) On December 9, USCS Inspectors at the Chicago, Illinois, international airport seized 1.1 kilograms of heroin from a Ghanaian national resident of Chicago, Illinois, arriving aboard American Airlines from Germany. The 37-

year-old male had concealed the heroin in the shoes he was wearing.

(DS) On December 12, USCS Inspectors at the Chicago, Illinois, international airport seized 1.1 kilograms of heroin from a mail parcel arriving from Thailand and destined for Chicago.

(DS) On December 14, USCS Inspectors at the Chicago, Illinois, international airport seized 1.36 kilograms of opium from an express mail parcel arriving from Thailand and destined for Tracy, Minnesota. The opium was concealed in two pieces of fabric covered in cellophane.

(DS) On December 21, USCS Inspectors at the Chicago, Illinois, international airport seized 2 kilograms of opium from a mail parcel arriving from Thailand and destined for Menomonie, Wisconsin. The opium was saturated into several pieces of fabric.

(DS) On December 21, USCS Inspectors at the Chicago, Illinois, international airport seized 4.6 kilograms of opium from a mail parcel arriving from Thailand and destined for St. Paul, Minnesota. The opium was saturated into two pieces of fabric.

Kansas

(DS) DEA Kansas City culminated an investigation into a significant Mexican methamphetamine-smuggling group by arresting 10 individuals and seizing a total of 41 kilograms of methamphetamine. The group smuggled the methamphetamine into the United States via the California border, stored the drugs in the Riverside, California, area, and then either express-mailed or transported by passenger car the methamphetamine to Kansas City in exact increments of 8 kilograms. According to the case agent, during the past 2 years, this group has smuggled loads of

HEALTHTECH CEO, BROKER TO TESTIFY IN MOB ON WALL STREET TRIAL

New York, April 1 (Bloomberg) — The chairman of HealthTech International Inc. and a stockbroker said today they will testify in their own defense in the first trial stemming from the government's prosecution of organized crime on Wall Street.

"We're going to testify. We have nothing to hide," HealthTech Chairman [REDACTED] said during a break in the second week of the racketeering and fraud trial against him and broker [REDACTED].

"We did nothing wrong," [REDACTED] said.

[REDACTED] a former broker at Meyers Pollock & Robbins in Long Island, New York, are charged with participating in a conspiracy to inflate HealthTech's stock price and sell the overpriced shares to unwitting investors.

Federal prosecutors in New York contend that the stock manipulation was an attempt by the [REDACTED] organized crime families to enter the securities industry by bribing Meyers Pollock brokers to hype HealthTech and other penny stocks. A ring of 20 defendants made more than \$1.3 million in illegal proceeds in 1997 by selling shares of HealthTech, a Mesa, Arizona-based health-club chain, prosecutors said.

Since authorities announced the arrests in November 1997, 14 people have pleaded guilty. They include four alleged members of the New York crime families and stock promoter [REDACTED] an alleged associate of both families.

[REDACTED] Hicksville, New York, deny cheating investors or rubbing elbows with the mob.

[REDACTED] didn't know about the shady backgrounds of the people he hired in New York and Florida to promote his company's stock while he was busy running HealthTech from Arizona, according to his lawyer [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] who is among the brokers charged with accepting bribes, says any compensation he received were brokerage commissions and legitimate payment for selling HealthTech stock, according to his lawyer, [REDACTED].

If convicted, [REDACTED] could face 20 years in prison and fines.

The trial before U.S. District Judge Denny Chin in Manhattan is expected to last about three months.

The prosecution's key witness so far has been [REDACTED] disbarred lawyer and thrice-convicted felon who has admitted to organized crime ties and to a central role in the HealthTech fraud. [REDACTED] said he advised the two stock promoters [REDACTED] hired, alleged mob associate [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on how to run the HealthTech scheme.

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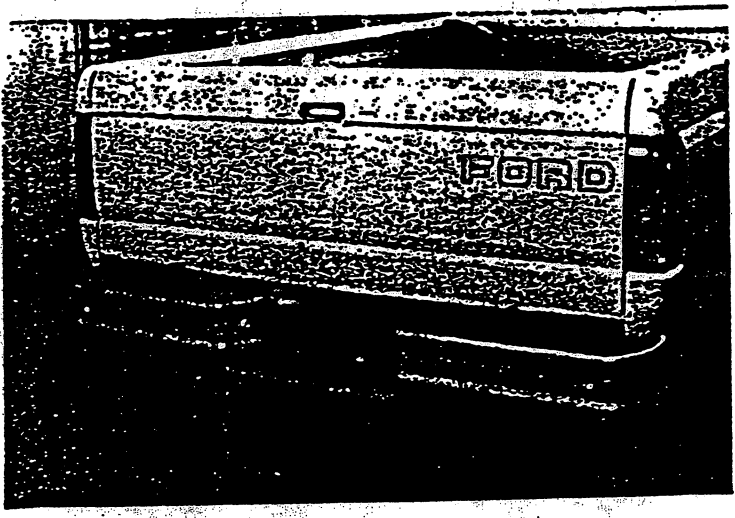
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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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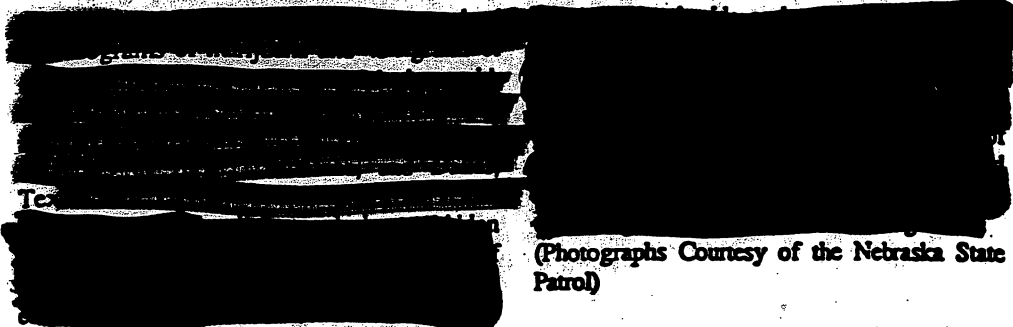
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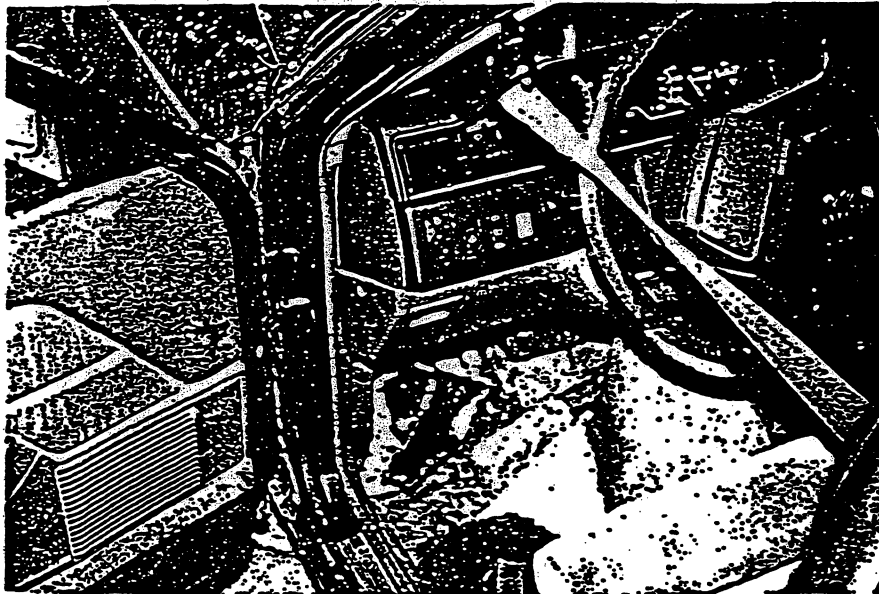
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~~REBOARD CONCEALMENT~~



(Photographs Courtesy of the Nebraska State Patrol)



~~DRUGS~~

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SIGNIFICANT ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

DOMESTIC

(DS) This section contains intelligence capsules of significant drug- or currency-related arrests or seizures in the United States. It is based on information available to EPIC and should not be considered all inclusive. Seizures with controlled deliveries pending will not be included without the prior approval of the agency reporting the seizure; therefore, significant enforcement activities may have occurred which are not reflected herein.

Arizona

(DS) On September 30, DEA Phoenix Special Agents with assistance from Phoenix Police officers, concluded an investigation of a polydrug-traffic ing organization, which resulted in the seizure of 22 kilograms of marijuana, 46 kilograms of cocaine, 14 kilograms of methamphetamine, over 60 weapons (including assault-type), \$285,000, 40 vehicles, 15 cloned phones, numerous properties, bank accounts, and documents. Law enforcement officials arrested 45 suspects and effectively dismantled the organization that had ties in both Sinaloa and Sonora.

(DS) On October 22, pursuant to a canine alert, USCS and INS Inspectors at the San Luis, Arizona, POE seized 10 kilograms of cocaine hidden under the front bench seat of a 1992 Nissan pickup with camper shell, bearing Arizona plates. The driver, a 35-year-old male Mexican national from Madera, California, was arrested. The vehicle is registered to another individual from Buckeye, Arizona.

(DS) On October 25, pursuant to a canine alert, USCS Inspectors at the Nogales-

DeConcini POE seized 11.7 kilograms of cocaine and 2 kilograms of Mexico-manufactured methamphetamine hidden in the gas tank of a 1988 Mercury Grand Marquis sedan with Sonora plates. The individual packages of cocaine and methamphetamine had been wrapped in tape, then vacuum-sealed in plastic. The driver, a 46-year-old female Mexican national from Tijuana, Baja California Norte, was arrested.

(DS) On October 27, as a result of information received from DEA Tucson, USCS Nogales Special Agents seized 1 kilogram of Mexican brown heroin from a 1984 Chevrolet Cheyenne pickup. The heroin was discovered in the dashboard. The vehicle was originally seized at the Nogales, Arizona, POE in May 1997, when 2.3 kilograms of Mexican brown heroin were discovered in the speaker box behind the passenger seat.

(DS) On October 31, Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) officers at the Tubac weight station on I-40 seized 226 kilograms of cocaine from a 1988 Freightliner. The cocaine, smeared in axle grease, was found in the sleeping area of the cab.

(DS) On November 5, USCS Nogales Special Agents and Arizona National Guardsmen seized 181 kilograms of cocaine from a 1987 Pontiac Bonneville with Sonora plates. Agents observed several backpackers crossing the international boundary within the Foreign Trade Zone, west of the Nogales-Mariposa POE and loading the bundles onto the backseat and into the trunk of the vehicle. Also seized was a Motorola two-way radio. The driver, a 23-year-old male Mexican national from Nogales, Sonora, was arrested.

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(DS) On November 7, pursuant to a canine alert, USCS Inspectors at the Douglas, Arizona, POE seized 107 kilograms of cocaine concealed inside a roof compartment of a 1994 Mitsubishi Montero with Arizona plates. The 63 packages of cocaine were wrapped in cellophane, 25 of which were kilogram-sized, and 1 was marked with the word "LUND." A 64-year-old female Mexican national resident of Bisbee, Arizona, was arrested. The vehicle is registered to a resident of Tucson, Arizona.

(DS) On November 9, INS/BP Agents seized 853 kilograms of marijuana from a 1991 Chevrolet 3500 stakebed truck with Sonora plates, traveling away from the international border on Forest Service Road (FSR) 61, near Sonoita, Arizona. When agents pursued, the occupants abandoned the vehicle at the bottom of a canyon, and fled toward Mexico. Some of the 53 bundles had been marked with the letters "WTS." One VHF/FM transceiver was also found inside the truck, which had probably been monitoring INS/BP communications.

(DS) On November 10, INS/BP Agents seized 411 kilograms of marijuana on the Tohono O'Odham Nation, north of Guvo Village, Arizona. Agents had followed a horse trail that led to the 10 bales of marijuana.

(DS) On November 16, pursuant to a canine alert, USCS Inspectors at the Nogales-Mariposa Avenue POE seized 7.6 kilograms of Mexican heroin from a 1988 Pontiac Grand Am coupe with California plates. The heroin was found in an altered original compartment on top of the firewall, behind the dashboard. The driver, a 50-year-old Mexican male resident of San Jose, California, was arrested. A border archive check indicated that the vehicle had made two entries into the United States at the Nogales, Arizona, and Del Rio, Texas, POE's in the past year.

(DS) On November 22, INS/BP Agents, USCS Nogales Patrol Agents, and USCS Tucson Air Assets seized 360 kilograms of marijuana abandoned by a group of 14 backpackers in a remote area west of I-19 and the Tumacacori National Monument.

(DS) On November 28, INS/BP Agents seized 121 kilograms of cocaine and a Motorola hand-held radio found abandoned at Tricky Wash near Nogales, Arizona. The 50 cocaine bricks had been wrapped in layers of either gray or white tape and black rubber, stamped with a five-pointed star in a circle, and placed inside 5 white plastic burlap bags. Three male Mexican juveniles found nearby were initially arrested on suspicion of involvement with the cocaine load.

(DS) On November 29, INS/BP Agents seized 469 kilograms of marijuana from a 1988 Dodge Ram pickup with Arizona plates, near the intersection of Arizona Highway 92 and Coronado Memorial Drive, near Palominas, Arizona. The marijuana was found under the floorboards, concealed by wood in the truck bed, and behind a seat. One suspect fled.

(DS) On December 2, pursuant to sensor activity, INS/BP Agents seized 521 kilograms of marijuana from a 1988 Chevrolet Suburban with Arizona plates, on Arizona Route 92 near Palominas, Arizona. The driver evaded the agents, but eventually crashed the vehicle into a barbed-wire fence. One 20-year-old, male Mexican national from Naco, Sonora, was arrested, and a male Mexican juvenile was detained. The marijuana was found in the front seat and rear cargo area of the vehicle. Some packages were marked with numbers.

(DS) On December 4, pursuant to a canine alert, USCS Inspectors at the Douglas, Arizona, POE seized 76 kilograms of cocaine from a 1990 Mazda MPV station wagon with

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Arizona plates. The cocaine, wrapped in clear cellophane, was marked with "LUNA" or imprinted with the letter "T" and concealed in a false roof compartment. Several small bags of crushed red chili pepper and black pepper, possibly being used as a masking agent, were found alongside the cocaine. The driver, a 17-year-old female resident of Douglas, Arizona, was detained.

(DS) On December 8, pursuant to an investigation, USCS Nogales Special Agents seized 116 kilograms of unmarked cocaine from a vacant apartment on Short Street in Nogales. The 50 packages of cocaine, wrapped in electrical tape, were found inside 4 burlap sacks. The apartment is located approximately 20 feet from the United States/Mexico boundary, and law enforcement personnel believe the drugs had been tossed over a fence and into the apartment complex area.

(DS) On December 8, after following "carpet-walker" tracks, INS/BP Agents from the Tucson and Casa Grande, Arizona, stations seized 519 kilograms of marijuana stashed under three trees located 5 miles west of Federal Route 19 on Vamori Road, near Topawa, Arizona. "Carpet walkers" are drug smugglers who place pieces of carpet on their feet in an attempt to hide their tracks. The marijuana was inside 31 white sugar sacks painted black. The agents observed several subjects running south and were able to apprehend one suspect, a 25-year-old male Mexican national from Caborca, Sonora. The subject admitted that he and 14 others had entered the United States illegally about 8 miles west of the Sasabe, Arizona, POE. He also stated that another group of 15 persons crossed with them, but traveled a different route to the stash site. The suspect was to be paid \$600 for the delivery, and a pickup was to arrive at the stash site, retrieve the

marijuana, and transport it to an unknown location.

(DS) On December 11, an INS/BP Agent located the tracks of six horses in a remote canyon in the Bartolo Mountains, approximately 2 miles southeast of Arivaca. The horse tracks were followed by INS/BP ground and air personnel to a site where 138 kilograms of marijuana and two weapons were found abandoned. The weapons were described as a .270-caliber Winchester rifle, equipped with a scope, and an assault rifle. The marijuana was contained in burlap bags. Six suspects riding horses back to Mexico were observed by agents in an INS/BP aircraft.

(DS) On December 19, pursuant to a canine alert, USCS Inspectors and Criminal Investigators seized 11 kilograms of cocaine at the San Luis, Arizona, POE from a rented 1997 Lincoln Towncar. The car was rented in California, possibly San Diego. The unmarked cocaine, wrapped in black tape, was located in the trunk and rear quarter panels. A small quantity of cocaine was discovered on a 26-year-old male resident of Bellevue, Washington. The suspect's passport indicated that he had made several visits to Colombia and Panama.

(DS) On December 26, Arizona DPS (Casa Grande) officers and USCS Sells Special Agents seized 417 kilograms of marijuana from a 1978 El Dorado motor home with Arizona plates, traveling west on I-10 in Pinal County, near Sells, Arizona. The marijuana was located inside the bathroom and closets of the vehicle. The 39-year-old-suspect, a resident of the Gu-Achi area of the Tohono O'Odham Nation, was en route to Phoenix, Arizona, from the Tohono O'Odham Nation.

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Arkansas

(DS) On October 14, Crittenden County, Arkansas, sheriff's deputies seized 11.3 kilograms of suspected Mexican methamphetamine from a stolen 1986 Chevrolet pickup with Texas plates, traveling east on I-40 in Little Rock, Arkansas. The methamphetamine was hidden in a compartment within the gas tank. The vehicle had been reported stolen in McAllen, Texas. A 37-year-old female resident of McAllen and/or San Juan, Texas, accompanied by a 14-year-old child, was en route to Memphis, Tennessee, from McAllen.

(DS) On October 14, Crittenden County, Arkansas, sheriff's deputies seized 10 kilograms of cocaine from a 1988 Isuzu pickup with Texas plates, traveling east on I-40 in Crittenden County. A Puerto Rican female, resident of Houston, Texas, was en route to Memphis, Tennessee, from Houston. The cocaine was concealed in two electrically controlled hidden compartments in the side panels behind the truck's speakers.

(DS) On October 22, Crittenden County, Arkansas, sheriff's officers seized 25 kilograms of cocaine from a 1988 Volkswagen with Texas plates, traveling east on I-40. Two Mexican females, residents of Inglewood, California, were en route to Chicago, Illinois, from Inglewood. The cocaine packages were discovered in a hidden compartment underneath the back seat, which was created by raising the floor under the seat. Access was gained by removing the seat, carpet, and fresh bondo. The carpet was held in place with silicone. The packages were marked with an arrowhead with "TRES" handwritten in blue.

(DS) On November 1, Crittenden County, Arkansas, sheriff's officers seized 12.7 kilograms of methamphetamine from a 1992 Nissan Maxima with California plates, traveling east on I-40. Two female Colombian nationals, residents of Los Angeles, California, were en route to Atlanta, Georgia, from Los Angeles. The methamphetamine, wrapped in vacuum-sealed plastic, was hidden inside a modified gas tank.

(DS) On November 1, Crittenden County, Arkansas, sheriff's officers seized 13.3 kilograms of methamphetamine from a 1989 Nissan Maxima with California plates, traveling east on I-40. Two Mexican females, residents of San Gabriel, California, were en route to Atlanta, Georgia, from Los Angeles. The methamphetamine was hidden inside the gas tank.

(DS) On December 19, Arkansas State Police officers seized 499 kilograms of marijuana from a 1997 Ford Expedition with Tennessee plates, traveling south on Arkansas Highway 149 in Crittenden County. The vehicle ended up in a lake as a result of a high-speed chase. The driver escaped.

California

(DS) On October 2, pursuant to a canine alert, USCS and INS Inspectors and Army National Guardsmen at the San Ysidro, California, POE seized 14 kilograms of cocaine from a 1990 Daihatsu EFI two-door with California plates. A total of 11 packages—9 wrapped in plastic or brown packaging tape and 2 in a fabric schoolbook bag—had been hidden in a floor compartment. Access to the compartment was gained through a panel under the rear seat. Two additional empty compartments were found in the rear bumper and behind the dashboard. The driver, a 50-year-old white male resident of San Diego, California, was arrested. The vehicle is

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registered to another individual from San Diego.

(DS) On October 2, USCS Inspectors at the Los Angeles, California, international airport seized 1.1 kilograms of heroin from an express mail parcel arriving from Thailand. The heroin was concealed in the bottom of cooking pots, packed inside a box.

(DS) On October 4, during the course of an investigation, DEA Special Agents assisted by Los Angeles and Costa Mesa Police officers seized 67 kilograms of cocaine from a 1986 Volvo with California plates, at a residence in Duarte, California. Two males and one female were arrested.

(DS) On October 7, pursuant to a canine alert, USCS Inspectors and National Guard personnel at the Calexico, California, POE seized 38 kilograms of cocaine hidden in the dashboard of a 1990 Chevrolet Lumina sedan with Arizona plates. The Hispanic 20-year-old male driver from Alpine, California, and his Hispanic 18-year-old female passenger from Chula Vista, California, were arrested. The vehicle was registered to another individual residing in Calexico.

(DS) On October 7, Burbank, California, Operation JETWAY Task Force officers seized 10 kilograms of cocaine from a black male resident of Studio City, California, and a Hispanic female resident of Martinez, California, traveling from Burbank to Detroit, Michigan, via Las Vegas, Nevada, on America West airlines. The cocaine was concealed in their checked luggage.

(DS) On October 12, pursuant to a canine alert, USCS Inspectors at the San Ysidro, California, POE seized 20 kilograms of suspected Mexican methamphetamine hidden in a compartment in the rear bumper of a 1990 Mitsubishi Galant sedan with California

plates. Sixteen packages, wrapped in gray duct tape, were marked with "PASCUAL." The driver, a 36-year-old male resident of Chino, California, and his two passengers were arrested.

(DS) On October 13, INS/BP Agents from Calexico, California, seized 1,033 kilograms of marijuana from the bed of a 1982 Ford pickup with a camper and California plates. One 28-year-old male was arrested.

(DS) On October 13, pursuant to a canine alert, USCS and INS Inspectors at the Calexico, California, POE seized 53 kilograms of Mexican methamphetamine hidden in a compartment in a 1992 Ford Taurus sedan with Baja California plates. Access to the compartment was gained through a plate under the rear seat. The driver, a 25-year-old male Mexican national and attorney from Mexicali, Baja California Norte, was arrested.

(DS) On October 15, as the result of an investigation, Glendale, California, police officers seized 11.4 kilograms of methamphetamine from a 1982 Chevrolet van with California plates, traveling west on I-10 in San Bernardino County. Two Mexican males and a Mexican female, residents of Baldwin Park and Beaumont, California, were detained. The methamphetamine was hidden in the rear panels of the van. Subsequent to this seizure, five houses were searched which led to the seizure of 150 gallons of methamphetamine oil, found in a lab capable of producing from 273 to 454 kilograms of methamphetamine. Three vehicles were seized and 10 suspects were arrested.

(DS) On October 19, pursuant to a canine alert, USCS Inspectors and Army National Guardsmen at the San Ysidro, California, POE seized 19 kilograms of cocaine from a 1990 Mazda 929 coupe with California plates. Fourteen packages of cocaine, wrapped in gray tape, were found in a compartment built

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under the front seat. The 36-year-old female driver from Chino, California, was arrested. Her 33-year-old male passenger was released. The vehicle is registered to a male relation of the driver, who had been arrested with two others, at the San Ysidro POE on October 12 for the attempted smuggling of 20 kilograms of suspected Mexican methamphetamine.

(DS) On October 19, USCS Inspectors and California Highway Patrol (CHP) officers seized 728 kilograms of marijuana from a 1987 Ford F-150 pickup with California plates. The pickup ran through the San Ysidro, California, POE in a northern direction, using the Mexican customs southbound lanes; and collided with the CHP vehicle that had been pursuing it. The marijuana was in the bed of the pickup. Two male Mexican nationals from Sinaloa and Guanajuato were arrested. The vehicle is registered to another individual from Tijuana, Baja California Norte.

[REDACTED]

(DS) On October 21, during the course of an investigation, DEA and FBI Los Angeles Special Agents seized a total of 2 kilograms of cocaine, 500 grams of heroin, and 26 kilograms of methamphetamine, from a residence in Hacienda Heights, California. One male suspect was arrested at the scene.

(DS) On October 22, CHP officers seized \$580,075 from a 1997 Chevrolet Tahoe with Georgia plates, traveling west on I-40 in San Bernardino County. A male resident of Ellenburg Depot, New York, was en route to Los Angeles, California, from Atlanta, Georgia.

[REDACTED]

(DS) On October 22, during the course of an investigation, DEA and USCS San Ysidro Special Agents and San Diego Police officers seized 3 kilograms of suspected Mexican brown heroin, one firearm, and \$10,000 at a residence in San Diego, California. The heroin was in four oddly-shaped packages and covered in grease. Two of the packages, wrapped in clear plastic, were cylindrical in shape, between 12 and 15 inches long with an odd bend along the length. A smaller package was bulbous-shaped. The fourth package was egg-shaped and wrapped in black electrical tape. DEA Special Agents believe that all of the heroin was crossed into the United States through the San Ysidro, California, POE and transported up to Santa Ana, California, before being brought back down to the San Diego area. One 23-year-old male was arrested.

(DS) On October 23, pursuant to a canine alert, USCS Inspectors at the Calexico, California, POE seized 30 kilograms of cocaine hidden in a false bottom of a toolbox in the bed of a 1981 Ford F-150 pickup with California plates. The 27 cocaine packages had been wrapped in layers of latex, clear and brown tape, and white and green tape, and were marked "LA ROSA" on labels. The driver, a 28-year-old male Mexican resident of El Centro, California, was arrested. During questioning, the driver presented a New Mexico identification card in lieu of a driver's license and a California vehicle registration.

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(DS) On October 23, during the course of an investigation, DEA Santa Ana Special Agents seized 1.5 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin in Brea, California. Two males and one female were arrested. The negotiated sale price of the heroin was \$105,000.

(DS) On October 27, INS/BP Agents seized 1,018 kilograms of marijuana from a 1975 Ford F-350 stakebed truck with Baja California Norte plates, after it was driven across the All-American Canal at the Alamo Creek, 7 miles east of the Calexico, California, POE. Agents followed the vehicle to a residence where the marijuana was found in the cargo area of the truck. The driver, a 21-year-old male Mexican national from San Luis Potosi, Mexico, was arrested. The vehicle is registered to another individual from Mexicali, Baja California Norte.

(DS) On October 28, during the course of an investigation, DEA Los Angeles Special Agents and Los Angeles Sheriff's deputies seized 12 kilograms of cocaine from a Chevrolet Beretta sports coupe, abandoned at a residence in Compton, California. The cocaine was found hidden in a compartment built behind the rear seats.

(DS) On October 28, as the result of an investigation, DEA San Diego Special Agents seized a total of 5.5 kilograms of Mexican black tar heroin in three incidents in National City, California. Approximately 3 kilograms of heroin were wrapped in clear plastic, another kilogram was inside a brown paper sack and marked with the number "1" or "2," and the remaining heroin was covered in gray electrician's tape.

[REDACTED]
Three males and two females were arrested.

(DS) On October 28, CHP officers seized 30 kilograms of methamphetamine from a 1990 Nissan pickup with California plates, traveling south on I-5 in Los Angeles County near Santa Clarita. A male resident of Sylmar, California, was en route to Huntington Park, California. The methamphetamine was hidden inside trash bags in the bed of the pickup.

(DS) On October 29, USCS Inspectors at the San Francisco, California, international airport seized 1.8 kilograms of opium from a mail parcel arriving from Thailand and destined for Sacramento, California. The package had a Muong Phiang, Sayaboury, Laos, return address. The opium was wrapped in plastic and placed between leaves that had been glued together.

(DS) On October 29, pursuant to a canine alert, USCS and INS Inspectors and National Guardsmen at the Calexico, California, POE seized 54 kilograms of cocaine from a 1997 Mercury Sable sedan with Baja California Norte plates. The cocaine packages, wrapped in brown packaging tape, were hidden in a compartment built under the back seat and gas tank. Access to the compartment was through the rear tire wells. A 36-year-old female Mexican national from Mexicali, Baja California Norte, was arrested.

(DS) On October 30, as the result of an investigation, DEA Special Agents and Los Angeles Sheriff's officers seized approximately \$3 million and arrested three suspects at a residence in Valencia, California. Investigators earlier identified the suspects as members of a drug money-laundering organization.

(DS) On October 31, CHP officers seized 12 kilograms of cocaine from a 1995 Ford F-150 pickup with a camper shell and Michigan plates, traveling on I-40 in San Bernardino

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County. The cocaine was hidden in a compartment in the roof of the camper shell. The driver, a 29-year-old black male resident of Detroit, Michigan, was reportedly en route to Atlanta, Georgia, from Los Angeles, California.

(DS) On October 31, USCS Inspectors at the San Francisco, California, mail facility seized 2.3 kilograms of opium from a mail parcel arriving from Thailand and destined for Shasta Lake, California. The opium was concealed within 106 boxes of pork- and chicken-flavored bullion cubes.

(DS) On November 3, pursuant to a canine alert, USCS Inspectors and National Guardsmen at the San Ysidro, California, POE seized 13 kilograms of Mexican methamphetamine from a hidden compartment under the floor of a 1988 Mazda 929 sedan with California plates. A 24-year-old male Mexican national resident of Los Angeles, California, was arrested.

(DS) On November 3, CHP officers seized 12 kilograms of methamphetamine from a 1996 Pontiac Grand Am with Colorado plates, traveling north on I-15 in San Bernardino County. Two males, a resident of Arvada, Colorado, and a resident of Denver, Colorado, were en route to Denver from El Monte, California.

(DS) On November 3, USCS Inspectors at the Los Angeles, California, international airport mail facility seized 2.2 kilograms of heroin from an express mail parcel arriving from Thailand and destined for Los Angeles. The heroin was concealed in the bottom of six cooking pots.

(DS) On November 3, USCS Inspectors at the San Francisco, California, international airport seized 1 kilogram of opium from a

mail parcel arriving from Thailand. The opium was concealed in 36 plastic cans of baby powder.

(DS) On November 4, DEA Special Agents and Ventura, California, police officers seized 16.6 kilograms of methamphetamine, 3.6 kilograms of pseudoephedrine, and three firearms from a vehicle in Long Beach, California. A followup investigation led to the seizure of an additional 900 grams of methamphetamine and the arrest of a suspect in South Gate, California.

(DS) On November 5, as a result of an investigation, USCS Special Agents and Imperial County Narcotics Task Force officers seized 536 grams of Mexican black tar heroin in El Centro, California. The negotiated price of the heroin was \$40,000 (for 20 ounces). Three suspects were arrested, including two 32-year-old females and one 30-year-old male Mexican national from San Luis Rio Colorado, Sonora.

(DS) On November 6, USCS Inspectors at the Los Angeles, California, international airport seized 2.8 kilograms of opium from a mail parcel arriving from Thailand. The opium was concealed in a package of wooden chips.

(DS) On November 12, USCS Inspectors at the Los Angeles, California, international airport seized 10 kilograms of opium from a U.S. citizen resident of Los Angeles, California, arriving aboard British Airways from England. The 36-year-old male had concealed the opium in his suitcase.

(DS) On November 13, pursuant to a canine alert, USCS and INS Inspectors, and National Guardsmen at the San Ysidro, California, POE seized 37 kilograms of Mexico-manufactured methamphetamine hidden in a compartment under the rear seat of a 1989 Isuzu Amigo

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with California plates. Access to the compartment was through an electronically controlled panel under the carpeting. The driver, a 25-year-old male resident of Casroville, California, was arrested.

(DS) On November 14, pursuant to a canine alert, USCS Inspectors and National Guardsmen at the Otay Mesa, California, POE seized 439 kilograms of marijuana hidden in a compartment built into the front wall of a trailer being towed by a 1980 Freightliner tractor with California plates. The 131 packages of marijuana had been gift-wrapped. The driver, a 35-year-old male Mexican national from Tijuana, Baja California Norte, was arrested.

(DS) On November 14, pursuant to a canine alert, USCS Inspectors at the San Ysidro, California, POE seized 4.7 kilograms of Mexican brown heroin hidden in the rear bumper of a 1983 Toyota Tercel hatchback with California plates. One 18-year-old male Mexican national from Tijuana, Baja California Norte, was arrested.

(DS) On November 16, pursuant to a canine alert, INS/BP Agents at the checkpoint on U.S. Highway 86 near Salton City, California, seized 379 kilograms of cocaine from a trailer towed by a 1982 Freightliner tractor with California plates. The cellophane-wrapped packages of cocaine were in eight cardboard U-Haul boxes commingled in a crate of lemons. During questioning, the driver, a 28-year-old male Mexican national from Salinas, California, had presented an I-94 (nonimmigrant visitor card).

(DS) On November 19, after a canine alert, USCS Inspectors, National Guardsmen, and CHP officers at the Otay Mesa, California, POE seized 395 kilograms of marijuana from a 1985 Ford bobtail (flatbed) truck with California plates. A total of 298 packages

were removed from a 200-inch by 84-inch by 3-inch compartment built into the floor. The surface had been covered with lead sheets. The driver, a 35-year-old male Mexican national, legally residing in San Diego, California, and three others (NFI) were arrested. The truck is registered to another individual from Tecate, Baja California Norte.

(DS) On November 20, USCS and INS Inspectors and National Guardsmen at the San Ysidro, California, POE seized 1.5 kilograms of Mexican heroin and 1.2 kilograms of cocaine from a 30-year-old white male resident of Chicago, Illinois, attempting to enter the United States on foot. The drugs, in pellet form, were discovered strapped around his waist and on both ankles.

(DS) On November 20, as the result of an investigation, USCS Special Agents and local law enforcement officers seized a total of 54 kilograms of cocaine from a 1988 Pontiac with California plates, and from 55-gallon drums hidden at a residence in Ontario, California. Two males, one a Mexican national resident of Ontario, California, were arrested.

(DS) On November 28, pursuant to a canine alert, USCS and INS Inspectors at the Calexico, California, POE seized 28 kilograms of cocaine hidden in a compartment under the floor of a 1987 Nissan Sentra with California plates. An 18-year-old female resident of Palm Desert, California, was arrested. The vehicle is registered to another individual from Pasadena, California.

(DS) On November 28, subsequent to a canine alert, USCS Inspectors at the Calexico, California, POE seized 750 kilograms of cocaine hidden in a 12-inch deep compartment extending the full length of the floor of a 1993 Bounder motor home with California plates. The 623 individual packages had been

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wrapped in brown packaging tape and placed inside ziplock bags. Also seized were two 1997 Yamaha Quad 350 ATV's on a utility trailer. The owner of the motor home, a 59-year-old white male resident of Chula Vista, California, was arrested. A 26-year-old female passenger (relative) was released.

(DS) On November 30, pursuant to a canine alert, USCS and INS Inspectors at the San Ysidro, California, POE seized 37 kilograms of cocaine from the gas tank of a 1988 GMC van with California plates. Removing the gas tank revealed an open access on the top of the tank, with the 33 cellophane-wrapped cocaine packages visible inside. The driver, a 42-year-old male resident of Calexico, California, was arrested.


(DS) On December 3, DEA Special Agents and INS/BP Agents seized 1,440 kilograms of marijuana from a Ford pickup that had crossed from Mexico 7 miles east of the Calexico, California, POE. Five suspects were arrested.

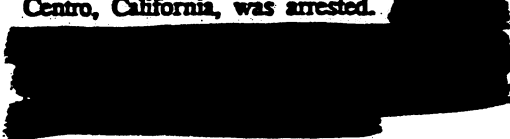
(DS) On December 7, as the result of a canine alert, USCS Inspectors at the Otay Mesa, California, POE seized 23 kilograms of cocaine and 4 kilograms of methamphetamine. The cocaine and methamphetamine packages were found in the gas tank of a 1977 GMC Vandura with Mexico plates. The cocaine was wrapped in cellophane and wax, and the methamphetamine was wrapped in cellophane and plastic wrap. The driver, a 25-year-old male Mexican national resident of Tijuana, Baja California Norte, was arrested.

(DS) On December 7, CHP officers seized 11.4 kilograms of methamphetamine from a rented truck towing an allegedly disabled 1988 Dodge Dakota with Washington plates, traveling north on I-5 in Colusa County. A Mexican male resident of Seattle, Washington, was en route to Seattle from Los Angeles,

California. The methamphetamine was discovered in the pickup's gas tank.

(DS) On December 8, CHP officers seized 12.3 kilograms of cocaine, 6.4 kilograms of methamphetamine, 24 kilograms of marijuana, and 223 grams of methamphetamine oil from a 1992 Toyota Previa with California plates, traveling east on I-40 in San Bernardino County. A Mexican couple, residents of Moreno Valley, California, was en route to Atlanta, Georgia, from Moreno Valley. The marijuana was wrapped as Christmas gifts, the methamphetamine oil was inside a 1-gallon orange juice container under the driver's seat, and the methamphetamine and cocaine packages, shaped like hot dogs, were in the side panels.

(DS) On December 11, CHP officers seized 11.8 kilograms of methamphetamine from a 1988 Jeep Cherokee with California plates, traveling west on I-10 in Los Angeles County. A Mexican male resident of Van Nuys, California, was en route to Van Nuys from San Bernardino, California. The methamphetamine was discovered in the spare tire. 

(DS) On December 12, pursuant to a canine alert, USCS and INS Inspectors at the Calexico, California, POE seized 34 kilograms of cocaine from the gas tank of a 1992 Chevrolet Blazer with California plates. The packages were wrapped with cellophane and brown packing tape. Detergent was used in an unsuccessful attempt to mask the cocaine odor. A 35-year-old female resident of El Centro, California, was arrested. 

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(DS) On December 16, pursuant to a canine alert, USCS Inspectors at the Otay Mesa, California, POE seized 43 kilograms of cocaine from a hidden compartment behind the rear seat of a 1992 Ford Taurus with Baja California Norte plates. The unmarked packages were wrapped in cellophane, duct tape, and electrical tape. Detergent and grease were used as masking agents. A 27-year-old male resident of Tijuana, Baja California Norte, was arrested.

(DS) On December 18, based on information developed by DEA Los Angeles, Los Angeles Sheriff's officers seized 150 kilograms of cocaine during a vehicle stop in Montebello, California.

(DS) On December 19, CHP officers seized 22.6 kilograms of cocaine from a 1988 Buick Regency bearing California plates, traveling north on I-5 in Kern County. A Mexican male resident of Rancho Cucamonga, California, was en route to Fresno, California, from Los Angeles, California. The cocaine was discovered inside the rear quarter panels.

(DS) On December 29, pursuant to a canine alert, USCS Inspectors at the San Ysidro, California, POE seized 36 kilograms of Mexico-manufactured methamphetamine from a 1979 Ford Bronco with Baja California Norte plates. The marijuana was found in the right and left quarter panels and in the driver's door. A 22-year-old male resident of Tijuana, Baja California Norte, was arrested.

(DS) On December 31, pursuant to a canine alert, USCS Inspectors at the San Ysidro, California, POE seized 2.4 kilograms of Mexican heroin from a 1988 Nissan Maxima sedan with California plates.

[REDACTED] One 20-year-old male resident of Ramona, California, was arrested.

Delaware

(DS) On October 21, Delaware State Police officers seized 589 grams of heroin from a 1989 Oldsmobile with New York plates, traveling south in New Castle County. A female Colombian national traveling with a child, residents of Queens, New York City, were en route to Baltimore, Maryland, from New York City. The heroin was concealed inside an electronically controlled compartment in the rear seat. After removing the back seat, officers saw a piece of sheet metal that had been placed on the back of the rear seat. This plate had electronic locks at each end. The heroin was found in a second electronic compartment in the center behind the sheet metal on the back seat. When the first electronic compartment was activated, the back of the rear seat would fold forward. When the second electronic compartment was activated, a panel would open to the area where the heroin was found. The heroin packages had the numbers "250" written on them.

Florida

(DS) On October 2, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, seaport seized 54 kilograms of cocaine from a cargo container shipped aboard the vessel [REDACTED]. The vessel had arrived from Peru, Chile, and Venezuela. The cocaine was discovered in two bags found in a container of peas. An internal conspiracy among longshoremen is suspected.

(DS) On October 2, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 2 kilograms of heroin from a U.S. citizen resident of Astoria, New York, arriving

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aboard American Airlines from Panama. The 26-year-old male had concealed the heroin in his suitcases.

(DS) On October 4, USCS Inspectors at DHL Worldwide Express in Miami, Florida, seized 27 kilograms of cocaine from a cardboard box discovered in the middle of a four-piece cargo shipment on pallets. The cargo shipment originated from Caracas, Venezuela, on Venesca Airlines and was destined for Panama. In Panama, the cargo was transferred to a DHL flight destined for Miami. In Miami, the cargo was to be transferred to Lufthansa Airlines destined for Saudi Arabia.

(DS) On October 5, USCS and DEA Special Agents in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, seized 53 kilograms of cocaine and arrested two employees of [REDACTED]. The two subjects had gained access to a container in the Sealand Services container yard and removed two duffel bags containing the cocaine.

(DS) On October 5, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 223 kilograms of cocaine, discovered in several boxes, arriving on an Air Aruba flight from Aruba, Netherlands Antilles. The boxes were not on the cargo manifest. An internal conspiracy is suspected.

(DS) On October 7, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 1.7 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a Colombian national resident of Miami, Florida, arriving aboard American Airlines from Aruba. The 32-year-old male had concealed the heroin in a wallet and in the shoes he was wearing.

(DS) On October 9, DEA Special Agents seized a Cessna 310 twin-engine aircraft at the Vandenberg airport, in Tampa, Florida. The aircraft was seized in conjunction with 12

parcels of real estate and 4 vehicles, in a multiagency investigation of a transportation group which used private aircraft and tractor-trailers for the transportation of drugs and drug proceeds. The group is believed to have used aircraft to fly drug loads into the United States and for transporting drug proceeds within the United States, as well as from the United States to Colombia. The aircraft had been modified with an auxiliary fuel system that gave it a range of approximately 1,200 miles. The group utilized small domestic airports or airfields, without air-traffic control towers, to conduct offloads and pickups. Information developed during the investigation indicated that the group had been frequently employed by the [REDACTED] organization.

(DS) On October 10, USCS Inspectors at the Jacksonville, Florida, seaport seized 662 kilograms of cocaine from a container shipped aboard the vessel [REDACTED]. The cocaine was discovered in 28 boxes commingled among boxes of legitimate cargo containing plasticware.

(DS) On October 10, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 4.5 kilograms of heroin from a Dutch national resident of Rotterdam, the Netherlands, arriving aboard American Airlines from Venezuela. The 25-year-old male had concealed the heroin in ten pairs of jeans.

(DS) On October 12, USCS Inspectors at the Port Everglades, Florida, seaport seized 100 kilograms of cocaine from a container shipped aboard the vessel [REDACTED] arriving from Colombia. The cocaine was discovered in two nylon duffel bags. The container was manifested as empty.

(DS) On October 13, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, seaport seized 627 kilograms of marijuana from a container shipped aboard

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the vessel [REDACTED] arriving from Jamaica via the Cayman Islands. The container was manifested as empty. The container floor was drilled from below to reveal the marijuana.

(DS) On October 16, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, seaport seized 65 kilograms of cocaine from a cargo container shipped aboard the vessel [REDACTED] arriving from Colombia. The cocaine was discovered in a box hidden among the manifested cargo of syringes. An internal conspiracy among longshoremen is suspected.

(DS) On October 17, USCS Inspectors at the Port Everglades, Florida, seaport seized 1,312 kilograms of marijuana and 18 kilograms of hashish oil from a cargo container shipped aboard the vessel [REDACTED] arriving from Jamaica via Haiti. The marijuana was found in 31 unmanifested boxes located in the nose of a container. The cargo was manifested as gas cylinders.

(DS) On October 17, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, seaport seized 85 kilograms of cocaine from a cargo container shipped aboard the vessel [REDACTED] arriving from Colombia. The cocaine was discovered within factory-sealed cans of condensed milk. The cans containing the cocaine were labeled in blue while the remaining cans were labeled in red. The container was manifested as foodstuffs, such as canned meat and vegetables, destined for Africa.

(DS) On October 17, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 33 kilograms of cocaine discovered in a shipment of flower boxes that arrived aboard American International Airways from Bogota, Colombia.

(U) On October 17, USCG personnel in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, recovered 818

kilograms of cocaine found floating 10 nautical miles east of Port Everglades, Florida. The 30 bales of cocaine were floating in the vicinity of 2615N/07949W, where a Colombian male had been pulled from the water by a private sailing vessel. The suspect stated that he was thrown overboard from an unknown vessel when he objected to participating in a ship-to-ship drug transfer. The suspect claimed he had been in the water for 2 days and 2 nights. On October 18, the USCG recovered an additional 767 kilograms of cocaine from 31 bales found floating at 2646N/7945W, approximately 32 nautical miles north of the site of the October 17 seizure. The bales' packaging was identical to that found on October 17.

(DS) On October 18, USCS Inspectors at Miami International Airport seized a 1982 Cessna 441 Conquest twin-engine aircraft for having a false U.S. tail number and illegal modifications to the fuel system. The aircraft had arrived from Barranquilla, Colombia. The original identification plates containing the aircraft's serial number had been removed and replaced with false plates. The aircraft was valued at \$365,000.

(DS) On October 19, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 1.5 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a Colombian national resident of Granada Meta, Colombia, arriving aboard American Airlines from Bogota, Colombia. The 24-year-old male had ingested 120 pellets of heroin.

(DS) On October 20, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 5.9 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from an Italian national resident of Germany, arriving on an American Airlines flight from Caracas, Venezuela. The heroin was concealed in clothing in the 36-year-old male's checked luggage.

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(U) On October 20, acting on information received from a private mariner, USCG personnel recovered 22 kilograms of cocaine found floating near Molasses Key, Florida (2440N/08111W). The 10 packages of cocaine were wrapped in yellow rubber and were in an opaque cargo bag displaying a red stripe.

(DS) On October 21, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 4.5 kilograms of heroin from a French national resident of Bordeaux, France, arriving aboard American Airlines from Caracas, Venezuela. The 37-year-old male had concealed the heroin in two jackets and seven pairs of pants.

(DS) On October 21, USCS Inspectors at the Port Everglades, Florida, seaport seized 10.4 kilograms of cocaine discovered in a cargo container shipped aboard the [REDACTED]

(DS) On October 21, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 1 kilogram of heroin from a U.S. citizen resident of Miami, Florida, arriving aboard American Airlines from Aruba. The 42-year-old Hispanic male had concealed the heroin in a purse and a carry-on bag.

(DS) On October 21, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 32.5 kilograms of cocaine from an unmanifested bag that had arrived on American Airlines from Bogota, Colombia. The 30 bricks of cocaine were inside the bag.

(DS) On October 22, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 2 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a Colombian national resident of Medellin, Colombia, arriving aboard ACES Airlines from Medellin. The 42-year-old male had concealed the heroin in his suitcase.

(DS) On October 24, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 90.4 kilograms of cocaine and 2.3 kilograms of heroin from a wooden crate that arrived on Amerijet from Aruba. The cocaine and heroin packages were concealed in the crate which had an interior lining of carbon paper. The cargo was manifested as air conditioner compressors.

(DS) On October 24, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 12.7 kilograms of cocaine from an unmanifested black carry-on bag that had arrived aboard American Airlines arriving from Bogota, Colombia. The cocaine, in one package, was concealed inside the bag.

(DS) On October 24, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 97.3 kilograms of cocaine during a warehouse sweep at the Amerijet Cargo Facility. [REDACTED]

(U) On October 24, USCG personnel seized 14 kilograms of cocaine from the Haitian-flagged coastal freighter [REDACTED] at the Miami, Florida, seaport. The [REDACTED] was brought dockside for a joint USCG/USCS boarding after the ship was found loitering in the anchorage. [REDACTED] The 10 [REDACTED] in cocaine [REDACTED]. The cocaine had been wrapped in layers of plastic and duct tape.

(DS) On October 28, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, seaport seized 227 kilograms of cocaine from a cargo container shipped aboard the vessel [REDACTED] arriving from Venezuela. The cargo was manifested as roofing tile. The cocaine was hidden inside

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plastic molds shaped and painted to resemble the legitimate tile.

(DS) On October 28, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 1 kilogram of suspected Colombian heroin from a Colombian national resident of Astoria, New York, arriving aboard Servivensa from Colombia via Venezuela. The 39-year-old male had concealed the heroin in the shoes he was wearing and in two pairs of shoes, a deodorant container, and a foot spray container packed in his luggage.

(DS) On October 29, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 32.6 kilograms of cocaine from a box that arrived aboard American Airlines from Colombia.

(DS) On October 29, USCS Inspectors at the Port Everglades, Florida, seaport seized 1,046 kilograms of cocaine from a container shipped aboard the vessel [REDACTED], arriving from Venezuela. The container was manifested as bath soap bars made in Venezuela. The cocaine was in boxes in the middle left side of the container. The 98 boxes, sealed with masking tape, contained packets of white powder marked "HONDA" in black ink.

(DS) On October 29, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 13.6 kilograms of cocaine from a 25-year-old Puerto Rican male resident of Carolina, Puerto Rico, arriving aboard American Airlines from Aruba. The cocaine was concealed in compartments in two scuba tanks.

(U) On October 29, as the result of an investigation, USCS Special Agents seized 350 kilograms of cocaine from a hidden compartment in a 26-foot Gulfstream boat at a residence in Miami, Florida. Two boats were seized at the residence of one of the violators,

and a third vessel was seized at a warehouse. Four suspects were arrested.

(DS) On November 2, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 1.9 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a Colombian national resident of Pereira, Colombia, arriving aboard American Airlines from Colombia. The 21-year-old male had concealed the heroin in a hanger packed in his luggage.

(DS) On November 2, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 1.4 kilograms of heroin from a Venezuelan national resident of Estado de Tachira, Venezuela, arriving aboard ALM Antillean Airlines from Venezuela. The 25-year-old male had ingested 115 pellets of heroin.

(DS) On November 4, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 117 kilograms of cocaine from a mail parcel arriving from Venezuela on Challenge Airlines. The cocaine was concealed inside three boxes within a larger box manifested as one aircraft part.

(DS) On November 5, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 2.7 kilograms of heroin from a Venezuelan national resident of Caracas, Venezuela, arriving aboard Servivensa Airlines from Venezuela. The 44-year-old female had concealed the heroin in the lining of six pairs of jeans.

(DS) On November 7, USCS Inspectors at the DHL facility in Miami, Florida, seized 19 kilograms of cocaine from an unmanifested box shipped on Venescar Airlines from Caracas, Venezuela, to Panama where the container was reloaded onto a DHL flight destined for Miami.

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(DS) On November 7, USCS Inspectors and Florida National Guard (FNG) personnel seized 447 kilograms of marijuana from the vessel [REDACTED] at Port Everglades, Florida. Inside the container, which was manifested to contain personal effects (household goods), inspectors discovered eight boxes containing the marijuana. The vessel had originated in Haiti and had transited Jamaica.

(DS) On November 9, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 1.6 kilograms of heroin from a Venezuelan national resident of Maracaibo, Venezuela, arriving aboard Servivensa Airlines from Venezuela. The 27-year-old male had concealed the heroin in the lining of numerous pairs of jeans.

(DS) On November 9, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 2.2 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a U.S. citizen resident of Jackson Heights, New York, arriving aboard Avianca Airlines from Bogota, Colombia. The 37-year-old male had concealed the heroin in his hand-carried bag.

(DS) On November 9, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 2 kilograms of heroin from a U.S. citizen resident of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, arriving aboard American Airlines from Colombia. The 38-year-old female had concealed the heroin in nine religious candles.

(DS) On November 11, West Palm Beach Resident Office (DEA) Task Force Agents conducted a controlled delivery of 480 kilograms of cocaine from Grand Cay/Freepport, Bahamas, to Jupiter, Florida. The delivery of the cocaine to the United States was the culmination of an investigation that began in May.

(DS) On November 11, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, seaport seized 16 kilograms of cocaine from a container that had been onboard the vessel [REDACTED] which had arrived from Colombia. The container, manifested to contain syringes, was located in a remote area of the port with its doors open and the cocaine, along with several boxes of syringes, was found on the ground. A longshoreman was being sought in connection with this investigation.

(DS) On November 11, USCS Inspectors and FNG personnel seized 56 kilograms of cocaine from the vessel [REDACTED] at Port Everglades, Florida. The cocaine was found in a container onboard the vessel, which had arrived from Colombia.

(DS) On November 11, USCS Inspectors and FNG personnel at the Miami, Florida, seaport seized 67 kilograms of cocaine from a container onboard the vessel [REDACTED]. The cocaine was found inside a container of roofing tile, arriving from Colombia.

(DS) On November 12, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 9 kilograms of heroin from a Venezuelan national resident of Barquisimeto, Estado Lara, Venezuela, arriving aboard American Airlines from Venezuela. The 27-year-old female had sewn the heroin into 25 garments packed in her baggage.

(DS) On November 13, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 3.7 kilograms of heroin from a Venezuelan national resident of Caracas, Venezuela, arriving aboard American Airlines from Venezuela. The 47-year-old male had concealed the heroin in a pair of shoes packed in his suitcase and in the shoes he was wearing; he had also ingested 76 pellets of heroin.

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(DS) On November 15, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 1.1 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a Colombian national resident of Cali, Colombia, arriving aboard American Airlines from Colombia. The 21-year-old male had concealed the heroin in the shoes he was wearing.

(DS) On November 20, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 1 kilogram of suspected Colombian heroin from a Colombian national resident of Bogota, Colombia, arriving aboard American Airlines from Colombia. The 69-year-old male had ingested 111 pellets of heroin.

(DS) On November 20, USCS Inspectors and FNG personnel at the Miami, Florida, seaport seized 78 kilograms of cocaine, inside three nylon bags, from a container that was onboard the vessel [redacted]. The container, manifested as containing cigarettes, arrived from Panama.

(DS) On November 20, USCS Inspectors and Florida Air National Guard personnel at the Jacksonville, Florida, seaport seized 105 kilograms of cocaine from a container onboard the vessel [redacted]. The inspectors discovered the cocaine inside three soft-sided pieces of luggage in a container being shipped from Colombia en route to Mexico.

(DS) On November 21, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 2.7 kilograms of heroin from a Venezuelan national resident of Caracas, Venezuela. The 37-year-old male had concealed the heroin in the lining of numerous jackets packed in his baggage.

(DS) On November 21, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 1.8 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin

from a Colombian national resident of Medellin, Colombia, arriving aboard American Airlines from Colombia. The 30-year-old male had concealed the heroin in the shoes he was wearing and had also ingested 89 pellets.

(DS) On November 23, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 31 kilograms of cocaine from two boxes of men's pants arriving on Avianca Airlines from Bogota, Colombia. The cocaine packages were packed in the boxes.

(DS) On November 23, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 2.8 kilograms of hash oil from a 20-year-old female Jamaican national arriving from Santo Domingo. The hash oil was concealed in a false-sided suitcase.

(DS) On November 24, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 2 kilograms of heroin from a U.S. citizen resident of the Bronx, New York City, arriving aboard SAETA Airlines from Ecuador. The 21-year-old male had concealed the heroin in his luggage.

(DS) On November 24, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 147 kilograms of cocaine from three unmanifested boxes arriving on Lan Chile Airlines from Caracas, Venezuela.

(DS) On November 26, USCS Inspectors at the DHL facility in Miami, Florida, seized 1.4 kilograms of heroin from a package manifested as a personal computer board for repair arriving from Panama City, Panama, and destined for Miami.

(DS) On November 29, 1997, USCS Inspectors and FNG personnel at Port Everglades seized 88 kilograms of cocaine from a container onboard the vessel [redacted] arriving from Colombia. The

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container was manifested to contain waterproof garments.

(DS) On November 30, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 5.9 kilograms of heroin from a Venezuelan national resident of San Cristobal, Venezuela, arriving aboard American Airlines from Caracas, Venezuela. The 19-year-old male had concealed the heroin in the fabric of eight men's pants and five skirts.

(DS) On November 30, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 5.5 kilograms of heroin from a Venezuelan national resident of San Cristobal, Venezuela, arriving aboard American Airlines from Venezuela. The 21-year-old female concealed the heroin in five denim pants, four skirts, and two jackets.

(DS) On December 1, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 1.2 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a Colombian national resident of Medellin, Colombia, arriving aboard Avianca Airlines from Colombia. The 54-year-old female had concealed the heroin in a body cavity and by ingesting it.

(DS) On December 1, USCS Inspectors and FNG personnel at the Miami, Florida, seaport seized 70.4 kilograms of cocaine, 25.9 kilograms of hashish, and 25 kilograms of hash oil from a container that was on board the vessel [REDACTED] arriving from Jamaica.

[REDACTED] A controlled delivery resulted in one arrest.

(DS) On December 1, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 11 kilograms of cocaine from a Peru national resident of Plantation, Florida, arriving aboard

Aero Peru from Peru. The 37-year-old male had concealed the cocaine in the edge of the inner lining of two pieces of luggage.

(DS) On December 2, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 1.8 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a U.S. citizen resident of Freeport, New York, arriving aboard American Airlines from Colombia. The 21-year-old female had concealed the heroin in her carry-on bag.

(DS) On December 3, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 1.8 kilograms of heroin from a Guatemalan national resident of Marietta, Georgia, arriving aboard Aviateca S.A. from Guatemala. The 23-year-old male had concealed the heroin in a false bottom of his suitcase.

(DS) On December 3, USCS Inspectors at the Tampa, Florida, seaport seized 75 kilograms of cocaine and arrested a crewmember, a male Colombian national, from the vessel [REDACTED]. The vessel had arrived at the Tampa seaport from Colombia via Costa Rica.

(DS) On December 5, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 2.3 kilograms of heroin from a Venezuelan national resident of San Cristobal, Venezuela, arriving aboard Servivensa from Caracas, Venezuela. The 31-year-old male had concealed the heroin in six pairs of jeans packed in his luggage.

(DS) On December 5, USCS Inspectors and FNG personnel at Port Everglades, Florida, seaport seized 72 kilograms of cocaine from a container on board the vessel [REDACTED] arriving from Colombia. The cocaine was discovered inside aluminum ingots. This is the second seizure this quarter of cocaine being found inside aluminum ingots. The previous seizure occurred on October 21.

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(DS) On December 6, USCS Inspectors and FNG personnel at the Port Everglades, Florida, seaport seized 502 kilograms of cocaine from a container onboard the vessel [REDACTED] arriving from Colombia. The container, which was destined for El Salvador, contained manifested bags of polypropylene polymer crystals, and 12 boxes concealing the cocaine.

(DS) On December 6, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 1.4 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a Colombian national resident of Bogota, Colombia, arriving aboard LAN Chile S.A. from Colombia. The 25-year-old male had concealed the heroin in a false-sided Samsonite brand roller bag.

(DS) On December 7, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 1.3 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a Colombian national resident of Bogota, Colombia, arriving aboard American Airlines from Colombia. The 30-year-old male had ingested 125 pellets of heroin.

(DS) On December 7, a total of 327 kilograms of cocaine and a Piper Aztec twin-engine aircraft were seized in Palm Beach County, Florida, south-southeast of Lake Okeechobee, in a remote agricultural area. The aircraft crashed while attempting to land at an old crop dusting airstrip at 2621N/08036W, approximately 2 miles north of the Broward/Palm Beach county line, 3 miles west of U.S. Highway 27, and 22 nautical miles south-southeast of Lake Okeechobee and Belle Glade, Florida. The surface of the airstrip was partially paved and part dirt; the dirt surface was too rough for landing, causing the aircraft to veer and crash in a nearby field. The cocaine was contained in nine nylon duffel bags. An auxiliary fuel system, consisting of wing-tip nacelle tanks, a 20-gallon tank in the nose of the aircraft, and two 30-gallon bladder tanks in the aircraft

cabin, was found installed on board the aircraft. A false tail number had been taped over the actual aircraft tail number. This aircraft was not tracked by radar flying into Florida, and may have originated as far south as the Greater Antilles in the Caribbean, or Central America. It is believed that this group has conducted similar operations at this location. Intelligence reported during 1996 indicated possible air-trafficking activity in the Lake Okeechobee area. Over the past 2 years, there has been continued reporting of suspected air-trafficking activity in Florida. This seizure serves to corroborate this reporting. The fact that the aircraft was not detected by radar is noteworthy.

(DS) On December 9, as the result of an investigation, USCS Special Agents seized 1,020 kilograms of cocaine from a vessel near Biscayne Bay, Miami, Florida. The cocaine from Colombia, had been loaded onto the vessel in the Bahamas. The cocaine was wrapped in 39 individual burlap and rubberized encasements. Further investigation led to the seizure of two additional vessels, a 1990 Chevrolet pickup and a boat trailer.

(DS) On December 10, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 22 kilograms of cocaine from a Jamaican national resident of Kingston, Jamaica, arriving aboard Air Jamaica Limited from Jamaica. The 30-year-old female had concealed the cocaine in four auto transmission torque converters.

(DS) On December 10, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 18.4 kilograms of cocaine from an unclaimed roller bag arriving on American Airlines from Bogota, Colombia. The cocaine was in numerous packages within the bag.

(DS) On December 10, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 47 kilograms of cocaine packed in a wooden

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box manifested as watches, arriving on Copa Airlines from Panama City, Panama.

(DS) On December 11, USCS Inspectors and FNG personnel at the Miami, Florida, seaport seized 1,489 kilograms of cocaine from a container that was on board the vessel [REDACTED] arriving from Venezuela. The cocaine was discovered inside one hundred and twenty-six 100-pound drums of asphalt. A controlled delivery resulted in two arrests.

(DS) On December 11, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 1.8 kilograms of heroin from a Venezuelan national resident of San Cristobal, Venezuela, arriving aboard American Airlines from Caracas, Venezuela. The 29-year-old male had concealed the heroin in four jackets packed in his luggage.

(DS) On December 12, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 1.6 kilograms of heroin from a U.S. citizen resident of Flushing, New York, arriving aboard American Airlines from Curacao, Netherlands Antilles. The 29-year-old male had concealed the heroin in numerous aerosol cans and in a pair of sandals packed in his suitcase.

(DS) On December 12, USCS Inspectors and FNG personnel at the Jacksonville, Florida, seaport seized 41.3 kilograms of cocaine from a container that was on board the vessel [REDACTED] arriving from Colombia. The cocaine was located in the rear of the container inside two soft-sided bags.

(DS) On December 14, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 10.5 kilograms of cocaine from a mail parcel that had arrived from Panama. The cocaine was concealed in nine packages inside the shipment.

(DS) On December 17, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, seaport seized 57 kilograms of cocaine from the Haitian freighter [REDACTED]. The cocaine was located in three boxes abandoned in an area immediately adjacent to the vessel.

(DS) On December 20, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 3.4 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin, 2 kilograms of cocaine base, and 1 kilogram of cocaine from an Avianca Airlines aircraft arriving from Bogota, Colombia. The drugs were hidden in the rear cargo belly of the Boeing 757.

(DS) On December 23, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 1.1 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a Colombian national resident of Cali, Colombia, arriving aboard Copa Airlines from Colombia. The 22-year-old male had ingested 102 pellets of heroin.

(DS) On December 24, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 1.8 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a U.S. citizen resident of the Bronx, New York City, arriving aboard American Airlines from Bogota, Colombia. The 26-year-old female had concealed the heroin in her luggage.

(DS) On December 30, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 2 kilograms of heroin from a Venezuelan national resident of Macaracay, Venezuela, arriving aboard American Airlines from Venezuela. The 27-year-old male had concealed the heroin in the lining of five pairs of jeans packed in his suitcase.

(DS) On December 31, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 24 kilograms of cocaine from an express mail package arriving on Avianca Airlines from

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Colombia. The cocaine, in brick-like packages, had been placed inside two boxes.

Georgia

(DS) On October 17, Georgia State Patrol officers seized \$422,606 discovered in suitcases in the trunk of a rented 1997 Ford Taurus, traveling south on I-95 in McIntosh County. A black male resident of Buffalo, New York, was en route to Miami, Florida, from New York City.

(DS) On November 8, Spalding County, Georgia, sheriff's officers seized \$419,869 from a 1990 Dodge Ram van with Michigan plates. A male resident of Detroit, Michigan, was en route to Miami, Florida, from Detroit.



The bundles of currency, which were attached to a strap, could then be pulled out of the compartment. When the other electric compartment, on the driver's side, was activated, a door running the entire length of the floor would drop down to allow access to the packages. Some of the currency was also found inside the walls of the van.

(DS) On November 22, Camden County, Georgia, sheriff's deputies seized \$699,640 and \$240 in counterfeit currency from the floor of a 1982 Volkswagen with Pennsylvania plates, traveling south on I-95. The currency was concealed in an electrically controlled hidden compartment in the floorboard on the driver's side. A male resident of Alexandria, Virginia, was en route to Orlando, Florida, from Pennsylvania.

(DS) On December 3, Georgia State Patrol officers seized \$229,529 from a rented 1997 Dodge van with Minnesota plates, traveling south on I-75 in Monroe County. A couple, from Hollywood, Florida, and Akron, Ohio, was en route to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, from Atlanta, Georgia. The currency was concealed in the side panels of the van.

(DS) On December 11, Bryan County, Georgia, sheriff's officers seized \$449,500 from the trunk of a rented Ford Windstar van with Florida plates, traveling south on I-95. A couple, both residents of Miami, Florida, was en route to Miami from Weechawkin, New Jersey.

(DS) On December 16, Bryan County, Georgia, sheriff's officers seized \$484,970 and \$20 in counterfeit currency from the cargo area of a 1996 GMC Suburban with New York plates, traveling south on I-95. Two males, residents of Fallsburg, New York, and Monticello, New York, were en route to Miami, Florida, from Fallsburg, Georgia.

Hawaii

(DS) On October 5, USCS Inspectors at the Honolulu, Hawaii, international airport seized 13 kilograms of opium from a mail parcel arriving from Laos and destined for Sacramento, California. The opium was concealed in four packages of wood chips.

(DS) On October 20, USCS Inspectors at the Honolulu, Hawaii, international airport seized 13 kilograms of opium from a mail parcel arriving from Laos and addressed to Sacramento, California. The opium was concealed in 24 small plastic bags.

(DS) On October 20, USCS Inspectors at the Honolulu, Hawaii, international airport seized 12 kilograms of opium from a mail parcel arriving from Laos and destined for

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Sacramento, California. The opium was concealed in plastic bags filled with wood chips. This seizure was identical to the one occurring on October 5.

(DS) On November 4, USCS Inspectors at the Honolulu, Hawaii, international airport seized 1.2 kilograms of opium from a mail parcel addressed to Elk Grove, California, arriving from Laos. The opium was concealed in a small sealed plastic package.

(DS) On December 17, USCS Inspectors at the Honolulu, Hawaii, international airport seized 1.3 kilograms of opium from a mail parcel arriving from Laos and addressed to a male resident of Saumur, France. The opium was saturated into native clothing fabric.

(DS) On December 28, USCS Inspectors at the Honolulu, Hawaii, international airport seized a total of 1.2 kilograms of opium from three mail parcels arriving from Laos and destined for Sacramento, California.

(DS) On December 29, USCS Inspectors at the Honolulu, Hawaii, international airport seized a total of 1.2 kilograms of opium from four mail parcels arriving from Laos and destined for Sacramento, California.

(DS) On December 30, USCS Inspectors at the Honolulu, Hawaii, international airport seized a total of 1.1 kilograms of opium from two mail parcels arriving from Laos and destined for Rancho Cordova and Sacramento, California.

Illinois

(DS) On October 1, Illinois State Police officers seized 25 kilograms of cocaine and over \$1 million discovered in a box on the floor of a 1974 Chevrolet El Camino with Texas plates, traveling south on I-55 in Will County. A male Mexican national resident of

Baja California Norte, Mexico, was en route to Joliet, Illinois.

(DS) On October 9, USCS Inspectors at the Chicago, Illinois, international airport seized 1.6 kilograms of opium from a mail parcel arriving from Thailand and destined for Minneapolis, Minnesota. The opium was concealed in three native Thai robes.

(DS) On October 27, USCS Inspectors at the Chicago, Illinois, international airport seized 1.8 kilograms of heroin from a mail parcel arriving from Thailand. The heroin was concealed in the bottom of eight cooking pots.

(DS) On October 30, USCS Inspectors at the Chicago, Illinois, international airport seized 1 kilogram of heroin from an express parcel arriving from Thailand. The heroin was concealed in the bottom of enamel cooking pots.

(DS) On November 3, USCS Inspectors at the Chicago, Illinois, international airport seized 1.2 kilograms of heroin from a mail parcel arriving from Thailand and destined for Cleveland, Ohio. The heroin was concealed in the covers of three children's books.

(DS) On November 8, USCS Inspectors at the Chicago, Illinois, international airport seized 3.6 kilograms of opium from an express mail parcel arriving from Thailand. The opium was concealed as part of the yarn in five small throw rugs.

(DS) On November 11, USCS Inspectors at the Chicago, Illinois, international airport seized 4 kilograms of heroin from a Venezuelan national arriving aboard United Airlines from Brazil. The 38-year-old male had concealed the heroin in the linings of seven pairs of denim jeans packed in his luggage.

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methamphetamine from California to Kansas City every few days.

(DS) On October 18, Kansas Highway Patrol officers seized 443 kilograms of marijuana discovered in duffel bags in the rear of a 1995 Ford van with California plates, traveling east on I-70 in Thomas County. A couple, residents of Warrensville Heights, Ohio, was en route to Cleveland, Ohio.

(DS) On November 2, Kansas Highway Patrol officers seized 522 kilograms of marijuana from the cargo area of a rented 1998 Chevrolet Astro van with Florida plates, traveling east on I-70 in Thomas County. A black couple, residents of Mount Rainier, Maryland, was en route to Waldorf, Maryland, from Los Angeles, California.

Louisiana

(DS) On October 1, Louisiana State Police officers seized \$183,815 from a 1997 Chevrolet Lumina sedan with Florida plates, traveling west on I-10 in St. Martin Parish. The vehicle had been rented in Orlando, Florida. The currency was concealed within the seats, dashboard, and in luggage. Two men, 35- and 40-year-old residents of El Paso, Texas, were en route to El Paso from Miami, Florida.

(DS) On October 17, USCS Inspectors at the New Orleans, Louisiana, seaport seized 15 kilograms of cocaine from aboard the cargo vessel [REDACTED]. The vessel was en route to Mexico from Chile, Peru, Colombia, and Panama. The cocaine was discovered in a small gym bag found in an empty container being shipped from Chile. The container seal had been broken. While en route, five Peruvian stowaways were discovered and removed in Panama.

(DS) On November 7, Louisiana State Police officers seized 23 kilograms of cocaine from a 1995 Ford Mustang sports coupe with Texas plates, traveling east on I-20 near Monroe, Louisiana. The cocaine was concealed in a compartment in the rear bumper. A 34-year-old female resident of Brownsville, Texas, was allegedly en route to Greensboro, North Carolina, from Brownsville.

[REDACTED]

(DS) On December 1, Louisiana State Police officers seized 686 kilograms of marijuana from a 1990 Freightliner with an attached refrigerated trailer, both with Texas plates, traveling on I-20 in Madison Parish. The marijuana was commingled with a cargo of oranges. The driver, a male Mexican national resident of Roma, Texas, indicated that he was being paid \$10,000 by a Mexican national to transport the marijuana from Edinburg, Texas, to Atlanta, Georgia.

Michigan

(DS) On October 20, Detroit, Michigan, Operation JETWAY Task Force officers seized \$187,190 from a Hispanic couple, residents of Melvindale, Michigan, traveling from Detroit to New York City on Antrak. The currency, in gift-wrapped packages, was inside their carry-on luggage.

Missouri

(DS) On October 16, Missouri Highway Patrol officers seized 499 kilograms of marijuana discovered under charcoal in a box trailer with California plates, being towed by a company-owned 1997 Freightliner tractor,

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traveling east on I-44 in Jasper County. A male California resident was en route to Chicago, Illinois, from Tucson, Arizona.

Airlines from Bogota, Colombia. The 40-year-old male had concealed the heroin in his jacket.

(DS) On November 7, St. Louis County, Missouri, police officers seized 47 kilograms of cocaine from a 1995 Ford Taurus sedan with Michigan plates, traveling east on I-44. The cocaine was hidden between the rear passenger seat and trunk wall. Two males, 48- and 68-year-olds from Detroit, Michigan, were arrested. DEA Detroit determined that the cocaine, originating from Los Angeles, California, was destined for a known cocaine dealer in the Detroit area.

(DS) On November 7, USCS Inspectors at the Newark, New Jersey, international airport seized 3.3 kilograms of opium from a German national resident of Mannheim, Germany, arriving on Lufthansa Airlines from Germany. The 67-year-old male had concealed the opium in two shirts in his carry-on bag and in packets taped to his lower back and ankles.

(DS) On November 21, USCS Inspectors at the Newark, New Jersey, international airport seized 22.8 kilograms of cocaine from abandoned luggage arriving on Avianca Airlines from Bogota, Colombia.

Nebraska

(DS) On November 10, Nebraska State Patrol officers seized over \$1.8 million discovered inside steamer trunks placed in the trunk of a rented 1997 Ford Taurus with Nevada plates, traveling east on I-80 in Lancaster County. A male resident of Apple Valley, Minnesota, was en route to Apple Valley from Las Vegas, Nevada. The suspect had previously flown to Las Vegas, Nevada, from Minnesota where he rented the vehicle and picked up the currency.

(DS) On November 30, USCS Inspectors at the Newark, New Jersey, international airport seized 1 kilogram of suspected Colombian heroin from a Colombian national resident of Bogota, Colombia, arriving aboard Continental Airlines from Colombia. The 34-year-old male had ingested 94 pellets of heroin.

New Jersey

(DS) On October 8, USCS Inspectors at the Newark, New Jersey, international airport seized 1.1 kilograms of heroin from an Ecuadorian national resident of Quito, Ecuador, arriving aboard Continental Airlines from Quito, Ecuador, via Colombia. The 51-year-old male had concealed the heroin in his shorts under his pants.

(DS) On November 30, USCS Inspectors at the Newark, New Jersey, international airport seized 1 kilogram of suspected Colombian heroin from a Colombian national resident of Medellin, Colombia, arriving aboard Continental Airlines from Panama via Ecuador. The 36-year-old male had concealed the heroin in the bottom of his carry-on bag.

(DS) On December 5, DEA Newark Special Agents and Port Authority Police officers at the Newark, New Jersey, international airport seized 6 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a suspect arriving from Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

(DS) On October 9, USCS Inspectors at the Newark, New Jersey, international airport seized 1.8 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a Colombian resident of Queens, New York City, arriving aboard Continental

(DS) On December 19, USCS Inspectors at the Newark, New Jersey, international airport seized 1.6 kilograms of suspected Colombian

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heroin from a Colombian national resident of Palmira, Colombia, arriving aboard Avianca Airlines from Colombia. The 32-year-old male had concealed the heroin in his shoes.

(DS) On December 19, as the result of an investigation, Newark, New Jersey, Operation JETWAY Task Force officers seized 45.5 kilograms of cocaine, two cellular telephones, three pagers, and a vehicle equipped with a hidden compartment in the trunk. Four Hispanic males—three residents of Miami, Florida, and one a resident of the Bronx, New York City—were detained. The cocaine was discovered in two pieces of luggage.

(DS) On December 21, USCS Inspectors at the Newark, New Jersey, international airport seized 1.5 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a U.S. citizen resident of Trenton, New Jersey, arriving aboard Avianca Airlines from Colombia. The 62-year-old male had concealed the heroin in the sides of his briefcase.

New Mexico

(DS) On October 1, pursuant to a canine alert, INS/BP Agents manning the immigration checkpoint on U.S. Highway 54 near Oro Grande, New Mexico, seized 10 kilograms of cocaine from a 1987 Jeep Comanche with Texas plates. [REDACTED]

The driver, a male Mexican national from Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, holding documents which permitted him to travel in the United States, disavowed any knowledge of the drugs and claimed to be en route to Denver, Colorado, to pick up some vehicles. Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and [REDACTED] indicated that the vehicle, owned by another individual residing in El Paso, Texas, [REDACTED]

(DS) On October 10, pursuant to a canine alert, INS/BP Agents at the checkpoint on U.S. Highway 54 at Oro Grande, New Mexico, seized 16 kilograms of cocaine from a 1986 Plymouth Voyager van with Texas plates. Agents noticed that only the gas tank area was covered in a mud-like substance. Silicone had also been used to seal an interior trapdoor, between the driver and passenger seats, which led into a compartment in the gas tank. The packages of cocaine had been wrapped in brown packaging tape and coated with grease. The driver, a 41-year-old male resident of San Elizario, Texas, was arrested. The passenger, his 15-year-old son, was released.

(DS) On November 6, USCS Dering Special Agents, INS/BP Agents, and Southwestern New Mexico/Task Force officers seized 421 kilograms of marijuana from a 1995 Ford F-150 pickup with Arizona plates, near ranch property south of Animas, New Mexico. When the driver realized that he had been spotted, he sped south on New Mexico Highway 338, then abandoned the vehicle and tried to run into the Animas Mountains. The 25-year-old male Mexican national from Agua Prieta, Sonora, was subsequently apprehended. Also seized was a Motorola Radius GP350 two-way radio. The seized vehicle is registered to another individual from Glendale, Arizona.

(DS) On November 18, an INS/BP Agent seized 379 kilograms of marijuana from a 1994 Jeep Grand Cherokee with New Mexico plates, traveling north from the international border near the Columbus, New Mexico, POE. The lone male driver subsequently parked the vehicle near the POE's parking lot, then walked back into Mexico. After a USCS Columbus canine team alerted to the vehicle,

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marijuana packages were discovered throughout the vehicle.

(DS) On November 30, INS/BP Agents at the checkpoint on U.S. Highway 54 south of Oro Grande, New Mexico, seized 347 kilograms of marijuana in a trailer towed by a 1996 International tractor, both with Texas plates. The trailer's seal did not match the seal listed on the bill of lading. The marijuana and a large scale were found in eight U-Haul boxes: shrink-wrapped and commingled among empty cardboard, styrofoam, and plastic containers. The original seal was later found in a storage compartment in the cab. The 25-year-old driver and his 21-year-old passenger, male residents of El Paso and Socorro, Texas, respectively, were en route to Chicago, Illinois. The tractor's registry is probably false; it may belong to a 1987 Mack tractor-trailer owned by a company in Midlothian, Texas.

(DS) On December 20, USCS Inspectors at the Santa Teresa, New Mexico, POE discovered 9.4 kilograms of Mexico-manufactured methamphetamine concealed in the gas tank of a Nissan Sentra with Texas plates. The methamphetamine was destined for Wichita, Kansas. This is the first seizure of methamphetamine at the Santa Teresa POE since August 1994. During 1994, there were two seizures of methamphetamine at the Santa Teresa POE, both under 2 kilograms.

New York

(DS) On October 5, USCS Inspectors at the John F. Kennedy (JFK) International Airport seized 1.5 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a Colombian national resident of Caiedara Valle, Colombia, arriving aboard Servivensa Airlines from Pereira, Colombia. The 49-year-old female had concealed the heroin in her purse, wallet, and in the shoes she was wearing.

(DS) On October 7, DEA New York Mass Transportation Interdiction Unit officers seized 600 grams of suspected Colombian heroin at the Greyhound bus terminal in New York City. Two males, Colombian and Bolivian nationals, had arrived together from Cleveland, Ohio. The heroin was found in luggage carried by the Colombian national. Documents and receipts in his possession indicated that on October 1, he had taken a commercial airline flight from Bogota, Colombia, to Mexico City, with connections to Matamoros, Tamaulipas. On October 5, the Colombian then flew from McAllen, Texas, into Houston, Texas, where he boarded a Greyhound bus en route to Memphis, Tennessee. On October 6, the Colombian boarded another Greyhound bus at Memphis, en route to Cleveland and New York City. He was to return to Bogota on a commercial flight out of Mexico City. The suspect claimed that he met his Bolivian traveling partner in Cleveland. The Bolivian national, purportedly a resident of New York City, had given the Colombian courier specific instructions on where to sit on the bus and place his luggage. The Colombian stated his Bolivian contact also represented people to whom he was to deliver the heroin.

He had been granted a visa in Bogota in March 1997 for legal entry into the United States for two specified stays extending from April 1997 through January 1998. The U.S. addresses listed for these stays are in Miami and Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

(DS) On October 21, New York Operation JETWAY Task Force officers seized 15 kilograms of cocaine from a Hispanic male resident of Morouis, Puerto Rico, traveling from San Juan, Puerto Rico, to New York City on Trans World Airlines. The cocaine had been concealed in his checked luggage.

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(U) On October 24, as the result of an investigation, DEA Special Agents and New York Drug Enforcement Task Force officers seized 11 kilograms of heroin and approximately \$300,000 from two locations in the Bronx, New York City. Twenty-two suspects were arrested.

(DS) On October 30, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 2.6 kilograms of heroin from a Dominican national resident of New York City, New York, arriving aboard American Airlines from Aruba. The 22-year-old female had concealed the heroin in cosmetic cases and in shoes she was wearing.

(DS) On October 31, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 1.1 kilograms of white heroin from a British national resident of Iselow, Nigeria, arriving from Ghana. The 19-year-old male had ingested 111 pellets of heroin.

(DS) On November 2, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 2.1 kilograms of heroin from a Guatemalan national resident of San Cristobal, Guatemala, arriving aboard TACA International Airlines from Guatemala. The 21-year-old male had concealed the heroin in a pair of shoes packed in his bag and also in the shoes he was wearing.

(DS) On November 2, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 1.9 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a Colombian national resident of Staten Island, New York City, arriving aboard Avianca Airlines from Colombia. The 51-year-old female had concealed the heroin in five vests and a pair of shower shoes packed in her luggage.

(DS) On November 2, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized a total of 27.3 kilograms of heroin from a U.S. citizen

and a Colombian national, both residents of Miami, Florida, arriving aboard Ecuatoriana Airlines from Ecuador. The 49- and 42-year-old females had concealed the heroin in the waistbands and collars of clothing packed in their luggage.

(DS) On November 4, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 3.3 kilograms of heroin from a French national resident of Charenton Le Pont, France, arriving aboard Air France from France. The 40-year-old male had concealed the heroin in four packages taped to his velcro vest.

(DS) On November 5, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 1.3 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a Colombian national resident of Dos Quebradas, Colombia, arriving aboard Avianca Airlines from Colombia. The 36-year-old male had ingested 122 pellets of heroin.

(DS) On November 5 USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 1.9 kilograms of heroin and 222 grams of marijuana from a 39-year-old female U.S. citizen resident of Somerset, New Jersey. The heroin was concealed in a food substance inside her luggage.

(DS) On November 7, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 1 kilogram of heroin from an express mail parcel arriving from Thailand.

(DS) On November 9, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 1.1 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a Colombian national resident of Pereira, Colombia, arriving aboard Avianca Airlines from Colombia. The 20-year-old male had ingested 94 pellets of heroin.

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(DS) On November 11, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 16.8 kilograms of cocaine from an abandoned bag arriving on American Airlines from Haiti. The cocaine was in several bricks packed inside the bag.

(DS) On November 12, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 1.4 kilograms of heroin from a 33-year-old male Ecuadorian national arriving on SAETA Airlines from Ecuador. The heroin was concealed on his person and in his shoes.

(DS) On November 13, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 3.3 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a 29-year-old male Colombian national resident of Medellin, Colombia, arriving on Servivensa Airlines from Venezuela. The heroin was concealed inside six replicas of Colombian art plaques.

(DS) On November 13, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport mail facility seized 1 kilogram of heroin from a package arriving from Thailand and destined for Newark, New Jersey.

(DS) On November 21, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 1.2 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a Colombian national resident of Hoboken, New Jersey, arriving aboard Avianca Airlines from Colombia. The 29-year-old male had ingested the heroin.

(DS) On November 23, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 1.4 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin discovered in eight abandoned packages found under the sinks in the rear lavatories of an Avianca aircraft arriving from Colombia.

(DS) On November 24, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 9.6 kilograms of heroin from a U.S. citizen resident of East Orange, New Jersey, arriving aboard Trans World Airlines from France. The 37-year-old female had concealed the heroin in taped containers.

(DS) On November 26, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 1.8 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a Colombian national resident of Pereira, Colombia, arriving aboard Avianca Airlines from Colombia. The 39-year-old male had concealed the heroin in his suit bag packed inside the suitcase.

(DS) On December 1, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 4.3 kilograms of heroin from a U.S. citizen resident of the Bronx, New York City, arriving aboard Ecuatoriana Airlines from Ecuador. The 45-year-old female had concealed the heroin in a jacket and other clothing packed inside her luggage.

(DS) On December 7, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 2.2 kilograms of heroin from a U.S. citizen resident of Toms River, New Jersey, arriving aboard LACSA from Costa Rica. The 24-year-old male had concealed the heroin in a pair of pants packed in his suitcase.

(DS) On December 7, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 1.4 kilograms of heroin from a Guatemalan national resident of Amatichan, Guatemala, arriving aboard TACA International Airlines from Guatemala. The 35-year-old male had the heroin taped around his waist.

(DS) On December 11, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 1 kilogram of heroin from a Nigerian national resident of Ikega, Nigeria, arriving aboard

Ghana Airways from Ghana. The 32-year-old male had ingested 101 pellets of heroin.

(DS) On December 14, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 1.5 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a Colombian national resident of Pereira, Colombia, arriving aboard Avianca Airlines from Colombia. The 49-year-old male had concealed the heroin in the jacket he was wearing, in a shaving cream can, and in a shampoo container.

(DS) On December 15, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 6.4 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a Colombian national resident of Cali, Colombia, arriving aboard Avianca Airlines from Colombia. The 26-year-old male had concealed the heroin in eight quilts packed in his luggage.

(DS) On December 16, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 2 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a 23-year-old Spanish national, a resident of Caracas, Venezuela, arriving on United Airlines from Caracas. The suspect claimed to be coming from Spain, but his passport and declaration indicated Caracas. The 23-year-old male had concealed the heroin in hiking boots, a coat, and two pairs of jeans.

(DS) On December 16, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 5.4 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a U.S. citizen resident of Wappingers, New York, arriving aboard Avianca Airlines from Colombia. The 23-year-old male had concealed the heroin in the bottom of his suitcase.

(DS) On December 17, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 2.4 kilograms of heroin from a Venezuelan

national resident of New York City, New York, arriving aboard LAN Chile S.A. from Chile. The 32-year-old male had concealed the heroin in five pairs of jeans and one large heavy jacket, all packed in his suitcase.

(DS) On December 28, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 1.1 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a Colombian national resident of Barranquilla, Colombia, arriving aboard Avianca Airlines from Colombia. The 56-year-old male had concealed the heroin in two aerosol spray cans and in the shoes he was wearing.

Pennsylvania

(DS) On October 29, Pennsylvania State Police officers seized \$500,040 from a rented vehicle traveling west on I-78 near Allentown, Pennsylvania. The currency was discovered in a suitcase on the back seat. Two brothers, both Colombian nationals residing in Bloomington, California, were arrested.

[REDACTED]

(DS) On December 5, Pennsylvania State Police officers seized 1 kilogram of unidentified heroin in a suitcase from inside the trunk of a 1994 Mazda MX3 with New Jersey plates, traveling west on I-76 in Bedford County. Two black males, residents of Orange, New Jersey, and Staten Island, New York City, were en route to Detroit, Michigan, from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Puerto Rico

(DS) On October 1, USCS Inspectors at the San Juan, Puerto Rico, international airport seized 2.2 kilograms of heroin from a U.S. citizen resident of Woodside, New York,

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arriving aboard American Airlines from the Netherlands Antilles. The 18-year-old male had concealed heroin in three cans, and in the shoes he was wearing.

(DS) On October 1, USCS Inspectors at the San Juan, Puerto Rico, international airport seized 1.1 kilograms of heroin from a U.S. citizen resident of the Bronx, New York City, arriving aboard American Airlines from the Netherlands Antilles. The 23-year-old female had concealed the heroin in four aerosol cans.

(DS) On November 24, USCS Inspectors at the San Juan, Puerto Rico, international airport seized 8.2 kilograms of cocaine from a U.S. citizen resident of Hialeah, Florida, arriving aboard American Airlines from Aruba. The 21-year-old male had concealed the cocaine in his luggage.

South Carolina

(DS) On October 15 and 16, USCS Inspectors at the Charleston, South Carolina, seaport seized a total of 392 kilograms of cocaine from cargo containers shipped aboard the vessel [REDACTED]. On October 15, a total of 143 kilograms of cocaine was discovered within two cargo containers of roofing asphalt in 3-foot drums. In the first container, 12 of the 239 drums concealed metal tubes with 5-inch in diameter PVC pipes. Each pipe contained round, kilogram-size packages of cocaine. In the second container, 11 of the 308 drums contained cocaine. On October 16, three more containers with roofing asphalt were examined. An additional 249 kilograms of cocaine were seized. The cocaine packages were either round or square. Two of the packages had a picture of a "Smurf" with the word "PLUTO" sealed within the package. One other package had a square piece of paper with the letters "OAP" sealed within the

package. The vessel had arrived from Colombia and was in transit to Italy.

(DS) On December 29, USCS Inspectors at the Charleston, South Carolina, seaport seized 132.5 kilograms of cocaine from an empty container. Inspectors believe the cocaine was in a container on board the vessel [REDACTED] that arrived on December 16 from Panama. The container, en route to Madrid from Colombia, was selected for examination but disappeared before it was searched. It was later found on December 29, with its seal broken and some of the manifested merchandise (dried peppers) missing. The container concealing the cocaine was found near the suspect container that had arrived on board the [REDACTED].

Tennessee

(DS) On August 27, Nashville, Tennessee, police officers seized 16 kilograms of a white powder that field-tested positive for cocaine from two Colombian males traveling east on I-40 in Davidson County. Nashville Police Department laboratory reports received on November 18 indicated that the 16 kilograms of white powder were 96-percent pure white heroin. This is the largest heroin seizure for Operation PIPELINE.

(DS) On October 14, Memphis, Tennessee, police officers seized 151 kilograms of cocaine from a 1990 Ford with Texas plates, traveling east on I-40. A couple, residents of Irving, Texas, was en route to New York City, New York, from Irving. The cocaine was concealed in a false diesel-refueling tank that was mounted in the bed of the truck. Officers noticed fresh silicone around a fuel-filling vent. Some of the cocaine packages were marked with a miser putting a quarter in a purse and under the picture the word "SAM," the letters "CK," the word "URGENTE," a black triangle with "70" and "M" inside, or the

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letters "RR." Two packages were marked "PR" and others had no markings. Toothpaste, Vaseline, and axle grease were used as masking agents.

(DS) On October 30, Memphis, Tennessee, police officers seized 32 kilograms of cocaine from a 1994 Ford Thunderbird with Florida plates, traveling within the city limits of Memphis. The unmarked cocaine, concealed in 220-inch-long hard plastic and PVC piping, was found in a rear compartment.

Texas

(DS) On September 30, as the result of an investigation, USCS Special Agents and Houston Police officers seized 63 kilograms of cocaine and \$487,020 at a residence in Houston, Texas.

(DS) On October 3, DEA El Paso Airport Task Force officers and INS/BP Agents seized 2 kilograms of Mexican brown heroin from a 23-year-old Hispanic female resident of Hanover Park, Illinois, who was attempting to clear the airport security checkpoint to board a Frontier Airlines flight to Chicago, Illinois. The heroin was in three packages taped to her lower back and abdomen.

(DS) On October 3, USCS Inspectors at the Laredo, Texas, Bridge II POE seized \$360,704 in undeclared U.S. currency and 500 rounds of ammunition from a 1997 Ford Mustang sports coupe with Nuevo Leon plates, as its driver attempted to depart the United States. A 35-year-old male Mexican national resident of Galena Park, Texas, claimed to be a lawyer from Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, who had been visiting friends in San Antonio, Texas.

(DS) On October 3, Texas DPS officers seized 15 kilograms of methamphetamine discovered in the gas tank of a 1990 Nissan Maxima with Texas plates, traveling north on

I-35 in Laredo, Texas. The two subjects were en route to Dallas, Texas, from Mexico. The vehicle registration did not match the plates.

(DS) On October 4, pursuant to a canine alert, USCS and INS Inspectors at the Los Ebanos, Texas, POE seized 116 kilograms of marijuana from a compartment under the floor of a 1987 Nissan Stanza station wagon with Illinois plates. The marijuana was inside 31 metal boxes, each measuring 9 by 14 by 2 inches. A 23-year-old male Mexican national residing in Chicago, Illinois, was arrested. His passengers, an adult female with two children, were released.

(DS) On October 4, Bexar County, Texas, sheriff's deputies seized 80 kilograms of cocaine from a 1992 Ford pickup with Texas plates, traveling west on I-10. Two males, residents of San Antonio, Texas, were en route to San Antonio from Converse, Texas. The cocaine was discovered in a compartment in the roof of the camper shell. The packages were marked with the word "TOYOTA" with a red Toyota emblem, and stamped in black with "NADA LE PASA," which means "nothing will happen."

(DS) On October 5, USCS and INS Inspectors at the Laredo, Texas, Bridge II POE seized 1.2 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin and \$3,222 from a 42-year-old male Colombian national, using the same modus operandi observed in the September 23 seizures at the Del Rio and Eagle Pass, Texas, POEs. The courier, from Pereira, Colombia, was attempting to cross in a Mexican taxi, using a counterfeit Guatemalan passport. He also had in his possession travel documents similar to those used by another male Guatemalan national who had just crossed through the Laredo POE several minutes earlier. The courier admitted that the currency was partial payment for transporting the heroin into the United States.

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(DS) On October 5, DEA San Antonio Special Agents and Bexar County Sheriff's deputies seized 80 kilograms of cocaine from the gas tank of a tractor-trailer on FM 1516. One male suspect was arrested.

(DS) On October 5, USCS Inspectors at the Houston, Texas, international airport seized 1.4 kilograms of heroin from a U.S. citizen resident of Elmhurst, New York, arriving aboard Continental Airlines from Panama. The 44-year-old female had concealed the heroin in Lubriderm Lotion, Finesse Shampoo, and Citre Shine Conditioner.

(DS) On October 8, USCS Inspectors at the Houston, Texas, international airport seized 1.9 kilograms of heroin from a Peruvian national resident of Flushing, New York, arriving aboard Continental Airlines from Panama. The 34-year-old female had concealed the heroin in three bottles.

(DS) On October 8, USCS and INS Inspectors at the Laredo, Texas, Bridge II POE arrested a 41-year-old male Colombian national, traveling on a fraudulent Guatemalan passport and seized 1.2 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin and \$2,320. This courier had crossed into the United States in a Mexican taxi several minutes prior to the apprehension of another courier, who had also ingested suspected Colombian heroin. Both men were from Pereira, Colombia, and had travel documents prepared by the same travel agency. As with the other courier, the currency in his possession was a partial payment for transporting the heroin into the United States. There had been only one Colombian heroin seizure at a South Texas POE during CY96.

(DS) On October 8, as the result of an investigation, USCS Brownsville Special Agents and Cameron County Sheriff's deputies seized 342 kilograms of marijuana

from a 1993 Kenworth tractor towing a 1997 Utility refrigerated trailer, both with Michigan plates, in Harlingen, Texas. The marijuana was found hidden in a shipment of onions. The produce had been loaded in Hidalgo County, and the marijuana had been loaded from a residence in Brownsville, Texas. Also seized was a Ford Mustang sports coupe. The 51-year-old driver from Farmington Hills, Michigan, and four others were arrested.

(DS) On October 9, as the result of an investigation, Houston Police officers and USCS and DEA Special Agents seized \$410,000 from the trunk of a late model Lincoln Town Car with Texas plates, traveling on I-10 east near Houston, Texas.

(DS) On October 10, during the course of an investigation, DEA Special Agents seized 98 kilograms of cocaine in McAllen, Texas. One 30-year-old female was arrested. Some packages had been wrapped in plastic sacks and rubber; some were marked with a picture of a car along with the word "TWINGO" in red and white.

(DS) On October 13, pursuant to a canine alert, USCS Inspectors at the Laredo, Texas, Bridge II POE seized 57 kilograms of cocaine hidden in a false wall compartment built between the back seat and trunk area of a 1994 Buick Regal Gran Sport sedan with Tamaulipas plates. [REDACTED]

Materials used in the construction of the compartment were also found in the vehicle. The driver, a 23-year-old male Mexican national from Coatzacoacos, Veracruz, had claimed to be the vehicle's owner from Monterrey, Nuevo Leon. The vehicle was registered to another individual from Reynosa, Tamaulipas.

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of a 1997 Ford U-Haul rental truck with Colorado plates. A 38-year-old male and a 44-year-old female were arrested.

(DS) On October 28, Texas DPS officers seized 408 kilograms of marijuana from a motor home with Michigan plates, traveling north on U.S. Highway 77 near Kingsville, Texas. Two male suspects were arrested.

(DS) On October 29, as a result of information provided by DEA Laredo, INS/BP Agents seized 460 kilograms of marijuana from a 1992 Chevrolet pickup with Texas plates, traveling north on I-35 near Dilley, Texas. The marijuana was hidden in the extended cab area, in a toolbox, and in a compartment under the truck bed. One 26-year-old Hispanic male from Beeville, Texas, was arrested.

(DS) On October 29, Texas DPS officers seized 18 kilograms of cocaine from a 1990 Nissan Sentra coupe with Texas plates, traveling on I-10 east of San Antonio, Texas. The vehicle may have entered the United States at one of the Laredo, Texas, POEs. The cocaine was discovered inside the quarter panels. Brackets had been welded inside the quarter panels to hold the drugs, so when the panels were tapped, they would sound hollow. A waxy substance, similar to citronella, was also used as a masking agent on the packages. A 36-year-old Mexican national from Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, was en route to Houston, Texas, from Nuevo Laredo.

(DS) On October 29, pursuant to a canine alert, INS/BP Agents at the checkpoint on I-35 north of Laredo, Texas, seized 379 kilograms of marijuana from a trailer being towed by a 1989 Kenworth tractor, with Maine and Texas plates, respectively. The marijuana was found

in the rear of the trailer. The driver, a 37-year-old male Mexican national legally residing in Laredo, Texas, was arrested.

(DS) On October 29, INS/BP Agents recovered 639 kilograms of marijuana found abandoned near the Rio Grande River in Laredo, Texas.

(DS) On October 29, based on information [REDACTED] DEA Alpine Special Agents and INS/BP Agents in Marfa, Texas, seized 695 kilograms of marijuana from all four rear tires of a Case, model 1270, farm tractor being towed by a 1992 Kenworth tractor with Oklahoma plates.

(DS) On October 30, McAllen, Texas, international airport task force agents seized 5.4 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a parcel destined for New York City, New York. The heroin had been sewn into several pieces of clothing.

(DS) On November 3, INS/BP Agents seized 1,145 kilograms of marijuana from a 1989 GMC Vandura van with Texas plates, near McAllen, Texas. Earlier, a group of four individuals scouting the area was observed 1 mile downriver from the Los Ebanos POE. Several hours later, agents saw the van transit into the area. When agents initiated a pursuit, the driver abandoned the vehicle and fled back into Mexico.

(DS) On November 4, INS/BP Agents seized 356 kilograms of marijuana from ranch property off U.S. Highway 277, west of Eagle Pass, Texas. As agents approached, the suspects scattered into the brush. Two male Mexican nationals from Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, and Netzahualcoyotl, Mexico, were apprehended.

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(DS) On November 4, pursuant to a canine alert, INS/BP Agents at the checkpoint on U.S. Highway 77, near Sarita, Texas, seized 944 kilograms of marijuana from a 1988 Fruehauf trailer being towed by a 1992 Freightliner, both with Texas plates. Two male suspects were apprehended.

(DS) On November 5, as the result of an investigation, INS/BP Agents and DEA Special Agents seized 647 kilograms of marijuana, as well as two hydraulic pumps, two hydraulic rams, and one press from a residence in Garceno, Texas. There were no arrests.

(DS) On November 7, INS/BP Agents seized 661 kilograms of marijuana from a 1987 Chevrolet G20 van with Texas plates, abandoned in Midway, Texas. The vehicle is registered to an individual from Falcon Heights, Texas.

(DS) On November 9, INS/BP Agents seized 4,644 kilograms of marijuana from a 181 Mercedes-Benz freight truck with temporary Texas plates, traveling north on FM 493. The vehicle failed to yield when agents attempted to conduct a routine immigration stop. The driver abandoned the vehicle south of Donna, Texas, while it was still moving. A search for the driver proved negative. Agents discovered the marijuana and a refrigerator in the cargo area and one Kenwood walkie-talkie in the cab. The truck is registered to a transportation company in McAllen, Texas.

(DS) On November 11, USCS Inspectors at the Paso del Norte Bridge POE in El Paso seized \$220,020 in undeclared U.S. currency from a Dodge Ram charger pickup. The driver, a 36-year-old male Mexican national resident of El Paso, Texas, was arrested.

(DS) On November 11, INS/BP Agents seized 571 kilograms of marijuana near the

Rio Grande River in Garceno, Texas. Agents had followed a trail made by four individuals traveling away from the river. As agents approached the group, they all fled back into Mexico, leaving behind the marijuana.

(DS) On November 11, during the course of a multiagency investigation on a Dallas-based cocaine-trafficking organization, Ellis County Sheriff's officers seized \$480,724 from a 1994 Ford traveling on I-35 near Waxahachie, Texas. The drug proceeds were reportedly destined for Mexico City and Colombia.

(DS) On November 11, during the course of an investigation, DEA and USCS Eagle Pass Special Agents seized 361 kilograms of marijuana and arrested three male suspects south of Eagle Pass, Texas. The marijuana was destined for Houston, Texas.

(DS) On November 12, INS/BP Agents seized 499 kilograms of marijuana from a 1979 Ford pickup with Texas plates, in Los Morenos, Texas. The marijuana was in the bed of the pickup. One male suspect was arrested.

(DS) On November 12, pursuant to a canine alert, INS/BP Agents at the checkpoint on I-35 north of Laredo, Texas, seized 500 kilograms of marijuana from a trailer being towed by a 1997 Kenworth tractor, both with Indiana plates. The marijuana, in 14 cardboard boxes, was commingled with a manifested shipment of steel coils and other freight. The male driver, a Jamaican U.S. citizen resident of Los Angeles, California, and his two passengers, both Jamaican males from Brooklyn and Jamaica, New York, were en route to New Hampshire and Rhode Island. The suspects indicated that the marijuana was to be delivered to the New York City area. Additionally, 19 similarly sized loads of marijuana have previously been transported to New York.

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(DS) On November 12, INS/BP Agents seized 364 kilograms of marijuana west of the main landing at Fronzon, Texas. Agents followed a trail made by several individuals traveling away from the river. Ford Tempo with Mexico plates, traveling south on I-35. The currency was located behind the back seat. The male driver was detained.

(DS) On November 12, pursuant to a canine alert, INS/BP Agents at the checkpoint on U.S. Highway 281 south of Falfurrias, Texas, seized 28 kilograms of cocaine hidden in a compartment in the trunk (next to the gas tank) of a 1991 Ford Crown Victoria sedan with Texas plates. The 25 bundles were wrapped in clear plastic and covered in grease. A 22-year-old female Mexican national from Mission, Texas, and her 45-year-old female passenger from McAllen, Texas, were arrested.

(DS) On November 13, pursuant to a canine alert, USCS and INS Inspectors at the Brownsville, Texas-B&M Bridge POE seized 19 kilograms of cocaine, which had been hidden in compartments in the quarter panels of a 1989 Oldsmobile Cutlass Supreme coupe with Illinois plates. The 14 packages had been wrapped in layers of cellophane and black rubber and then covered in grease. The driver, a 23-year-old male resident of Brownsville, Texas, was arrested.

(DS) On November 13, the San Antonio Highway Interdiction Team seized \$221,350 from a wrecker towing a 1987 Acura Legend with Texas plates, on I-35 in Bexar County. One male was in the back seat of the Acura, and the wrecker operator and another male (the Acura's owner) were in the wrecker. The two San Antonio, Texas, residents provided conflicting statements as to their travel to Mexico when their vehicle had broken down on the highway. The currency was discovered under the rear seat of the Acura.

(DS) On November 14, Ellis County, Texas, sheriff's officers seized \$480,724 from a 1994

(DS) On November 15, a Texas DPS officer seized 66 kilograms of cocaine from a 1984 Ford F-150 pickup with Texas plates, at Encino, Texas. The vehicle was brought to the INS/BP checkpoint on U.S. Highway 281, south of Falfurrias, Texas. The cocaine was concealed in the dashboard, in the doors, and in an altered rear seat. A married couple from McAllen, Texas, was arrested. The vehicle is registered to another individual from Hidalgo, Texas.

(DS) On November 17, INS/BP Agents seized 653 kilograms of marijuana left by a fleeing group of backpackers near Comstock, Texas.

(DS) On November 19, pursuant to a canine alert, USCS Inspectors and National Guardsmen at the Pharr, Texas, POE seized 348 kilograms of marijuana from a 1981 Cunitula flatbed trailer being towed by a 1973 Autocar diesel tractor, with Mexico and Tamaulipas plates, respectively. A compartment had been built into the entire length of the steel support beam of the trailer. Packages of marijuana, wrapped in cellophane and grease, were marked with the word "CHICO" in black. The driver, a 30-year-old male Mexican national from Reynosa, Tamaulipas, was arrested. The tractor-trailer is registered to an individual from Guadalajara, Jalisco.

(DS) On November 19, Palmview, Texas, police officers seized 104 kilograms of cocaine from the trunk of a 1994 Chrysler LHS sedan with Texas plates, traveling on U.S. Highway 83 near Mission, Texas. Some cocaine packages had the number "70" stamped in black ink, and one package had the

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word "ORO" handwritten in red marker. The male resident of Rio Grande City, Texas, was coming from Rio Grande City.

(DS) On November 20, INS/BP Agents at Garciasville, Texas, seized 369 kilograms of marijuana from a Chrysler van with Texas plates.

(DS) On November 22, Oldham County, Texas, sheriff's deputies seized 17 kilograms of methamphetamine discovered in two suitcases inside the trunk of a rented 1997 Nissan Ultima with New Mexico plates, traveling east on I-40. A couple, residents of Modesto, California, was en route to Amarillo, Texas, from Modesto. The vehicle had been rented in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Officers conducted a controlled delivery in Amarillo, Texas, which resulted in the arrest of an 18-year-old male.

(DS) On November 23, pursuant to a canine alert, INS/BP Agents at the checkpoint on I-10 at Sierra Blanca, Texas, seized 10 kilograms of cocaine hidden in the rear quarter panels of a rented 1996 Chevrolet Cavalier coupe with Tennessee plates. One male was arrested.

(DS) On November 25, as the result of an investigation, USCS Special Agents seized 1.2 kilograms of heroin from a 1994 Dodge Caravan at a hotel in Eagle Pass, Texas. The heroin, a pistol, and \$26,950 were discovered in a concealed compartment under the passengers' side dashboard air bag cover. The compartment was activated by engaging the parking brake, buckling the driver's side seat belt, and then pushing a switch concealed inside the frame on the bottom of the driver's side seat.

(DS) On November 26, INS/BP Agents seized 386 kilograms of marijuana from a 1987 Volkswagen Jetta with Texas plates, in Progreso, Texas. One 20-year-old Hispanic

male was arrested. The vehicle is registered to an individual from El Paso, Texas.

(DS) On November 26, a joint DEA McAllen, El Paso, and Tampa investigation of the McAllen-based [redacted] marijuana-distribution organization culminated with the arrest of five individuals and the seizure of over 8 metric tons of marijuana. Previously, on November 18, Special Agents had conducted a controlled delivery of 451 kilograms of marijuana to Tampa, Florida. Information gleaned from the Tampa seizure led to the two additional seizures made in McAllen on November 26. Special Agents seized 2,569 kilograms of marijuana from one residence and 740 kilograms at another (a total of 3,309 kilograms). One of the residences was the same stash house in which 4.5 metric tons of marijuana were seized in April 1997. U.S. currency totaling \$45,000 was also seized during the November 1997 investigations.

(DS) On November 26, based on information provided by DEA McAllen, INS/BP Agents from the Rio Grande City station seized 480 kilograms of marijuana stashed at a residence off FM 649, approximately 2 miles north of Garcano, Texas.

(DS) On November 26, INS/BP [redacted] observed three vehicles illegally enter the United States at the Polvo Crossing east of Redford, Texas, and travel on FM 170 toward Presidio, Texas. INS/BP Agents subsequently initiated traffic stops and seized a total of 386 kilograms of marijuana. The 1985 Chevrolet Suburban with Texas plates, driven by a 25-year-old male Mexican national from Ciudad Chihuahua, Chihuahua, had a false undercarriage holding 451 bundles of marijuana. A 1987 Volkswagen Jetta with Texas plates, driven by a 20-year-old male Mexican national from Ciudad Chihuahua,

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had a hidden compartment in the trunk which contained 95 bundles of marijuana. A 34-year-old male Mexican naturalized U.S. citizen from Pengreen, Idaho, was driving the third vehicle, a 1984 Mercury Grand Marquis with Texas plates.



(DS) On November 26, a joint investigation conducted by DEA McAllen, El Paso, and Tampa, Florida, culminated in the seizure of a total of 3,768 kilograms of marijuana at several locations in McAllen Texas. Some of the marijuana was destined for the Tampa area. Five suspects were arrested.

(DS) On November 29, INS/BP Agents seized 855 kilograms of marijuana from the cargo area of a 1987 Ford van abandoned in Palmview, Texas. Agents observed the vehicle emerging from the Abram area, a small community next to Palmview that is known for the smuggling of illegal aliens and drugs. As agents attempted to approach the vehicle, the driver accelerated. Agents followed the vehicle to a nearby trailer park. The driver, a Mexican national resident of Mission, Texas, was later apprehended and stated that he had been paid \$1,000 to drive the van away from the border to a parking lot in Mission. Agents also discovered a Kenwood hand-held two-way radio and an Advance Paging pager inside the van.

(DS) On December 2, INS/BP Agents recovered 681 kilograms of marijuana abandoned on the riverbank in La Grulla, Texas.

(DS) On December 2, INS/BP Agents in Garcano, Texas, seized 355 kilograms of

marijuana discovered in a 1986 Jeep Wagoneer with Oklahoma plates. The Jeep had been abandoned on La Prieta Ranch Road. A 1986 Mazda and a 1985 Ford pickup, both with Texas plates, were thought to be traveling with the Wagoneer. The drivers of the vehicles were detained but were later released.

(DS) On December 3, McAllen DEA Special Agents and Texas DPS officers seized 1,281 kilograms of marijuana and arrested three individuals in Edinburg, Texas. As the result of prior intelligence, surveillance was initiated on a suspicious tractor-trailer parked at a fruit company warehouse in Pharr, Texas. The tractor-trailer was followed to an auto body/paint shop in Edinburg, where officers observed several individuals load and unload boxes from the trunk. The marijuana was found commingled with a shipment of broccoli.

(DS) On December 4, INS/BP Agents at the U.S. Highway 59 checkpoint, near Freer, Texas, seized 1,175 kilograms of cocaine concealed within a shipment of Mexican tiles being transported in a 1988 Utility trailer with Maine plates, towed by a 1996 Mack truck with Texas plates. Following a canine alert, agents discovered the cocaine wedged between the cargo pallets. The cocaine packages, wrapped in yellow or orange rubber-like material, had been placed inside woven nylon sacks. Markings on the cocaine packages included: "URGENTE" in red or blue capital letters, a picture of Uncle Sam, a circular sticker with a picture of a smiling green frog with the word "CALLATE" written under the head, a white sticker with a red teddy bear with the words "MARCELA 97" under the bear, and the word "PAZ" handwritten, some in red and some in blue. The driver, a U.S. citizen, was destined for Chicago, Illinois.

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(DS) On December 5, as the result of an investigation, DEA Fort Worth Special Agents and Fort Worth Police officers seized 480 kilograms of cocaine and arrested two individuals from the Houston, Texas, area. The cocaine had been unloaded from a tractor-trailer at a location on Azle Avenue in Fort Worth. No tractor-trailer was located; however, two crates of cocaine were found in the building. Some cocaine packages were labeled "MARCELA 97" with a picture of a teddy bear. Others had a label with the word "NOSE." This smuggling activity involved a large-scale cocaine-trafficking organization operating between the Del Rio, Texas/Ciudad Acuna, Mexico, and the Houston and Fort Worth areas. Reportedly, the source of supply, located in Chihuahua, Mexico, supplies several organizations. On November 25, a 56-kilogram cocaine seizure occurred in the same vicinity. The markings were identical in both seizures. Packages with the "MARCELA 97" and the "NOSE" markings were also found in the 1,175-kilogram seizure of cocaine at the INS/BP checkpoint on U.S. Highway 59 in Freer, Texas, on December 4. In all three incidents, the cocaine packages were wrapped with yellow- or orange-colored rubber material.

(DS) On December 6, INS/BP Agents seized 417 kilograms of marijuana near the riverbank in McAllen, Texas. Some of the 19 bags were marked with the letter "R" in red paint, and others were marked with the letter "X" in black paint. One individual was arrested.

(DS) On December 8, USCS Inspectors at the Pharr, Texas, POE seized 854 kilograms of marijuana discovered in a Great Dane trailer towed by a 1988 Famsa tractor, both with Mexico plates. Following a canine alert, agents removed panels from both sidewalls of the trailer, revealing the 296 packages of marijuana. The trailer contained a shipment

of pickles destined for Weslaco, Texas. The driver, a male Mexican national from Reynosa, Tamaulipas, was arrested. Four other individuals associated with this seizure were later arrested.

(DS) On December 8, USCS Inspectors at the Rio Grande City, Texas, POE seized 624 kilograms of marijuana concealed in the roof of a 1990 Great Dane trailer (no plates) towed by a 1985 International tractor with Mexico plates. Inspectors noticed new rivets above the doors, slightly different paint around the roof, and insulation dripping from the rivets above the door. The marijuana in the roof was placed 10 feet from the front of the trailer to 4 feet from the back, and 6 inches from each side. The driver was released.

(DS) On December 10, Texas DPS officers seized 24.5 kilograms of cocaine from a 1989 Oldsmobile Cutlass with Texas plates traveling on U.S. Highway 281 in Hidalgo County. The cocaine was in a hidden compartment between the rear seat and the trunk. The unmarked cocaine packages were wrapped in clear plastic and brown tape. The 36-year-old male driver was arrested.

[REDACTED]

(DS) On December 10, DEA McAllen and USCS Special Agents seized 856 kilograms of marijuana from a tractor-trailer at a ranch in Mission, Texas. The marijuana, discovered in hidden compartments in the walls of the trailer, entered the United States from Mexico [REDACTED] Four persons were arrested.

(DS) On December 11, pursuant to a preprimary canine operation, USCS Inspectors at the Ysleta POE in El Paso seized 20 kilograms of cocaine hidden in a compartment behind the dashboard of a 1985 Pontiac 6000

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sedan with Chihuahua plates. Access to the compartment was through a panel directly behind the radio. The driver, a 28-year-old male Mexican national from Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, was arrested. A passenger, the driver's 18-year-old girlfriend, also from Ciudad Juarez, was released. The owner was from Hunt Valley, Maryland; however, the driver may have purchased the vehicle.

(DS) On December 11, INS/BP Agents seized 471 kilograms of marijuana found in the bed of a 1986 Ford pickup with Texas plates parked near the river in Midway, Texas. Midway is a small community about 6 miles west of Rio Grande City and is known for drug and alien smuggling. The marijuana was in tan sugar sacks that had been spray-painted black. Several individuals fled from the area.

(DS) On December 11, Robstown, Texas, police officers seized 421 kilograms of marijuana from a 1991 Kenworth tractor towing a 1585 trailer both with Texas plates, traveling on Texas Highway 77. The male driver, a resident of Houston, Texas, was en route to North Carolina from Edinburg, Texas. The marijuana was found concealed in a 2 by 5 foot hidden compartment in the sleeper area. A subsequent investigation resulted in the seizure of a 1996 Peterbilt tractor. Two suspects were arrested.

(DS) On December 12, INS/BP Agents seized 463 kilograms of marijuana from a 1986 GMC Suburban with Texas plates, traveling near Van Horn, Texas. The suburban was traveling with a 1993 Dodge pickup with Texas plates. The marijuana had been wrapped in tape and placed in 14 burlap sacks. Both drivers, one identified as an 18-year-old Hispanic male from Pecos, Texas, were arrested. While inspecting a set of Kenwood two-way radios, Model TK760H, found in the vehicles, agents heard an incoming transmission that led them to a third

male suspect at a Van Horn motel. Earlier in the day, this individual had been stopped on U.S. Highway 90 near Valentine, Texas, while driving a 1979 Chevrolet pickup with Texas plates. He claimed at that time to be en route to Fort Davis, Texas. Both the Dodge pickup and GMC Suburban are registered to other individuals from El Paso, Texas. Reporting indicated that the marijuana might have originated in Pilaes, Chihuahua.

(DS) On December 12, as the result of a traffic stop, INS/BP Agents seized 11 kilograms of cocaine from behind the front seat of a 1993 Ford F-350 pickup with Texas plates, traveling on Callaghan Road near Freer, Texas. The unmarked cocaine packages were wrapped in cellophane and smeared with transmission fluid. A U.S. citizen from Laredo was arrested. Callaghan Road is frequently used by smugglers to circumvent traffic checkpoints on I-35 and U.S. Highway 59.

(DS) On December 12, as the result of an investigation, USCS Special Agents assisted by INS/BP Agents seized 539 kilograms of marijuana from a residence in Roma, Texas. Seven individuals were arrested.

(DS) On December 14, as the result of an investigation, USCS and DEA Special Agents seized 938 kilograms of marijuana from a vehicle and residence in Houston, Texas. Three suspects were arrested.

(DS) On December 15, USCS Inspectors at the Hidalgo, Texas, POE seized 63 kilograms of cocaine concealed in a hidden compartment behind the rear seat of a 1991 Buick Century with Texas plates. The packages, layered with wax, were covered with cumin (spice) and were further wrapped in cellophane with a final layer of clear tape. Some packages were marked with the word "ORO." The driver, a 31-year-old male Mexican national resident of

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Galena Park, Texas, was arrested. [REDACTED]

(DS) On December 15, USCS and DEA Special Agents in Hidalgo, Texas, seized 463 kilograms of marijuana found in a charter bus. The marijuana was concealed in the fuel tank and in the front wheel well. The driver was arrested.

(DS) On December 16, as the result of an investigation, DEA Special Agents seized 30 kilograms of cocaine in Pearland, Texas. The cocaine packages were marked with the letters "PAC." One suspect was arrested.

(DS) On December 17, as the result of an investigation, Metro Narcotics Task Force officers seized 1,163 kilograms of marijuana at a residence in El Paso, Texas. The marijuana was found in a 1986 Ford F-150 Econoline van with Texas plates parked in the garage. Each bundle of marijuana was marked with their respective weight. Two male Mexican nationals from Chihuahua were arrested.

(DS) On December 18, INS/BP Agents at the I-35 checkpoint north of Laredo, Texas, seized 10 kilograms of cocaine concealed in the back seat of a 1987 Pontiac Bonneville with Texas plates. The unmarked cocaine packages were wrapped in clear cellophane. The female driver and her female passenger, both U.S. citizens from Laredo, were arrested. [REDACTED]

(DS) On December 19, INS/BP Agents recovered 493 kilograms of marijuana found near the river in Rio Grande City, Texas.

Some of the marijuana packages were marked with comic pictures.

(DS) On December 19, as the result of an investigation, El Paso Police officers seized 1,553 kilograms of marijuana from a self-storage facility in El Paso, Texas. Two male suspects were arrested.

(DS) On December 19, El Paso County Sheriff's deputies seized \$267,706 from the trunk of a rented 1997 Oldsmobile 88 with Illinois plates, traveling west on I-10 in El Paso, Texas. A male resident of Tucson, Arizona, was en route to Tucson from Huntsville, Alabama.

(DS) On December 19, INS/BP Agents seized 435 kilograms of marijuana in the La Puerta Farms area in Rio Grande City, Texas. Agents followed the footprints of two individuals traveling on a field road one-fourth of a mile north of the river. The suspects dropped the bundles they were carrying and fled when they encountered the agents. Each sack was marked with the number of bundles it contained.

(DS) On December 21, INS/BP Agents seized 401 kilograms of marijuana in Rio Grande City, Texas. Several subjects walked north from the San Juan Crossing toward U.S. Highway 83. When they observed the agents approaching, the subjects dropped the bundles and fled. Two individuals from Camargo, Tamaulipas, were later apprehended.

(DS) On December 21, Harris County, Texas, sheriff's officers seized 60 kilograms of cocaine from a 1989 Mazda with Texas plates. The cocaine was discovered in the bed of the truck. A male resident of Houston, Texas, was detained.

(DS) On December 25, INS/BP Agents at Mercedes, Texas, seized 355 kilograms of

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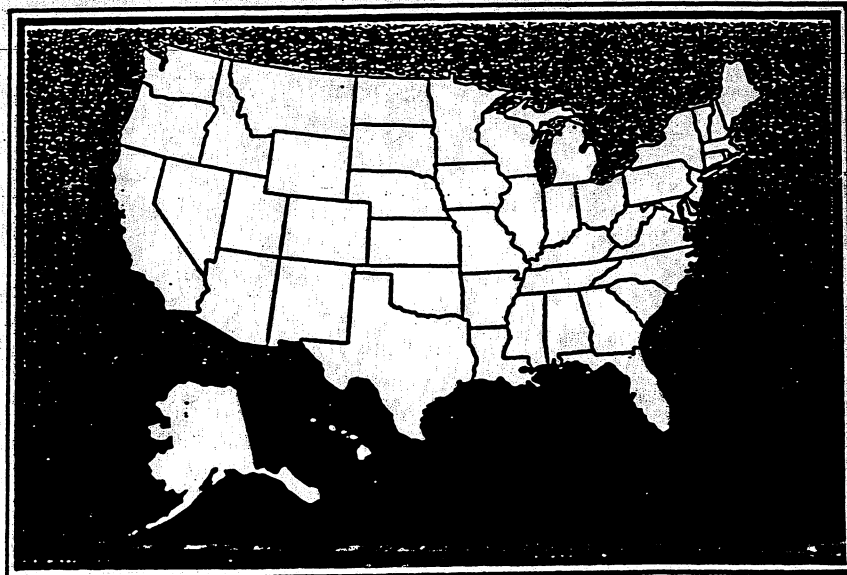
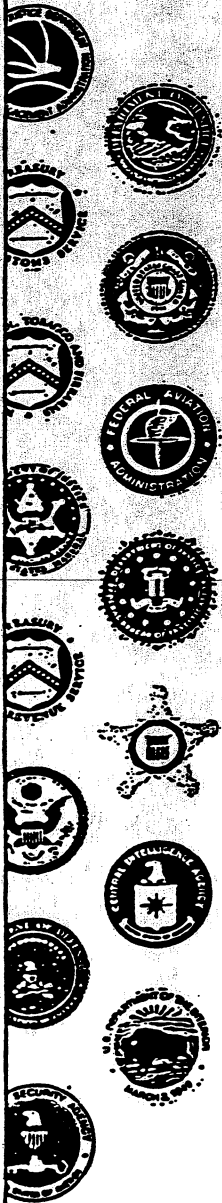
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Department of Justice
Drug Enforcement Administration
Domestic Intelligence Center

DEA
EPIC Domestic Quarterly Threat Brief July -
September 1997
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Seizures, and Associated Material

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Domestic Quarterly Threat Brief



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(Photograph courtesy of the Refugio, Texas, Police Department)



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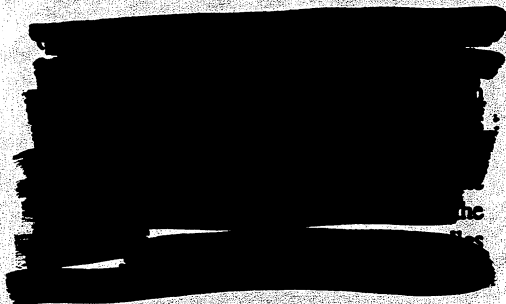
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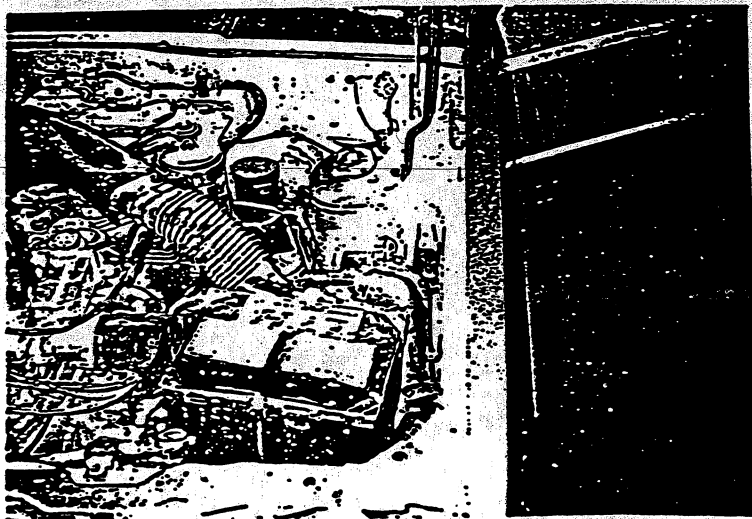
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(Photographs courtesy of Metro Narcotics
Las Cruces, New Mexico)



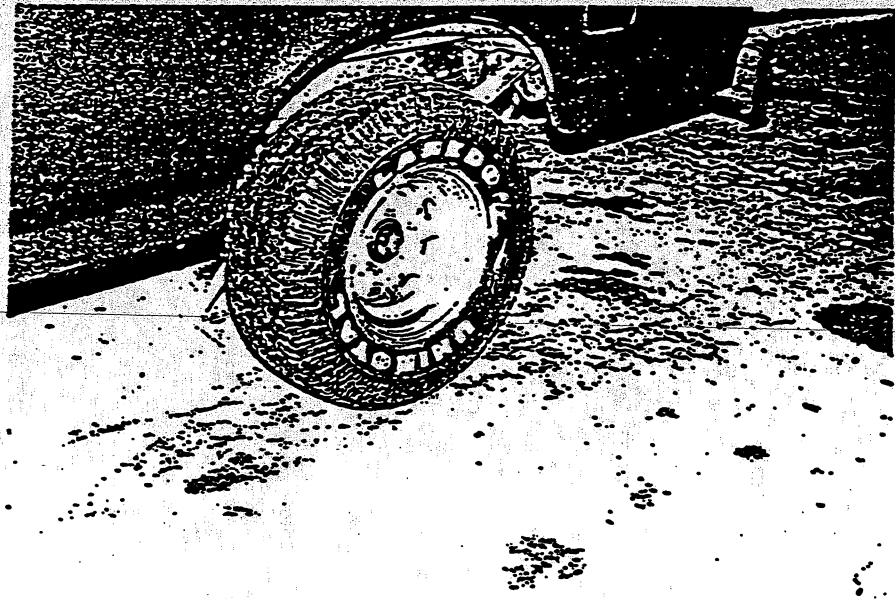
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(Photographs courtesy of the Nebraska St. Patrol)



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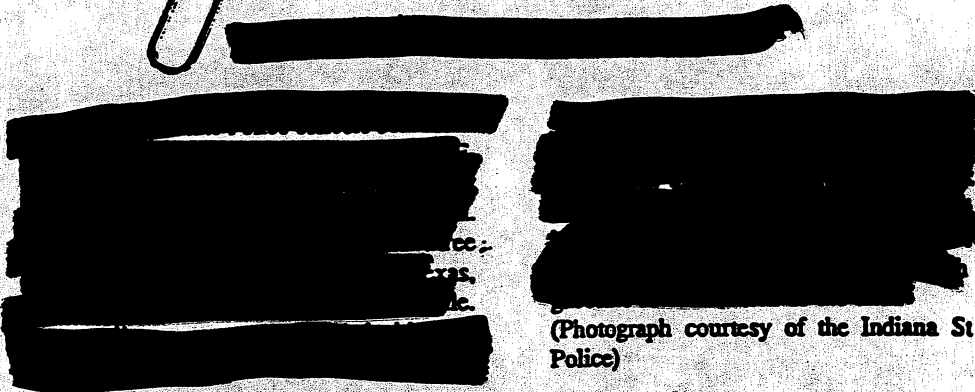
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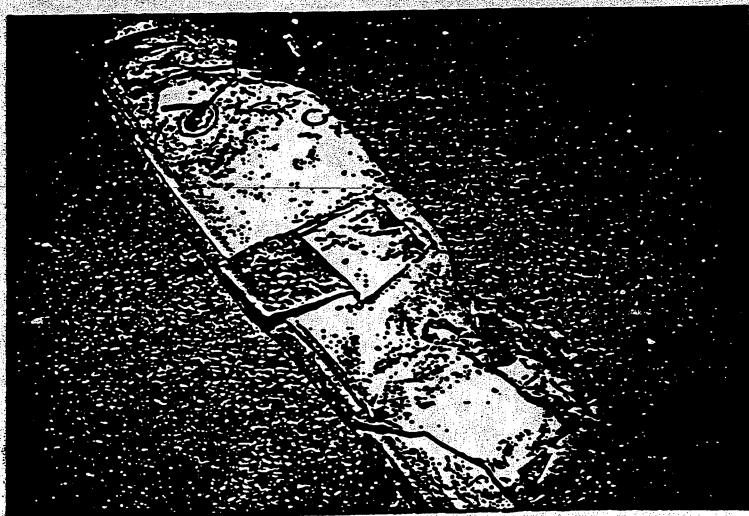
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(Photograph courtesy of the Indiana St Police)

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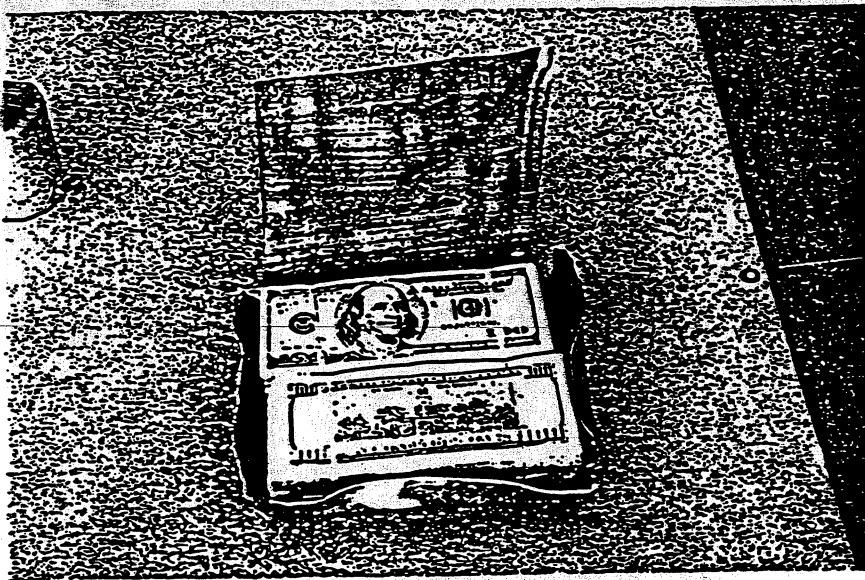
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(Photographs courtesy of Operation
JETWAY New York City)



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SIGNIFICANT ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY
DOMESTIC

(DS) This section contains intelligence capsules of significant drug- or currency-related arrests or seizures in the United States. It is based on information available to EPIC and should not be considered all inclusive. Seizures with controlled deliveries pending will not be included without the prior approval of the agency reporting the seizure; therefore, significant enforcement activities may have occurred which are not reflected herein.

Arizona

(DS) On July 5, USCS Inspectors at the Douglas, Arizona, POE seized 44.4 kilograms of cocaine from a hidden compartment in the dashboard of a 1995 Chevrolet Cavalier with Arizona plates. The 40 packages of cocaine were covered in saran wrap, rubber-balloon wrap, and contact paper. The compartment was the same length as the dashboard and was sealed with bondo, silicone, and duct-tape. The driver, a 36-year-old female resident of Douglas, was arrested.

(DS) On July 11, USCS Special Agents in Nogales, Arizona, seized 371.8 kilograms of cocaine from the trunk of a 1992 Volkswagen bearing Arizona plates. The vehicle failed to stop at the Mariposa POE and was subsequently found abandoned in Nogales.

(DS) On July 16 and 17, USCS and DEA Special Agents and members of the Cochise County, Arizona, Border Alliance Group seized a total of 886 kilograms of marijuana and 39,810 rounds of ammunition of various calibers in Douglas, Arizona. On July 16, approximately 534 kilograms of marijuana were discovered in a compartment between the bed and drive train of a 1993 GMC topkick truck with Texas plates. Two of the five suspects were male Mexican nationals, one resided in Douglas and the other resided

in Agua Prieta, Sonora. The truck was registered to a Dallas, Texas, company. On July 17, approximately 352 kilograms of marijuana and ammunition were seized at one of the suspect's residence in Douglas. One 32-year-old female U.S. citizen, residing at the above Douglas residence, was arrested.

(DS) On July 19, USCS Inspectors at the Diconcini POE in Nogales, Arizona, seized 68 kilograms of cocaine from the bumper and quarter panels of a 1993 Oldsmobile Ciera with Arizona plates. The driver was directed to the secondary inspection area, where he attempted to flee back to Mexico, but was apprehended.

[REDACTED] The driver, a 22-year-old male U.S. citizen resident of Rio Rico, Arizona, was arrested.

(DS) On July 28, INS/BP Agents seized 801 kilograms of marijuana from an old mine located along a side road off Ruby Road west of Nogales, Arizona. The marijuana was discovered after agents followed a suspicious 1979 Chevrolet utility truck with Arizona plates. The marijuana was divided into 28 burlap bundles, 27 of which were found inside the mine and one near the utility truck.

(DS) On August 11, USCS Inspectors at the Douglas, Arizona, POE seized 16.7

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kilograms of cocaine concealed in a Mexico licensed 1987 Mercury Marquis. Approximately 4 kilograms of cocaine were found in the purse of an elderly female passenger and 13 kilograms were found in the backrests of the front seats. The cocaine packages were wrapped in plastic and marked "EVEL" or "RJ." The driver fled to Mexico.

(DS) On August 14, INS/BP Agents discovered 765 kilograms of marijuana hidden under a tree in an area known as Summit Motorway, located 14 miles west of Nogales, Arizona. Agents discovered the marijuana after following the footprints of numerous horses that had entered the United States.

(DS) On August 22, USCS Inspectors at the Mariposa POE in Nogales, Arizona, seized a total of 777 kilograms of marijuana from the cargo areas of two Chevrolet vans, both with Arizona plates. The drivers of both vans had attempted to cross at the POE at the same time in different lanes. Both left their vans with the engines running and fled back into Mexico.

(DS) On August 23, during the course of an investigation, DEA Phoenix Special Agents seized 239 kilograms of marijuana and arrested three male suspects at a residence in Phoenix, Arizona. The marijuana had been wrapped in either zip-lock or heat-sealed bags. Several hours later, at a second residence in Phoenix, DEA Special Agents seized an additional 125 kilograms of marijuana—similarly wrapped but marked "EX#3-2,735 LBS" and "EX#4-223 LBS"—and arrested two other male suspects.

(DS) On August 30, Arizona DPS officers seized 18 kilograms of methamphetamine from a rental vehicle traveling east on I-40 near Seligman, Arizona. Two male Mexican

nationals, residents of San Diego, California, stated they were en route to El Paso, Texas. The methamphetamine was found in the rear door panels. DEA Phoenix Special Agents determined the packages' shape, round balls, were consistent with manufacturing techniques used in Mexico.

(DS) On September 1, after a canine alert, Arizona DPS officers seized 18 kilograms of methamphetamine from a rented 1997 Ford Taurus with California plates, traveling east on I-40 in Yavapai County. One male Mexican national and one male U.S. citizen, residents of El Cajon and National City, California, were en route to El Paso, Texas, from San Diego, California. The methamphetamine was located in both rear door panels.

(DS) On September 11, after a canine alert, USCS Inspectors at the Douglas, Arizona, POE seized 5.5 kilograms of Mexican brown heroin hidden in the dashboard compartment under the windshield of a 1989 Pontiac Grand Prix coupe with California plates. The driver, a 40-year-old Mexican national, resident of Long Beach, California, was arrested.

Arkansas

(DS) On August 25, Conway, Arkansas, police officers seized 10.4 kilograms of methamphetamine discovered in the gas tank of a 1991 Lincoln Town Car with California plates, traveling east on I-40 in Faulkner County. A Hispanic male and two Hispanic females, all residents of Los Angeles, California, were detained.

California

(DS) On July 1, USCS Inspectors at the Long Beach, California, seaport seized 176 kilograms of cocaine shipped aboard the

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vessel [REDACTED] from Panama. The cocaine was concealed within a 386-box shipment of shoes, skates, fans, and various other merchandise.

(DS) On July 2, USCS Inspectors at the San Ysidro, California, POE seized 1.4 kilograms of Mexican brown heroin from a 66-year-old male Mexican national, a resident of La Habra, California, traveling from Nayarit, Mexico, to Santa Ana, California. The heroin was concealed in a false bottom in his carry-on bag. On July 4, a 33-year-old male Mexican national was arrested at the San Ysidro POE with 1 kilogram of Mexican brown heroin and attempted entry through the pedestrian lanes. This subject had the same paternal last name, reported the same address in La Habra, and concealed the heroin in the same manner.

(DS) On July 7, an investigation conducted by DEA Special Agents resulted in the seizure of 20 kilograms of cocaine, 85 kilograms of marijuana, and the arrest of five individuals at a residence in El Monte, California. As the investigation continued, an additional 16 kilograms of cocaine were seized on July 8 at another residence in El Monte. The cocaine seized on July 7 was marked with the word "Beta" written in white letters on a large red star inside a box outlined in red and coated with wax. The marijuana had also been covered in wax but bore no markings. The seized cocaine in the second incident was wrapped in cellophane and bore no markings.

(DS) On July 7, USCS Inspectors at the San Francisco, California, international airport seized 1.4 kilograms of opium from an express mail parcel that had arrived from Thailand and was destined for Sacramento, California. The opium was concealed in two black portfolios.

(DS) On July 8, California Highway Patrol (CHP) officers seized 6.3 kilograms of heroin from a 1989 Pontiac Grand Am with Mexico plates, traveling west on I-10 in San Bernardino County. A Mexican male resident of Los Angeles, California, was en route to Los Angeles from Mexico. The heroin was concealed in a modified dashboard directly under the windshield.

(DS) On July 8, CHP officers seized 1.2 kilograms of heroin from the floor of a 1992 Ford Aerostar with Missouri plates, traveling north on I-15 in San Bernardino County. The male Canadian national, a resident of Taylor, Michigan, was en route to Taylor from Rosemead, California.

(DS) On July 9, as the result of an investigation, DEA Special Agents seized 5 kilograms of cocaine at a residence in Mira Loma, California. One package had a picture of a blue Smurf carrying a yellow cake, with the word "Pluto" written in white letters on the cap of the Smurf. Three individuals were arrested.

(DS) On July 9, Ontario, California, Operation JETWAY Task Force officers seized 12 kilograms of cocaine and 63.5 kilograms of marijuana from the luggage of a black male resident of Moreno Valley, California, and from two black females, from Birmingham, Alabama, and Hollywood, California, traveling from Ontario to Birmingham on Continental and Delta Airlines. Later, agents executed a search warrant at the Moreno Valley address and seized an additional 23 kilograms of marijuana. A fourth subject, a black male resident of Bellflower, California, departed Ontario on Delta Airlines en route to Birmingham. An additional 30 kilograms of marijuana were seized from his luggage.

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(DS) On July 11, after a canine alert, USCS Inspectors at the Otay Mesa, California, POE seized 376 kilograms of marijuana from an empty 1980 Vanm refrigerated trailer being towed by a 1977 International tractor, both with California plates. The marijuana was found in a hidden compartment in the trailer. The driver, a Mexican national, a resident of Tijuana, Baja California Norte, was arrested.

(DS) On July 11, USCS Inspectors at the Los Angeles, California, international airport seized 1.1 kilograms of opium in a mail parcel arriving from Thailand. The opium was saturated in two pieces of clothing.

(DS) On July 14, as the result of an investigation, DEA Special Agents in Lynwood, California, seized 20 kilograms of cocaine. The cocaine was found in the trunk of a 1990 Volkswagen sedan registered to a resident of Paramount, California.

[REDACTED] The unmarked cocaine packages were coated with a milky-white wax. Two U.S. citizens from California and a Mexican national were arrested.

(DS) On July 17, an investigation conducted by DEA Special Agents resulted in the seizure of a combined total of 71 kilograms of cocaine from two California residences. At the first location, 52 kilograms of cocaine were discovered in the bedroom of a residence located in Fontana. One female was arrested. The second seizure occurred at a residence in Artesia, where 19 kilograms of cocaine were found in the garage. Four individuals were arrested. In both incidents, the cocaine had been wrapped in tape, coated with wax, and marked with a solid red star with the word "Beta" written in the center.

(DS) On July 19, a joint investigation conducted by USCS Special Agents and Costa Mesa Police officers resulted in the seizure of 25 kilograms of cocaine in Costa Mesa, California. Four male Mexican nationals and one U.S. citizen were arrested at a motel. Costa Mesa investigators believe that the cocaine had entered the United States through the San Ysidro, California, POE earlier in the day, hidden behind the dashboard of two 1997 Ford Crown Victorias with Sinaloa plates. The unmarked cocaine, contained in 42 packages, was cellophane-wrapped. Eight of the packages had 1 kilogram each. The remaining 34 packages had been cut in half lengthwise and numbered in a manner so that each cut package could be put back with its original half. Reportedly, the packages were cut in half to facilitate concealment in the dashboard.

(DS) On July 21, USCS Inspectors at the Calexico, California, POE discovered 18 kilograms of cocaine in the gas tank of a 1985 Buick Electra with California plates. A female Mexican national, a resident of Mexicali, Baja California Norte, was detained. After inspectors referred her to secondary inspection, they discovered, through an access panel, 16 packages of cocaine in the gas tank. The cocaine packages were wrapped in cellophane and vacuum sealed; two packages had "Taco" and "PMB 93" written on them.

(DS) On July 23, USCS Inspectors at the Calexico, California, POE seized 131 kilograms of unmarked cocaine from a 1977 trailer that was being towed by a 1983 Ford tractor, both with California plates. Three large duffel bags were discovered commingled with a legitimate cargo of hospital textiles. The driver was released.

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(DS) On July 24, an investigation conducted by DEA Special Agents resulted in the seizure of a combined total of 1,190 kilograms of cocaine in California. The cocaine was seized at four separate locations: 759 kilograms at an automobile detailing business in Garden Grove, where 499 kilograms were discovered inside the business

[REDACTED]; 408 kilograms from a residence in Garden Grove; 18 kilograms from a residence in Downey; and 2 kilograms as the result of a traffic stop. The cocaine was wrapped in brown cellophane. Three individuals were arrested; two were originally from Cali, Colombia, but were legally in the United States, and the third, a resident of Cali, had recently arrived in California.

(DS) On July 25, based on information provided by DEA Los Angeles, CHP officers seized \$319,539 from a vehicle traveling south on I-15 in Riverside County. The currency was hidden inside two mounted spare tires. The funds have been connected to a large-scale cocaine-trafficking organization.

(DS) On July 27, an investigation conducted by DEA Special Agents resulted in the seizure of 1,979 kilograms of marijuana in Ontario, California, from a 1994 Freightliner tractor towing a 1996 trailer, both with Illinois plates. The marijuana was found in the trailer, packed in U-Haul boxes. In one of the boxes, agents discovered a sliver of newspaper from the El Paso Times, dated early April 1997. Subsequent investigation resulted in identifying the source of supply as a known drug smuggler who resides in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua. This source of supply was also responsible for shipping 590 kilograms of marijuana to Oklahoma where

it was seized in June 1997. Agents believe that the Ontario marijuana was smuggled into the United States at the land border in the El Paso area and warehoused before being transported to the Los Angeles area. The marijuana was wrapped in layers of brown packing tape, dryer sheets, and cellophane.

(DS) On July 29, an investigation conducted by USCS and DEA Special Agents and Los Angeles Sheriff's officers resulted in the seizure of 139.4 kilograms of cocaine in Downey, California. The cocaine was concealed in a California-registered 1988 Plymouth minivan. The driver was arrested. An AKM .223-caliber assault rifle and two loaded magazines were also seized at the Downey residence.

(DS) On July 30, CHP officers seized 16 kilograms of cocaine from a 1994 Jeep Wrangler with California plates, traveling west on I-10 in San Bernardino County. A Mexican male resident of Huntington Beach, California, was en route to Huntington Beach from Fontana, California. The unmarked cocaine packages were hidden in the rear spare tire. Coffee had been used as a masking agent.

(DS) On July 31, an investigation conducted by DEA and USCS Special Agents in Otay Mesa, California, resulted in the seizure of 635 kilograms of marijuana from a trailer that was being towed by a 1972 Kenworth tractor, both with California plates.

[REDACTED] Three individuals were arrested: an illegal alien, a resident alien residing in San Diego, and another individual with a valid passport and visitor's visa. The illegal alien and the individual with the passport were from Sinaloa,

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Mexico. The marijuana was wrapped in cellophane bundles that weighed 20 kilograms each. Inside the bundles were 1-kilogram packages that were wrapped in red cellophane.

(DS) On August 1, CHP officers seized 9 kilograms of methamphetamine discovered in the heater compartment of a 1987 Ford Bronco traveling east on I-40 in San Bernardino County. Two males were en route to Dallas, Texas, from Los Angeles, California.

(DS) On August 2, as the result of an investigation, DEA Special Agents seized 7 kilograms of Mexican black tar heroin from a 1989 Pontiac Grand Am with California plates, near San Jose, California. The heroin had been rolled into 20 cylindrical-shaped packages (tubes), marked with red or blue tape, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The load vehicle had crossed into the United States at the Hidalgo, Texas, POE on August 23. The suspect has previously made successful border crossings at Calexico, California; Nogales and Douglas, Arizona; and Presidio, Texas, POE's.

(DS) On August 2, as the result of an investigation, DEA Special Agents seized a total of 74 kilograms of cocaine in Chino, Monterey Park, and Hacienda Heights, California.

(DS) On August 4, an investigation conducted by DEA Special Agents and South Gate Narcotics Task Force officers resulted in the seizure of 2.8 kilograms of Mexican black tar heroin and in the arrest of three individuals at a residence in South Gate, California. The heroin was being sold for \$55,000, and the seizure culminated an investigation where 158 grams of heroin

were initially purchased on July 28 in South Gate.

(DS) On August 5, CHP officers seized 18.5 kilograms of cocaine from a 1991 Chevrolet Caprice with California plates, traveling north on I-15 in Shasta County. Two Hispanic males, residents of Los Angeles, California, were en route to Seattle, Washington, from Los Angeles. The driver was originally from Mexico. The cocaine was discovered in a hidden compartment inside the dashboard.

(DS) On August 6, USCS Inspectors at the San Francisco, California, international airport seized 2.5 kilograms of opium discovered in a mail parcel arriving from Laos and destined for a resident of Oakland, California. The opium was wrapped in black plastic and black cotton.

(DS) On August 7, CHP officers seized 3.5 kilograms of Mexican black tar heroin from a 1983 Chevrolet pickup with Washington plates, traveling north on I-5 in Shasta County. A Mexican male resident of Seattle, Washington, was en route to Seattle from Watsonville, California. [REDACTED]

(DS) On August 7, CHP officers seized 10 kilograms of methamphetamine from a 1989 Chevrolet Suburban with Oklahoma plates, traveling east on I-40 in San Bernardino County. The methamphetamine was found in the right rear side panel. A white male resident of Coweta, Oklahoma, was en route to Coweta from San Diego, California.

(DS) On August 8, CHP officers seized 1.9 kilograms of Mexican black tar heroin from a 1989 Nissan Sentra with California plates, traveling north on I-5 in Glenn County. A Mexican male resident of Menlo Park,

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California, was en route to Redding, California, from Menlo Park. The heroin had been hidden in the rear bumper.

(DS) On August 11, USCS Inspectors at the Otay Mesa, California, POE commercial truck lot discovered 384 kilograms of marijuana in a front wall compartment of a trailer that had been towed from Mexico by a 1987 Fruehauf tractor registered to a Chula Vista, California, trucking company.

[REDACTED]

The driver of the tractor had already unhooked the trailer and departed the lot before the discovery.

(DS) On August 13, USCS Inspectors at the Los Angeles, California, international airport seized 8 kilograms of cocaine from cargo arriving from Guatemala on TACA Airlines.

[REDACTED]

(DS) On August 14, CHP officers seized 5.4 kilograms of Mexican black tar heroin and 2.7 kilograms of cocaine from a 1994 Volkswagen Jetta with California plates, traveling north on I-5 in Shasta County.

[REDACTED] A 23-year-old Mexican male was en route to Seattle, Washington, from San Jose, California.

(DS) On August 18, CHP officers seized 1.2 kilograms of unidentified heroin from a 1985 Audi with Oregon plates, traveling north on I-5 in Glenn County. A Mexican male resident of Eugene, Oregon, was en route to Eugene from East Palo Alto, California. The heroin was discovered behind the firewall of the vehicle.

(DS) On August 21, CHP officers seized 11.5 kilograms of methamphetamine discovered under the rear seat of a rented 1997 Cadillac Deville with California plates, traveling north on I-40 in San Bernardino County. A Hispanic couple and a white female, all residents of San Diego, California, were detained.

(DS) On August 28, during the course of two independent heroin-trafficking investigations, DEA Special Agents seized a total of 1.8 kilograms of Mexican black tar heroin at San Ysidro, California. Three male Mexican nationals, residents of the San Diego area, were arrested.

(DS) On August 28, DEA Special Agents and police officers in Santa Ana, California, seized 2.2 kilograms of Mexican black tar heroin from a Dodge van. The heroin was behind the driver's seat.

(DS) On August 29, USCS Inspectors at the Los Angeles, California, international airport seized 2.5 kilograms of heroin from a parcel arriving from Thailand and destined for Long Beach, California.

[REDACTED]

(DS) On September 1, pursuant to a canine alert, USCS Inspectors at the Calexico, California, POE seized 37.7 kilograms of cocaine from a 1984 Pontiac Firebird with California plates. The 36 packages had been hidden in the rear bumper, dashboard, and a compartment above the gas tank, accessible only through the trunk floor. The driver, a male U.S. citizen who provided only a Mexicali, Baja California Norte, address was arrested.

(DS) On September 3, USCS Inspectors at the Los Angeles, California, international airport seized 1 kilogram of suspected

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Colombian heroin from a Colombian national, a resident of Los Angeles, California, arriving on Avianca Airlines from Colombia. The 21-year-old male had ingested 110 pellets of heroin.

(DS) On September 4, USCS Inspectors at the Otay Mesa, California, POE seized 554 kilograms of marijuana from a 1981 Peterbilt tractor towing a 1986 Utility refrigerated trailer, both with California plates. The driver abandoned the tractor-trailer.

[REDACTED] The tractor is owned/operated by a trucking company based out of San Ysidro, California; the trailer, by an individual in National City, California.

(DS) On September 7, pursuant to a canine alert, USCS and INS Inspectors at the San Ysidro, California, POE seized 15 kilograms of an unidentified type heroin from a rented 1997 Chrysler LHS sedan with California plates. The heroin was under the rear seat. The driver, a male U.S. citizen from Belmont, California, was arrested.

(DS) On September 10, after a canine alert, USCS Inspectors at the San Ysidro, California, POE seized 54 kilograms of cocaine from the quarter panels of a 1979 Jeep Cherokee Golden Eagle with California plates. Two male U.S. citizens, 52 and 63 years of age, residing in La Verne and Chula Vista, California, respectively, were arrested.

(DS) On September 16, during the course of an investigation, DEA Los Angeles Special Agents and Anaheim Police officers seized a total of 145 kilograms of cocaine from two California-registered vehicles in Bell Gardens, California. Two male suspects, 27- and 33-years-old, were arrested.

(DS) On September 19, INS/BP Agents seized 1,570 kilograms of marijuana from the bed and cab of a 1986 Ford F-350 pickup that had developed mechanical trouble on California Highway 98 near Calexico, California. The pickup had entered the United States along the All American Canal, 9 miles east of Calexico.

(DS) On September 19, after a canine alert, Hayward, California, police officers seized 20 kilograms of cocaine from a 1985 Mercedes 500 with California plates. The Hispanic male resident of Mayward was en route to Hayward from Los Angeles, California.

[REDACTED] The cocaine was found on both sides of the compartment.

(DS) On September 22, during the course of an investigation, DEA San Jose Special Agents seized 7 kilograms of Mexican black tar heroin at a residence in Los Banos, California. The heroin was in 13 packages, wrapped in black electrician's tape and clear plastic, and inserted into a 2-inch by 4-inch by 4-foot rectangular tube welded shut. The tube had been transported inside the driver's side door of a 1985 Oldsmobile Cutlass Supreme coupe with California plates. Access was through a hole that had been cut and concealed behind the vehicle's identification plate.

[REDACTED] One of the three suspects arrested at the scene is believed to be a Mexican national illegally in the United States; the other two may be legal resident aliens from Mexico. All have been linked to a trafficking organization from which DEA has

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successfully interdicted over 70 kilograms of heroin during the past year.

(DS) On September 24, after a canine alert, USCS Inspectors at the San Ysidro, California, POE seized 23 kilograms of Mexico-manufactured methamphetamine from a 1983 Isuzu Impulse bearing California plates. The driver, a male U.S. citizen, and his male juvenile passenger, both residents of San Diego, California, were detained.

(DS) On September 25, as the result of an investigation, Los Angeles Impact Task Force officers, assisted by DEA and USCS Los Angeles Special Agents, seized 12 kilograms of cocaine, a 1988 Buick, and three firearms, and they arrested two males in Chatsworth, California.

(DS) On September 29, an [REDACTED] observed a 1986 Ford F-350 XLT pickup with California plates, drive across the international boundary at the All-American Canal and Allison Creek, approximately 9 miles east of the Calexico, California, POE. While under aerial surveillance, the pickup appeared to have developed mechanical trouble and turned onto a dirt road near the intersection of Barbara Worth and McCabe Roads. The driver abandoned the pickup and fled into some nearby haystacks. Responding INS/BP patrol units from the Calexico station apprehended one 46-year-old male Mexican national from Mexicali, Baja California Norte, and seized 1,570 kilograms of marijuana from the bed and cab of the pickup.

Colorado

(DS) On August 9, as the result of an investigation, DEA and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Special Agents seized 4.4 kilograms of Mexican black tar heroin and

3.8 kilograms of methamphetamine at a residence in Frederick, Colorado.

Florida

(DS) On July 4, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 17 kilograms of cocaine from abandoned luggage which had arrived on Copa Airlines from Panama City, Panama.

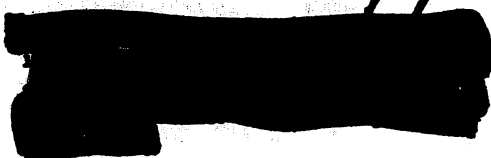
(DS) On July 6, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, seaport seized 8.2 kilograms of liquid cocaine from aboard the cruise ship [REDACTED], which had arrived from Jamaica. The cocaine was discovered in two boxes of liquor bottles found in the cabin of two U.S. passengers.

(DS) On July 6, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 1 kilogram of suspected Colombian heroin from a Colombian national, a resident of Bogota, Colombia, arriving aboard American Airlines from Bogota. The 40-year-old male concealed the heroin in the sides of his briefcase.

(DS) On July 7, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 1.3 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a Colombian national, a resident of Santa Rosa, Colombia, arriving aboard American Airlines from Cali, Colombia. The 31-year-old male had ingested the heroin.

(DS) On July 8, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, seaport seized 274 kilograms of cocaine from an empty trailer being shipped aboard the vessel [REDACTED] from Honduras via Guatemala. The cocaine was discovered inside a modified front wall of the trailer. [REDACTED]

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(DS) On July 12, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 1.3 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a couple, both Colombian nationals, arriving on American Airlines from Bogota, Colombia. Each had ingested heroin.

(DS) On July 13, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized a total of 2 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a couple, both Colombian nationals and residents of Bogota, Colombia, arriving aboard American Airlines from Colombia. Both the 39-year-old male and the 38-year-old female concealed the heroin in the shoes they were wearing and in five aerosol cans packed in their luggage.

(DS) On July 18, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 5.4 kilograms of heroin from an Italian national, a resident of Porlamar, Venezuela, arriving aboard American Airlines from Caracas, Venezuela. The 49-year-old male concealed the heroin inside eight men's jacket linings, packed inside a suitcase.

(DS) On July 18, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, seaport seized 22.7 kilograms of cocaine shipped aboard the vessel [redacted] from Colombia. The cocaine was discovered in a container manifested as edible gelatin. Upon opening the doors of the container, two drums were discovered on top of the manifested cargo. Further examination of the drums disclosed the cocaine. An internal conspiracy among longshoremen is suspected.

(DS) On July 20, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 19.1 kilograms of cocaine from an abandoned suitcase that had arrived aboard Aruba Airlines. The cocaine was packed inside the suitcase.

(DS) On July 20, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 1.1 kilograms of heroin from a male Dominican national, a resident of Brooklyn, New York City, arriving aboard Avensa Airlines from Venezuela. The 30-year-old male concealed the heroin in a jacket packed inside his suitcase.

(DS) On July 20, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 1 kilogram of suspected Colombian heroin from a Colombian national, resident of Cartagena, Colombia, arriving aboard American Airlines from Cali, Colombia. The 46-year-old male had ingested 90 pellets of heroin.

(DS) On July 20, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 1.4 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a Colombian national, a resident of Cartagena, Colombia, arriving aboard Avianca Airlines. The 49-year-old male had ingested the heroin.

(DS) On July 21, USCS Inspectors at the Port of West Palm Beach, Florida, seized 220 kilograms of cocaine from a container shipped aboard the vessel [redacted] arriving from Trinidad and Tobago. The container was destined for Miami, Florida, via the U.S. Virgin Islands and Riviera Beach, Florida. The cocaine was contained in rectangular packages concealed in boxes of frozen fish.

(DS) On July 23, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 1.4

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kilograms of heroin from a Venezuelan national, a resident of Guarico, Venezuela, arriving aboard American Airlines from Caracas, Venezuela. The 19-year-old male concealed the heroin in a jacket he was carrying and inside two jackets packed in his suitcase.

(DS) On July 23, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 1.6 kilograms of heroin from a Panamanian national, a resident of Panama City, Panama, arriving on American Airlines from Panama City. The 49-year-old male concealed the heroin in the sides of his suitcase, in a pair of shoes packed inside his suitcase, and in the sides of his attache case.

(DS) On July 24, USCS Inspectors at the Key West, Florida, international airport seized \$219,800 from a 39-year-old male Colombian national, a resident of Miami, Florida, arriving from Spain.

(DS) On July 24, USCS Inspectors and Florida National Guard personnel at the Miami International Airport seized 65.5 kilograms of cocaine from two courier bags arriving on Southern Air from Bogota, Colombia.

(DS) On July 26, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 2.7 kilograms of heroin from an Italian national residing on Margarita Island, Venezuela, arriving aboard American Airlines from Caracas, Venezuela. The 57-year-old male concealed the heroin in six jackets packed inside his suitcase.

(DS) On July 27, USCS Inspectors at DHL Express in Miami, Florida, seized a total of 75 kilograms of cocaine from two parcels arriving from Bogota, Colombia, and destined for Miami.

(DS) On July 28, Jacksonville, Florida, Operation JETWAY Task Force officers seized 1.4 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a male Colombian national, a resident of Miami, Florida, traveling from Miami to New York via Jacksonville, Florida, on a Greyhound bus. The heroin was concealed in the soles of shoes and in two hidden compartments within the sides of his carry-on luggage.

(DS) On July 28, USCS Inspectors at the Port Everglades, Florida, seaport seized 1,146 kilograms of cocaine from a container shipped aboard the vessel [REDACTED] that arrived from Venezuela. The cocaine was located in the center area on the left-hand side of the container, approximately 20 feet into the container.

(DS) On July 30, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 23 kilograms of cocaine in mail bags arriving from Bogota, Colombia, on Avianca Airlines.

(DS) On August 1, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 74.3 kilograms of cocaine that arrived aboard American Airlines from Caracas, Venezuela. The cocaine was concealed in cardboard boxes.

(DS) On August 2, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 2.2 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a male Colombian national arriving on American Airlines from Colombia. The heroin was concealed in small packets wrapped around the passenger's waist.

(DS) On August 2, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 1 kilogram of suspected Colombian heroin from a male Colombian national arriving on

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(Copa Airlines from Panama City, Panama. The heroin had been ingested.

(DS) On August 4, USCS Inspectors at the Port Everglades, Florida, seaport seized 70 kilograms of cocaine discovered in an aircraft engine shipped aboard the vessel [REDACTED] that arrived from Colombia.

(DS) On August 6, Florida Highway Patrol officers seized 96 kilograms of cocaine from a 1993 Ford F-350 pickup towing a trailer, both with Florida plates, traveling west on I-75 in Broward County. A white male resident of Port Charlotte, Florida, was en route to Houston, Texas, from Miami, Florida. The cocaine was discovered in a hidden compartment built underneath the floor of the trailer.

(DS) On August 11, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized a total of 2.7 kilograms of heroin from two male Guatemalan nationals arriving on American Airlines from Guatemala City, Guatemala. The 27- and 29-year-old males had ingested the heroin.

(DS) On August 13, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 19 kilograms of cocaine from abandoned luggage that had arrived aboard Servivensa Airlines from Caracas, Venezuela. The cocaine was discovered inside the luggage.

(DS) On August 14, USCS Inspectors at the Tampa, Florida, seaport seized 10 kilograms of cocaine discovered in a black nylon bag aboard the vessel [REDACTED] which had arrived from Colombia.

(DS) On August 15, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 31 kilograms of cocaine from an unmanifested box arriving on Lineas Aereas Suramericanas from Bogota, Colombia. The cocaine was

concealed in a large brick-shaped object inside the box.

(DS) On August 15, Florida Highway Patrol officers seized 223 kilograms of cocaine from a 1987 Peterbilt tractor with Florida plates, towing a flatbed trailer, traveling east on I-10 near the Florida/Alabama State line. The flatbed trailer was hauling a load of Mexican tile. Two Hispanic males, residents of Miami, Florida, were en route to Miami from McAllen, Texas. The cocaine was in two hidden compartments located in the frame work of the trailer. The cocaine packages were marked with a red- and green-stamped leopard. Allegedly, three previous loads, originating from Reynosa, Mexico, had been delivered.

(DS) On August 17, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 1.6 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a male U.S. citizen arriving on Avianca Airlines from Bogota, Colombia. The heroin was concealed in shoes he was wearing and in 49 pellets he had swallowed.

(DS) On August 18, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, seaport seized 222 kilograms of marijuana and 62 kilograms of hashish oil discovered aboard the vessel [REDACTED] SUN, which had arrived from Jamaica. The drugs were found in six metal barrels concealed under a layer of tar which had been covered by scrap metal. (A similar seizure occurred on June 4, at the seaport in Gramercy, Louisiana, in which 130 kilograms of marijuana and 41 kilograms of hashish oil were seized from aboard the vessel [REDACTED]. The drugs had been concealed in truck inner tubes and tied into the rudder well of the vessel that had also arrived from Jamaica.)

(DS) On August 20, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 38.2

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kilograms of cocaine arriving on Lineas Aereas Suramericanas from Colombia. The cocaine was concealed inside two baskets of flowers.

(DS) On August 20, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 11.4 kilograms of cocaine from a Peruvian national, a resident of Miami, Florida, arriving aboard United Airlines from Peru. The 36-year-old male concealed the cocaine in two handicraft houses and in four plastic bottles in his luggage.

(DS) On August 21, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 12.7 kilograms of cocaine from an American Airlines aircraft arriving from Cali, Colombia. The cocaine was concealed in six drawers of the food service cart storage racks.

(U) On August 21, after receiving information from DEA Bogota, USCS Inspectors at Port Everglades, Florida, seaport seized 26.8 kilograms of cocaine from two containers of frozen shrimp on board the Danish-registered vessel [REDACTED], arriving from Panama via Costa Rica.

(DS) On August 23, USCS Inspectors at the Port Everglades, Florida, seaport seized 256 kilograms of cocaine from a cargo container shipped aboard the vessel [REDACTED] that arrived from Colombia via Jamaica. The container was manifested as containing bags of leather dog chews. Attached to one of the duffel bags of cocaine was a sock containing a new padlock with keys and two new seals for resealing the container after the bags were removed by traffickers. A conspiracy among longshoremen is suspected.

(DS) On August 25, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, seaport seized 44 kilograms

of cocaine from the vessel [REDACTED] which had arrived from Haiti. The cocaine was discovered in three canvas bags found in the anchor-chain locker. Two Taurus .357-magnum revolvers were hidden with the cocaine.

(DS) On August 27, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 1.1 kilograms of heroin from a Guatemalan national, a resident of San Cristobal, Guatemala, arriving on American Airlines from Guatemala City, Guatemala. The 33-year-old male had ingested the heroin.

(DS) On August 28, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 15 kilograms of cocaine from Lineas Aereas Suramericanas arriving from Bogota, Colombia. The cocaine was concealed inside the computer monitors and central processing units unmanifested on an express consignment package.

(DS) On August 31, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 75.3 kilograms of cocaine from a mail parcel arriving aboard American Airlines from Caracas, Venezuela. The cocaine was concealed in several brick-shaped packages in two cardboard boxes.

(DS) On September 3, USCS Inspectors at the Port Everglades, Florida, seaport seized 233 kilograms of cocaine from containers shipped aboard the Sealand vessel [REDACTED] that arrived from Venezuela via the Dominican Republic. The container was manifested as bananas shipped from the Port of La Guaira, Venezuela. According to a Sealand report, the usual port of shipping for banana/plantain containers is Cabello. Additionally, the shipper information was changed twice prior to being shipped. The roof was removed and found to have been

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hollowed out. The insulation had been replaced with 110 bricks of cocaine.

(DS) On September 3, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 1.8 kilograms of heroin from an express parcel. The heroin was concealed inside a computer monitor destined for a person in Miami, Florida.

(DS) On September 5, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 22.7 kilograms of cocaine from a shipment arriving from Guatemala City, Guatemala. The cocaine was concealed inside a six-cylinder aircraft engine.

(DS) On September 7, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 2.5 kilograms of heroin from a U.S. citizen resident of West New York, New Jersey, arriving aboard American Airlines from Guayaquil, Ecuador. The 22-year-old male had concealed the heroin in the side of his baggage.

(DS) On September 10, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 1 kilogram of heroin from a U.S. citizen resident of West New York, New Jersey, arriving aboard American Airlines from Caracas, Venezuela. The 29-year-old female had concealed the heroin in the side of a suitcase and in a pair of sandals in her suitcase.

(DS) On September 11, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 1.3 kilograms of heroin from a Costa Rican national arriving on American Airlines from San Jose, Costa Rica. The 30-year-old male had hidden 100 pellets of heroin around his ankles.

(DS) On September 12, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport

seized 6.4 kilograms of heroin from a Venezuelan national, resident of Caracas, Venezuela, arriving aboard Lan Chile S.A. from Venezuela. The 27-year-old male had concealed the heroin in several jackets packed on his garment bag.

(DS) On September 13, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 1.2 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a Colombian national, resident of Cali, Colombia, arriving aboard American Airlines from Colombia. The 52-year-old male had ingested 117 pellets of heroin.

(DS) On September 15, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 33.6 kilograms of cocaine from abandoned luggage which had arrived on Avianca Airlines from Bogota, Colombia.

(DS) On September 15, USCS Inspectors at the Tampa, Florida, international airport seized 10.4 kilograms of cocaine from a male U.S. citizen resident of Tampa arriving aboard Northwest Airlines from Jamaica. The 30-year-old male had ingested 87 pellets of cocaine.

(DS) On September 18, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 11.4 kilograms of cocaine from an unmanifested bag arriving from Barranquilla, Colombia, on Avianca Airlines.

(DS) On September 19, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 36 kilograms of cocaine from boxed flowers arriving from Bogota, Colombia.

(DS) On September 19, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 36.4 kilograms of cocaine on Lineas Aereas Suramericanas arriving from Bogota, Colombia. The cocaine was concealed in a shipment of boxed flowers.

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(DS) On September 22, USCG personnel and USCS Special Agents at the Miami, Florida, seaport boarded the cargo vessel [REDACTED] and seized 435 kilograms of cocaine. A search of the vessel resulted in the discovery of 37 kilograms of cocaine behind a wall in the captain's quarters, 331 kilograms in a water tank in the engine room, and 67 kilograms in the possession of two men departing the vessel.

(DS) On September 24, as part of an ongoing investigation, USCS, DEA Special Agents, and USCG personnel in Fort Pierce, Florida, seized 127 kilograms of hashish oil and 181 kilograms of marijuana from the sailing vessel [REDACTED]. The vessel had sailed from Jamaica and had been boarded and released by Bahamian authorities prior to being intercepted approximately 40 miles off the Florida coast. The vessel was en route to North Palm Beach, Florida. A subsequent search of the vessel, with assistance from Fort Pierce Police officers and St. Lucie County Sheriff's officers revealed the marijuana and hashish oil within hidden compartments located in the vessel's three fuel tanks. The captain and two crew members were arrested. Further investigation resulted in the arrest of two additional male subjects, and the seizure of two BMW automobiles, two firearms, \$3,000 in U.S. currency, and \$5,000 in Canadian currency. One of the arrested subjects was a Canadian citizen who had arrived in Fort Pierce to take possession of the hash oil.

(DS) On September 27, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 51.4 kilograms of cocaine from an ATC Airlines aircraft arriving from Bogota, Colombia. The cocaine was concealed in two cases of [REDACTED] oil cans.

(DS) On September 27, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 14.5 kilograms of cocaine from inside abandoned luggage arriving on American Airlines from Venezuela.

(DS) On September 27, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, seaport seized 60 kilograms of cocaine from a container shipped aboard the vessel [REDACTED] arriving from Trinidad. The cocaine was discovered inside seven boxes of frozen fish.

(DS) On September 29, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, seaport seized 215 kilograms of cocaine from a cargo container shipped aboard the vessel [REDACTED] arriving from Venezuela. [REDACTED]

Georgia

(DS) On July 9, Lowndes County, Georgia, sheriff's officers seized 10 kilograms of cocaine from a 1989 Buick Riviera with North Carolina plates, traveling north on I-75. A male Cuban national, resident of Miami, Florida, was en route to Indianapolis, Indiana, from Miami. [REDACTED]

(DS) On July 16, Lowndes County, Georgia, sheriff's officers seized \$196,000 from the trunk of a rented 1997 Mitsubishi Diamante with Florida plates, traveling south on I-75. A black male resident of Miami, Florida, was en route to Miami from Atlanta, Georgia.

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(DS) On July 17, Camden County, Georgia, sheriff's officers seized \$1,003,900 from a 1994 Dodge van with Kentucky plates, traveling south on I-95. A male Cuban national, resident of Key Largo, Florida, was en route to Key Largo from New York. The currency was discovered in several hidden compartments within the van.

arriving from Laos.

(DS) On July 16, USCS Inspectors at the Honolulu, Hawaii, mail facility seized 1.6 kilograms of opium from an air mail parcel arriving from Vientiane, Laos, and destined for a male residing in Murieta, California.

(DS) On July 19, Georgia State Patrol officers seized \$205,629 from a 1986 Cadillac with Florida plates, traveling south on I-95 in Glynn County. A male Haitian national, resident of Conway, South Carolina, was en route to Florida from South Carolina.

(DS) On July 24, USCS Inspectors at the Honolulu, Hawaii, mail facility seized 1.6 kilograms of opium from a male Laotian national, resident of Orangevale, California.

(DS) On August 7, Georgia State Patrol officers seized \$196,000 from a 1989 Lincoln Town Car with New York plates, traveling south on I-95 in Liberty County. The driver, a Hispanic male legal permanent resident of Astoria, New York, was originally from Ecuador. The currency was found inside a duffel bag, in a home stereo system, and in two speakers, which were all located in the trunk.

Illinois

(DS) On July 5, Kankakee County, Illinois, sheriff's officers seized 6.1 kilograms of heroin from the trunk of a 1986 Chevrolet Camaro with Texas plates, traveling north on State Route 17. A Mexican male resident of Edinburg, Texas, was en route to Kankakee from San Juan, Texas.

(DS) On September 22, as the result of an investigation, USCS Inspectors at the Atlanta, Georgia, international airport seized 4 kilograms of heroin from a U.S. citizen resident of Kennesaw, Georgia, arriving on Swissair from Zurich, Switzerland. The 22-year-old male had concealed the heroin in the sides of his luggage.

(DS) On August 22, Chicago, Illinois, Operation JETWAY Task Force officers seized \$149,997 from a Hispanic male resident of Chicago departing on United Airlines.

Hawaii

(DS) On July 14, USCS Inspectors at the Honolulu, Hawaii, mail facility seized 1.4 kilograms of opium from a mail parcel

Kansas

(DS) On July 31, Kansas Highway Patrol officers seized 30 kilograms of cocaine from a 1989 Ford Bronco with Indiana plates, traveling east on I-70 in Gove County near Oakley. The Hispanic male resident of Southbend, Indiana, was en route to Chicago, Illinois, from Los Angeles,

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California. The cocaine was discovered floating inside the gas tank. The packages were marked with a 3-inch by 5-inch label with a black and white picture of an old man with a top hat and holding a dollar bill.

Louisiana

(U) On July 14, USCG personnel recovered 22 kilograms of cocaine from a floating bale in the Gulf of Mexico approximately 17 nautical miles southeast of Grand Isle, Louisiana. A civilian vessel originally sighted the bale in the open water. The bale, wrapped with several layers of plastic, nylon, rubber, and tape, appeared to be packaged for an airdrop. The cocaine bricks were marked with either a star (three bricks), the letters "QAP" (seven bricks), or the numeral five over the letters "QAP" (five bricks). The remaining four bricks were unmarked.

(DS) On July 28, an airdrop was reported in the Gulf of Mexico near Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, southeast of New Orleans. An airdrop to a boat was observed being conducted from a small, white aircraft with an open door. Two packages of cocaine were later caught in the nets of a nearby fishing trawler and turned over to local authorities. A subsequent search of the area by USCS air assets was negative.

(DS) On September 19, DEA and USCS Special Agents and Louisiana National Guard personnel seized 47 kilograms of cocaine from the Panamanian-flagged vessel [REDACTED], which had arrived in the Port of New Orleans, Louisiana, from Buenaventura, Colombia, via Venezuela.

Mississippi

(DS) On July 9, Rankin County, Mississippi, sheriff's officers seized 16

kilograms of cocaine from a 1990 Dodge pickup with Georgia plates, traveling east on I-20. A Hispanic male resident of Tucker, Georgia, was en route to Atlanta, Georgia, from Dallas, Texas. [REDACTED]

(DS) On July 19, Rankin County, Mississippi, sheriff's officers seized 18 kilograms of cocaine from a 1989 Nissan pickup with California plates, traveling east on I-20. A black male resident of Thrall, Texas, was en route to Alabama from California. The cocaine was discovered in a hidden compartment.

(DS) On August 28, Hancock County, Mississippi, sheriff's officers seized 10 kilograms of cocaine from a 1986 Oldsmobile with Texas plates, traveling east on I-10. The cocaine was hidden under and behind the rear seat. A male Colombian national and a naturalized U.S. citizen from Mexico, residing in Monte Bello, California, were arrested. The vehicle was registered to an individual in Laredo, Texas. A map located in the vehicle suggested the cocaine had been obtained in either Laredo or San Antonio, Texas, and was destined for Atlanta, Georgia. Also found was a set of airline tickets in the name of the Colombian driver, indicating he had flown from Miami, Florida, to San Antonio on August 27. The Colombian suspect had previously flown into Miami from Barranquilla, Colombia, on August 14. [REDACTED]

(DS) On August 28, Mississippi State Patrol officers seized 4 kilograms of cocaine from a 1985 Mercury Grand Marquis sedan with Texas plates, traveling east on I-10 in

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Harrison County, near Gulfport, Mississippi

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] The cooler also contained ice and several whole fish. The driver, a 45-year-old resident of Brownsville, Texas, stated that he had been offered \$500 by his 31-year-old male passenger to help drive the vehicle from Brownsville to Palmetto, Florida.

Missouri

(DS) On July 5, St. Louis County, Missouri, police officers seized 10 kilograms of cocaine from a 1990 Cadillac with Indiana plates, traveling east on I-44. Two Hispanic females, residents of Los Angeles, California, were en route to Indiana.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] The cocaine packages were wrapped in green or brown contact paper.

(DS) On August 3, Missouri Highway Patrol officers seized 30 kilograms of cocaine from a company-owned 1992 Kenworth tractor towing a 1990 Utility trailer with Illinois plates, traveling on I-44 in Phelps County. Two male Polish nationals, residents of Chicago, Illinois, were en route to Chicago from Los Angeles, California.

[REDACTED] The trailer had a cargo of celery.

(DS) On August 9, Phelps County, Missouri, sheriff's officers seized 220 kilograms of cocaine from a rented Toyota truck with Texas plates, traveling east on I-44 near Rolla. A white female, a resident of New Port, Kentucky, traveling with a 3-year-old, was en route to Cincinnati, Ohio, from McAllen, Texas. Two black males, residents

of Cincinnati, were traveling with the load vehicle in a rented 1997 Mercury Marquis with Ohio plates. The marijuana was in the cargo area.

(DS) On August 19, DEA Phoenix Operation EMERALD CLIPPER seized a Mexico-registered Rockwell Sabreliner 60 executive jet at the Spirit of St. Louis Airport, St. Louis, Missouri. An investigation disclosed that the aircraft had been secretly owned by the [REDACTED] organization. The aircraft is valued at \$900,000.

New Jersey

(DS) On July 5, USCS Special Agents seized 989 kilograms of cocaine at a Ridgefield Park, New Jersey, warehouse.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] The transformer had been transported from San Pedro Garza Garcia, Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, by a Union Pacific railcar through the Laredo, Texas, POE on June 12. After crossing the POE, the transformer had been delivered to a San Antonio, Texas, consignee, where it had been offloaded to a truck for further ground transport to New Jersey. Two male Mexican nationals from Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, were arrested when they were observed departing the New Jersey warehouse in a van with part of the cocaine shipment (155 kilograms). A controlled delivery resulted in the arrests of two male Dominican nationals, who were cocaine distributors in the New York City area. The individually wrapped bricks of cocaine had been marked with either stamped cartoon characters or decals of Playboy bunnies. Information developed indicated that this method of smuggling cocaine was utilized 17 times in the past, although Union Pacific Railroad records can

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confirm the shipment of a transformer only 5 times in the past.

(DS) On July 16, USCS Inspectors at Port Elizabeth, New Jersey, seized 27 kilograms of cocaine from a container shipped aboard the vessel [REDACTED] that had arrived from the Dominican Republic. The container was manifested as having one piece of furniture. [REDACTED]

(DS) On July 17, New Jersey State Police officers seized \$500,880 from the trunk of a 1992 Lincoln Continental with New York plates, traveling south on the New Jersey Turnpike in Gloucester County. Two male Colombian nationals, residents of Elmhurst and Long Island City, New York, were en route to Miami, Florida, from New York.

(DS) On August 2, USCS Inspectors at the Newark, New Jersey, international airport seized 1.3 kilograms of heroin from a male Argentine national arriving on Avianca Airlines from Bogota, Colombia, via Quito, Ecuador. The heroin had been ingested.

(DS) On August 6, USCS Inspectors at the Newark, New Jersey, international airport seized 11 kilograms of cocaine from a Colombian national, resident of Palisades Park, New Jersey, arriving aboard Continental Airlines from Colombia. [REDACTED]

(DS) On August 8, USCS Inspectors at the Port Elizabeth, New Jersey, seaport seized 24.7 kilograms of cocaine discovered in the gas tank of a 1974 Chrysler Lebaron shipped aboard the vessel [REDACTED] arriving from Panama.

(DS) On August 16, USCS Inspectors at the Newark, New Jersey, international airport seized 1.8 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a Colombian national, resident of Armenia, Colombia, arriving on Avianca Airlines from Colombia. The 56-year-old female had concealed the heroin in the soles of shoes, in the sides of her suitcase, under the false bottom of her purse, and internally.

(DS) On August 20, USCS Inspectors at the Newark, New Jersey, international airport seized 15.1 kilograms of cocaine from an Avianca Airlines flight. The cocaine was concealed in 25 bricks under the floor panel in row 31 D, E, F, and 3 additional bricks were sealed in tissue boxes located in the rear and center lavatories of the aircraft.

(DS) On August 28, DEA Newark Special Agents seized 2,840 kilograms of marijuana from a container located at a warehouse in Edison, New Jersey. The container had arrived in Philadelphia aboard an unknown cargo vessel from Jamaica, and was subsequently transported by a trucking company to the clothing facility. The marijuana was discovered in 82 boxes commingled within the legitimate clothing shipment. At the time of discovery the trailer was securely sealed and only after breaking the seals was entry gained. It is believed that the marijuana boxes were to have been removed from the container at the Port of Philadelphia prior to being transported to New Jersey.

(DS) On September 2, USCS Inspectors at the Newark, New Jersey, seaport seized 585 kilograms of marijuana and 126 kilograms of hashish from a cargo container shipped aboard the vessel [REDACTED] arriving from Jamaica. The container was manifested as 1,000 cases of calaloo in brine. A weight disparity and a difference in the size of the labels on some of the cans

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were noticed. Probing the cans revealed the contraband. Approximately 69 of the 1,000 cases contained drugs. A similar incident occurred on August 28. USCS Inspectors at the Port Elizabeth, New Jersey, seaport seized 145 kilograms of marijuana from a cargo container shipped aboard the vessel [REDACTED] from Jamaica. This container was manifested as 900 cases of calaloo. The marijuana was discovered in 14 of the 900 cases.

(DS) On September 2, USCS Inspectors at the Newark, New Jersey, international airport seized 1.5 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a Colombian national, resident of Manizales, Colombia, arriving aboard Continental Airlines from Colombia. The 22-year-old female concealed the heroin in three aerosol cans, one lotion bottle, and a pair of shoes, all packed in her carry-on bag, and in the shoes she was wearing.

New Mexico

(DS) On July 1, INS/BP Agents at the checkpoint on I-25 north of Las Cruces, New Mexico, near Radium Springs, New Mexico, discovered 3.2 kilograms of cocaine hidden in a battery in the engine compartment of a 1989 Nissan Sentra with Texas plates. A canine alerted to the front exterior of the vehicle [REDACTED]

The subjects

claimed to be traveling from El Paso to Albuquerque, New Mexico. Two male Mexican nationals, a 36-year-old with a valid Mexican passport and an El Paso address, and a 32-year-old legal U.S. resident (no address given), were arrested.

(DS) On July 13, after a canine alert, INS/BP Agents at the checkpoint on I-10 west of Las Cruces, New Mexico, discovered over \$405,000 in two speaker boxes and in the rear door of a 1997 Jeep Grand Cherokee with Pennsylvania plates. Two male Mexican nationals were arrested.

(DS) On July 14, USCS Inspectors at the Santa Teresa, New Mexico, POE seized \$460,639 from a 1995 Jeep Grand Cherokee. Two male Mexican nationals, residents of Tucson and Rio Rico, Arizona, were detained.

(DS) On July 16, Dona Ana, New Mexico, sheriff's officers seized 3,384 kilograms of marijuana from the cargo area of a 1988 Great Dane trailer with Texas plates. The officers received a complaint from a resident concerning a trailer illegally parked on a vacant lot across the street from their property in Chaparral, New Mexico. A search of the trailer revealed 200 boxes marked as electrical light fixtures which contained the marijuana commingled with 500 boxes of legitimate electrical light fixtures. The vehicle was registered to a resident of Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua. A vehicle-registration check indicated that the plates belonged to a 1995 Fruehauf stake bed trailer registered to a transportation service

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out of El Paso, Texas. [REDACTED]

(DS) On July 27, USCS Inspectors at the Columbus, New Mexico, POE seized 85 kilograms of cocaine from hidden compartments in the floor and spare tire compartment of a 1984 Chevrolet El Camino with New Mexico plates. The 78 packages of cocaine were wrapped in brown packing tape and were marked with the initials "JAC," a picture of a green bull, or a picture of a green giraffe. The driver, a 38-year-old male Mexican national, resident of Calexico, California, claimed to have purchased the vehicle 2 weeks earlier. [REDACTED]

(DS) On August 2, INS/BP Agents in Las Cruces, New Mexico, seized 594 kilograms of marijuana from the rear of a U-Haul rental 1995 Ford 2½-ton truck with Arkansas plates, parked at a motel. The marijuana was in 1,180 brown packing-tape bundles and hidden inside old furniture. Two U.S. citizens (husband and wife), residing in El Paso, Texas, and accompanied by their two children (2 and 3 years of age), were arrested.

(DS) On August 7, USCS Inspectors at the Columbus, New Mexico, POE discovered 60 kilograms of cocaine and 1 kilogram of cocaine paste hidden within the natural ceiling compartment of a 1988 Ford Aerostar van with Baja California plates. The driver, a 33-year-old male Mexican national, resident of Tijuana, Baja California Norte, fled back to Mexico; however, the 35-year-old female Mexican national passenger, also a resident of Tijuana, was arrested. The female was reportedly a paying passenger of

the van. [REDACTED]

The cocaine was wrapped in brown packing tape and bore the handwritten marking of a large letter "P" written in black marker. The unmarked cocaine paste was wrapped in a brown bag and covered with a grease-type substance.

(DS) On August 12, USCS Inspectors at the Columbus, New Mexico, POE seized 81 kilograms of cocaine from a compartment in the ceiling of a 1992 Ford Aerostar van with New Mexico plates. The 73 packages were wrapped in layers of foil, inner-tube material, and packing tape. Each of the packages was marked with a picture of a leopard. One of the packages was opened and revealed a picture of a crown embossed into the compressed brick of cocaine. Two residents of California, one 34-year-old male, Mexican national residing in San Diego, and one 39-year-old female residing in Sacramento, were arrested. The registered owner of the van was a Deming, New Mexico, resident. On August 7, a similar cocaine seizure occurred at the Columbus POE. The van seized on August 7 had been stopped earlier the same day in Mexico, and it appeared that the van was traveling in tandem with a Blazer-type vehicle without plates. Reportedly, both vehicle drivers had appropriate documentation and were released.

(DS) On August 14, New Mexico State Police officers seized 381 kilograms of marijuana from a 1988 Ford pickup towing a horse trailer, traveling north on New Mexico Highway 90, 1 mile north of Lordsburg, New Mexico. Three male Mexican nationals, residents of Ascension

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and Janos, Chihuahua, fled, but were later apprehended. The burlap bags of marijuana were found in the horse trailer.

(DS) On August 29, USCS Inspectors at the Columbus, New Mexico, POE seized 71 kilograms of cocaine from a 1994 Chevrolet Suburban with Arizona plates. The two provocatively dressed occupants, 20- and 21-year-old female residents of Nogales, Arizona, claimed to be en route to Tucson, Arizona. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] One package had a faint marking resembling a tiger. A subsequent monitored movement to Azusa (Los Angeles), California, via Phoenix, Arizona, resulted in the additional seizure of \$10,000, which was to have been the women's fee for transportation of the cocaine.

(DS) On September 3, INS/BP Agents at the checkpoint on I-10 west of Las Cruces, New Mexico, seized 330 kilograms of marijuana from a 1993 Chevrolet Suburban with Chihuahua plates. The marijuana was found in a compartment under the floorboard. Two males, both 25-year-old Mexican nationals and residents of El Paso, Texas, claimed to be en route to Elephant Butte, New Mexico.

(DS) On September 3, INS/BP Agents at the checkpoint on I-10 west of Las Cruces, New Mexico, seized 1,258 kilograms of marijuana from a shipment of eighteen 100-gallon water heaters in a trailer being towed by a 1991 Freightliner tractor, both with California plates. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] A 30-year-old male resident of Cudahy, California, was arrested.

New York

(DS) On July 6, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport mail facility seized 1 kilogram of heroin from a parcel arriving from Thailand and addressed to a female residing in Brooklyn, New York City. The heroin was hidden in a text book.

(DS) On July 7, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 1 kilogram of suspected Colombian heroin from a U.S. citizen residing in White Plains, New York, arriving aboard Avianca Airlines from Colombia. The 52-year-old male had ingested 82 pellets of heroin.

(DS) On July 7, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 6.4 kilograms of liquid cocaine from a U.S. citizen resident of the Bronx, New York City, arriving on American Airlines from the Dominican Republic. The 45-year-old male concealed the liquid cocaine in five bottles of alcohol packed in his carry-on luggage.

(DS) On July 9, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 1.4 kilograms of heroin from a U.S. citizen resident of Central Falls, Rhode Island, arriving on Aerolineas Argentinas. The 39-year-old female had concealed the heroin inside an Omni Pro 280 gray, electronic device.

(DS) On July 12, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 1.4 kilograms of heroin from a U.S. citizen resident of Brooklyn, New York City, arriving on Trans World Airlines from Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. The 30-year-old female concealed the heroin around her waist.

(DS) On July 15, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 914 grams

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of suspected Colombian heroin from a Argentine national residing in Bogota, Colombia, arriving on Avianca Airlines from Colombia. The 24-year-old female ingested 73 pellets of heroin.

(DS) On July 16, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 1 kilogram of suspected Colombian heroin from a Colombian national residing in Cali, Colombia, arriving on Avianca Airlines from Colombia. The 47-year-old female concealed the heroin in the sides of a pocketbook and in the covers of an address book.

(DS) On July 17, USCS Inspectors at JFK International Airport seized 1 kilogram of heroin from a female residing in Brooklyn, New York City, arriving from Thailand. The heroin was concealed in a text book inside a mail parcel.

(DS) On July 20, USCS Inspectors at JFK International Airport seized 1.3 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a Colombian national, resident of Pereira, Colombia, arriving aboard Avianca Airlines from Colombia. The 56-year-old female concealed the heroin inside an aerosol can packed inside her suitcase.

(DS) On July 20, USCS Inspectors at JFK International Airport seized a total of 3.5 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a two males and one female, all Colombian nationals and residents of Norwalk, Connecticut, arriving aboard Avianca Airlines from Pereira, via Bogota, Colombia. The 28-year-old female and 32- and 22-year-old males had concealed the heroin in denim jeans packed inside their suitcases.

(DS) On July 26, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 2.7

kilograms of heroin from a male arriving on American Airlines from Buenos Aires, Argentina. The heroin was concealed inside six vests being carried in his luggage.

(DS) On July 27, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport mail facility seized 1.1 kilograms of heroin from a package arriving from Thailand and destined for Michigan. [REDACTED]

(DS) On August 5, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 1.9 kilograms of heroin from a male Argentine national, resident of Buenos Aires, Argentina, arriving on Lan Chile Airlines from Chile via Peru. The heroin was concealed in aerosol cans in the passenger's knapsack.

(DS) On August 7, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 2.4 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from an Avianca Airlines aircraft arriving from Bogota, Colombia. The heroin was discovered in four packages in life jackets under seats 36A and B.

(DS) On August 9, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized a total of 3.6 kilograms of heroin from two U.S. citizens, both residents of Galesburg, Illinois, arriving on Delta Airlines from Istanbul, Turkey. The 18- and 25-year-old females had taped the heroin on their person.

(DS) On September 1, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 1.1 kilograms of heroin from a U.S. citizen, resident of the Bronx, New York City, arriving aboard American Airlines from Aruba. The 31-year-old female concealed

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50 pellets of heroin in her carry-on bag and had ingested four pellets.

(DS) On September 4, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 1.8 kilograms of heroin from an Ecuadorean national, resident of the Bronx, New York City, arriving aboard Ecuador Airlines from Ecuador. The 33-year-old male concealed the heroin in shoes and trousers inside his luggage.

(DS) On September 4, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 1.9 kilograms of heroin from a Venezuelan national, resident of San Cristobal, Venezuela, arriving aboard United Airlines from Caracas, Venezuela. The 42-year-old female concealed the heroin in vests in her suitcase.

(DS) On September 5, Operation JETWAY Task Force officers at the JFK International Airport seized 100 kilograms of cocaine discovered in four items of luggage belonging to two Puerto Rican males who had arrived on Trans World Airlines from San Juan, Puerto Rico.

(DS) On September 7, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 7 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a 23-year-old male Puerto Rican resident of Playa Ponce, Puerto Rico, arriving aboard Avianca Airlines from Colombia. The heroin was discovered in six pillow coverings and in a quilt packed inside his luggage.

North Carolina

(DS) On August 26, Cumberland, North Carolina, sheriff's officers seized \$294,000 from the trunk of a rented 1997 Chevrolet Lumina with New York plates, traveling south on I-95 in Cumberland County. Two

male Venezuelan nationals, residents of Maracaibo, Venezuela, were en route to Miami, Florida, from Newark, New Jersey.

(DS) On September 11, Fayetteville, North Carolina, Operation JETWAY Task Force officers seized 1 kilogram of suspected Colombian heroin from the luggage of a male Colombian national traveling from Miami, Florida, to New York, New York, via Fayetteville. The suspect was an escaped prisoner.

(DS) On September 12, after a canine alert, Cumberland, North Carolina, sheriff's officers seized 27 kilograms of cocaine from a 1995 Chevrolet Lumina van with Florida plates, traveling north on I-95. The cocaine was discovered in the side panels. A Hispanic female resident of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, was en route to New York from Fort Lauderdale.

Ohio

(DS) On July 21, acting on information provided by Dallas Operation JETWAY Task Force officers, Dayton, Ohio, task force officers seized \$448,030 from a male Colombian national, resident of Queens, New York City, arriving from New York via Chicago, Illinois, on American Airlines. After a surveillance, a second subject was arrested. The money was prepayment and past payment for cocaine shipments. The organization typically has a courier drive cocaine from Miami, Florida, to Dayton and payment is driven back to Miami by another courier. The money and drugs are kept at separate locations.

Oregon

(DS) On September 9, Oregon State Police officers seized 10 kilograms of cocaine from a 1987 Ford Mustang with California plates,

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traveling north on U.S. Highway 97 in Klamath County. The male driver, a resident of South Gate, California, and his two female passengers from Redwood City, California, were en route to Yakima, Washington, from Los Angeles. The cocaine was discovered in both wheel wells.

Pennsylvania

(DS) On August 7, Pennsylvania State Police officers seized 944 grams of heroin from a 1986 Ford Taurus with Pennsylvania plates, traveling north on I-95. A female Dominican national, resident of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was en route to Philadelphia. The 75 pellets of heroin, wrapped in plastic and dipped in paraffin, were inside her purse. The heroin had been picked up from a courier who had ingested the heroin in Guatemala, then traveled to the United States via commercial air.

(DS) On August 14, Pennsylvania State Police officers seized 15 kilograms of cocaine from a 1990 Pontiac with New York plates, traveling east on I-80 in Mercer County. Two male Dominican nationals, residents of New York City, New York, and Nogales, Sonora, were en route to New York City from Tucson, Arizona.

Puerto Rico

(DS) On August 9, USCS Inspectors at the San Juan, Puerto Rico, seaport seized 2 kilograms of heroin from aboard the cruise ship [REDACTED] which had arrived from Martinique via the Virgin Islands. The heroin was discovered in the cabin of a Honduran crew member by the captain. The

origin of the heroin was believed to be Bangladesh.

(DS) On September 6, USCS Inspectors at the Luis Munoz-Marin International Airport in San Juan, Puerto Rico, seized 1.1 kilograms of heroin from a Dutch national, resident of Dominguito, Netherlands Antilles, arriving aboard ALM-Antillean Airlines from Curacao. The 26-year-old male had ingested 30 pellets of heroin.

(DS) On September 28, USCS Inspectors at San Juan, Puerto Rico, seized 3,416 kilograms of cocaine from a container shipped aboard the vessel [REDACTED]. The vessel had arrived from Puerto Cabello, Venezuela.

Tennessee

(DS) On July 24, Memphis, Tennessee, Operation JETWAY Task Force officers seized \$605,420 from a Federal Express package which originated from Atlanta, Georgia, and was destined for Tucson, Arizona. The package contained 26 vacuum-sealed packages of currency in various denominations. This box was further contained in another box which was lined with newspapers and cedar chips.

(DS) On August 27, Nashville, Tennessee, police officers seized 16 kilograms of cocaine from a 1993 Nissan with Texas plates, traveling east on I-40 in Davidson County. Two Hispanic males, residents of Dallas, Texas, were en route to Dallas from New York City, New York. [REDACTED]

Texas

(DS) On July 1, INS/BP Agents seized 42 kilograms of cocaine in the river area near

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El Cenizo, Texas. Three suspects fled back across the river into Mexico, abandoning the cocaine. This is the second event this calendar year of an attempted movement of cocaine by backpackers between South Texas POE's. Two months ago, on May 27, a lone backpacker was apprehended near the Los Indios POE, west of Brownsville, Texas, with 11 grams of cocaine. Within Webb County (Laredo, Texas), cocaine movements by backpackers have been rarely reported. Only 10 seizure incidents have been recorded in the last 6 years, ranging from 794 grams to 541 kilograms (four seizures exceeding 165 kilograms). The last backpacker incident in Webb County was in November 1995, involving 19 kilograms of cocaine.

(DS) On July 1, as the result of an investigation, INS/BP Agents and DEA and USCS Special Agents seized 1.7 metric tons of marijuana at a residence in Eagle Pass, Texas. One person was arrested. A two-way radio, on which agents heard what appeared to be Spanish-speaking law enforcement officers, was also seized.

(DS) On July 3, USCS Inspectors at the Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas, international airport seized 10 kilograms of cocaine hanging behind the vent panel located at seat 34A on an American Airlines aircraft.

(DS) On July 3, as the result of a multiagency investigation, 1,808 kilograms of marijuana were seized at a warehouse in Socorro, Texas. Five individuals were arrested.

(DS) On July 4, Texas DPS officers seized 16 kilograms of methamphetamine from the trunk of a 1988 Chevrolet Corsica with Texas plates, traveling north on I-35 in Williamson County. Two Hispanic males, one a resident of Laredo, Texas, were en

route to Dallas via Temple, Texas, from Laredo.

(DS) On July 6, pursuant to a canine alert, USCS Inspectors at the Eagle Pass, Texas, POE seized 62 kilograms of cocaine from both gas tanks of a 1986 Chevrolet Silverado pickup with Texas plates. The driver/owner, a 30-year-old male U.S. citizen from Brownsville, Texas, had recently purchased the vehicle.

(DS) On July 7, during the course of an investigation, DEA and USCS Special Agents, McAllen High Density Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) agents, and McAllen Police officers, seized 459 kilograms of marijuana from a residence in McAllen, Texas. The bundles were marked with the letter "S." Two male Mexican nationals, one of whom was a resident at the address, were arrested.

(DS) On July 7, based on information provided by DEA McAllen Special Agents, Texas DPS officers seized 562 kilograms of marijuana from a vehicle in Mission, Texas. One male was arrested. Later, DEA Special Agents seized an additional 77 kilograms of marijuana from a residence in Mission.

(DS) On July 9, Sulphur Springs, Texas, task force officers seized 45 kilograms of cocaine from the trunk of a rented 1997 Ford Contour with Texas plates, traveling east on I-30 in Franklin County. A black couple, residents of Antioch and Nashville, Tennessee, were en route to Nashville, from Arlington, Texas.

(DS) On July 9, USCS and DEA Special Agents, assisted by Houston Police officers, executed a search warrant at a Houston hotel and seized 274 kilograms of cocaine from a trailer being towed by a 1994 Chevrolet pickup, both with Texas plates. Three

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suspects were arrested, one a male Mexican national, resident of Brownsville, Texas. The cocaine was in eight large feed bags hidden in a compartment between the trailer's floor and axle. The pickup is registered to an individual from Pasadena, Texas. The cocaine was probably crossed into the United States from Mexico.

(DS) On July 10, INS/BP Agents seized 633 kilograms of marijuana concealed in a 1982 Ford F-150 pickup, with New Mexico plates, that was traveling west on FM 192 near Fort Hancock, Texas. The vehicle had been driven across a low-level area of the Rio Grande River 15 miles east of the Fort Hancock POE. The marijuana was found under sheets of plywood in the bed of the pickup. The driver, a 43-year-old Mexican national, stated that he was to be paid \$1,000 to drive the vehicle across the river. The vehicle was registered to an Odessa, Texas, resident. According to INS/BP, trailickers frequently drive vehicles across the river in this area because of the low-water level. Pickups with marijuana concealed under plywood have previously been encountered in this area.

(DS) On July 11, pursuant to a canine alert, INS/BP Agents at the checkpoint on I-35 north of Laredo, Texas, seized 19 kilograms of cocaine from behind the dashboard air vents of a 1989 Nissan Sentra two-door coupe with Texas plates. The unmarked bundles were wrapped in brown packaging tape and gray duct tape. The vehicle is registered to another individual from Laredo, Texas.

[REDACTED] The driver, a 23-year-old male Mexican national, resident alien of Laredo, Texas, claimed to have injured his hand and borrowed a coworker's car to drive to San Antonio to see a doctor.

(DS) On July 12, pursuant to a canine alert, USCS Inspectors at the Eagle Pass, Texas POE seized 52 kilograms of cocaine from a 1985 Chevrolet Suburban with Texas plates. The cocaine packages, marked with the words "Made In Colombia" and "Exportacion" with the picture of an Academy Award Oscar, had been stuffed into the rear seats. The driver, a 30-year-old male U.S. citizen from Eagle Pass, Texas, was arrested. The vehicle is registered to another individual in Eagle Pass, Texas.

(DS) On July 15, INS/BP Agents seized 915 kilograms of marijuana stashed in tall grass at a river front ranch off FM 1664, 15 miles north of Eagle Pass, Texas.

(U) On July 16, USCS Special Agents and Cameron County, Texas, sheriff's deputies seized 384 kilograms of marijuana from a 1983 Dodge van with Texas plates, on Texas Highway 4 in Brownsville, Texas. The vehicle was abandoned by its occupants after a short pursuit by law enforcement officers. The 40 packages of marijuana were reportedly wet, as if they were recently offloaded from a boat or airdropped over water. The van is currently registered to a business in Wichita Falls, Texas.

(DS) On July 16, INS/BP Agents seized 705 kilograms of marijuana found in a storage building on residential property in the Chula Vista area of Eagle Pass, Texas.

(DS) On July 17, INS/BP Agents at the checkpoint on I-35 north of Laredo, Texas, seized 1,512 kilograms of cocaine from a trailer being towed by a 1993 Freightliner tractor with Texas plates. The trailer showed signs of fresh paint on the undercarriage, doors, and handles, as well as hand-painted identification numbers. The 1,144 packages of cocaine were wrapped in white packing tape and marked with a

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picture of a pear (fruit). The cocaine was divided into 38 medium-sized cardboard boxes, placed at the front of the trailer, and commingled with a shipment of household furniture. The driver, a 43-year-old male naturalized U.S. citizen from Mexico and resident of Laredo, Texas, claimed to have been hired at a Laredo trucking company and did not even know the name of his dispatcher. He had picked up the furniture shipment at the yard in Laredo. [REDACTED]

(DS) On July 18, a joint investigation by FBI and DEA Special Agents resulted in the seizure of 62 kilograms of cocaine discovered buried in the backyard of a Socorro, Texas, residence. The kilogram-size bricks were wrapped in layers of heavy latex material and green cellophane and some of the packages bore illegible red markings. Agents believe the cocaine originated in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua. A couple from Mexico, one 36-year-old female naturalized U.S. citizen and one 26-year-old male border-crossing card holder, were arrested.

(DS) On July 19, Texas DPS officers seized 8.6 kilograms of white heroin from a 1985 Nissan with Mexico plates, traveling north on U.S. Highway 59 in Jackson County. A male Mexican national, resident of Mexico was en route to Houston, Texas. [REDACTED]

(DS) On July 19, INS/BP Agents at the checkpoint on I-10 near Sierra Blanca, Texas, discovered 13 kilograms of cocaine hidden within the quarter panels of a 1984 Ford Thunderbird with Texas plates. The cocaine was divided into 11 brick-shaped

packages wrapped in gray duct tape. Two female U.S. citizen's were detained.

(DS) On July 19, USCS Inspectors at the Hidalgo, Texas, POE seized 120 kilograms of cocaine from a hidden compartment in the bed of a 1981 GMC pickup with Nuevo Leon plates. Inspectors initially noted signs of tampering on the sending unit on top of the gas tank. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] A canine positively alerted to the truck bed. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] One 47-year-old male Mexican national from Guadalupe, Nuevo Leon, was arrested. The driver claimed he had borrowed the truck from an unnamed friend residing in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, and was en route to McAllen, Texas.

(DS) On July 19, USCS Inspectors at the Laredo, Texas, Bridge II POE seized 20 kilograms of cocaine from a compartment within the gas tank of a 1990 Chevrolet Suburban with Nuevo Leon plates. A canine initially failed to alert; however, inspectors noted signs of tampering to the gas tank sending unit, and an unusual amount of oil, bondo, and/or dirt spread on the gas tank and support bolts. A 32-year-old Hispanic male from Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, was detained along with his wife and three children. All five family members later walked away unobserved from a temporary detention area and were never found.

(DS) On July 20, INS/BP Agents at the checkpoint on U.S. Highway 281 south of Falfurrias, Texas, seized 787 kilograms of

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marijuana from an empty 1981 Wilson cattle trailer being towed by a 1990 Freightliner tractor, both displaying Texas plates. The 330 bundles of marijuana were in a floor compartment measuring 10 by 12 by 2 1/4 feet.

[REDACTED] The driver, a male U.S. citizen from Edinburg, Texas, claimed to be en route to Alabama to pick up a load of cattle. He had been directed by his trucking company to pick up the tractor-trailer at a truck stop near Edinburg, Texas. The trailer is registered to a Mission, Texas, resident.

(DS) On July 21, INS/BP Agents seized 579 kilograms of marijuana from 1984 Ford F-150 pickup. The pickup was driven away from the river north of La Grulla, Texas, without headlights turned on, and then abandoned in a residential area of the city. The pickup, registered to an individual with a Mission, Texas, residence.

(DS) On July 22, INS/BP Agents seized a total of 518 kilograms of marijuana from the trunks of two abandoned 1988 Mercury Grand Marquis sedans on El Paso, Texas, city streets a short distance from the POE. Both vehicles had been port runners at the Bridge of the Americas POE just a few hours apart from each other.

- The first vehicle, which had fraudulent Texas plates, was discovered a few hours after USCS Inspectors reported the port runner, around 2200 hours on July 21. The trunk contained 187 kilograms of marijuana which were divided into 58 brick-

shaped packages wrapped in cellophane. The driver, a 25-year-old female U.S. citizen resident of El Paso, abandoned the vehicle before agents arrived. The driver was directed into secondary inspection when she fled the port at a high rate of speed. With a blown out rear tire, which had been deflated with a stop stick, the driver ultimately hit three inspectors and collided with a pickup during her escape.

- The second vehicle, bearing valid Texas plates, contained 331 kilograms of marijuana divided into 87 packages wrapped in brown packing tape. The driver ran the POE at 0630 hours on July 22 after also having her rear tire deflated by an inspector's stop stick. She managed to escape, running into concrete barricades and damaging the right side of her vehicle. The vehicle was discovered about an hour later abandoned on an El Paso city street a few miles from the POE.

(DS) On July 22, a Capital Area, Texas, Narcotics Task Force officer seized 30 kilograms of cocaine from the rear seat and trunk of a 1987 Mercury Sable with Texas plates, traveling east on I-10 in Caldwell County. A Hispanic couple, traveling with a child, was detained.

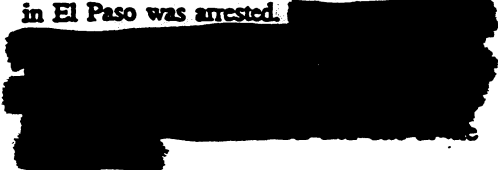
(DS) On July 23, USCS Inspectors at the Ysleta, Texas, POE seized 39.8 kilograms of cocaine from the dashboard area of a 1987 Mercury Cougar with Texas plates. The 34 packages of unmarked cocaine were wrapped in layers of cellophane, brown packing tape, and an unspecified type of grease.

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One 22-year-old male U.S. citizen residing in El Paso was arrested.

(DS) On July 23, USCS Inspectors at the Paso del Norte POE in El Paso, Texas, seized 35 kilograms of cocaine concealed within the front fender wells of a 1985 Mercury Cougar with Chihuahua plates. Each fender area contained 15 packages wrapped in black tape and cellophane. One 29-year-old male Mexican national residing in El Paso was arrested.



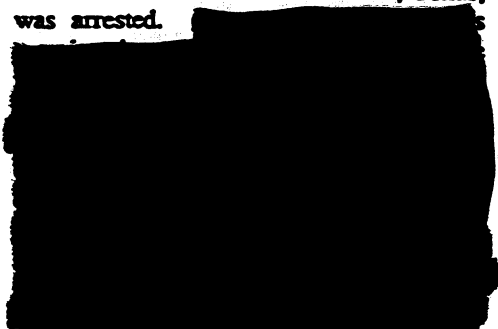
(DS) On July 25, INS/BP Agents in Madero, Texas, seized 853 kilograms of marijuana from the rear of a 1982 Chevrolet van with Texas plates. The van was first observed coming from an area known as the Pepe's on the River. When the driver became aware of the INS/BP vehicle, he accelerated and threw bundles out of the window. He drove the van to the Rio Grande River south of Inspiration Road and swam back to Mexico. Five of the 60 bundles were discovered along the river levee.

(DS) On July 25, INS/BP Agents assisted Metro Narcotics Task Force officers in El Paso, Texas, in the seizure of 22 kilograms of cocaine from the rear of a 1989 Chevrolet 1500 pickup with New Mexico plates. The vehicle was stopped by an El Paso County Sheriff's deputy shortly after it left a suspected stash house in central El Paso.

One 29-year-old Mexican male U.S. citizen resident of Las Cruces, New Mexico, was arrested.

(DS) On July 27, INS/BP Agents at the checkpoint on U.S. Highway 281 near Falfurrias, Texas, seized 441 kilograms of marijuana from a tractor-trailer with Texas plates.

(DS) On July 28, INS/BP Agents at the checkpoint on U.S. Highway 281 south of Falfurrias, Texas, seized 64 kilograms of cocaine discovered in the gas tank of a 1997 Chevrolet Suburban with Texas plates. The 56 bundles of unmarked cocaine were wrapped in vacuum-sealed plastic bags and brown packing tape. One 35-year-old female U.S. citizen resident of Elsa, Texas, was arrested.



(DS) On July 29, INS/BP Agents at the checkpoint on I-35 north of Laredo, Texas, seized 589 kilograms of marijuana from a trailer being towed by a 1997 Ford Aeromax tractor bearing Ohio plates. The trailer was loaded with large metal baskets of used machine parts destined for a recycling plant. Ten duffel bags, containing 148 bundles of marijuana wrapped in layers of cellophane and an unknown green gel substance, were located in the rear of the trailer by the doors, but behind the metal baskets. One 35-year-old male U.S. citizen residing in Combes, Texas, was arrested.

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(DS) On July 30, INS/BP Agents seized 507 kilograms of marijuana from a 1981 Chevrolet Astro van with Texas plates, stuck on the river bank in Madero, Texas. The van was first spotted leaving an area where, twice, over the previous 2 days, subjects were observed attempting to illegally enter the United States with bundles. When the driver realized he was being pursued, he fled through a locked gate at a trailer park and proceeded toward the river.

(DS) On July 30, Fort Worth, Texas, Operation JETWAY Task Force officers seized 20.4 kilograms of methamphetamine and 9 kilograms of cocaine from the checked luggage of two white males, residents of Spanaway and Tacoma, Washington, traveling from Dallas to Los Angeles, California, via San Antonio, Texas, on an Amtrak train. The men were to be paid \$3,000 each for the delivery of the luggage in Los Angeles.

(DS) On July 31, INS/BP Agents seized 360 kilograms of marijuana from along a river trail near Quemado, Texas. As agents began following the trail, several subjects fled. The marijuana was being carried inside 21 sacks. Hidden in the tall cane was a 16-foot flat-bottom boat that was probably used to transport the marijuana across the river.

(DS) On July 31, INS/BP Agents seized 405 kilograms of marijuana hidden in brush near the Rio Grande River in La Casita, Texas. Agents followed footprints of 10 subjects walking north from the river. The marijuana was carried inside 15 burlap sacks.

(DS) On July 31, Laredo, Texas, task force officers seized \$253,765 from a rented 1994 Chevrolet Suburban with Mexico plates. Two Hispanic males and a Hispanic female

were detained. The currency was discovered in the tailgate.

(DS) On August 1, USCS Inspectors at the Eagle Pass, Texas, POE seized 36 kilograms of cocaine from the gas tank of a 1996 Dodge Ram pickup with Texas plates. A registration check indicated that the vehicle was owned by a leasing company in Rockwall, Texas. The cocaine packages were heat-sealed and numbered "1" through "41." One 50-year-old male U.S. citizen residing in Laredo, Texas, claimed to be returning to Laredo after visiting a friend in Piedras Negras, Coahuila.

(DS) On August 2, INS/BP Agents at the checkpoint on U.S. Highway 281 near Falfurrias, Texas, seized 468 kilograms of marijuana from a tractor bearing New Jersey plates. A registration check revealed that the plates belong to a 1985 Kenworth tractor and are registered to a New York City resident.

(DS) On August 5, USCS Inspectors at a Laredo, Texas, POE seized 14 kilograms of Mexico-manufactured methamphetamine

The driver, a 40-year-old U.S. citizen residing in San Antonio, was arrested.

Prior to this methamphetamine seizure, the amount of methamphetamine seized in South Texas this calendar year totaled 6 kilograms. Another significant methamphetamine seizure occurred near Laredo on January 28 when

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INS/BP Agents at the I-35 checkpoint seized 4 kilograms of methamphetamine concealed in the side panels of a 1982 Chevrolet Blazer with Tamaulipas plates.

(DS) On August 6, USCS Inspectors at the Bridge of the Americas POE in El Paso, Texas, seized a total of 2.6 kilograms of heroin from two pedestrians. A 31-year-old male Mexican national, resident of Loc Rosales, Chihuahua, and a 30-year-old male Cuban national, resident of Miami, Florida, were arrested. The heroin had been concealed on their persons.

(DS) On August 8, INS/BP Agents in Fort Hancock, Texas, seized 363 kilograms of marijuana found under two sheets of plywood in the bed of a 1984 Ford F-150 pickup with Texas plates. Agents came upon the vehicle 2 miles west of Fort Hancock near the Rio Grande River. When the driver observed the agents in the area, he abandoned the vehicle and fled to Mexico. The plates belonged to a Dodge pickup owned by a Fabens, Texas, resident. The pickup was registered to a resident of Carlsbad, New Mexico.

(DS) On August 11, DEA Special Agents seized 1 kilogram of Mexican black tar heroin in San Antonio, Texas, as the result of an investigation. One 47-year-old male was arrested.

(DS) On August 14, after a canine alert, INS/BP Agents at the checkpoint on I-35 north of Laredo, Texas, discovered 21 kilograms of cocaine hidden behind both the driver and passenger-side door panels of a 1995 Chevrolet Blazer with Texas plates. The vehicle is registered to a Laredo resident. The driver indicated he had borrowed the vehicle from the owner in order to take his family to San Antonio and Houston, Texas. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] One 21-year-old male U.S. citizen and resident of Laredo was arrested.

(DS) On August 14, as the result of a canine alert, USCS Inspectors at the Ysleta POE in El Paso, Texas, discovered 12 kilograms of unmarked cocaine hidden inside the left quarter panel of a 1987 Mercury Cougar with Texas plates. One 20-year-old female U.S. citizen residing in El Paso was arrested.

(DS) On August 14, Houston, Texas, police officers seized 62 kilograms of cocaine from a company-owned 1987 Peterbilt tractor-trailer with Texas plates. Three Hispanic males had flown from New York to Houston to pick up the cocaine and were en route to New York. The cocaine was hidden inside a wooden box located in the trailer that was carrying a cargo of cut-up denim cloth.

(DS) On August 15, as the result of an investigation, DEA Special Agents seized 12 kilograms of cocaine, 11 bundles wrapped in green duct tape, and the remainder in plastic baggies, from a residence in San Antonio, Texas. One male suspect was arrested.

(DS) On August 16, USCS Special Agents, assisted by INS/BP Agents, seized 374 kilograms of marijuana from an El Paso, Texas, residence as the result of an investigation. Two documented Mexican nationals residing in Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, a 26-year-old male and a 53-year-old female, were arrested.

(DS) On August 18, INS/BP Agents in Alpine, Texas, seized 353 kilograms of marijuana from a horse trailer being towed

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by a 1987 Ford pickup with Texas plates. The pickup was first observed traveling north toward Alpine on Texas Highway 118. Once in Alpine, the driver made a quick turn on to a side street in what appeared to be an attempt to evade the agent. A traffic stop was initiated, but the driver continued for several more blocks until he was intercepted by another INS/BP vehicle from the front. One 25-year-old documented male Mexican national was arrested.

(DS) On August 18, Texas DPS officers seized \$890,530 discovered under the false bottom of a toolbox in a 1994 Ford F-350 pickup traveling west on I-10 in Austin County. A Hispanic male resident of Pasadena, Texas, was en route to Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, from Houston, Texas.

(DS) On August 18, USCS Inspectors at the Houston, Texas, international airport seized 10.3 kilograms of cocaine from a Honduran national, resident of Houston, arriving aboard TACA Airlines from Saudi Arabia via Belize. The 34-year-old female concealed the cocaine in her luggage and attache case.

(DS) On August 20, INS/BP Agents seized 662 kilograms of marijuana near the Rio Grande River 10 miles upriver from the Laredo, Texas, POE. The seizure site was on ranch property that is notorious for smuggling activity. A group of 26 individuals was observed traveling north from the river carrying bundles. Three 20-year-old males were arrested, two undocumented Mexican nationals and one U.S. citizen, all claiming to reside in Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas. All indicated they had been recruited by an unknown subject in Mexico and that they were driven to the river on the Mexican side, where the bundles of marijuana were already on the river bank.

(DS) On August 21 USCS Inspectors at the Bridge of the Americas POE in El Paso, Texas, seized 12 kilograms of cocaine from a steel compartment with a trapdoor hidden in the rear bumper of a 1984 Nissan Maxima with Texas plates. The unmarked cocaine was wrapped in 10 cellophane-wrapped bundles. A canine did not alert. One 18-year-old male U.S. citizen resident of Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, was arrested.

(DS) On August 21, INS/BP Agents at the checkpoint on U.S. Highway 281 near Falfurrias, Texas, seized 12 kilograms of cocaine concealed within the rear seat of a 1989 Mazda RX7 with Texas plates. The driver, a 31-year-old female U.S. citizen residing in Fontana, California, was arrested.

(DS) On August 23, pursuant to a canine alert, INS/BP Agents at the checkpoint on U.S. Highway 281 south of Falfurrias, Texas, seized a total of 667 kilograms of marijuana from a 1993 GMC U-Haul rental truck and a 1969 Silver Eagle passenger bus, with Iowa and Texas plates, respectively. The 311 packages of marijuana were hidden in speakers and musical instruments in the rear of both vehicles, which had been traveling together. Nine male suspects—three U.S. citizens from Texas, three Mexican nationals from Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, and three Mexican legal residents from Texas and Florida—representing themselves as a Mexican musical group, were en route to San Antonio from McAllen, Texas.

(DS) On August 26, as the result of an investigation, DEA Special Agents and Task Force officers seized 1.3 kilograms of Mexican black tar heroin in Presidio, Texas. Two male Mexican nationals from Guerrero, Chihuahua, were later arrested at the Marfa, Texas, immigration checkpoint.

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(DS) On August 26, Panhandle Regional Narcotic Task Force officers seized 378 kilograms of marijuana and \$1,000 from a 1995 Dodge pickup towing a 1988 Bayliner boat on a 1990 Pacific trailer, both with California plates, traveling east on I-40 in Potter County near Amarillo, Texas. A white male resident of El Cajon, California, was en route to New York City, New York, from El Cajon. The marijuana was discovered in the hull of the boat. Access to the compartment was gained by lifting the driver's seat, which was attached to the trapdoor.

(DS) On August 27, INS/BP Agents seized 1.8 kilograms of heroin discovered in an abandoned vehicle tire rim along the Rio Grande River near Eagle Pass, Texas. Agents saw five males in the area who fled back to Mexico.

(DS) On August 28, pursuant to a canine alert, INS/BP Agents at the checkpoint on I-35 north of Laredo, Texas, seized 364 kilograms of marijuana hidden under a false floor compartment in a 1984 GMC Southwind motor home with Florida plates. One male suspect was arrested.

(DS) On August 28, as the result of an investigation, Texas DPS officers, Houston Police officers, and Houston HIDTA officers seized \$890,530 hidden in a compartment in the toolbox of a 1994 Ford pickup with Texas plates, traveling on I-10 near Sealy, Texas. The currency had been wrapped in plastic and covered with silicone and coffee grounds. The driver, a 30-year-old male resident of Pasadena, Texas, was en route to either Laredo or Del Rio, Texas.

[REDACTED] On August 29, DEA and FBI Special Agents, along with the IRS-CID, INS, and Dallas Police officers seized 8 kilograms of Mexican methamphetamine, 2 kilograms of Mexican black tar heroin, 300 grams of cocaine, 8 weapons, and \$6,490 at a residence in Dallas.

(DS) On August 29, Texas DPS officers and Refugio County Sheriff's deputies seized 50 kilograms of cocaine and 15 kilograms of white heroin discovered in a compartment in the kingpin area of a 1992 Kenworth tractor with Texas plates, traveling north on U.S. Highway 77 near Refugio. A 40-year-old Hispanic male from Mission, Texas, and a 29-year-old black female were en route to Houston from Mission. Another Hispanic male was arrested and his 1983 Freightliner tractor seized, when he arrived to take possession of the drugs.

(DS) On September 2, after a canine alert, USCS Inspectors at the Ysleta POE in El Paso, Texas, seized 15 kilograms of cocaine hidden within the front rocker panels of a 1988 Ford Taurus station wagon with Chihuahua plates.

[REDACTED] The driver, a 19-year-old male Mexican national from Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, was arrested.

(DS) On September 5, as the result of an investigation, DEA Special Agents seized 399 kilograms of marijuana at three locations in El Paso, Texas. In a followup to the initial seizures, three suspects have been arrested in Kansas City, Missouri, and additional arrests are anticipated in the Chicago, Illinois, area.

(DS) On September 9, as the result of an investigation, DEA Special Agents seized

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941 grams of Mexican black tar heroin in McAllen, Texas.

(DS) On September 9, Angelina County, Texas, sheriff's deputies seized 19 kilograms of cocaine from a 1995 pickup with Tennessee plates, traveling north on Texas Highway 287 near Lufkin, Texas. The cocaine was discovered in a compartment behind the toolbox in front of the bed. The Hispanic male resident of Tennessee was en route to Tennessee from Houston, Texas. The letters "PALA" were written on the cocaine packages and axle grease had been used as a masking agent.

(DS) On September 10, INS/BP Agents at the checkpoint on U.S. Highway 281 near Falfurrias, Texas, seized 20 kilograms of cocaine from a 1997 Chevrolet Suburban with Texas plates. The cocaine was discovered in a spare tire that belonged to a pickup instead of the Suburban. The 17 packages of unmarked cocaine were wrapped in layers of packing tape and grease. A father and son, both U.S. citizens, and two females, one of whom was a documented Mexican national and one a U.S. citizen, accompanied by two children, were detained. All subjects reside at the same address in McAllen, Texas.

(DS) On September 12, INS/BP Agents at the checkpoint on U.S. Highway 77 near Sarita, Texas, seized 159 kilograms of cocaine from the trunk of a 1996 Buick Roadmaster sedan with Texas plates. The unmarked cocaine was wrapped in 127 brick-shaped bundles covered with soap powder.

The vehicle, registered to a family member also residing in McAllen,

[REDACTED] One 69-year-old male U.S. citizen resident of McAllen, Texas, had made deliberate efforts to blow cigar smoke in the way of the agent during initial questioning.

(DS) On September 13, INS/BP Agents seized 3 kilograms of Colombian heroin from two male Colombian nationals at the El Paso, Texas, international airport, as they attempted to board a flight to New York City. The men, suspected of being undocumented aliens, presented Mexican driver's licenses and claimed to be Mexican citizens; however, they did not have any documentation that would permit them to enter the United States legally. After further questioning, one of the suspects claimed to be Guatemalan. The heroin was hidden on their bodies and in their luggage. An interview revealed that the couriers had been smuggled across the river into the United States from Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua. They picked up the heroin in Medellin, Colombia, and traveled via Panama and Guadalajara, Jalisco, to Ciudad Juarez. This route and smuggling method are similar to those used by other Colombian heroin couriers.

(DS) On September 13, pursuant to a canine alert, USCS Inspectors at the Eagle Pass, Texas, POE seized 1,300 kilograms of marijuana from a 1982 DINA passenger bus with Mexico plates. Some of the marijuana packages had been concealed in a hidden compartment, with access through panels inside the luggage storage area. The remaining packages were in the passengers' lavatory and in another storage area in the rear of the bus. The chartered-tour bus reportedly was en route to Laredo and San Antonio, Texas, from Mexico City, Mexico. Three Mexican nationals from Mexico City, the two male bus drivers and the female tour

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organizer, were arrested. One day earlier, USCS Inspectors at the Calexico, California, POE seized 116 kilograms of marijuana from a similar concealment in a Mexican 1975 DINA passenger bus. This particular means of drug transport is not new, as Mexican chartered touring and commercial passenger buses have been previously encountered with small amounts of marijuana, cocaine, or heroin on board, as they crossed into the United States. Since the beginning of this calendar year, there have been nine recorded POE incidents, all in California and Texas, involving buses. Drugs have more often been concealed within luggage stowage areas, or in the personal effects of passengers. DEA Hermosillo reported that one Mexican trafficking organization in Sonora had arranged bus tours for Mexican school-aged children as a cover for their smuggling activities.

(DS) On September 13, Bee County, Texas, sheriff's officers seized 108 kilograms of cocaine from a 1988 International tractor with Texas plates, towing a 46-foot flatbed trailer with Minnesota plates, traveling east on U.S. Highway 59 in Bee County. The temporarily disabled tractor-trailer had been pulled onto the shoulder, but was still posing a hazard to traffic. The cocaine packages were concealed inside the tractor's fuel tanks.

[REDACTED]

After decanting the tanks, deputies found a large rectangular metal box secured to the inside of each tank. Two Hispanic males, a 59-year-old resident of Houston, Texas, and a 45-year-old from Laredo, Texas, were en route to Houston. The driver claimed to have been contracted by an individual he had just met in Houston, to

pick up the rig in McAllen, Texas, and drive it to a prearranged delivery site off Interstate Highway Loop 610 in Houston. He stated that he was to have been paid \$200.

(DS) On September 14, Houston, Texas, Operation JETWAY Task Force officers seized 102.5 kilograms of cocaine from two male Canadian nationals traveling from Houston to New Jersey on an Amtrak train. The cocaine was discovered inside six pieces of luggage. Each cocaine package was marked with "XXB," "MPB," "CK," or "Monopoly Man."

(DS) On September 15, Texas DPS officers seized 307 kilograms of cocaine from a 1988 Chevrolet Suburban with Texas plates, traveling on U.S. Highway 83 in Hidalgo County. A 1988 Chevrolet pickup with Texas plates, occupied by three subjects, was traveling with the Suburban. The cocaine was discovered in the cargo area and back seat of the Suburban. Two of the cocaine packages were marked, one with a black and white soccer ball and the other with a computer bar code. Four Hispanic males, all residents of Mission, Texas, were arrested.

(DS) On September 15, Texas DPS officers seized 603 kilograms of marijuana from a 1992 Ford van with Texas plates, traveling on Texas Highway 118 in Brewster County south of Alpine, Texas. The driver, a Hispanic male, ran off into the desert. The suspect was arrested 2 days later. The driver was reportedly en route to Dallas, Texas, from Santa Elena, Texas.

(DS) On September 15, Texas DPS officers seized 631 kilograms of marijuana from a 1987 International tractor towing a 1975 Karikool semitrailer, both with Texas plates, traveling east on U.S. Highway 59 in Victoria County. A Hispanic male resident of Orange Grove, Texas, was en route to

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U.S. Department of Justice
Drug Enforcement Administration

DEA Intelligence Division
Drug Intelligence Report, August 1997
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Changing Dynamics of the U. S. Cocaine Trade

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Drug Intelligence Report

DEA
Intelligence Division

August 1997
DEA-97034

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Drug Enforcement Administration

Changing Dynamics of the U.S. Cocaine Trade

Drug Intelligence Report

This report was prepared by the Domestic and Latin America Units of the Strategic Intelligence Section. Comments and requests for copies are welcome and may be directed to the Intelligence Production Unit, Intelligence Division, DEA Headquarters at [REDACTED]

August 1997

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ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE

The trafficking of cocaine to the United States, the eventual conversion of powder cocaine to crack, and the distribution of this drug in our country's neighborhoods represent the number one threat faced by drug law enforcement authorities. The distribution and abuse of powder and crack cocaine have resulted in an unprecedented wave of violence across our country. Since approximately 1980, organized criminal groups based in Colombia have supplied the cocaine available in the United States and, since the late 1980s, Mexican trafficking organizations have been increasingly active in smuggling cocaine on behalf of their Colombian counterparts.

The only constant in the cocaine trade, however, is change. At various times over the past two decades law enforcement operations and shifting relationships between the major trafficking organizations significantly impacted the cocaine trade. Today, the cocaine trade is again in a period of major transition. The leaders of the Cali-based organized crime groups that dominated the cocaine industry during the early to mid-1990s are either in jail or dead. Many criminals in Colombia and Mexico are eager to take advantage of this situation and become the new "kings of cocaine."

This paper documents the latest developments in the U.S. cocaine trade, including the increasing role played by organized crime polydrug trafficking groups operating from Mexico. These groups work closely with Colombia-based trafficking organizations to smuggle cocaine into, and distribute it throughout, the United States. This international cooperation on the part of criminal organizations must be mirrored by the close cooperation of Federal, State, and local law enforcement authorities on the national and international level. Working together, law enforcement agencies around the world must continue to identify, prosecute, and incarcerate those criminals who control the cocaine trade.



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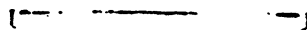
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since the emergence of the cocaine epidemic in the United States during the late 1970s, Colombian trafficking organizations have exercised unrivaled control of the cocaine trade. Beginning in the summer of 1995, the top Cali leaders have been captured by, or have surrendered to, the Colombian Government. Those developments provided other Colombian drug traffickers with the opportunity to increase their power and influence in the drug trade relative to the Cali "old guard." Moreover, recent DEA intelligence and investigative reporting confirm the increasingly fragmented nature of the cocaine "industry" in Colombia.

Over the past decade, Colombian drug lords have allowed Mexico-based trafficking organizations to play an increasing role in the U.S. cocaine trade. The seizure of nearly 40 metric tons of cocaine during 1989 led to a new arrangement between transportation organizations operating from Mexico and the drug lords from Colombia, radically changing the role and sphere of influence of the Mexico-based trafficking organizations in the U.S. cocaine trade. In exchange for their services, by the mid-1990s, Mexico-based transportation groups were receiving up to half of each cocaine shipment they smuggled into the United States on behalf of the Colombia-based traffickers. Both sides realized that this strategy eliminated the vulnerabilities and complex logistics associated with large cash transactions. The Cali leaders realized that by relinquishing a portion of each cocaine shipment to their associates from Mexico they were also ceding a corresponding share of the U.S. wholesale cocaine market. As a result of this arrangement, trafficker operating from Mexico now control a substantial proportion of wholesale cocaine distribution throughout the western and midwestern United States.

The role of Mexico-based trafficking organizations is increasing again. Today, the major trafficking organizations operating from Mexico are second only to the Colombian drug groups in terms of power, sophistication, and international scope of operations. The most recent development that highlights the changing dynamics of the U.S. cocaine trade is the appearance of Mexico-based traffickers in New York City.

Although Mexico-based trafficking organizations are playing a greater role in cocaine transportation expansion eastward and a new role in New York City's wholesale cocaine market, this development should not be seen as evidence of a "power shift" in the cocaine trade away from Colombian drug lords. The traffickers operating from Colombia are not surrendering their U.S. wholesale-level markets in the eastern United States, and they continue to control the supply of cocaine at its source.



CHANGING DYNAMICS OF THE U.S. COCAINE TRADE

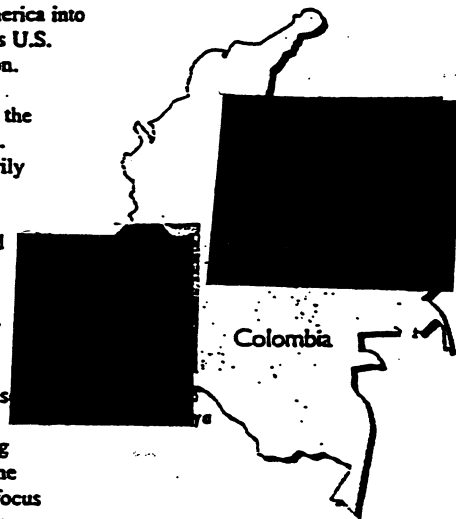
TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATIONS OPERATING FROM COLOMBIA

Since the emergence of the cocaine epidemic in the United States during the late 1970s, Colombian trafficking organizations have exercised unrivaled control of the cocaine trade. Traditionally, Colombians dominated cocaine smuggling from South America into the United States as well as U.S. wholesale-level distribution. Throughout the 1980s, the [redacted] cartel dominated the international cocaine trade. By the early 1990s, primarily as a result of law enforcement efforts, the [redacted] cartel fragmented and gradually lost its dominant position in the international cocaine trade.

As the [redacted] cartel was dying, the [redacted] cartel, a loose association of five independent drug trafficking groups, took advantage of the Colombian Government's focus on the [redacted] drug lords to expand its own trafficking operations and consolidate its control over the international cocaine trade. Using their vast wealth to buy political influence and corrupt Colombia's criminal justice system, the [redacted]-based traffickers soon wielded even more power in Colombia than their predecessors. The [redacted] drug lords quickly emerged as the undisputed "kings of cocaine," supplying most of the cocaine consumed in the United States and Europe.

Since the summer of 1995, the top [redacted] leaders were captured by or surrendered to the Colombian Government. These developments were the culmination of years of investigative efforts by the Governments of Colombia and the United States. DEA Special Agents worked quietly with Colombia

National Police (CNP) officials sharing information and pursuing leads as to their whereabouts. In the United States, the evidence generated through investigations conducted by Federal, State, and local drug law enforcement agencies led to the identification and indictments of these criminals on drug charges. This evidence was shared with prosecutors in Colombia and was crucial in securing convictions against these criminals. Furthermore, in [redacted] case, Colombian prosecutors used U.S.-supplied evidence to lengthen his prison sentence to a minimum of 13 years.



Those developments (see text box on the following page) provided other Colombian drug lords with the opportunity to increase their power and influence in the drug trade relative to the [redacted] "old guard." Moreover, recent DEA intelligence and investigative reporting confirm the increasingly fragmented nature of the cocaine "industry" in Colombia. For example, a new generation of independent Colombian traffickers—such as [redacted]—run the most powerful of the various independent trafficking groups in Colombia's Northern Valle del Cauca region. These traffickers are now major players in the Colombian drug underworld.

The Current Status of the Cali Drug Lords

U.S. drug law enforcement authorities have identified the following individuals as the most important leaders of the Cali-based drug trafficking organizations. All five have been indicted on drug charges in the United States.

[REDACTED] was arrested in [REDACTED] Colombia, by the CNP in June 1995. His brother, [REDACTED] was arrested by the CNP in August 1995. As a result of Colombia's lenient sentencing laws, [REDACTED] may serve slightly over 13 years in prison, while his brother [REDACTED] may serve only 8 years. Reporting indicates that the [REDACTED] brothers continue to direct aspects of their trafficking organization from prison.

• Cali drug leader [REDACTED] surrendered to the CNP in September 1996. It is reasonable to assume that [REDACTED] like the other drug lords, has continued his trafficking operations from prison.

[REDACTED] was considered to be the number three leader in the [REDACTED] organization prior to his violent death in March 1996. [REDACTED] trafficking organization has since split since his death. Some former members of the [REDACTED] organization reportedly are working for other drug trafficking groups.

[REDACTED] remain fugitives from justice. Paul and Luis, who are first cousins and related to the [REDACTED] family by marriage, use their numerous business front companies to transport cocaine to Europe and the United States. [REDACTED] organization, which provides transportation services to the other [REDACTED] drug groups, has exploited Eastern Europe's difficult transition from communism to establish new cocaine transshipment routes.

[REDACTED] and his brother, [REDACTED] head a major drug trafficking organization associated with the so-called Northern [REDACTED] drug lords. [REDACTED] are related by marriage to the [REDACTED] family. The CNP arrested Ivan in April 1992 and Fabio surrendered to Colombian authorities in March 1994. Notwithstanding the incarceration of the [REDACTED] brothers, their organization reportedly remains active in the drug trade.

TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATIONS OPERATING FROM MEXICO

Polydrug trafficking organizations operating from Mexico have distributed drugs in the United States for at least 25 years. Trafficking primarily in marijuana and heroin, these organizations have developed until they now control well-established distribution networks throughout the western United States. During the 1980s, these polydrug trafficking organizations entered the cocaine trade as transporters and, with the onset of the 1990s, these organizations consolidated and expanded their distribution of cocaine as well as methamphetamine. Although there are many Mexico-based trafficking organizations, four primary organizations dominate the illicit drug trade. The major trafficking organizations operating from Mexico are as follows.

[REDACTED] Organization: [REDACTED] drug mafia, formerly headed by [REDACTED], is the most powerful of the major Mexican drug trafficking groups and controls much of the drug trafficking along Mexico's northern border with the United States. The [REDACTED] drug mafia transports multiton quantities of cocaine from Colombia to the United States via Mexico each year. The group also is involved in smuggling Mexican heroin and marijuana. [REDACTED], the undisputed leader of the [REDACTED] drug mafia, died in July 1997 as a result of medical complications following plastic surgery. He had undergone extensive plastic surgery in a Mexico City hospital in a desperate effort to elude identification and arrest by law enforcement authorities. The DEA anticipates that one of [REDACTED] family members or trusted lieutenants will assume control of his organization. Accordingly, [REDACTED]'s death *per se* is unlikely to affect the overall flow of cocaine across the Southwest Border.

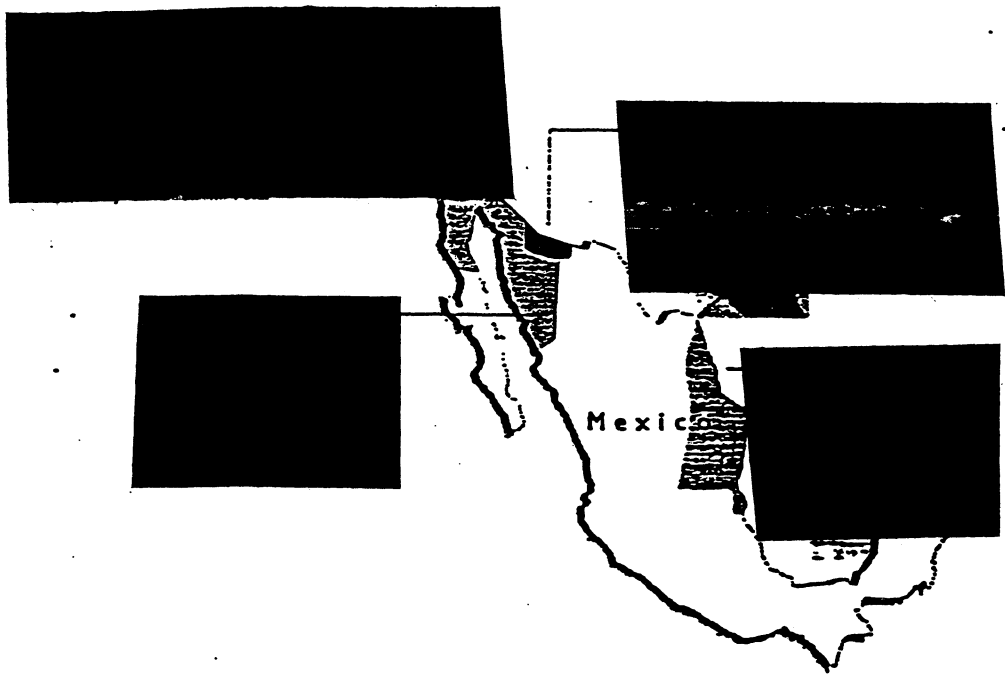
Organization: The Tijuana drug trafficking organization, headed by the [redacted] brothers, controls smuggling across the border from Tijuana to California and is the most violent of the Mexican organizations. The organization operates primarily in the Mexican States of Baja California Sur and Norte, Chiapas, Jalisco, Michoacan, and Sinaloa. The [redacted] organization is responsible for the transportation, importation and distribution of multiton quantities of cocaine and marijuana, as well as large quantities of heroin and methamphetamine, across the border from Mexico to California. One [redacted] brother is in jail while his brother [redacted] continue to run the family's illicit drug business.

The [redacted] brothers maintain well-armed and well-trained security forces. These security forces have been responsible for assassinating rival drug traffickers and several senior Mexican law enforcement officials—most notably [redacted] Commandante of the Mexican Federal Judicial Police in [redacted] Commandante of the National Institute to Combat Drugs. Enforcers for the [redacted] organization often are hired from

violent street gangs in Mexico as well as in the United States. They are dispatched to assassinate individuals who attempt to use the Mexicali-Tijuana drug smuggling corridor without paying the [redacted] organization.

The [redacted] organizations have a long and complicated relationship. At times, the organizations have worked together to facilitate drug smuggling operations. Oftentimes, however, they have an adversarial relationship. The continuing rivalry has been exposed in the investigation of former federal antidrug leader [redacted]

[redacted] was arrested in February 1997 for having provided protection to the [redacted] organization. It is believed that the [redacted] organization provided [redacted] with detailed information regarding illicit drug activities on the part of their rival—the [redacted] organization. General [redacted] then used that information to target the [redacted] organization. In this way, the corrupt official both satisfied his military superiors, by mounting several operations against the [redacted] organization, and enhanced the power of the [redacted] organization he was paid to protect.



Organization: The Sonora drug trafficking organization, headed by [REDACTED] operates in the Mexican States of Chihuahua, Jalisco, Michoacan, Nuevo Leon, and Sinaloa. It is responsible for the transportation, importation, and distribution of multiton quantities of cocaine and marijuana into the United States from Mexico. The organization's drug trafficking operations primarily impact the Southwest Border states. The [REDACTED] organization cultivates cannabis throughout Mexico; smuggles marijuana, heroin, cocaine, and methamphetamine from Mexico to the United States; and reportedly smuggles arms from the United States into Mexico. The organization uses land, maritime, and air smuggling routes to facilitate its drug trafficking from Mexico to the United States. One [REDACTED] brother [REDACTED] is in jail for drug violations and his involvement in the murder of [REDACTED]

The [REDACTED] Organization: The Gulf drug trafficking organization was run by [REDACTED] prior to his January 1996 arrest in Mexico and subsequent deportation to the United States. At one time this organization was considered to be the most powerful trafficking organization in Mexico. The power and influence of the Gulf drug trafficking organization, however, were declining even prior to [REDACTED] arrest. With the March 1997 arrest of key [REDACTED] in Mexico, the organization is believed to be completely dismantled. [REDACTED] reportedly is attempting to assume control of this organization's former territory.

CHANGING DYNAMICS: THE EXPANDING ROLE OF TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATIONS OPERATING FROM MEXICO

Traditionally, cocaine trafficking into and within the United States was controlled exclusively by traffickers operating from Colombia. However, during the late 1980s, when U.S. drug law enforcement focused interdiction efforts in the Caribbean and along the eastern seaboard, these traffickers reacted by establishing alliances with criminals based in Mexico for the transportation of cocaine shipments to the United States through Mexico. During the late 1980s, cocaine transporters operating in Mexico received a fee ranging from \$1,500 to \$2,000* for each kilogram of cocaine they

* Unless otherwise specified, all monies are quoted in U.S. dollars.

smuggled into the United States. From that time on, the trafficking organizations operating from Mexico were exposed to the Colombians' cocaine trafficking operations and subsequently became an integral part of the U.S. cocaine trade.

During a 3-month period in 1989, U.S. drug law enforcement authorities made four significant cocaine seizures totaling nearly 40 metric tons—21 metric tons in California, 8 metric tons in Texas, 5 metric tons in Louisiana, and 5 metric tons in New York. The 21-metric-ton cocaine seizure in Sylmar, California, in September 1989, the largest single cocaine seizure in U.S. history, revealed the magnitude of the involvement of groups operating from Mexico in the transportation of Colombian-produced cocaine into the United States. This record-setting seizure was made possible because a Mexico-based transportation group continued to ferry large quantities of Colombian trafficker-owned cocaine to a warehouse in Sylmar, but, at the same time, refused to release the cocaine to the appropriate Colombian wholesale distributors until they were paid for their transportation services.

These seizures of significant quantities of cocaine in such a short period of time led to a new arrangement between transportation organizations operating from Mexico and the drug lords from Colombia, radically changing the role and sphere of influence of the Mexico-based trafficking organizations in the U.S. cocaine trade. As a result of this arrangement, trafficking organizations operating from Colombia began to pay Mexico-based trafficking organizations a percentage of each cocaine shipment in product—ranging from 35 to 50 percent of the total shipment—rather than in cash. Payment-in-product always has been an aspect of the drug trade. For at least a decade, investigations have shown that some traffickers provided part of a drug shipment as payment for transportation services. For example, [REDACTED], of the [REDACTED] drug organization, sometimes paid his transporters with cocaine for movement of the drugs through the Caribbean during the mid-1980s.

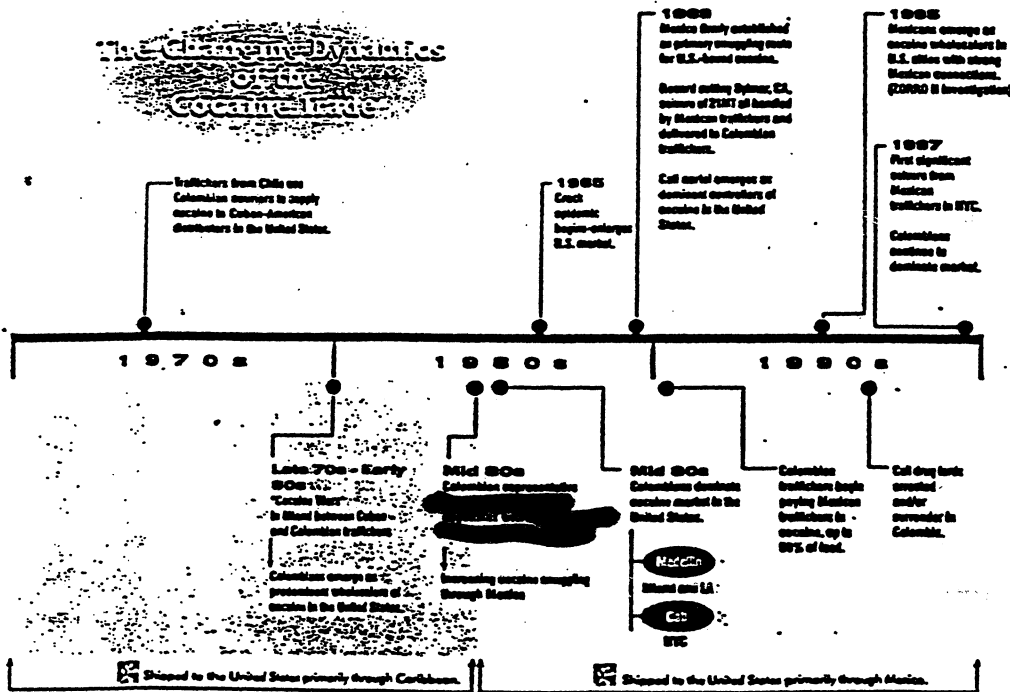
In the wake of the 1989 seizures, the [REDACTED] drug lords in particular wanted to limit disputes regarding payment of transportation fees. Although there is no direct evidence of specific negotiations between traffickers operating from Colombia and those operating from Mexico, the payment-in-product arrangement was reported with increasing frequency. By the early 1990s, this arrangement became standard operating procedure for the major cocaine traffickers

operating from Colombia and Mexico. By the mid-1990s, transportation groups were receiving in exchange for their services up to half of each cocaine shipment smuggled into the United States.

The DEA estimates that as a result of being paid in cocaine, trafficking organizations operating from Mexico may, at most, own between 20 and 30 percent of the cocaine smuggled into the United States. Assessments on the flow of cocaine from South America into the United States generally range from 450 to 500 metric tons. Using the low-end figure of this range, and interagency estimates that about 60 percent of this cocaine is smuggled across the Southwest Border, Mexico-based trafficking groups move at least 270 metric tons of cocaine. If traffickers from Mexico assume ownership of between 35 and 50 percent of the cocaine being transhipped through Mexico in exchange for transportation services, this amounts to between 20 and 30 percent of the cocaine smuggled into the

United States (or between 95 and 135 metric tons). The remaining 40 percent or 180 metric tons of the cocaine smuggled from South America to the United States transits the Caribbean. Colombian trafficking organizations remain firmly in control of cocaine smuggling operations in the Caribbean.

Receiving payment in cocaine rather than cash significantly increased the gross revenue generated by the Mexico-based transporters. For example, prior to the payment-in-product system, transporters were paid a flat fee of \$2,000 per kilogram for transporting a 1,000-kilogram shipment, thus earning \$2 million. However, the same transporters under the payment-in-product scenario, could earn a minimum of \$5 million for selling the 500 kilograms, which represents 50 percent of a 1,000-kilogram shipment, received from the Colombians at the low end of the kilogram price range (\$10,500). Depending upon other factors, such as price fluctuations and buyer-seller relationships, the potential profit could total more than \$10 million.



In order to determine the total gross revenue that trafficking organizations operating from Mexico derive from the cocaine they receive as their transportation fee, a baseline calculation, using the minimum quantity of cocaine available to these trafficking organizations (95 metric tons) multiplied by the low end of the kilogram price range (\$10,500), equates to a minimum figure of nearly \$1 billion. Again, depending on the factors cited above, the potential gross revenue easily could exceed \$2 billion. Although substantial, this amount is less than what the Colombian drug lords receive. It should be noted that this figure is based solely upon the cocaine received as payment and does not include revenue generated from cocaine that Mexico-based organizations purchase directly from sources in Colombia. The amount of cocaine purchased by these groups is unknown.

Today, trafficking groups operating from Mexico receive as much as 35 to 50 percent of each cocaine shipment as payment on a regular basis. Variations in the percentage of the total shipment paid to these traffickers for transport services occur on a shipment-to-shipment basis.

The drug lords operating from Mexico, like their counterparts in Colombia, effectively used their vast drug-generated wealth to corrupt government officials. This vast drug money has made it possible for the drug lords to gain unprecedented economic, political, and social influence in Colombia. For example, they have used their drug wealth to derail attempts to reinstate extradition. Likewise, a substantial part of the profits collected by these traffickers from Mexico is used to buy influence in the Mexican Government. For example, in March 1997, [REDACTED] was arrested for attempting to bribe another high-ranking military officer by offering to pay \$1.5 million per month, which equates to \$18 million per year, to allow drug shipments to pass through the northern border State of Baja California Norte. In addition, in April 1997, approximately \$9 million in drug-related money in a bank account in Houston was seized by the U.S. Government from a former Mexican prosecutor.

A great deal of U.S. currency is smuggled in vehicles out of the United States to Mexico. Much of the money laundering by Mexico-based organizations occurs in *casas de cambios* (money exchange houses). Large quantities of U.S. currency are concealed in tractor-trailers and cars, often hidden within legitimate merchandise. Once the cash is smuggled into Mexico,

it is introduced into the Mexican financial system and then wire-transferred elsewhere. Bulk shipments of currency also are transported to South America. It is unclear what proportion of the cash returned to Mexico belongs to Mexico-based organizations or to the Colombian drug traffickers.

During the early 1990s, the subordinate role of the transportation groups operating from Mexico was highlighted by Operation FOXHUNT-ZORRO I, a combined drug law enforcement operation, comprised of officials from the DEA, the FBI, and other Federal, State, and local agencies, that identified these transportation groups as "subcontractors" to the Colombian wholesale distribution cells. However, as a result of the new payment practice, the role of these organizations in the U.S. cocaine market has increased significantly.

On May 2, 1996, Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers successfully completed a unique Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force operation code-named ZORRO II. This investigation was part of the Southwest Border Initiative, one of the Department of Justice's priority drug law enforcement programs that targets criminal groups operating along the border by attacking their command and control infrastructures. Unlike ZORRO I, however, ZORRO II, for the first time, documented that Mexico-based organized crime groups had moved beyond the role of transporters and also were involved in wholesale-level cocaine distribution in the United States.

The ZORRO II investigation revealed that multihundred-kilogram shipments of cocaine were transported from Colombia to Mexico and smuggled across the border. Once in the United States, the cocaine was stored in the Los Angeles area for eventual distribution to wholesale- and retail-level buyers in such cities as Chicago, Miami, Newark, New York City, Philadelphia, and Richmond. The cash receipts then were shipped to Colombia and Mexico.

ZORRO II documented the increased and more diverse role played by major Mexico-based traffickers in the U.S. cocaine trade. Not only did Operation ZORRO II highlight the expanded role of the traffickers operating from Mexico, it was also significant in that it simultaneously dismantled both the Colombian organization that supplied the cocaine as well as a second parallel organization based in Mexico. In addition, it was the first coordinated multidistrict enforcement action (over 40 State and

local police agencies, the DEA, the FBI, U.S. Attorney's Offices and 7 other Federal agencies across the country combined resources and expertise in this cooperative effort) taken as part of the Southwest Border Initiative.

Selected Significant Domestic Cocaine Seizures 1996-Present

Colombian drug transportation cells continue to smuggle bulk quantities of cocaine from the Southwest Border to the illicit drug markets in the Northeast. Of the last 19 cocaine seizures made nationwide by Federal authorities in which the amount of cocaine seized exceeded 500 kilograms, 66 percent of the cocaine was seized from Colombian traffickers and the remaining 34 percent from Mexican traffickers.

DATE	AMOUNT	LOCATION	SEIZED FROM
01-9-96	2,588 kilos	Miami	Colombians
7-05-96	1,400 kilos	Houston	Colombians
7-17-96	1,109 kilos	Miami	Colombians
7-22-96	853 kilos	Ft. Lauderdale	Colombians
8-01-96	2,747 kilos	Miami	Colombians
9-19-96	1,194 kilos	El Paso	Mexicans
11-08-96	1,712 kilos	Miami	Colombians
11-14-96	750 kilos	Los Angeles	Colombians
11-19-96	2,513 kilos	Miami	Colombians
11-25-96	1,187 kilos	Miami	Colombians
12-03-96	4,727 kilos	Tucson	Mexicans
12-10-96	1,495 kilos	Los Angeles	Mexicans
02-26-97	1,000 kilos	Baltimore	Colombians
03-03-97	1,430 kilos	New York	Mexicans
03-04-97	1,450 kilos	Miami	Colombians
04-17-97	500 kilos	Miami	Colombians
04-24-97	506 kilos	Houston	Colombians
04-25-97	505 kilos	Houston	Colombians
06-11-97	550 kilos	Jersey City	Mexicans
TOTAL	28,326 kilos		

Source: DEA Intelligence Division

CHANGING DYNAMICS: THE U.S. COCAINE TRADE

Although neither Colombian nor Mexican trafficking organizations traditionally have trusted each other, the tremendous financial rewards offered by the cocaine trade have proven to be a strong incentive to maintain a working relationship based on symbiotic greed. A review of investigative information, confidential sources, and other intelligence available reveals no indication of serious rivalries, conflicts, or violence between Colombian and Mexican organizations in the United States. According to investigative information, there are ongoing disagreements and disputes between Colombians and Mexicans over day-to-day business operations.

Once primarily cocaine transporters, today the major trafficking organizations operating from Mexico are second only to the Colombian drug lords in terms of power, sophistication, and international scope of operations. These organizations quickly are becoming more sophisticated in their operations and structure, perhaps as a result of working closely with the Colombians.

The relationships between some of the trafficking organizations operating from Colombia and Mexico, and active in the United States, have changed significantly in recent years. Some drug trafficking groups operating from Mexico—in particular the [redacted] organization—appear to be able and willing to offer a range of new or expanded services to their Colombian clients. These services are known to include cocaine transportation to New York City. It seems reasonable to suspect that one or more of the major Mexican trafficking groups have offered, or soon will offer, these services in other locations on the East Coast. At least one or more Colombian trafficking groups appear to be willing to relinquish these trafficking functions in an effort to insulate themselves from the risks posed by day-to-day drug operations in the United States.

Western United States

The payment-in-product arrangement's most dramatic impact is seen at the wholesale level in the western United States. Traffickers operating from Mexico now control a substantial proportion of wholesale cocaine distribution throughout the western and midwestern United States. Distribution of multiton quantities of cocaine once dominated by the [redacted] based drug traffickers is now controlled by these

trafficking groups from Mexico in cities such as Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Houston, Los Angeles, Phoenix, San Diego, San Francisco, and Seattle. The following is an overview of the major cocaine markets in the West and Southwest where Mexico-based traffickers control cocaine distribution.

In the 1980s, Colombian traffickers from [redacted] controlled wholesale-level distribution in Southern California from their base of operations in Los Angeles. Cocaine shipments transported to Los Angeles, usually from Florida, subsequently were distributed to metropolitan areas in the western United States. Now, however, trafficking groups operating from Mexico control the majority of wholesale-level cocaine distribution in Los Angeles, as well as a large part of the cocaine trade in the western United States and the Midwest. The Colombian drug organizations are ceding drug markets on the West Coast to these groups. Other Los Angeles-based organizations operating from Mexico continue to serve as cocaine transporters between Los Angeles and the East Coast.

Trafficking organizations operating from Mexico are involved in the transportation of multiton shipments of cocaine, as well as the distribution of cocaine at both the national and local level.

Most of the Mexican polydrug trafficking organizations in the San Francisco area are oriented toward providing transportation services for local Mexican distributors. The bulk of this activity, however, involves Mexican heroin and methamphetamine, not cocaine.

In Arizona, Mexican organizations appear more influential than ever, and these organizations dominate the transportation of cocaine across the border. In addition, Mexican traffickers have more control over the transportation of cocaine shipments to their final destination. Generally, cocaine owned by Mexican organizations is sold in Arizona or Southern California while the cocaine owned by the Colombians usually is transported to the East Coast.

Formerly a key wholesale distribution center for the Cali drug organization, Houston now serves as a transshipment point for Mexican drug transportation groups and as a wholesale-distribution hub for Colombian and Mexican wholesale cocaine organizations. The arrest [redacted] in 1996 created a power vacuum in the movement of drugs through southern Texas; however, both the

[redacted] organizations currently are using this corridor to smuggle drugs into the United States. The [redacted] organization is the most powerful cocaine transportation and wholesale distribution network operating in the El Paso area.

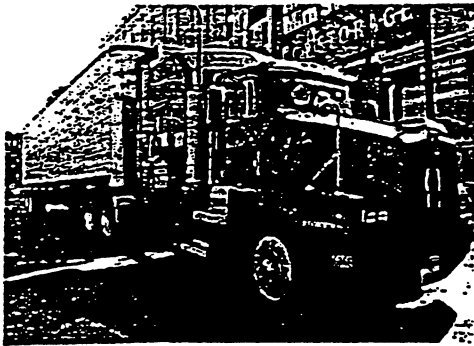
Over the past 5 years, Mexican traffickers increased their influence in the Dallas cocaine market. Previously, Colombians supplied the Dallas area with cocaine and controlled the wholesale level distribution. Presently, however, Mexican cocaine distribution groups dominate the local cocaine trade at both the wholesale and retail levels. Mexican groups have only limited connections to the Colombian wholesale distribution groups operating in the area. These Colombian traffickers now account for a smaller proportion of the local wholesale level market. The Mexican cocaine transportation and wholesale cocaine distribution networks are, for the most part, extensions of the various major polydrug trafficking groups in Mexico.

The Pacific Northwest is a traditional stronghold for Mexican trafficking organizations. Mexican traffickers not only dominate the wholesale level of the cocaine trade in the Pacific Northwest, but transportation and retail sales of cocaine as well. Close familial ties are the distinguishing characteristic of the dominant Mexican polydrug trafficking organizations active in this region.

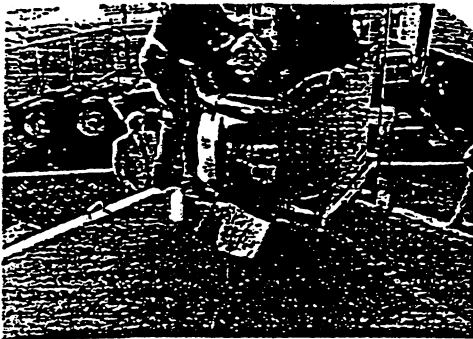
Eastern United States

The most recent indication of the changing dynamics of the U.S. cocaine trade is the appearance of Mexico-based traffickers in the New York City cocaine market—historically a stronghold of the [redacted] drug trafficking organization. Traditionally, Mexico-based traffickers transported cocaine shipments either only across the Southwest Border or only as far east as Chicago. Based on the most recent investigative data available, the role of these trafficking groups in the Northeast is still primarily that of cocaine transporter. Traffickers operating from Colombia continue to control wholesale-level cocaine distribution throughout the heavily populated northeastern United States and in eastern seaboard cities such as Boston, Miami, Newark, New York City, and Philadelphia.

Traffickers from Mexico operating in the New York City cocaine trade were identified as early as 1992. One such trafficking group was distributing up to 400



The tractor-trailer truck (above) was used to transport a 1,600-kilogram shipment of cocaine to New York City where the cocaine shipment was seized (below).



kilograms of cocaine per month in New York City on behalf of a drug trafficking organization. One recent investigation points to a more prominent role played by traffickers operating from Mexico. A New York Drug Enforcement Task Force (NYDETF) investigation targeted members of a Los Angeles-based transportation organization. This investigation showed that the organization extended its traditional cocaine transportation role from the Southwest Border area eastward to New York City. The organization used tractor-trailers to transport cocaine shipments from Mexico through McAllen, Texas, to the New York City area. In February 1997, the NYDETF seized shipments of 107 and 157 kilograms of cocaine from this organization. The intended recipients of one shipment are unknown and another shipment was delivered to Dominican traffickers prior to being seized.

In March 1997, NYDETF agents identified a tractor-trailer loaded with a shipment of cocaine as it entered the La Guardia Airport area and seized 1.6 metric tons of Colombian-owned cocaine commingled with a 60,000-pound shipment of carrots. In addition, approximately \$1.3 million in cash was seized. This seizure is the first known incident where a Mexico-based cocaine transportation organization transported a cocaine shipment from Mexico all the way to New York City.

This case indicates that Colombia-based traffickers operating in New York City appear willing to turn over some of the tasks of wholesale-level cocaine distribution and money laundering to their counterparts operating from Mexico. This is likely an effort by the traffickers to insulate themselves from the risks of day-to-day distribution and laundering operations in the United States. The traffickers, however, are maintaining their wholesale level cocaine customers and continue to collect the profits generated by the wholesale-level cocaine sales. The role played by organizations operating from Mexico is to transport the cocaine shipments to New York City and deliver the cocaine to the Colombian drug lord's wholesale-level customers.

The 1.6-metric-ton cocaine seizure notwithstanding, drug transportation operations by Mexico-based organizations on the East Coast are still rare. Colombian trafficking organizations continue to transport bulk quantities of cocaine on a regular basis from the Southwest Border to northeastern markets. The DEA recently seized two cocaine shipments totaling 950 kilograms destined for New York City from a Colombian transportation group based in Los Angeles.

In another recent example, DEA agents seized 1,000 kilograms of cocaine from a Colombian transportation group in February 1997 at a Baltimore warehouse. In fact, approximately 80 percent of the cocaine smuggled across the Southwest Border by the organization targeted in the NYDETF case usually was handed off to Colombian wholesale-distribution cells in the Los Angeles area, and likely was transported by Colombian groups to markets in the East. Organizations operating from Mexico retained the other 20 percent of the cocaine as payment for their transportation services. They sold this cocaine through their traditional wholesale distribution networks on the West Coast and in parts of the Midwest.

CONCLUSION

In recent years, the relationship between drug organizations operating from Colombia and those operating from Mexico has changed significantly. Any increased involvement by Mexico-based organizations in the traffic of cocaine comes with the approval of the Colombian drug lords. Colombia-based traffickers remain on top of the cocaine trade for a number of reasons:

- by controlling cocaine production;
- by controlling a variety of transportation routes into the United States;
- by controlling wholesale cocaine distribution throughout the eastern United States; and
- by continually shifting operations in Colombia and in the United States to maximize their proficiency and to counter drug law enforcement efforts, for example, by compartmentalizing their structure and by paying transporters in drugs rather than cash.

The role of Mexico-based trafficking organizations again may be in transition. Recent investigations suggest that some Colombian organizations are distancing themselves from day-to-day wholesale-level cocaine distribution in the United States by turning this task over, at least in some instances, to the organizations operating from Mexico. A likely motivation for this change is the desire to insulate themselves from high-risk distribution activities in the United States.

Colombia's drug lords have little reason to forego the profits generated by the wholesale U.S. cocaine market. Some Colombian drug lords may view the payment-in-product arrangement with the Mexico-based organizations as too expensive—especially with the going rate of 50 percent. They may view the Caribbean routes to the United States as an alternative to using transportation services based in Mexico.

Although traffickers operating from Mexico are playing an expanded role in shifting cocaine transportation eastward and a new role in the New York City wholesale cocaine market, there is no evidence of a "power shift" in the cocaine trade away from Colombian drug lords. The traffickers operating from Colombia are not surrendering their wholesale-level markets in the eastern United States, and they continue to control the supply of cocaine at its source. They realize that the lion's share of the profits to be made in the cocaine trade is generated in the United States—the world's largest and most lucrative cocaine market. One kilogram of cocaine that sells for \$2,000 in Colombia will sell for from \$10,500 to \$36,000 in the United States. These traffickers are especially protective of their wholesale-level cocaine customers in the New York City market—the primary cash generator for the drug trafficking organizations since 1979.

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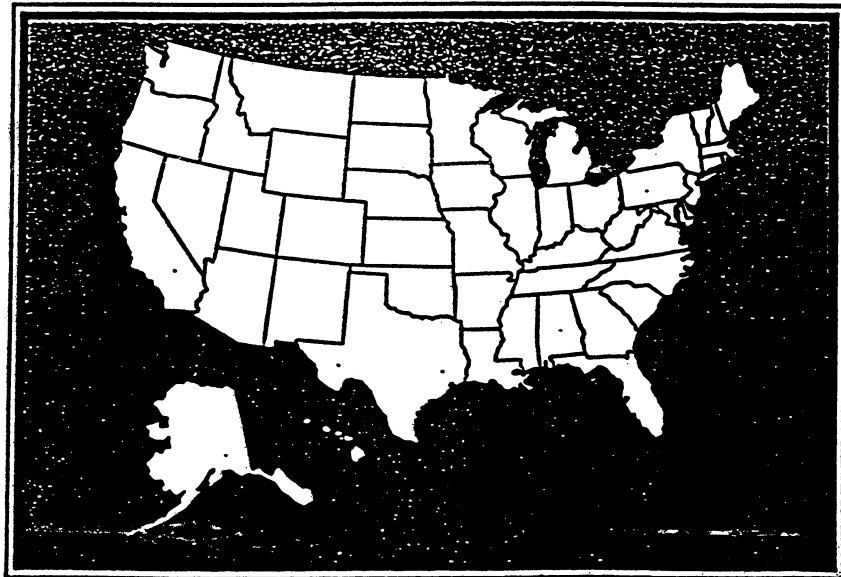
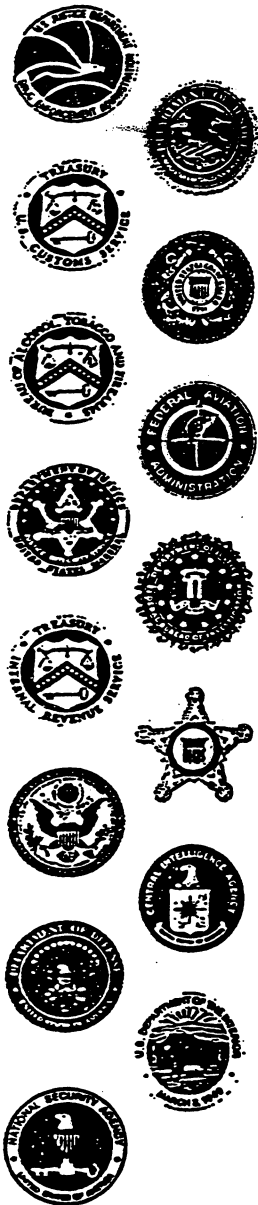
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DEA
EPIC Domestic Quarterly Threat Brief April - June
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199706
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DTB-02-97
APRIL - JUNE 1997

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**OPERATION JETWAY CY97
NATIONAL TREND AND MOVEMENT PATTERN ASSESSMENT**

The EPIC Operation JETWAY program was established in the spring of 1992 as a task force initiative designed to disrupt the movement of drugs and drug-related currency across the nation via public transportation, such as commercial aircraft, trains, and buses. The program also focuses on identifying individuals using hotels and motels to conduct drug business in close proximity to, and associated with, commercial transportation facilities. The program also includes a parcel interdiction component which interdicts contraband being shipped by commercial parcel carriers such as United Parcel Service or Federal Express. The primary mission of this program focuses on the movement of drugs within the United States, rather than into the United States.

During CY96, EPIC received 5,016 seizure incident reports, which is a 30-percent increase compared to last year's 3,865 reported incidents. Of significance, 2,701 (54 percent) of these were marijuana seizures totaling 31,284 kilograms; 534 (11 percent) were cocaine HCl totaling 2,158 kilograms; 8 were cocaine base seizures totaling 11 kilograms; 122 were crack cocaine totaling 64 kilograms; 75 (.01 percent) were heroin seizures equaling 52 kilograms; 183 were methamphetamine seizures totaling 199 kilograms; and 1,273 (25 percent) were currency seizures amounting to \$39,263,677. Additionally, there were 56 weapons or weapon parts seized.

Of the 5,016 incidents, 3,687 (73 percent) involved drug seizures. The vast majority of drug seizures occurred from mail or parcels (1,835), followed by commercial

airline passengers (1,220), bus passengers (530), train passengers (124), and air cargo (19). The most noted methods used by couriers to conceal drugs were in checked luggage, followed by carry-on luggage and external body carry. The vast majority of currency seizures occurred from commercial airline passengers (1,052), followed by mail or parcel seizures (137). Couriers smuggling currency preferred to utilize checked and carry-on luggage. Another lesser utilized method of currency concealment by couriers was via external body carry.

There was a total of 5,834 persons reported as couriers or individuals associated to Operation JETWAY seizures. These individuals will be referred to as couriers for the purposes of this report. When race was reported, 1,553 were black, 878 were white, and 713 were Hispanic. In over 2,000 incidents, race was either not reported or unknown. In most cases, nationality was not provided, but when it was, most subjects were U.S. citizens (1,328), Mexicans (362), and Jamaicans (190). When gender was reported, 2,055 were male and 1,069 were female. Over 50 percent of the smugglers were identified as being in their twenties.

A comparison between CY95 and CY96 drug and currency seizures reflected a fairly even distribution of seizure incidents during the Monday through Friday time frame. The decline in seizures on weekends may possibly be attributed to task force staffing reductions on weekends.

The Northwest region reported 212 seizure incidents which involved drugs, and 74 which involved currency; the majority

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was seized from commercial airline and bus passengers. This area made up less than 1 percent of all Operation JETWAY seizures nationwide. Analysis of commercial-airline and bus-passenger travel indicated that most seizures were made from passengers originating travel in or transiting Nevada. Significant destination points for drugs originating in this region were various cities in Florida, New York, and Puerto Rico. The primary destination for currency originating from this region was southern California, specifically Los Angeles.

The Southwest region reported the most (57 percent, 2,837 incidents) of the overall seizures nationwide. This region also accounted for the majority of the currency, marijuana, and methamphetamine seizures. Fifty-two percent of the regional currency seizures (662 incidents) occurred in California and Texas, with \$12,898,641 seized, amounting to 32 percent of the currency seized nationwide. Most of the cocaine and crack cocaine seizure incidents (204) also occurred in this region. Weapon seizures reported for this region (39) accounted for 69 percent of all weapons seized nationwide (56 weapons). The vast majority of the weapons seized in this region were semiautomatic in the .380 and 9mm calibers. Over half of the weapons seized were being carried by commercial airline passengers. Primary destinations for drugs from this region, usually marijuana, were various cities in New York, Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Florida. This region has been the destination for currency originating from various cities throughout the United States. Significant destinations were Los Angeles, California; Houston, Laredo, and El Paso, Texas; and Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona.

The Northeast region accounted for 13 percent (637 incidents) of all Operation

JETWAY seizures nationwide. Twenty-nine percent of all heroin seizures in the nation occurred in this region. Additionally, this region accounted for at least a quarter of the crack cocaine- and heroin-seizure incidents nationwide. Eighteen percent (96) of the cocaine seizures reported occurred in this area, totaling 22 percent (474 kilograms) of all the cocaine seized nationwide under the auspices of the Operation JETWAY program. Crack cocaine seizures (31 incidents) made up 25 percent of all crack seizures reported, and accounted for 18 kilograms (28 percent) seized in the United States. Weapon seizures were also prominent in this region. A substantial number of the incidents involved marijuana smuggled via mail or parcels. New York was the primary point of origin of cocaine and crack cocaine destined for Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina. The primary destination for currency originating from this region was Los Angeles, California.

The Southeast region represented 13 percent (646 incidents) of all Operation JETWAY seizures nationwide. Significantly, the area made up 20 percent of the cocaine, 27 percent of the crack cocaine, and 17 percent of the heroin incidents nationwide. Forty-four percent (23 kilograms) of the nation's heroin was seized in this region. The cocaine, crack cocaine, and heroin seizures occurred primarily from commercial air and bus passengers. The primary destination points for drugs originating from this region were New York and Georgia. The primary destination points for currency were Houston, Texas; Los Angeles, California; and Miami, Florida.

In the Central region there were 587 seizure incidents, accounting for 12 percent of the total drug and currency seizures reported. Of significance, this region

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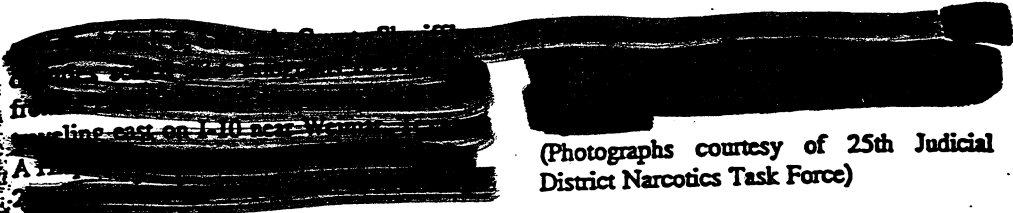
accounted for 23 percent of the currency seizures nationwide. The primary destinations for currency were Los Angeles, California; Houston, and El Paso, Texas. The Central region also made the largest currency seizure; on September 4, 1996, Chicago Operation JETWAY Task Force Agents seized \$1,270,000 from a black male resident of New York, traveling from Buffalo, New York, to Las Vegas, Nevada, via Chicago, Illinois, on United Airlines. The currency was discovered in his carry-on luggage.

The largest cocaine seizure (67 kilograms) was made on April 17, 1996, by Los Angeles Operation JETWAY Task Force Agents, while the largest crack cocaine seizure (5,395 grams) was made on September 11, 1996, by the Charlotte Operation JETWAY Task Force. In Los Angeles, task force agents identified two males and two females, all residents of Puerto Rico, traveling from Los Angeles, California, to New York City, New York, on Trans World Airlines. The cocaine was discovered concealed in their checked luggage. In Charlotte, task force agents identified three black males, residents of New York and New Jersey, traveling from New York to North Carolina on US Air Airlines. The crack cocaine was discovered in their checked luggage. Additionally,

10 kilograms of cocaine were also discovered in their luggage. The largest marijuana seizure (619 kilograms) was made on March 8, 1996, by the Albuquerque Operation JETWAY Task Force. Albuquerque task force agents identified an air cargo shipment which was shipped from El Paso, Texas, to an unreported destination, via Albuquerque, New Mexico. The shipment was received by a white male resident of Albuquerque who transported the cargo to a hotel.

The largest heroin seizure (10.7 kilograms) was made on September 9, 1996, by Atlanta Operation JETWAY Task Force Agents. Agents identified a black male resident of Goulds, Florida, traveling from Miami, Florida, to Cleveland, Ohio, via Atlanta, Georgia, on Delta Airlines. The heroin, wrapped in blankets and pillows, was discovered in his checked luggage. In Los Angeles, California, Operation JETWAY Task Force Agents made the largest methamphetamine seizure when they seized 16.1 kilograms from a Hispanic female resident of Phoenix, Arizona. The subject was traveling on a cash one-way ticket from Los Angeles to Phoenix on America West Airlines. The methamphetamine was discovered concealed in her checked luggage. A controlled delivery to Phoenix resulted in one additional arrest.

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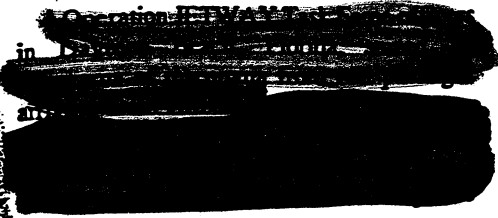


(Photographs courtesy of 25th Judicial District Narcotics Task Force)

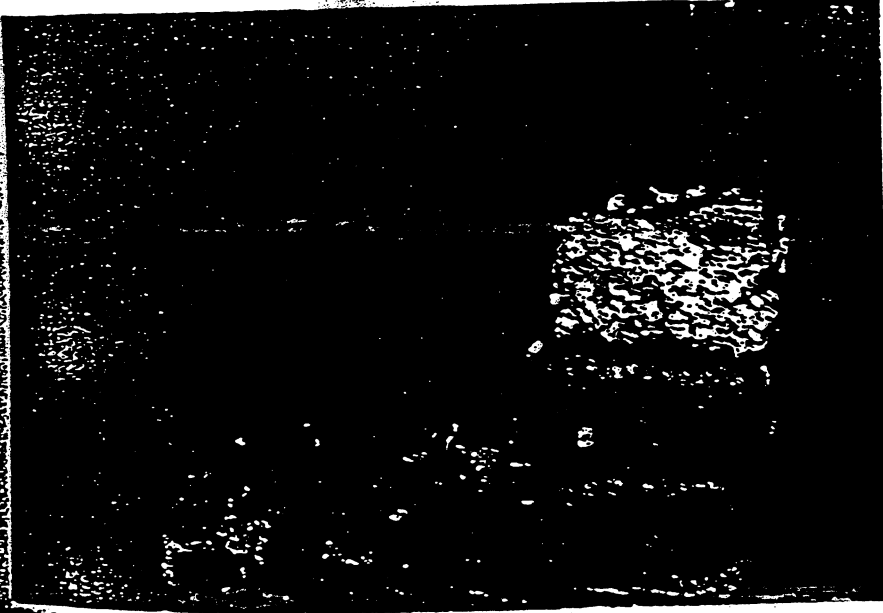


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(Photographs courtesy of Operation JETWAY Daytona Beach, Florida)



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(Photograph courtesy of the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation)



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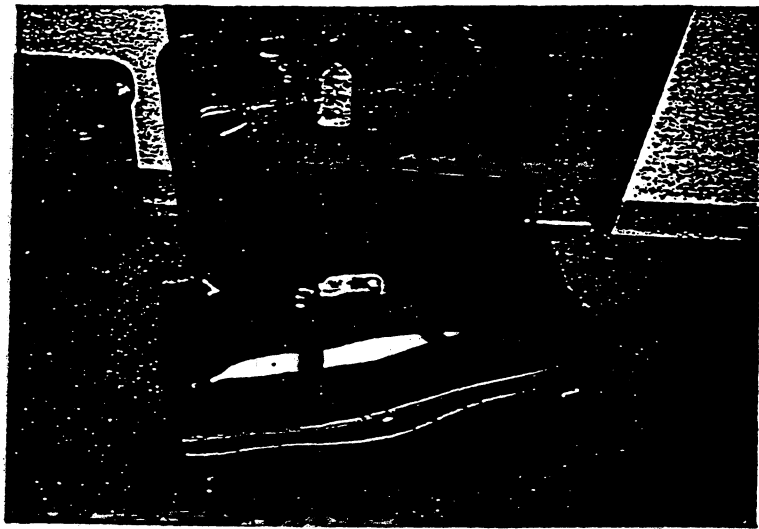
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(Photographs courtesy of Operation JETWAY Las Vegas, Nevada)



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(Source: DEA Caribbean Field Division)

- o On May 22, DEA Special Agents in Imperial Valley received information relative to the drug-trafficking activities of the [redacted] organization. The [redacted] organization had received permission from the [redacted] organization to transport marijuana destined for the United States through Baja California Norte, but the head of the [redacted] organization was executed by the [redacted] organization after it was determined that the [redacted] organization had transported one-half ton of cocaine into the region. Family members and associates of the [redacted] organization intended to smuggle the cocaine, in 100-kilogram amounts, into Imperial Valley through gates on the All American Canal. Final destination for the cocaine was reportedly Los Angeles.
(Source: DEA Imperial Valley)

- o The smuggling of drugs across the Southwest border by private aircraft has remained at a relatively low level of activity. Although air smuggling across the Southwest border in the first quarter of CY97 increased from the last quarter of CY96, it was less than that noted in the first quarter of CY96. A comparison of the last five quarters revealed that the third quarter of CY96 was the most active. Over the last five quarters, California and Arizona had the greatest activity. The three indicators for air smuggling on the Southwest border which were reviewed in order make an overall assessment included

seizures, known trafficking flights, and unidentified border-crossing flights.

(Source: EPIC)

- o In CY97 from January to March, the only drug seizure from an aircraft crossing the Southwest border occurred when 35 kilograms of marijuana were seized from an airdrop near Casa Grande, Arizona. In CY96, a total of 390 kilograms of cocaine was seized in three incidents during the third quarter—32 kilograms at El Paso, Texas; 181 kilograms at Desert Center, California; and 177 kilograms at Magdalena, Sonora; from an aircraft which had aborted an airdrop attempt to California. Seizure data alone indicated that although more significant seizures were made from cross-border flights in CY96 than in CY94 or CY95, the most significant seizures occurred in CY93, when 1,016 kilograms of cocaine and 45 kilograms of marijuana were seized.
(Source: EPIC)
- o On April 17, a 74-year-old Mexican national attempted to enter the United States at the Calexico, California, POE and was referred to secondary inspection. As USCS Inspectors searched his vehicle, the man used a small semiautomatic pistol and shot one of the inspectors in the chest and the other in the neck and face. The individual was subsequently shot and killed by USCS officials. Both Inspectors were reported to be in stable condition. A search of the vehicle resulted in the seizure of 45 kilograms of marijuana.
(Source: USCS Calexico, California)
- o DEA Imperial Valley received information that a Mexicali-based

On February 2, a truck with the above profile was seized at the Bridge of the Americas POE with 81 kilograms of marijuana concealed within both flareside compartments, the third door, and the tailgate. (Note: It appears that

The El Paso, Texas, USCS ICAT reported a smuggling group in the El Paso area using stolen 1997 Ford extended cab pickups with the flareside feature. The drugs have been concealed within both flareside compartments, in the bed, within the vehicle third door, and in the tailgate. This group reportedly prefers to smuggle marijuana (approximately 68 kilograms per trip) and as many as three trips per day), but cocaine may be moved in the near future. The preferred POE appears to be the Bridge of the Americas. The drivers, with ages ranging from 17 to 21, have been recruited from the local university in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua.

On April 14, the Mexican Army inaugurated its newest garrison at Ciudad Miguel Aleman, Tamaulipas, across the Rio Grande River from Roma, Texas. The Mexican Army has been concentrating some of its efforts to counter drug, alien- and weapons-smuggling in this area for the past year because of the clandestine airstrips and a number of unimproved roads that circumvent highways and established checkpoints. The Army will probably post soldiers at the POE to check incoming vehicles for weapons. (Source: INS/BP Laredo, Texas)

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The El Paso, Texas, USCS ICAT reported a smuggling method encountered at the El Paso POE's

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directed to haul the loaded tanker trailer from Ciudad Victoria, Tamaulipas, to Reynosa, Tamaulipas, (adjacent to Hidalgo, Texas). In Reynosa, he was supposed to meet another driver who would replace him. The owner of the tractor is a Mexican trucking company which routinely does contract work for PEMEX, the Mexican national oil company. Intelligence and seizure reporting over the past few years has indicated ~~owned or allegedly owned~~ trucks and tankers are being used to transport multiton loads of marijuana and cocaine to the United States/Mexico border. In September 1996, a total of 1,600 kilograms of marijuana was discovered in two cargo trucks displaying the ~~logo~~ logo on Mexican Highway 180 between Ciudad Victoria and Soio La Marina, Tamaulipas. The marijuana was en route to Matamoros, Tamaulipas, from Pozo Rica, Veracruz. (Source: USCS ICAT Brownsville, Texas)

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- o Intelligence developed during a law enforcement operation in the Lordsburg, New Mexico, area revealed drug-smuggling activity occurring in and around the [REDACTED], located in the north-central area of the New Mexico bootheel. Plant employees are reportedly involved in this smuggling activity. Work hours of those involved in the smuggling activity are coordinated to facilitate the drug smuggling in and around the smelter. (Source: INS/BP Lordsburg, New Mexico)
- o Smuggling convoys are using the New Mexico bootheel to move contraband north and south across the United States/Mexico border. On several occasions, residents of Hachita, New Mexico, and ranchers and hunters throughout the bootheel area have reported witnessing the convoys entering and leaving the United States with truckloads of merchandise. INS/BP Agents and USCS Inspectors have also observed these convoys traveling south on New Mexico Highway 81, and east and west along New Mexico Highway 9. Reports from ranchers have indicated that a well-traveled east/west dirt road connects New Mexico Highway 81 and Mexico Highway 2, beginning at the Hatchet Mountain Preserve and crossing into Mexico in the Monument 40 area. The Monument 40 area, located in the instep of the bootheel, has historically been used by nighttime illegal entrants into the United States from Mexico who use the smoke stack at the [REDACTED] as a landmark. Also, two gates located to the west of the Antelope Wells POE, White Water and Garcia Gates, have been used by these convoys, primarily after the POE is closed. The trucks have reportedly appeared to contain items such as tires, sacks of potatoes, and stereo equipment. (Source: USCS Antelope Wells, New Mexico)
- o On March 31, during the course of an investigation in Houston, Texas, a 39-year-old female Mexican national was found to be in possession of 765 grams of Mexican black tar heroin. The suspect, reflecting a residence in the Los Angeles, California, area, owns and operates her own heroin lab somewhere in the interior of Mexico and has been a primary source of supply for a Houston distribution organization. The suspect has been of record for possible smuggling through the Otay Mesa or San Ysidro, California POE's; however, Houston High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) estimated the suspect had traveled by commercial passenger bus to the United States/Mexico border, crossed through a Brownsville, Texas, POE, and had taken another bus to Houston. (Source: HIDTA Houston, Texas)
- o USCS Brownsville Intelligence Collection and Analytical Team (ICAT) and United States and Mexican news services reported that on April 22, Mexican Army and MFJP personnel at the Las Norias checkpoint on Mexican Highway 101 south of San Fernando, Tamaulipas, seized over 6 metric tons of cocaine from an otherwise empty [REDACTED] propane tanker being towed by a 1997 Kenworth Kenamex tractor. Also seized from the tractor cab were a 9mm Beretta handgun and four cellular telephones. The 52-year-old male Mexican driver admitted he had been

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east of the Arizona/New Mexico border. Within minutes of landing, two vehicles approached the aircraft and then drove south to a ranch. The aircraft subsequently departed northbound and was intercepted and [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] to another airstrip at 314900N/1084900W, 1 nautical mile east of Tank Mountain in the Animas Valley, 9 nautical miles south of Animas, New Mexico, and 28 nautical miles north of the Mexico border. Both of these airstrips are reportedly located on land owned by a cattle rancher who conducts daily checks of his cattle, rounding up those that have grazed into Mexico. This flight could have been related to ranching activity.

(Source: DAICC)

- o Jamaican drug traffickers used intimidation to coerce American teenagers to fly to Jamaica, allowing them to return to the United States only after ingesting high-quality cocaine dipped in wax. The teenagers, accompanied by an older American woman, would then fly to Boston, Massachusetts. Police do not know how many youths were involved or how much cocaine was smuggled.
(Source: Washington Crime New Services Digest)
- o DEA Special Agents have identified a California-based marijuana smuggler who is believed to be associated with the [REDACTED] organization. The smuggler said that he can smuggle multiton quantities of marijuana from Mexico to Long Beach, California, by vessel monthly and, if required, deliver marijuana to New York by vessel.
(Source: DEA San Diego, California)
- o Marijuana seizures in the Tornillo, Texas, area from January through May 1997 totalled 809 kilograms. Four seizure incidents involved backpackers. One incident involved a vehicle that had crossed the border illegally at the El Paso/Hudspeth County line.
(Source: EPIC)
- o A Canadian inspector at the Vancouver International Airport in British Columbia was injured when a device, found in unaccompanied luggage from Mexico, exploded in her hand. While inspecting the contents, the inspector noticed several grape-size silver balls. When she scratched the surface in an attempt to determine what the objects were, one of the balls exploded. According to Royal Canadian Mounted Police sources, the objects were identified as fireworks known as pop rocks, designed to explode when thrown against a hard surface.
(Source: USCS Rouses Point, New York)
- o Smugglers are transporting drugs on barges and private vessels up the Mississippi River and the Ohio River into the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, area where they are distributed locally. Metro Toronto Police and the Ontario Provincial Police in Canada recently had two instances involving waste container smuggling. A firearm was recovered in a Toronto hospital enclosed in a biohazard container. The Metro Toronto Police also seized a quantity of heroin packaged in a biohazard container filled with sulfuric acid. This container had been shipped from China. Drug trafficking involving biohazard and chemical waste pose a dangerous risk to law enforcement officers that

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SIGNIFICANT ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

DOMESTIC

This section contains intelligence capsules of significant drug- or currency-related arrests or seizures in the United States. It is based on information available to EPIC and should not be considered all inclusive. Seizures with controlled deliveries pending will not be included without the prior approval of the agency reporting the seizure; therefore, significant enforcement activities may have occurred which are not reflected herein.

Arizona

- o On April 8, INS/BP Agents seized 408 kilograms of marijuana from the bed of a 1979 Ford pickup, with Arizona plates, with a camper shell that had tinted windows, traveling south of Sells, Arizona. Two U.S. citizens, residents of Sells and Topawa, Arizona, were en route to Tucson, Arizona, from the Tohono O'Odham Indian Nation.
- o On April 17, Arizona DPS officers seized 17 kilograms of cocaine from a 1991 Nissan with California plates, traveling west on I-10. A Hispanic male resident of Los Angeles, California, was en route to Los Angeles from Phoenix, Arizona. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
One cocaine package was marked with the letter "A."
- o On April 22, as the result of an investigation, DEA Special Agents and Pima County Sheriff's deputies seized 438 kilograms of marijuana from a residence in Tucson, Arizona. A total of 60 bales was discovered in a locked room in the garage. One suspect was arrested.
- o On April 30, INS/BP Agents seized 388 kilograms of marijuana west of the I-19 immigration checkpoint located north of Nogales, Arizona. When agents identified themselves, a group of 20 backpackers dropped their bundles and ran.
- o On May 7, as the result of an investigation, Phoenix, Arizona, police officers seized 454 kilograms of marijuana in Phoenix.
- o On May 14, USCS Inspectors at the Nogales, Arizona, POE seized 2.3 kilograms of Mexican brown heroin from a 1984 Chevrolet pickup with no plates. The heroin was discovered in the speaker box behind the passenger's seat. A 32-year-old male Mexican national was arrested. Further investigation resulted in the arrest of a second Mexican national, who was illegally in the United States.
- o On May 16, INS/BP Agents seized 362 kilograms of marijuana in an area known as Schumaker Canyon, 11 miles southeast of Arivaca, Arizona. Agents

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followed footprints of two groups of individuals who appeared to be traveling in tandem. When agents encountered both groups, they dispersed. The marijuana bundles were wrapped in burlap sacks.

- o On May 29, INS/BP Agents seized 1,236 kilograms of marijuana from a 1988 and a 1992 Ford Bronco, both with Arizona plates, traveling east on Arizona Highway 92 west of Naco, Arizona. Three vehicles had been detected entering the United States illegally, but only two were located. Shots were fired at the agents when a vehicle stop was attempted. Later, two vehicles were found abandoned. A semiautomatic rifle and a Motorola Radius GP300 hand-held radio transmitter were also seized.
- o On June 6, INS/BP Agents seized 615 kilograms of marijuana from a 1978 Ford flatbed pickup towing a 1996 horse trailer, both bearing Arizona plates, near Arivaca, Arizona. Agents attempted a vehicle stop on the pickup and horse trailer which were traveling north on Ruby Road. The driver abandoned the vehicle. The marijuana bundles looked similar to bundles that are smuggled by horseback.
- o On June 10, as the result of an investigation, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Special Agents seized 1.7 kilograms of Colombian heroin from a residence in Mesa, Arizona. The heroin was wrapped in the fingers of surgical gloves had probably been swallowed by a courier who had arrived by commercial air. Three suspects, two from Los Angeles, California, and one from Mesa, were arrested.
- o On June 14, USCS Inspectors at the San Luis, Arizona, POE seized 12 kilograms of Mexico-manufactured methamphetamine from a 1989 Honda Prelude bearing California plates. The methamphetamine was located in a quarter panel.
- o On June 18, as the result of an investigation, DEA Special Agents, with the assistance of Monterey Park Police officers, seized 270 grams of Mexican black tar heroin in Santa Ana, California. A male and a female were arrested. The heroin was being sold for \$1,100 per ounce (25 grams).
- o On June 20, INS/BP Agents seized 521 kilograms of marijuana 15 miles southeast of Arivaca, Arizona. Horse tracks were followed to a remote canyon south of Bear Grass Tank where 52 packages were found. An 18-year-old male Mexican national, residing in Magdalena, Sonora, was arrested.
- o On June 21, Arizona DPS officers seized 454 kilograms of marijuana from a rented 1997 GMC truck with Ohio plates, traveling east on I-40 in Coconino County. A black male was en route to Atlanta, Georgia, from Tucson, Arizona. The marijuana was in the cargo area commingled with furniture.

Arkansas

- o On May 29, Little Rock, Arkansas, Operation JETWAY Task Force officers seized 14 kilograms of cocaine from a male Colombian national

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traveling from Dallas, Texas, to Boston, Massachusetts, on a Greyhound bus. The cocaine was in his luggage.

California

- o On April 3, CHP officers seized 12 kilograms of methamphetamine from a 1987 Acura Legend with California plates, traveling east on I-40 in San Bernardino County. The methamphetamine was discovered in a compartment in the gas tank. A Hispanic couple, traveling with an infant, and residents of Pacoima, California, was en route to San Antonio, Texas.
- o On April 7, USCS Inspectors at the San Ysidro, California, POE seized 1.3 kilograms of Mexican black tar heroin discovered in the right rear tire of a 1977 Dodge pickup with California plates. [REDACTED] A male Mexican national resident of San Diego, California, was arrested.
- o On April 8, USCS Inspectors at the San Ysidro, California, POE seized 13.8 kilograms of cocaine from the gas tank of a 1986 Nissan pickup with California plates. The driver, a U.S. citizen resident of National City, California, was arrested.
- o On April 9, USCS Inspectors at the Otay Mesa, California, POE seized 810 kilograms of marijuana from the cargo area of a bobcat trailer with California plates. The marijuana was discovered in 35 boxes found in the front portion of the trailer, commingled with the manifested cargo of picture frames. The 28-year-old Hispanic male driver fled before the marijuana was discovered.
- o On April 9, INS/BP Agents at the San Clemente, California, checkpoint seized 11 kilograms of cocaine from a 1990 Volkswagen with Baja California plates. The male Mexican national had concealed the cocaine in a hidden compartment behind the back seat.
- o On April 11, CHP officers seized 3.6 kilograms of Mexican black tar heroin discovered in a hidden compartment in the front bumper of a 1991 Nissan Sentra with California plates, traveling north on I-5 in Merced County. Two Hispanic males, residents of Santa Ana, California, were en route to Salem, Oregon, from Santa Ana.
- o On April 12, Calexico, California, police officers seized 47 kilograms of cocaine from the trunk of a 1985 Buick Skylark with California plates. The Hispanic male allegedly crossed from Mexico into the United States with the cocaine.
- o On April 14, CHP officers seized 11 kilograms of methamphetamine discovered in the rear bumper of a 1984 Toyota Celica with California plates, traveling west on I-10 in Riverside County. The Hispanic male resident of Calexico, California, was en route to Bakersfield, California, from Mexicali, Baja California Norte.
- o On April 14, after a canine alert, CHP officers seized 23 kilograms of methamphetamine from a 1989 Chevrolet Suburban with California plates, traveling north on I-15 in San Bernardino County. Three Hispanic

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males, residents of Compton, California, were en route to Colorado. The methamphetamine was concealed in the side panels.

- o On April 15, as the result of an investigation, DEA Special Agents seized 13.8 kilograms of methamphetamine in Chula Vista, California. The methamphetamine, in 16 packages wrapped in clear plastic, fabric softener sheets, duct tape, and an unidentified green substance, was hidden inside an automobile tire. Agents believe that the methamphetamine was smuggled into the United States through the Otay Mesa, California, POE. One female resident of Los Angeles, California, was arrested.
- o On April 17, USCS Inspectors at the San Ysidro, California, POE seized 451 kilograms of marijuana from an empty trailer being towed by a 1977 International tractor with California plates. One male Mexican national resident of Tijuana, Baja California Norte, was arrested. Inspectors noticed a density discrepancy in the empty trailer, and discovered a compartment in the front portion of the trailer which measured 10-inches deep and extended from floor to ceiling, not including a 6-inch dead space.
- o On April 17, as the result of an investigation by Federal and local law enforcement agencies, 29.5 kilograms of suspected Mexico-manufactured methamphetamine, 320 kilograms of marijuana, 136 kilograms of ephedrine, 2.7 kilograms of Mexican black tar heroin, 13 vehicles, and an AK-47 assault rifle were seized in Riverside, California. Agents believe that all of the drugs had crossed the border through either the San Ysidro or Calexico, California, POE. Six suspects were arrested.
- o On April 18, CHP officers seized 9.5 kilograms of methamphetamine from a 1988 Nissan with California plates, traveling west on I-10 in Los Angeles County. A Hispanic male resident of Ontario, California, was detained. The methamphetamine was inside a cardboard box.
- o On April 18, USCS Inspectors at the Los Angeles, California, international airport seized 6 kilograms of opium from a 38-year-old female Laotian national resident of Fresno, California, arriving from Bangkok, Thailand, on Thai Airways. The opium was taped to her body.
- o On April 22, USCS Inspectors at the San Ysidro, California, POE seized 28.8 kilograms of cocaine from a 1991 Mitsubishi Eclipse with California plates. One male Mexican national resident of San Diego, California, was arrested. The cocaine was discovered in a hidden compartment behind the back seat.
- o On April 22, as the result of an investigation, DEA Los Angeles Special Agents and Orange County Regional Narcotics Suppression Program officers seized \$1.2 million and several cellular telephones from two residences in Downey, California. Four suspects were detained. The funds were connected to a cocaine-distribution and money-laundering organization.

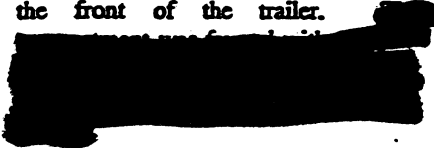
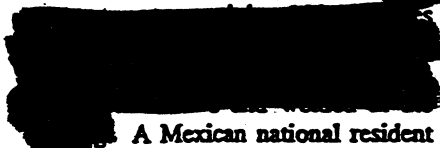
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- o On April 23, INS/BP Agents seized 965 kilograms of marijuana from the bed of a 1988 Ford pickup with California plates near Calapatria, California. The pickup had illegally entered the United States and stopped north of the intersection of Holt and Boles roads. Two male Mexican nationals were arrested after they were discovered hiding in the brush.
- o On April 24, CHP officers seized \$250,000 from a 1992 Ford Ranger with California plates, traveling south on I-805 in San Diego County. A Hispanic male resident of Chula Vista, California, was en route to Chula Vista from Downey, California. The currency was in the cab and bed of the vehicle.
- o On April 25, CHP officers seized 1 kilogram of Mexican black tar heroin from a 1983 Honda Prelude with Oregon plates, traveling north on I-5 in Yolo County. Two Hispanic males, residents of Hillsboro and Beaverton, Oregon, were en route to Hillsboro, Oregon, from San Jose, California. The heroin was discovered in the left undercarriage of the vehicle. Toothpaste was used as a masking agent.
- o On April 29, as the result of an investigation, USCS Special Agents seized 1,496 kilograms of marijuana at a residence in Arcadia, California. One person was arrested.
- o On April 29, INS/BP Agents seized 474 kilograms of marijuana from a 1988 Ford pickup near Westmorland, California. An INS/BP pilot noticed the pickup illegally enter the United States in the desert area east of El Centro, California. The pickup fled from ground units through Brawley and Westmorland, while being observed by aircraft. The driver lost control of the pickup and got stuck in an irrigation canal. Both occupants resisted arrest. The marijuana was under plywood in the bed of the pickup.
- o On May 1, an investigation conducted by USCS Special Agents resulted in the seizure of 20 kilograms of cocaine from the trunk of a 1995 Nissan in Bell, California. Agents determined that the cocaine had been crossed into the United States through the Columbus, New Mexico, POE. A male Mexican national resident of Huntington Park, California, was arrested.
- o On May 5, CHP officers seized \$594,654 from a 1997 Chevrolet Blazer with Mexico plates, traveling south on I-5 in San Diego County. Two Hispanic males and one Hispanic female, residents of Tijuana, Baja California Norte, were en route to Mexico.
- o On May 8, CHP officers seized 23 kilograms of cocaine from a 1997 Dodge pickup with Arizona plates, traveling west on I-10 in San Bernardino County. Two male Mexican nationals, residents of Tucson, Arizona, and Tijuana, Baja California Norte, were en route to Los Angeles, California, from Tucson. The cocaine was on the back seat.
- o On May 8, USCS Inspectors at the Los Angeles, California, international airport seized 5.3 kilograms of opium from international express mail parcels arriving from Turkey. The parcels

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contained 10 picture frames which felt unusually heavy. A subsequent search revealed the opium inside the hollow wooden frames.

- o On May 8, CHP officers seized 23 kilograms of methamphetamine from a 1988 Chrysler with California plates, traveling south on I-45 in Orange County. A male Mexican national resident of Gardena, California, was en route to Irvine, California, from Los Angeles, California. The methamphetamine was found inside a gift-wrapped package.
- o On May 10, as the result of an investigation, USCS Special Agents and Los Angeles, California, police officers seized 50 kilograms of cocaine from a 1988 Dodge Ramcharger with California plates, in Los Angeles. A canine alerted to the rear of the vehicle, and the cocaine was found inside the gas tank. A male Hispanic resident of Los Angeles was arrested. [REDACTED]
- o On May 13, CHP officers seized 58 kilograms of cocaine discovered in a modified gas tank on a 1985 Dodge Ramcharger with Baja California plates, traveling west on I-10 in San Bernardino County. A male Mexican national resident of Ensenada, Baja California Norte, was en route to Los Angeles from Mexicali, Baja California Norte.
- o On May 19, CHP officers seized \$207,230 from a 1997 Freightliner tractor towing a 1990 Utility trailer, both with Oklahoma plates, traveling east on I-40 in Coconino County, California. Two Jamaican males, from Bowie, Maryland, and Landershill, Florida, were en route to Irvine, California, from Maryland. The currency was in the rear of the trailer.
- o On May 20, CHP officers seized 1.5 kilograms of heroin from a 1993 Ford with Ohio plates, traveling north on I-15 in San Bernardino County. Two black males, residents of Toledo, Ohio, were en route to Toledo from Los Angeles, California. The heroin was discovered in a hidden compartment located behind the left rear door panel that had been cut open behind the drink tray.
- o On May 22, CHP officers seized 9 kilograms of methamphetamine from a 1987 Mazda B22 with California plates, traveling east on I-40. A Mexican male resident of Huntington Park, California, was en route to St. Louis, Missouri, from Los Angeles. The methamphetamine was discovered in a compartment in the dashboard.
- o On May 22, an investigation conducted by DEA Special Agents resulted in the seizure of 907 grams of Mexican black tar heroin in National City, California. The heroin was being sold for \$1,300 per ounce (25 grams). One suspect was arrested.
- o On May 23, USCS Inspectors at the Los Angeles, California, international airport seized 2.9 kilograms of opium from the luggage of a male Cambodian national resident of Johns Island, South Carolina, arriving from Cambodia on Malaysia Airlines.

- o On May 23, USCS Inspectors at the Otay Mesa, California, POE seized 486 kilograms of marijuana from an empty 1981 Dorse trailer being towed by a 1987 Peterbilt tractor bearing California plates. The marijuana, consisting of 340 individual packages wrapped in contact paper, heavy plastic, paper, dryer sheets, latex, and foil was discovered in a hidden compartment in the front of the trailer. The compartment extended from floor to ceiling and measured 21 inches in depth.
- o On May 29, USCS Inspectors at the Otay Mesa, California, POE seized 490 kilograms of marijuana from an empty 1980 Strict trailer being towed by a 1977 tractor with California plates. The marijuana was hidden behind a wall in the front of the trailer.

- o On June 2, USCS Inspectors at the Los Angeles, California, mail facility seized 500 grams of opium in a parcel destined for Upland, California. On June 4, two individuals picked up two packages and were arrested. A search of the suspect's residence in Upland resulted in the seizure of an additional 4 kilograms of opium.
- o On June 2, Operation JETWAY Task Force officers at the Los Angeles, California, international airport seized 1 kilogram of suspected Colombian heroin from a Hispanic male resident of Teaneck, New Jersey, traveling from Los Angeles to Newark, New Jersey, on American Airlines. The suspect had ingested the heroin in Cali, Colombia, and then flew to Bogota, Colombia; Mexico City, Mexico; and Tijuana, Baja California Norte. Later, he entered the United States at the San Ysidro, California, POE and boarded a bus to Los Angeles, where he attempted to fly to Newark.
- o On June 4, USCS Inspectors at the San Ysidro, California, POE discovered 10 kilograms of methamphetamine in the gas tank of a 1990 Nissan Maxima. An access panel was found on top of the tank. A 33-year-old female resident of Porterville, California, was arrested.
- o On June 4, CHP officers seized 1.8 kilograms of heroin from a 1988 Oldsmobile Cutlass with California plates, traveling north on I-5 in Fresno County. A Mexican couple, residents of East Palo Alto, California, was en route to East Palo Alto from Grapevine, California. The heroin was discovered inside a spare tire located in the trunk.
- o On June 11, USCS Inspectors at the Otay Mesa, California, POE discovered 381 kilograms of marijuana in a floor compartment of a 1982 GMC box truck with California plates. The x-ray facility operators detected packages in a 3-inch-deep floor compartment.


A Mexican national resident of Tecate, California, was arrested.
- o On June 17, USCS Inspectors at the Otay Mesa, California, POE seized 438 kilograms of marijuana from a 24-foot Bobtail trailer being towed by a 1989 Ford truck with California plates. The

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marijuana, inside some of the plaster columns, was discovered in a cargo of plaster articles. A follow-up investigation resulted in four arrests.

- o On June 20, as the result of a canine alert, USCS Inspectors at the Tecate, California, POE seized 1.7 kilograms of Mexican brown heroin from a 1990 Dodge Ramcharger. The heroin was in a paint can inside the gas tank. A Mexican national couple, one of whom was a resident of Tecate, Baja California Norte, traveling with a female child, was detained.
- o On June 21, as the result of an investigation, USCS Special Agents seized 420 kilograms of marijuana from a residence in Los Angeles, California. The marijuana had been crossed into the United States at the Otay Mesa, California, POE in a rented 1986 GMC box van with California plates. The marijuana had been commingled within a shipment of produce.
- o On June 26, INS/BP Agents seized 1,239 kilograms of marijuana from a 1987 Chevrolet pickup with California plates. The pickup entered the United States illegally by crossing the All American Canal 7 miles east of the Calexico POE, and proceeded west on I-8. Agents stopped the pickup at the intersection of I-8 and California Highway 111 and discovered the marijuana in the bed of the pickup. One male Mexican national was arrested.
- o On June 27, USCS Inspectors at the San Francisco, California, mail facility seized 2.5 kilograms of opium in a parcel arriving from Thailand. The

parcel had been manifested as "Ivory Soap."

Florida

- o On April 2, Metro Dade County, Florida, police officers seized 10 kilograms of unmarked cocaine from the trunk of a 1995 BMW 325I with Florida plates. The black male, a previously convicted felon, was carrying a 9mm semiautomatic handgun in the waistband of his trousers.
- o On April 2, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 1.3 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a Colombian-national resident of Cali, Colombia, arriving from Cali on American Airlines. The 41-year-old male had ingested 129 pellets of heroin.
- o On April 3, U.S. assets witnessed a suspected drug transfer between a 30-foot go-fast, believed to be from the Bahamas, and a 20-foot pick-up vessel. The pick-up vessel was tracked to the vicinity of Key Biscayne, Florida, where it beached and dropped off a man with a large backpack. The pick-up vessel was later seized after marijuana residue was detected. On April 4, U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) and Florida Marine Patrol personnel retrieved 1,045 kilograms of marijuana from Key Biscayne. Authorities believe the vessels were directly involved with the bales that were recovered.
- o On April 6, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 64 kilograms of cocaine discovered in two boxes shipped aboard a Tampa Airlines flight arriving from

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Cali, Colombia. The cocaine was discovered in a clothing tub.

- o On April 6, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 1.1 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a Colombian national resident of Bogota, Colombia, arriving from Bogota on American Airlines. The 30-year-old male had ingested the heroin.
- o On April 8, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 36 kilograms of cocaine from cargo shipped from Ecuador. The cocaine was concealed in a two-piece shipment of air cylinders.
- o On April 8, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport mail facility seized 2.3 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin discovered in a Global International Courier shipment of computer components arriving from Colombia. The parcels had been shipped from Lopburi, Thailand. The shipment consisted of two boxes; the smaller box contained miscellaneous computer components, and the other box contained a computer backup power unit. An x-ray of the power unit revealed no foreign substance and when the power unit was switched on, it was activated. Upon dismantling the unit, two batteries were found. One battery was hooked to the system to provide the power, but the second battery contained a small crack around the top, and when probed, revealed the heroin.
- o On April 11, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized \$219,822 from a Hispanic male U.S. citizen, resident of Pedro Miguel, Panama, boarding a flight destined for Panama. The currency had been concealed within a comforter in his luggage, which traveled on an earlier flight than the suspect.
- o On April 12, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 18.1 kilograms of cocaine from a S.A.R. Avions Taxis Airlines flight arriving from Barranquilla, Colombia. The cocaine was found in a crate.
- o On April 13, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 3.3 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a Hispanic male U.S. citizen, resident of Morristown, New Jersey, arriving from Cali, Colombia, on American Airlines. The heroin was discovered in three bags also containing clothing.
- o On April 13, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 1.1 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a Colombian national resident of Bogota, Colombia, arriving on American Airlines from Bogota. The 65-year-old male had ingested 107 pellets of heroin.
- o On April 15, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 5 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a 31-year-old male Italian national resident of Cassano D'Adda, Italy, arriving from Venezuela on American Airlines, and destined for Washington, D.C. The heroin was concealed in several heavy jackets contained in his luggage.

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- o On April 15, USCS Inspectors at the Port Everglades, Florida, seaport seized 19 kilograms of cocaine from a dock worker who was observed boarding the cargo vessel [REDACTED], which had arrived from Honduras.
- o On April 16, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 1.4 kilograms of heroin from a Puerto Rican resident of Levittown Toa Baja, Puerto Rico, arriving from Panama City, Panama, on Copa Airlines. The 27-year-old male had concealed the heroin in the soles of two pairs of shoes and in a carry-on bag.
- o On April 16, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, seaport seized 55 kilograms of cocaine from a container shipped aboard the vessel [REDACTED] arriving from Panama. The cocaine was discovered in two bags located inside the container, which was manifested as mops.
- o On April 17, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 50 kilograms of cocaine from unclaimed luggage that arrived aboard Lan Chile S.A Airlines from Chile, via Bogota, Colombia.
- o On April 17, USCS Special Agents seized 500 kilograms of cocaine from a container arriving at the Fort Everglades, Florida, seaport from Caracas, Venezuela, on the vessel [REDACTED]
- o On April 19, a Florida Marine Patrol officer recovered 24 kilograms of cocaine (one bale) at the [REDACTED] in North Key Largo, Florida. Each 2-kilogram brick of cocaine was marked with a round sticker of a cartoon frog face and the word "CALLATE" (Be quiet).
- o On April 20, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized a total of 11.2 kilograms of cocaine from two passengers arriving aboard Avianca Airlines from Bogota, Colombia. Both passengers had concealed the cocaine under spandex body suits.
- o On April 20, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 1.3 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a Colombian national resident of Granada Meta, Colombia, arriving from Bogota, Colombia, on American Airlines. The 35-year-old male had ingested 129 pellets of heroin.
- o On April 20, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 1.4 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a Colombian national resident of Buga, Valle Department, Colombia, arriving from Panama on Copa Airlines. The 32-year-old male had concealed the heroin in the inner lining of three jackets.
- o On April 22, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 11.3 kilograms of cocaine from a Federal Express parcel arriving from Lima, Peru. The parcel contained a vehicle drive shaft. [REDACTED]

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- [REDACTED]
- o On April 23, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 1.2 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a Colombian national resident of Pereira, Colombia, arriving from Venezuela on ALM-Antillean Airlines. The 43-year-old male had ingested the heroin.
 - o On April 23, USCS Inspectors at the Port Everglades, Florida, seaport seized 92 kilograms of cocaine from a cargo container shipped aboard the vessel [REDACTED] arriving from Costa Rica. The cocaine was discovered inside the front wall of the refrigerated container, which was filled with pumpkins.
 - o On April 23, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 20 kilograms of cocaine on an ATC aircraft arriving from Bogota, Colombia. Seventeen packages of cocaine were concealed behind the front access panel in the nose landing gear area.
 - o On April 24, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 1.4 kilograms of heroin from a 20-year-old male U.S. citizen resident of Miami arriving on Servivensa Airlines from Venezuela. The heroin was concealed in the lining of a vest and in a jacket inside his luggage.
 - o On April 24, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 1.3 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a Colombian national resident of Cali, Colombia, arriving from Bogota, Colombia, on American Airlines. The 35-year-old male had ingested 137 pellets of heroin.
 - o On April 24, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 1.6 kilograms of heroin from a Hispanic U.S. citizen, resident of Hialeah, Florida, arriving on Avensa Airlines from Venezuela. The 25-year-old male had concealed the heroin inside four items of clothing.
 - o On April 25, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 16.4 kilograms of cocaine from a DHL Worldwide Express shipment in transit from Bogota, Colombia, to Munich, Germany. The cocaine was inside 24 cans labeled as peaches and hearts of palms.
 - o On April 25, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, seaport seized 82 kilograms of cocaine and 1 kilogram of heroin from a container on the vessel [REDACTED] arriving from Maracaibo, Venezuela. The drugs were discovered inside two stainless steel fabricated boxes which were concealed beneath the refrigeration unit of the refrigerated trailer. The container was filled with plantains which were to be delivered in Winter Haven, Florida. Four male suspects were arrested.
 - o On April 25, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 1.1 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a U.S. citizen resident of Bogota, Colombia, arriving from Bogota on American Airlines. The 25-year-old male had ingested 118 pellets of heroin.

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- o On April 25, as the result of an investigation, USCS Inspectors at the Jacksonville, Florida, seaport seized 582 kilograms of cocaine from a container on board the vessel [REDACTED] arriving from Venezuela.
- o On April 26, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 1.5 kilograms of heroin from a Venezuelan national resident of Caracas, Venezuela, arriving on ALM-Antillean Airlines from Curacao, Netherlands Antilles. The 36-year-old male had ingested 106 pellets of heroin.
- o On April 27, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 1 kilogram of heroin from a Hispanic U.S. citizen resident of Guatemala City, Guatemala, arriving from Guatemala City on Aviateca Airlines. The 23-year-old male had ingested 75 pellets of heroin.
- o On April 29, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 1.2 kilograms of heroin from a Hispanic U.S. citizen resident of Carol City, Florida, arriving on Air Aruba from Aruba. The 23-year-old male was body carrying the heroin and had ingested 103 pellets.
- o On April 30, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 1.1 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a Colombian national resident of Bogota, Colombia, arriving on American Airlines from Bogota. The 36-year-old male had ingested 112 pellets of heroin.
- o On May 1, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 100 kilograms of cocaine from three unmanifested courier bags that had arrived on a Challenge Air cargo flight from Bogota, Colombia.
- o On May 1, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 18 kilograms of cocaine from a Tampa Airlines flight arriving from Rio Negro, Colombia. The cocaine was discovered in one of eight plastic tubs of wearing apparel.
- o On May 1, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 1 kilogram of suspected Colombian heroin from a Colombian national resident of Bogota, Colombia, arriving on American Airlines from Bogota. The 23-year-old male had concealed the heroin in the sides of his luggage.
- o On May 4, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, seaport seized 56 kilograms of cocaine from a container arriving from Colombia on the vessel [REDACTED]. The container was filled with corn meal.
- o On May 5, Jacksonville, Florida, Operation JETWAY Task Force officers seized 12.9 kilograms of cocaine and 1 gram of heroin from the checked luggage of a black male and a black female, residents of Miami, Florida, traveling by Greyhound bus from Miami to Charleston, South Carolina.
- o On May 7, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 2.7 kilograms of heroin from a Hispanic male U.S. citizen resident of Miami Beach, Florida, arriving on Copa Airlines from Panama City, Panama.

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- The heroin was in aerosol cans in his travel bag and in 100 pellets which he had ingested.
- o On May 8, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, seaport seized 305 kilograms of cocaine from a cargo container on the vessel [REDACTED] arriving from Colombia. The cocaine was found in 13 boxes located 8 feet into the container. The container had a shipment of boxes of candy. The boxes with the cocaine had been emptied of candy and refilled with cocaine, but had not been resealed, which made them stand out from the other boxes.
 - o On May 9, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 28 kilograms of cocaine from courier bags arriving on South Air Airlines from Bogota, Colombia. The cocaine was concealed inside Central Processing Units of computers.
 - o On May 10, Florida Marine Patrol officers, DEA and USCS Special Agents, and Monroe County Sheriff's officers seized 1,035 kilograms of marijuana that had been hidden in a wooded area in Key Largo, Florida. A Bahamian national was arrested. A small vessel had delivered the marijuana to Key Largo from the Bahamas.
 - o On May 11, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 1.3 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a Venezuelan national resident of Caracas, Venezuela, arriving on Avesa Airlines from Caracas. The 30-year-old male had ingested 99 pellets of heroin.
 - o On May 11, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 1.8 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a Colombian national resident of Jackson Heights, New York, arriving on American Airlines from Cali, Colombia. The 35-year-old female had concealed the heroin in the sides of her carry-on luggage.
 - o On May 12, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 1 kilogram of suspected Colombian heroin from a Hispanic U.S. citizen resident of Pawtucket, Rhode Island, arriving on American Airlines from Bogota, Colombia. The 40-year-old male had concealed the heroin in the top and bottom of a briefcase.
 - o On May 14, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 18 kilograms of cocaine from a Haitian national resident of Miami, Florida, arriving on American Airlines from Port-au-Prince, Haiti. The 42-year-old male had concealed the cocaine inside his luggage.
 - o On May 15, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, seaport seized 76 kilograms of cocaine discovered in a shipment of shrimp located at [REDACTED]
 - o On May 16, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 31.8 kilograms of cocaine from flower boxes arriving on Lineas Areas Suramericanas from Bogota, Colombia.
 - o On May 17, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 28.3 kilograms of cocaine from abandoned

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luggage arriving on American Airlines from Cali, Colombia.

- o On May 17, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 55.4 kilograms of cocaine from cargo arriving on Avianca Airlines from Bogota, Colombia. The cocaine was concealed inside aircraft parts.
- o On May 20, DEA Orlando and USCS Special Agents in Port Canaveral, Florida, seized 159 kilograms of cocaine from the vessel [REDACTED] a Malta-registered ship arriving from Turbo, Colombia.
- o On May 21, USCS Inspectors seized 636 kilograms of marijuana from a vessel 16 miles east of Cape Florida, Florida. The marijuana was being smuggled from the Bahamas into the South Florida area. Three males were arrested.
- o On May 23, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 1.1 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a Colombian national resident of Bogota, Colombia, arriving on Lan Chile Airlines from Bogota. The 31-year-old male had ingested 113 pellets of heroin.
- o On May 24, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 2.3 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a Colombian national resident of Cali, Colombia, arriving on American Airlines from Cali. The 84-year-old male had concealed the heroin in the sides of his luggage.
- o On May 24, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 35.9

kilograms of cocaine from a 111-piece shipment of flowers arriving on Lan Chile Airlines from Bogota, Colombia.

- o On May 28, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 23.2 kilograms of cocaine arriving on a DHL flight from Panama. The cocaine was concealed inside a container.
- o On May 29, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 3.4 kilograms of heroin from a Hispanic male resident of the Bronx, New York City, arriving on American Airlines from Aruba. The heroin had been concealed inside two pairs of sneakers, one pair of boots, and one pair of sandals.
- o On May 29, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 25 kilograms of cocaine from a courier bag shipped aboard an Aero Trans Colombiano flight arriving from Bogota, Colombia. The bag contained two computers. Inside the computers were 12 bricks of cocaine.
- o On May 30, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 1.3 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a Colombian national resident of Medellin, Colombia, arriving on American Airlines from Bogota, Colombia. The 39-year-old male had ingested 14 pellets and concealed the heroin in the sides of his luggage.
- o On May 30, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 3.1 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a resident of Plantation, Florida, arriving on United Airlines from Caracas, Venezuela. The 31-year-

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old female had concealed the heroin in the linings of five jackets.

- o On May 30, USCS Inspectors in Port Everglades, Florida, seized 33.4 kilograms of cocaine from the vessel [REDACTED]. The cocaine was commingled within four boxes of plantains.
- o On May 31, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 3.1 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a Colombian national resident of Medellin, Colombia, arriving on Avianca Airlines from Cartagena, Colombia. The 43-year-old male had concealed the heroin in his wallet, on his body, in his shoes, and inside two aerosol cans in his luggage.
- o On June 2, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 1 kilogram of suspected Colombian heroin from a Colombian national resident of Jumundi, Valle Department, Colombia, arriving aboard Avianca Airlines from Cali, Colombia. The 29-year-old male had concealed the heroin in the sides of his attaché case.
- o On June 3, Florida Highway Patrol officers seized \$234,630 from a 1994 Dodge pickup with California plates, traveling west on I-10 in Leon County. A white male resident of Oswego, Illinois, may have been destined for a western state. The currency was discovered in a hidden compartment in the wheel well.
- o On June 5, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 1.2 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a Colombian national resident of Medellin, Colombia, arriving on Avianca Airlines from Medellin. The 35-year-old female had concealed the heroin in the linings of three purses.
- o On June 6, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 56.8 kilograms of cocaine from an American Airlines aircraft arriving from Caracas, Venezuela. Security personnel found the cocaine in a container, which was manifested as empty.
- o On June 7, USCS Special Agents in West Palm Beach, Florida, recovered 204 kilograms of cocaine from a boat being towed by a Ford pickup. The pickup and boat had been stopped and seized by Lake Worth police officers for fraudulent vehicle registration. Two Bahamian nationals were discovered hiding in the boat. The cocaine had been smuggled from the Bahamas.
- o On June 12, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 21.6 kilograms of cocaine from abandoned luggage arriving on Avensa Airlines from Caracas, Venezuela.
- o On June 20, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 2.7 kilograms of heroin from a U.S. citizen resident of Miami Beach, Florida, arriving on American Airlines from Panama City, Panama. The 35-year-old female had concealed the heroin inside 11 aerosol cans.
- o On June 20, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 29 kilograms of cocaine from a Linea Aereas Suramericas aircraft that had arrived from Medellin, Colombia. The cocaine was concealed within 44 cans of oil.

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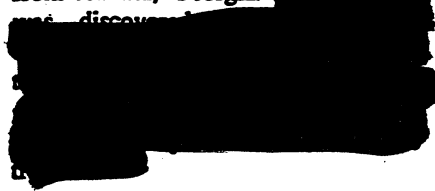
- o On June 23, Jacksonville, Florida, Operation JETWAY Task Force officers seized \$394,200 from a Colombian couple, both residents of New York City, New York, traveling from New York to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, on a Greyhound bus. The currency was on their body and in their luggage.
- o On June 25, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 1.4 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a Colombian national resident of Cali, Colombia, arriving on American Airlines from Cali. The 34-year-old male had concealed the heroin in the sides of his luggage and in his shoes.
- o On June 25, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 1.5 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a Colombian national resident of Barranquilla, Colombia, arriving on Servivensa Airlines from Caracas, Venezuela. The 35-year-old male had ingested the heroin.
- o On June 27, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 4.1 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a U.S. citizen resident of La Cooperativa Maracay, Venezuela, arriving on American Airlines from Caracas, Venezuela. The 33-year-old male had concealed the heroin in the linings of nine leather jackets.
- o On June 29, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 1.4 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a Venezuelan national resident of San Cristobal, Venezuela, arriving on American Airlines from Caracas, Venezuela. The 29-year-old male had concealed the heroin in the lining of three jackets.
- o On June 29, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 11 kilogram of suspected Colombian heroin from a Colombian national resident of Miami, Florida, arriving on American Airlines from Cali, Colombia. The 48-year-old male had concealed the heroin in the lining of a blanket.
- o On June 29, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 1.8 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a Venezuelan resident of San Cristobal, Venezuela, arriving on American Airlines from Caracas, Venezuela. The 25-year-old female had concealed the heroin in the linings of four jackets.
- o On June 30, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 1.9 kilograms of heroin from a Hispanic U.S. citizen resident of Orlando, Florida, arriving on SAETA Airlines from Ecuador. The 19-year-old male, traveling with his stepfather, had concealed the heroin in the shoes he was wearing and in a pair of Reebok tennis shoes in his luggage.
- o On June 30, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, seaport seized 45.4 kilograms of cocaine from a container filled with sugar which arrived from Colombia on the vessel [REDACTED]. The cocaine was concealed within brown fiberglass packages resembling the packages of sugar.

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Georgia

- o On April 21, Camden County, Georgia, sheriff's deputies seized 75 kilograms of cocaine from a 1990 Setra tour bus with New York plates, traveling north on I-95. The cocaine packages, wrapped in a green rubber material and sprinkled with red pepper, were marked with the words "DOMINO," "PRODUCTO DE ALTA CALIDAD," or "GONZALO." A Colombian national resident of Miami, Florida, and a Puerto Rican male were en route to New York from Miami. (On April 8, Cameron County, Texas, sheriff's deputies had seized 151 kilograms of cocaine with the same markings on the packages.)
- o On May 1, USCS Inspectors at the Atlanta, Georgia, international airport seized 1.9 kilograms of heroin from a DHL package that arrived aboard British Airways from England.
- o On May 2, Lowndes County, Georgia, sheriff's officers seized \$223,674 from a 1990 Pontiac 6000 with Florida plates, traveling south on I-75. A male Cuban national, resident of Altamonte Springs, Florida, was en route to Miami, Florida, from Atlanta, Georgia.



Hawaii

- o On April 7, USCS Inspectors at the Honolulu, Hawaii, mail facility seized 1.4 kilograms of opium in a parcel arriving from Laos and destined for

Sacramento, California. The opium was concealed in foil bags containing a substance which resembled coffee grounds.

- o On April 11, USCS Inspectors at the Honolulu, Hawaii, mail facility seized 2.8 kilograms of opium from two parcels arriving from Laos and destined for Auburn and Stockton, California. The opium was concealed in foil bags containing a substance which resembled coffee grounds.
- o On April 24, USCS Inspectors at the Honolulu, Hawaii, mail facility seized 1.8 kilograms of opium in a parcel arriving from Laos and destined for Carmichael, California. The opium was concealed inside 18 small cans.
- o On April 24, USCS Inspectors at the Honolulu, Hawaii, mail facility seized 1.4 kilograms of opium in a parcel arriving from Laos and destined for Stockton, California. The opium was concealed in commercially sealed plastic bags containing a substance which resembled coffee grounds.
- o On April 26, USCS Inspectors at the Honolulu, Hawaii, mail facility seized 3.3 kilograms of opium from two parcels arriving from Laos and destined for Modesto, California. The opium was concealed among medicinal packets and wooden chips.
- o On May 17, USCS Inspectors at the Honolulu, Hawaii, mail facility seized 1.7 kilograms of opium in a parcel arriving from Laos and destined for California. The opium was saturated into 13 cloth pillow cases.

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- o On June 7, USCS Inspectors at the Honolulu, Hawaii, mail facility seized a total of 2.7 kilograms of opium in two parcels arriving from Laos and destined for Sacramento, California. The opium was saturated into wood chips.

Illinois

- o On April 8, Illinois State Police officers seized 550 kilograms of marijuana from a 1995 GMC rental truck with Minnesota plates, traveling east on I-70 in Bond County near Greenville. A white male resident of Phoenix, Arizona, was en route to Indianapolis, Indiana, from Las Vegas, Nevada. The marijuana was discovered in boxes in the back of the truck. The key had been broken off in the lock on the back door. A rented 1997 Pontiac Grand Am was being driven as an escort vehicle by a white female resident of Phoenix. On the following day, three additional suspects were arrested in Indianapolis, Indiana.
- o On April 29, as the result of an investigation, Chicago, Illinois, police officers seized 8 kilograms of heroin at a restaurant in Chicago. Three Nigerian nationals were arrested.

Kansas

- o On April 23, Kansas Highway Patrol officers seized \$150,000 from a rented 1996 Isuzu Rodeo with California plates, traveling west on I-70 in Ellsworth County. Two black males, residents of Los Angeles, California, were en route to Los Angeles from St. Louis, Missouri. The currency was hidden inside socks in a pair of boots

contained inside a duffel bag in the back of the vehicle.

- o On June 10, Kansas Highway Patrol officers seized 56 kilograms of cocaine from a 1993 Jeep Cherokee with Ohio plates, traveling east on I-70 near Colby in Thomas County. A Mexican male resident of Othello, Washington, was detained. The cocaine was discovered inside the doors of the vehicle.

Louisiana

- o On April 22, Louisiana State Police officers, USCS Inspectors, and USCG personnel seized 37 kilograms of cocaine from the rudder compartment of the vessel [REDACTED], after it arrived at the mouth of the Mississippi River.
- o On May 12, LaFayette Parish, Louisiana, sheriff's officers seized 11 kilograms of cocaine from a 1994 Nissan with New York temporary plates, traveling east on I-10. Two black males, residents of New Jersey City, New Jersey, and Brooklyn, New York City, were arrested. The cocaine was found inside 15 sealed cans which were attached to the inside of the gas tank by magnets.
- o On May 16, USCS Inspectors at the New Orleans, Louisiana, seaport discovered cocaine in an empty container shipped aboard the vessel [REDACTED]. The cocaine was discovered in a small gym bag found within the container. The container seal revealed no signs of tampering, suggesting a possible internal conspiracy among longshoreman.

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CO 002346

- o On June 11, Madison-Tensas Parish Task Force officers in Tallulah, Louisiana, seized 15 kilograms of cocaine concealed in the quarter panels and behind the rear seat of a 1995 Ford Thunderbird with Texas plates, registered to an El Paso, Texas, resident. The driver, a 52-year-old male U.S. citizen from Baltimore, Maryland, was en route to Atlanta, Georgia, from El Paso. The unmarked cocaine packages were heat-sealed with mustard inside.
- o On June 24, East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana, sheriff's deputies seized \$541,607 from a 1991 Freightliner tractor towing a trailer, both with New Jersey plates, traveling east on I-12. The currency was in duffel bags in the cab. Two black males, from Newark and Maplewood, New Jersey, were detained.
- o On June 12, Moss Point, Mississippi, police officers seized \$207,100 from a 1991 Plymouth van with Texas plates, traveling west on I-10 in Jackson County. A female Hispanic resident of Brownsville, Texas, was en route to Brownsville from Wachula, Florida. The currency was hidden inside the door of the van.
- o On June 13, a Cessna 210 single-engine high-wing aircraft and 80 kilograms of marijuana were seized at a dirt airstrip 25 nautical miles north-northwest of Meridian, Mississippi. The aircraft had departed McAllen, Texas, and the pilot stated that he was transporting the marijuana to Tennessee. The marijuana was found in suitcases inside the aircraft, and the pilot and passenger were arrested.

Massachusetts

- o On May 26, Springfield Operation JETWAY Task Force officers seized \$203,005 from the luggage of a white male resident of Fabyan, Connecticut, attempting to board an Amtrak train in Worcester, Massachusetts. He was destined for Los Angeles, California.

Mississippi

- o On April 14, Pearl River County, Mississippi, sheriff's officers seized 12 kilograms of cocaine from the trunk of a rented 1997 GMC sedan with Tennessee plates, traveling north on I-59. Two black male U.S. citizens, residents of Nashville, Tennessee, were en route to Nashville from Houston, Texas.

- o On June 28, a Beechcraft Bonanza single-engine aircraft was seized at McComb, Mississippi, with 142 kilograms of marijuana. The aircraft had departed Weslaco, Texas, on a flight plan to Hattiesburg, Mississippi, but changed destinations in flight to McComb. The marijuana was found in duffel bags in the rear of the aircraft. Two suspects were arrested. Statements given by the subjects indicated that the marijuana had been purchased in Weslaco and was destined for Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The aircraft had been leased in Medford, New Jersey.

Nebraska

- o On May 4, Omaha Police officers seized \$404,000 from a 1986 Ford F-250 with Utah plates, towing a rented 1992 14-foot trailer with Tennessee

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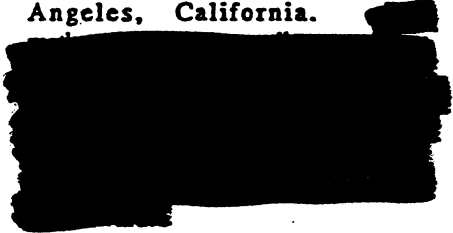
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plates, traveling west on I-80 in Douglas County, Nebraska. A white male resident of Havasu, Arizona, was en route to Las Vegas, Nevada, from New York City, New York. The currency was inside a cardboard box commingled with the load of junk furniture.

- o On May 17, Nebraska Highway Patrol officers seized 10 kilograms of methamphetamine from a 1985 Buick with Indiana plates, traveling east on I-80 in Hamilton County. A Mexican male resident of Fort Wayne, Indiana, was en route to Fort Wayne from Los Angeles, California.



- o On June 29, Nebraska State Patrol officers seized 10 kilograms of cocaine and 1 kilogram of methamphetamine from the wheel wells of a 1988 Ford Thunderbird with Texas plates, traveling on I-80 near Omaha. The drugs were destined for Perry, Iowa. The suspect stated that he had picked up the vehicle in New Mexico. Agents believe the cocaine was smuggled into the United States from Mexico, but that the methamphetamine was probably domestically produced. Two Hispanic males, 35 and 26 years of age, residents of Sunland Park, New Mexico, and Woodward, Iowa, were arrested.

Nevada

- o On June 29, Las Vegas, Nevada, Operation JETWAY Task Force officers

seized 6.6 kilograms of cocaine from a Hispanic female resident of Los Angeles, California, traveling from Los Angeles to Salt Lake City, Utah, on a Greyhound bus. The cocaine was wrapped in duct tape and concealed under a blanket in her luggage.

New Jersey

- o On April 23, USCS Inspectors at the Newark, New Jersey, international airport seized 50 kilograms of cocaine on an Avianca Airlines aircraft arriving from Colombia. The cocaine was discovered in the forward and rear cargo hold upper panels, as well as in the forward area of the aircraft, and in the oxygen panels of rows 7, 24, and 25.
- o On April 26, USCS Inspectors at the Newark, New Jersey, international airport seized 1.1 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a female Colombian national resident of Manizales, Colombia, arriving on Continental Airlines from Bogota, Colombia. The 50-year-old female had concealed the heroin in the top flap of her handbag, in a Soft and Dry deodorant aerosol can, a Swiss Formula lotion bottle, and in an Action perfume bottle.
- o On May 7, USCS Inspectors at the Newark, New Jersey, international airport seized 2.2 kilograms of heroin from a Dominican national resident of New York City, New York, arriving on United Airlines from India. The 27-year-old female had concealed the heroin in the frame of her checked luggage.

DEA SENSITIVE

- o On May 8, DEA New York City and USCS Special Agents seized 100 kilograms of cocaine from a shipping container at the port of Newark, New Jersey. The cocaine had arrived aboard the cargo ship [REDACTED] among a shipment of 40,000 pounds of bananas. On May 10, as part of the same investigation, five suspects were arrested at a warehouse in Brooklyn, New York City.
- o On May 8, USCS Inspectors at the Port Elizabeth, New Jersey, seaport seized 22 kilograms of cocaine from a container shipped aboard the vessel [REDACTED]. The cocaine was discovered in the bottom support beams of the container structure. Cargo located within the container was manifested as 2,000 cartons of plantains.
- o On May 11, New Jersey State Police officers seized \$243,830 from a 1997 Peterbilt tractor towing a Utility trailer, both with New Jersey plates, traveling south on the New Jersey Turnpike in Middlesex County. Three Brazilian males and two Hispanic females, residents of Orlando, Florida, and Edison, New Jersey, were en route to Orlando from Manhattan, New York City. A 1992 Chevrolet Astro van with fictitious Florida plates, and a 1987 Plymouth Reliant with New Jersey plates, were inside the trailer. The currency was found inside two paper bags located in the sleeper of the truck. Currency was also found inside a Christmas gift-wrapped box located on the front seat on the Chevrolet van.
- o On May 17, USCS Inspectors at the Newark, New Jersey, international airport seized 1.5 kilograms of heroin from a Ghanaian national resident of Newark arriving on Alitalia Airlines from Rome, Italy. The 41-year-old male had concealed the heroin under a false bottom in his luggage.
- o On May 20, New Jersey State Police officers seized \$198,560 from the back seat of a rented 1997 Pontiac with Florida plates, traveling on the New Jersey Turnpike in Burlington County. Two male Colombian nationals, residents of Bogota, Colombia, and Miami, Florida, were en route to Orlando, Florida, from Manhattan, New York City.
- o On June 11, as the result of an investigation, DEA Task Force Agents seized 550 kilograms of cocaine, a 9mm handgun, and drug ledgers at a warehouse in Jersey City, New Jersey, and at a residence in Mamaroneck, New York. Five Mexican nationals were arrested.
- o On June 16, USCS Inspectors at the Newark, New Jersey, seaport seized 52 kilograms of cocaine from a container shipped aboard the vessel [REDACTED]. The cocaine was concealed within the structure of a container manifested as having 295 wooden doors.
- o On June 22, USCS Inspectors in Newark, New Jersey, seized 45 kilograms of cocaine from a sealed container which had arrived from Cartagena, Colombia, and was destined for the Bronx, New York City. One suspect was arrested.

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New Mexico

o On April 1, as the result of an investigation, New Mexico State Police officers seized .456 kilograms of marijuana from the cargo area of a 1989 Toyota U-Haul cabover moving truck in Las Cruces, New Mexico. The marijuana was contained inside several moving boxes. One 43-year-old male U.S. citizen residing in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, was arrested.

o On April 7, INS/BP Agents seized a total of 198 kilograms of marijuana from three related vehicles at a truck stop on I-10 in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Agents became suspicious of the vehicles after first observing a westbound 1982 Chevrolet pickup with Washington plates stopping at a cafe on I-10 west of Las Cruces and the immigration checkpoint. This cafe is notorious for being used by smugglers to scout the checkpoint. When the driver of the pickup became aware of the agents, he entered the pickup and turned back toward Las Cruces. An unmarked INS/BP vehicle followed the pickup to the truck stop, where agents observed the pickup driver meet with the occupants of the load vehicles.



Three Mexican nationals, two 17-year-old males and one 19-year-old male, and one 24-year-old male U.S. citizen (pickup driver), residents of El Paso, were arrested. A 1990 Nissan Maxima and a 1986 Toyota van, both with Washington plates, were also seized.

o On April 23, INS/BP Agents seized 336 kilograms of marijuana from behind the seat and in the bed of a 1983 Ford pickup equipped with a bed cover and bearing New Mexico plates. The pickup was stopped on New Mexico Highway 338, just south of Animas, New Mexico, which is a direct route from the border and notorious for alien- and drug-smuggling activity. The pickup was first observed traveling south on New Mexico Highway 338, east along the San Luis Pass, and then stopping in a remote area 2 miles north of the border. Later the pickup was observed traveling north on New Mexico Highway 338 and was eventually stopped near Animas. One 30-year-old undocumented male Mexican national residing in Agua Prieta, Sonora, was arrested. Also seized were 4,478 Valium tablets, one Motorola beeper, and one Motorola walkie-talkie.

o On April 27, INS/BP Agents discovered 4,667 kilograms of marijuana in the cellar of a burned house located near monument marker 69, a few miles east of the Arizona/New Mexico border and 9 miles southwest of Cloverdale, New Mexico. Three sets of footprints were followed to the house where 259 bundles of marijuana were found wrapped in cellophane and burlap sacks. There were no arrests.

o Between May 12 and 15, eight separate marijuana seizures occurred, totalling 346 kilograms, at the immigration checkpoint on U.S. Highway 54 north of Orogrande, New Mexico. Of that total, more than half was seized during a 12-hour period (8 a.m. to 8 p.m.) on May 15. Over the 4-day period, all but

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one of the vehicles had the marijuana concealed in hidden compartments (dashboard, side and door panels, rear seat area, under the floor, quarter panels, water holding tanks in a motor home, and the spare tire compartment of a pickup). The vehicles ranged from 1984 to 1987 models during the first 3 days, to late model vehicles (two 1997 models, one 1996 model, and a 1988 Fleetwood motor home) during the 12-hour period on May 15. Of the eight vehicles involved,



- o On June 10, INS/BP Agents at the checkpoint on U.S. Highway 54 near Orogrande, New Mexico, seized 54 kilograms of cocaine from a 1997 Chrysler Neon with Chihua plates. The occupants presented counterfeit INS forms to the agents. The cocaine was discovered in the rear quarter panels, above the wheel wells, behind the dashboard, and in the roof. Several packages were marked with a white 3-by 3-inch sticker with a picture of an eagle and the words "Agua Express" and "Producto del Alta Calidad."
- o On June 28, Albuquerque, New Mexico, Operation JETWAY Task Force officers seized 10 kilograms of cocaine and \$25,000 from the luggage of a black male resident of Chicago, Illinois, traveling from Los Angeles, California, to Chicago on Amtrak. Documents indicated that he had paid \$20,500 per kilogram for the cocaine.

New York

- o On April 3, as the result of an investigation, DEA New York Special Agents seized 3 kilograms of heroin and arrested two suspects at a residence in Queens, New York City.
- o On April 4, USCS Inspectors and John F. Kennedy (JFK) International Airport Task Force officers seized 5.6 kilograms of heroin from a male resident of Buenos Aires, Argentina, traveling from Buenos Aires to New York City, New York, on United Airlines. The heroin was discovered under the false bottom of one of two hard-sided, carry-on suitcases.
- o On April 6, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 1 kilogram of heroin discovered on an Avianca Airlines aircraft arriving from Colombia. The heroin was found in four taped packages hidden in the compartment intended for the life vest beneath seat 11A.
- o On April 9, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 1.4 kilograms of heroin from a citizen of the Netherlands, resident of Amsterdam, Netherlands Antilles, arriving on Royal Jordanian Airlines from Amsterdam. The 35-year-old male had ingested 100 pellets of heroin.
- o On April 9, DEA New York Special Agents seized 9.1 kilograms of heroin at a hotel in New York City. The heroin was concealed inside the linings of numerous jackets. Six Venezuelan nationals and two Colombian nationals were arrested. Investigators linked the heroin to an international heroin-

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distribution organization that operated from Colombia and smuggled heroin to New York City via Cristobal, Venezuela, and Miami, Florida.

- o On April 9, DEA New York Special Agents seized 2 kilograms of heroin and arrested an officer in the Pakistan Air Force at a restaurant in New York City. The suspect ~~also~~ had traveled to the United States on official business, planned to sell the heroin for \$160,000.
- o On April 11, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 33.9 kilograms of cocaine from luggage found on Avianca Airlines arriving from Colombia. The luggage displayed conflicting destination tags (one for JFK and one for Newark, New Jersey).
- o On April 20, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 1.4 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a female Colombian national resident of Cali, Colombia, arriving on Avianca Airlines from Colombia. The 46-year-old female had concealed the heroin in the sides of her carry-on luggage.
- o On April 30, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 17 kilograms of cocaine from a Dominican national resident of Brooklyn, New York City, arriving on American Airlines. The 18-year-old male was carrying the cocaine in his knapsack.
- o On May 6, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 1.8 kilograms of heroin from a male Austrian national resident of Salzburg, Austria, arriving on Northwest Airlines from Bangkok, Thailand, via Tokyo, Japan. The 49-year-old male had concealed the heroin on his body and in his shoes.
- o On May 9, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 1.2 kilograms of heroin from a male passenger that arrived aboard American Airlines from Caracas, Venezuela. The suspect had ingested the heroin.
- o On May 14, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 2.1 kilograms of heroin from a passenger arriving from Colombia aboard Avianca Airlines. The passenger had concealed the heroin in shoes contained in his luggage as well as in the shoes he was wearing.
- o On May 20, DEA New York Special Agents seized 7 kilograms of heroin from a female Dominican national on the Amtrak platform at Pennsylvania Station in Manhattan, New York City. The heroin was hidden inside two gift-wrapped boxes in her luggage. The heroin had been obtained in the Bronx, New York City, and was en route to Cleveland, Ohio. The woman and two additional Dominican suspects were arrested.
- o On May 24, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 371 kilograms of marijuana arriving on American Airlines from Jamaica. The cargo was manifested as 60 boxes of dasheens with an approximate weight of 1,282 kilograms. Forty-six of sixty boxes contained marijuana.
- o On June 1, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 2 kilograms of heroin from a male U.S. citizen

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resident of New York City, New York, arriving on American Airlines from Aruba. The 27-year-old male concealed the heroin inside plastic containers in his luggage.

- o On June 7, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 58 kilograms of cocaine from a Colombian national resident of Astoria, New York, arriving on Avianca Airlines from Colombia. The 29-year-old male concealed the cocaine in the girdle he was wearing.
- o On June 8, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 1.5 kilograms of heroin from a Colombian national, a resident of Hialeah, Florida, arriving on Avianca Airlines from Colombia. The 59-year-old male concealed the heroin in the soles of shoes he was wearing and in five jackets contained in his luggage.
- o On June 11, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 1.6 kilograms of heroin from a U.S. citizen resident of the Bronx, New York City, arriving on Aerolineas Argentinas from Argentina. The 24-year-old male concealed the heroin in the jacket he was wearing and also in a jacket in his luggage.
- o On June 12, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized a total of 2.6 kilograms of heroin from two male Ghanaian nationals arriving on Ghana Airways from Ghana. Both men had ingested the heroin and concealed it in the shoes they were wearing.
- o On June 15, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 170

kilograms of cocaine from an Avianca Airlines aircraft arriving from Colombia. The cocaine was concealed in double-top baggage containers.

- o On June 20, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 4.5 kilograms of heroin from cargo arriving on a DHL aircraft from Togo, Africa. A box containing children's dresses was destined for Baltimore, Maryland. The dresses had been impregnated with heroin.

North Carolina

- o On April 9, North Carolina Highway Patrol officers seized \$600,010 from a 1992 Chevrolet Astro minivan with New York plates, traveling south on I-95 in Nash County. Two male Colombian nationals, residents of Flushing, New York City, were en route to Miami, Florida, from New York City, New York. The currency was discovered in a hidden compartment located behind an air vent in the dashboard.
- o On April 10, North Carolina Highway Patrol officers seized \$282,750 from a 1992 Honda Accord with Florida plates, traveling south on I-95. Three Colombian nationals, two males and one female, were en route to Miami, Florida, from New York City, New York. . A search of the luggage in the trunk revealed a Colombian coffee can, a Fix-A-Flat can, a shaving cream can, and numerous other cans that had

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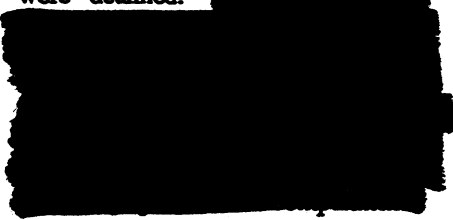
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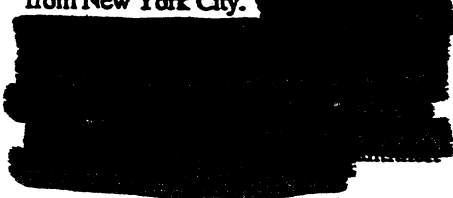
removable bottoms. The currency was found inside these cans and inside two children's toys that had been taken apart and put back together again. Airline tickets to New York were also discovered.

- o On May 2, North Carolina Highway Patrol officers seized \$559,400 from a 1991 Mazda MPV with New York plates, traveling south on I-95 in Nash County. Two male Colombian nationals, residents of Jackson Heights, New York, and Lowell, Massachusetts, were detained.



- o On June 5, North Carolina Highway Patrol officers seized 27 kilograms of cocaine discovered in the trunk of a 1996 Pontiac Grand Am traveling north on I-95 in Johnston County. A Bahamian male resident of Orlando, Florida, was en route to Norfolk, Virginia. The cocaine packages were wrapped in tape and marked "AA" or "CC."

- o On June 10, North Carolina Highway Patrol officers seized \$128,000 from a male, traveling south on I-95 in Nash County, en route to southern Florida from New York City.



- o On June 20, a bale of cocaine weighing 27 kilograms was recovered in the Gulf Stream off the coast of North Carolina. The master of the fishing vessel Musicman retrieved the bale while fishing 70 miles east of Carolina Beach, North Carolina. The bale contained 23 packages, individually wrapped in burlap with gray duct tape, with an extinguished chem-light attached. The burlap was heavily covered in barnacles and sea growth.

Ohio

- o On May 21, Ohio State Highway Patrol officers seized 358 kilograms of marijuana from a rented 1990 Ford 14-foot truck with expired Oregon plates, traveling east on I-70 in Preble County. Two white females, residents of San Diego, California, were en route to the Bronx, New York City, from San Diego. The marijuana, inside cardboard boxes, was commingled with furniture and mattresses in the truck's cargo area.

Oklahoma

- o On April 29, acting on information that a Tulsa, Oklahoma-based trucking company was transporting multiton quantities of marijuana for a Mexican organization to Dallas, Texas; Chicago, Illinois; Atlanta, Georgia; Oklahoma City or Tulsa, Oklahoma, on a biweekly basis, DEA Tulsa Special Agents and Tulsa County Sheriff's deputies seized 907 kilograms of marijuana from a refrigerated trailer during a traffic stop on I-44 northbound in Tulsa. The marijuana had reportedly been loaded into the trailer at a cold storage facility in McAllen, Texas, on April 27. The marijuana was found packaged inside

several U-Haul boxes which had been commingled with a shipment of frozen produce. The produce had been offloaded in Oklahoma City. Three male suspects were arrested.

- o On May 14, Oklahoma Highway Patrol officers seized over \$107,000 discovered in the right rear quarter panel of the cab of a 1991 Dodge Ram van driven by a male traveling south on I-44 in Oklahoma County. The load vehicle was escorted by two males in a 1994 GMC pickup. The load vehicle had two additional compartments, one under the rear seat and one built into the wall behind the rear seat. These compartments were empty. The escort vehicle had an empty compartment in the pickup bed extending the entire width and length of the bed.
- o On June 10, as the result of an investigation, DEA Special Agents seized 591 kilograms of marijuana from a residence in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The marijuana was selling for \$650 per pound. Three Hispanic males were arrested.

Pennsylvania

- o On June 16, Pennsylvania State Police officers seized 5 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a 1988 Mazda MX6 with Massachusetts plates, traveling west on I-80 in Mercer County. A male Dominican national resident of the Bronx, New York City, was en route to Detroit, Michigan, from the Bronx. [REDACTED]

Puerto Rico

- o On April 6, USCS Inspectors at the San Juan, Puerto Rico, seaport seized 2.6 kilograms of heroin from a crew member on the cruise ship [REDACTED]. The heroin was taped to the suspect's midsection and discovered as he was boarding the vessel [REDACTED].
- o On April 6, USCS Inspectors at the San Juan, Puerto Rico, seaport seized 10 kilograms of cocaine from a couple traveling aboard the cruise ship [REDACTED] with their 11-month-old daughter. The male passenger was carrying 6.4 kilograms of cocaine in a diaper bag and his wife was carrying 3.6 kilograms of cocaine in her handbag.
- o On April 27, USCS Inspectors at the San Juan, Puerto Rico, seaport seized 1.1 kilograms of heroin from a crew member aboard the cruise ship [REDACTED]. The heroin was found taped to the crew member's midsection.
- o On April 28, USCS Inspectors at the San Juan, Puerto Rico, seaport seized 1 kilogram of heroin from a passenger that had arrived aboard the cruise ship [REDACTED]. The heroin was concealed in a liquor bottle carried by the passenger.
- o On May 15, USCS Inspectors at the international airport in San Juan, Puerto Rico, seized 77 kilograms of cocaine from an air cargo shipment of frozen shrimp arriving from Venezuela.
- o On May 19, USCS Inspectors recovered 32.7 kilograms of cocaine from a bale

that was discovered in Barrio Pinas de Comerio, Puerto Rico. This bale was identical to the five bales recovered in the same area on May 9.

- o On May 20, USCG personnel, USCS Inspectors, and Puerto Rico National Guard personnel seized 478 kilograms of cocaine recovered from the water 10 miles off Fajardo, Puerto Rico. A vessel, running without lights, was pursued in the early morning hours as the crew members tossed bales overboard. The vessel was later seized.
- o On May 28, USCS Inspectors at the San Juan, Puerto Rico, international airport seized 10.5 kilograms of cocaine from a black male resident of St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, traveling from St. Thomas to San Juan on Mandarin Airlines. The cocaine was discovered in his unclaimed carry-on bag.
- o On June 25, an abandoned bale of cocaine, containing 30 packages weighing 37.6 kilograms, was located near Comerio, Puerto Rico. This bale is identical in description to the five bales recovered in the same area on May 9, and one discovered in the same area on May 19.
- o On June 26, USCS Inspectors at the San Juan, Puerto Rico, international airport seized 4.6 kilograms of heroin from a male Hispanic resident of Manhattan, New York City, arriving from Panama via Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, en route to the JFK International Airport. The heroin was concealed inside 15 different plastic bottles containing cosmetic goods.

Tennessee

- o On April 4, Shelby County, Tennessee, sheriff's officers seized 478 kilograms of marijuana from a 1994 Chevrolet motor home traveling east on I-240. The driver, a resident of Centerville, Texas, was en route to Selma, North Carolina, from Houston, Texas. The marijuana was discovered under the bed.
- o On April 17, USCS Inspectors at the Memphis, Tennessee, international airport seized 41.9 kilograms of cocaine found in four Federal Express packages that had arrived from Morvant, Trinidad, destined for Washington, D.C. Each package contained a box wrapped in multiple layers of carbon paper, plastic wrap, and a gelatin substance, which concealed the cocaine.
- o On May 8 and 9, USCS Inspectors at the Memphis, Tennessee, Federal Express mail facility seized 11 kilograms of cocaine from two packages that had arrived from Barbados. The cocaine was concealed in car accessories.
- o On May 14, USCS Inspectors at the Federal Express facility in Memphis, Tennessee, seized 21.9 kilograms of cocaine in a parcel manifested as magazines. [REDACTED] The parcel was destined for Mbabane, Swaziland.
- o On May 19, Shelby County, Tennessee, sheriff's officers seized 1 kilogram of Mexican black tar heroin and 1 kilogram of crystal methamphetamine

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from a 1996 Toyota van with California plates, traveling east on I-40. An Asian male resident of Walnut, California, a Hispanic male from Mountain View, California, and a Hispanic female resident of Michoacan, Mexico, were en route to Miami, Florida. The drugs were discovered inside a natural cavity over the fender well.

- o On May 21, USCS Inspectors seized 51 kilograms of cocaine from two packages at the Federal Express mail facility in Memphis, Tennessee.

[REDACTED]
Mbabane, Swaziland.

Both packages were manifested to contain gifts and magazines.

- o On June 13, Shelby County Sheriff's officers seized 10 kilograms of cocaine from a 1985 Southwind motor home with California plates, traveling east on I-240. Three black males, from Jackson, Mississippi, and Fresno and Moreno Valley, California, were en route to Fresno from Jackson.

- o On June 26, Coffee County Sheriff's officers seized \$248,689 from a 1996 Chevrolet Suburban with Tennessee plates, traveling east on I-24. Two black males, residents of Nashville, Tennessee, were en route to Atlanta, Georgia, from Nashville. A passenger, carrying a semiautomatic weapon and a box, dropped the box of currency while running from officers.

Texas

- o On April 1, as the result of an investigation, DEA Special Agents seized 496 kilograms of marijuana from a vehicle in El Paso, Texas. The

marijuana was probably destined for New Jersey. One 29-year-old female was arrested.

- o On April 2, USCS Falcon Heights patrol officers seized 338 kilograms of marijuana from the forward bilges of a boat being towed by a 1986 Ford Ranger with Texas plates, coming from a ranch road near Falcon Lake, Texas, and heading toward U.S. Highway 83. The escort vehicle, a 1987 Mazda pickup with Texas plates, was also stopped. One 37-year-old male Mexican national with residences in both Ciudad [REDACTED] Tamaulipas, and Pharr, Texas, was driving the Ford Ranger; and a 22-year-old male U.S. citizen from Rio Grande City, Texas, and a 28-year-old male Mexican national from Rancho Piedras, Mexico, were in the escort car. The marijuana was behind two holes cut into the deck of the boat that were hidden from immediate view by the boat's ice chest and seating.

- o On April 2, a Texas DPS officer seized 375 kilograms of marijuana from a trailer being towed by a 1987 International tractor with New York plates, at the weigh station on U.S. Highway 59, 5 miles north of Beeville, Texas. The truck drivers, two black males from Brooklyn and Rochester, New York City, were reportedly en route to Rochester from Edinburg, Texas. The marijuana was found in an 18-inch-deep compartment in the nose of the empty trailer. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (In March, a Texas DPS officer patrolling I-20 eastbound west of Fort Worth,

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packages. Other cocaine packages had an emblem with a print of a golden crown and the phrase "PRODUCTO DE ALTA CALIDAD" (High Quality Product) under the crown. A loaded 9mm Smith and Wesson and a two-way radio was found underneath the driver's seat.

- o On April 8, as the result of an investigation, DEA Houston Special Agents, Houston Police officers, and Harris County Sheriff's officers seized 818 kilograms of marijuana from a residence in Houston, Texas. Three suspects were arrested.
- o On April 9, USCS Inspectors at the Bridge of the Americas POE at El Paso, Texas, seized \$5.6 million discovered in a compartment in the roof of a Utility refrigerated trailer being towed by a tractor attempting to enter Mexico. The trailer had been switched from one tractor to another at a nearby truck stop on I-10.
- o On April 9, law enforcement officers seized 818 kilograms of marijuana in Houston, Texas. The marijuana had earlier been delivered to Boca Chica Beach, Texas, by Mexican lanchas. Intelligence indicated that 2 tons of marijuana may have already been successfully delivered to the beach and were en route to Chicago, Illinois. Mexican lanchas continue to deliver drugs to south Texas beaches despite a large law enforcement presence.
- o On April 9, a Starr County Sheriff's deputy seized 666 kilograms of marijuana from a 1993 Chevrolet Suburban with Texas plates, near the Arroyo Los Olmos area east of Rio Grande City, Texas. INS/BP Agents were called to the scene to assist. When the agents approached, several people exited the vehicle and ran into the brush. A total of 269 bundles of marijuana was found in 20 sugar sacks. One of the 20 sugar sacks contained a notation which appeared to be a Sinaloa telephone number.
- o On April 10, INS/BP Agents in Rio Grande City, Texas, seized 447 kilograms of marijuana from a 1983 Ford Crown Victoria abandoned by its driver.
- o On April 10, while executing an arrest warrant, FBI Special Agents seized 505 kilograms of marijuana and 101 kilograms of cocaine from a residence in McAllen, Texas. One 29-year-old Hispanic male was arrested.
- o On April 11, Texas DPS officers seized 1,360 kilograms of marijuana from the cargo area of a U-Haul truck traveling east on FM 517 in Galveston County near Texas City, Texas. A 21-year-old Hispanic male resident of Donna, Texas, was possibly en route to Houston, Texas, from south Texas. The subject's 21-year-old wife had been traveling ahead of him in a Ford Explorer with Texas plates.
- o On April 11, as the result of an investigation, DEA Special Agents seized 463 kilograms of marijuana from a residence in McAllen, Texas. Two men were arrested.
- o On April 12, USCS Inspectors at the Laredo, Texas, POE seized 97 kilograms of cocaine from a 1989 Kenworth-KenMex tractor towing a

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flatbed trailer, both with Nuevo Leon plates. Metal plating was discovered directly over the fifth wheel (kingpin plate) area of the trailer, under the wood planking, and a trapdoor was found on the underside of the kingpin plate. The driver, a 43-year-old male Mexican national from Allende, Nuevo Leon, was arrested. The packages of cocaine were wrapped in clear cellophane and yellow plastic, and printed with the letters "XXX" in black ink.

- o On April 13, as the result of an investigation, FBI Special Agents seized 499 kilograms of marijuana in San Antonio, Texas. Some of the marijuana packages were marked with the letters "F.I.N." or "H.C."
- o On April 14, INS/BP Agents recovered 349 kilograms of marijuana along the riverbank at Salineno, Texas.
- o On April 15, Texas DPS officers seized 18 kilograms of cocaine from a 1985 Mercury Cougar with Texas plates, traveling north on U.S. Highway 77 in Nueces County. [REDACTED]
- o [REDACTED] Two residents of Houston, Texas, were en route to Houston from Monterrey, Mexico. The cocaine was found in the rear quarter panels.
- o On April 15, INS/BP Agents recovered 724 kilograms of marijuana in Rio Grande City, Texas.
- o On April 15, INS/BP Agents at the checkpoint on U.S. Highway 281 south of Falfurrias, Texas, seized 365 kilograms of cocaine from a 1988 Freightliner tractor towing a 1981

Transcraft flatbed trailer, with Texas and Ohio plates, respectively. A canine alerted to the rear wall of the sleeper compartment. The 176 packages of unmarked cocaine, wrapped in inner tube material, were found in an 8-inch-deep compartment behind vinyl sheeting and sheet metal. The driver and his passenger, both 21-year-old male U.S. citizens from Edcouch, Texas, claimed to be en route to San Antonio, Texas, to pick up a shipment of pipe. The driver stated that he had purchased the tractor within the last month but had not attached its new plates, which were inside the cab. The registration on the tractor had recently been renewed for a 1989 Ford diesel tractor owned by a company in Waxahachie, Texas; the trailer was owned by an individual in Leipsic, Ohio.

- o On April 16, INS/BP Agents seized 498 kilograms of marijuana found in the bed of an abandoned 1986 Ford pickup with Texas plates, which was backed up to the river's edge at Escobares, Texas. Agents saw approximately 20 persons fleeing into Mexico. Some of the bundles of marijuana were marked with the words "METRO" or "JUANA." [REDACTED]
- o [REDACTED] The plates on the pickup, however, had possibly been stolen because the registration belonged to a 1985 Dodge pickup owned by an individual in Houston, Texas.
- o On April 16, as the result of a canine alert, INS/BP Agents seized 106

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kilograms of marijuana from a 1973 rail grain hopper car at the Texas-Mexico Railway Company (Tex-Mex) Pinitas Crossing Railyard east of Hebbronville, Texas. The 102 bundles of marijuana were hidden in a void in the middle of the railcar undercarriage, with access created by a steel plate trap door on the inside wall, which was covered in bondo.

- o On April 16, as the result of an investigation, DEA Special Agents seized 10 kilograms of cocaine from a hidden compartment in a 1991 Mazda van in McAllen, Texas. Agents also seized 1,125 kilograms of marijuana from a residence in McAllen. One 32-year-old male was arrested.
- o On April 16, as the result of an investigation, DEA El Paso, Texas, task force officers seized 104 kilograms of marijuana in Socorro, Texas. Five Mexican nationals and one U.S. citizen were arrested. Documents seized at the time of the arrests suggest that at least one of the members of the group has been involved in weapons trafficking. In one ledger, entries indicated purchases from an El Paso gun shop of approximately 150 rifles and a large amount of 7.62-caliber ammunition (the type commonly used in the Russian AK47 assault rifle). A controlled delivery to Houston led to two additional arrests.
- o On April 17, USCS Inspectors at the Hidalgo, Texas, POE seized \$238,525 from the rear bumper of a 1982 Toyota Supra with Texas plates, as it attempted to exit the United States. [REDACTED] A Hispanic male U.S. citizen, resident of Irving, Texas, was en route to Mexico from Dallas, Texas.
- o On April 18, Texas DPS officers seized 1,014 kilograms of marijuana from a 1989 Peterbilt tractor towing a 1990 Timpte grain trailer, both with Texas plates, traveling north on U.S. Highway 77 in Kleberg County near Riviera. A Hispanic male resident of Robstown, Texas, was en route to Orange Grove, Texas, from Harlingen, Texas. The marijuana was found in the bottom of the first hopper compartment. A controlled delivery resulted in the seizure of \$29,000 and three vehicles, and the arrest of three males. The marijuana was ultimately destined for Detroit, Michigan.
- o On April 18, Beaumont, Texas, police officers seized \$212,000 from a 1989 Ford Thunderbird with Florida plates, traveling west on I-10 in Jefferson County. Two residents of Pierson, Florida, were en route to McAllen, Texas, from Florida. After officers removed the rear panel, speaker covers, and speakers, they discovered the currency.
- o On April 19, USCS Inspectors at the Falcon Dam, Texas, POE seized 409 kilograms of marijuana from the rear cargo area of a 1974 Ford Econoline van with Tamaulipas plates, that had been abandoned in the inspection line with the motor still running. The vehicle was registered to a Mexican national from Mier, Tamaulipas.
- o On April 19, a Texas DPS officer seized 650 kilograms of marijuana from a 1989 Kenworth tractor towing a 1986 Great Dane refrigerated box trailer, both

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with Wisconsin plates, traveling north on U.S. Highway 77 near Odem in San Patricio County. A canine alerted to the trailer which was carrying a load of mixed produce. The 38 marijuana packages were wrapped in alternating layers of plastic wrap and aluminum foil, and hidden in a 4-foot-wide compartment in the roof running the entire length of the trailer. Two male U.S. citizens, residents of Hammond and Gary, Indiana, were en route to Chicago, Illinois, from Edinburg, Texas.

- o On April 20, INS/BP Agents recovered 452 kilograms of marijuana, in 14 duffel bags, that were abandoned by a group of individuals loading the marijuana into a van near Laredo, Texas.
- o On April 21, as the result of an investigation, INS/BP Agents and Metro Narcotics Task Force officers seized 438 kilograms of marijuana from an El Paso, Texas, residence which had been identified as a stash site. One 17-year-old male U.S. citizen and one 30-year-old male Mexican national, both residents of Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, were arrested, as well as one 34-year-old undocumented female Colombian national and one 34-year-old male Mexican national legal resident of the United States, both residing at the stash site. A 1995 Chevrolet Suburban with Texas plates, and a 1978 Dodge van with Chihuahua plates, were also seized.
- o On April 21, INS/BP Agents discovered 379 kilograms of marijuana next to and in the back seat of a Dodge Ramcharger pickup, with Mexico plates, near Rio Grande City, Texas. A vehicle with the same registration had [REDACTED]
- o On April 22, USCG personnel seized 519 kilograms of marijuana on Boca Chica Beach, Texas. On April 21, they had detected a vessel off Boca Chica Beach, 1.5 miles north of the Rio Grande River. The vessel was pursued south and crossed into Mexican waters. Beach patrol officers discovered the marijuana in the area of the landing.
- o On April 21, INS/BP Agents at the I-35 checkpoint 15 miles north of Laredo, Texas, seized a total of 771 kilograms of marijuana from two vehicles: a 1993 WHGM tractor-trailer with Texas and Maine registrations, respectively, had 650 kilograms of marijuana commingled with a shipment of rolls of nylon. A 41-year-old male U.S. citizen resident of Laredo, Texas, was en route to Pennsylvania. Information displayed on the tractor cab identified it as being under lease to a Laredo-area trucking company. Later, subsequent to a canine alert, 121 kilograms of marijuana were found in a hidden compartment in a 1988 Chevrolet Kendall motor home with Texas plates. The compartment was accessible through the lower-luggage storage area on the driver's side. A 52-year-old male Mexican national and resident alien from Laredo, Texas, claimed the motor home had been in Nuevo Leon, Tamaulipas, until the previous evening, and that he was en route to San Antonio, Texas. The driver's 39-year-old wife was traveling immediately ahead in a 1996 Ford Crown Victoria. [REDACTED]

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- o On April 22, USCG Corpus Christi and USCS Brownsville personnel seized 518 kilograms of marijuana found abandoned in the sand dunes on Boca Chica Beach at South Padre Island, Texas. The marijuana may have been offloaded from a Mexican lancha.
- o On April 23, as the result of an investigation, DEA Special Agents seized 11 kilograms of suspected Mexico-manufactured methamphetamine from the Houston, Texas, distributor for a Mexican organization. DEA McAllen believes that this seizure was part of a multihundred-kilogram shipment of methamphetamine from the organization's base of operations in either Guadalajara, Jalisco, or Monterrey, Nuevo Leon. The methamphetamine was then brought through one of the Laredo POE's via tractor-trailer and was stashed in both Dallas and Houston. One 26-year-old male Mexican national, illegally in the United States, was arrested.
- o On April 24, as the result of an investigation, DEA Special Agents and San Antonio Police officers seized 1.6 kilograms of Mexican black tar heroin from a 33-year-old Mexican female courier, resident of San Antonio, Texas, arriving from Los Angeles, California. The courier's point of contact, a male Mexican national originally from Nayarit and residing in San Antonio, was also arrested. The organization has two sources of supply, one in southern California and another in Mexico. The Mexican source reportedly smuggles heroin through the Eagle Pass, Texas, POE.
- o On April 25, as the result of an investigation, DEA Special Agents seized 1,992 kilograms of marijuana from a trailer and two vans in a lot in Pharr, Texas. Four suspects were arrested. Simultaneously, DEA Special Agents seized ledgers and large amounts of wrapping material from a residence in McAllen, Texas, being used as a large-scale stash and packaging facility. Four male Mexican nationals, two from Rio Bravo, Tamaulipas, and two from Uruapan, Michoacan, were arrested. One additional suspect eluded capture.
- o On April 25, a joint investigation conducted by USCS, DEA, and FBI Special Agents and Texas DPS officers culminated with the seizure of 1,010 kilograms of cocaine from two locations in the Houston, Texas area.
- o On April 26, subsequent to a canine alert, INS/BP Agents at the checkpoint on U.S. Highway 77 near Sarita, Texas, seized 359 kilograms of marijuana from a 1988 International tractor with Texas plates. The marijuana was found in the sleeper compartment. Some of the packages had been marked with the letter "A." The 39-year-old male driver and owner was from Brownsville, Texas.
- o On April 26, INS/BP Agents at the checkpoint on I-35 north of Laredo, Texas, seized 302 kilograms of marijuana from a sailboat being towed by a 1990 Chevrolet pickup. A canine alerted to the bow of the boat and the 240 bundles of marijuana were found in a compartment in the bow. A male and a female, both U.S. citizens, were arrested. The male driver said that he

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- o On May 5, as the result of an investigation, USCS Special Agents seized 953 kilograms of marijuana from a residence in Laredo, Texas. One male Mexican national was arrested.
- o On May 5, Texas DPS officers, assisted by Alice County Sheriff's deputies and Alice Police officers, seized 544 kilograms of marijuana from a 1974 Ford truck with Texas plates, traveling north on U.S. Highway 281 south of Alice in Jim Wells County. The truck, modified for private use and carrying a load of used furniture, was a former 24-foot U-Haul truck. The marijuana was concealed behind two walls, one constructed directly above the cab, and another in the nose of the cargo area (the latter approximately 1-foot deep). The driver, a 32-year-old male from Mission, Texas, was en route to San Antonio, Texas, from Edinburg, Texas.
- o On May 7, FBI Special Agents and INS/BP Agents seized 2,651 kilograms of marijuana found in a parked truck at a ranch near Edinburg, Texas. Four suspects were arrested. Also seized were two shotguns and one AK-47 rifle.
- o On May 8, INS/BP Agents and Southern Pacific Railroad Police officers seized 2,113 kilograms of marijuana discovered in a boxcar at the Orphanage Road crossing at Combes, Texas. The marijuana was in two compartments extending from floor to ceiling in the side walls of the boxcar. A drug-detection canine alerted to the boxcar. The boxcar, manifested as empty and arriving from Guadalajara, Jalisco, had entered through the Brownsville, Texas, POE on May 6, and remained in the Harlingen yards waiting for a linkup with a northbound freight train.
- o On May 8, Premont, Texas, police officers seized 28 kilograms of cocaine from a 1989 Ford Aerostar van with Texas plates, traveling on U.S. Highway 281 in Jim Wells County. The cocaine was discovered behind the air conditioning vent in the dashboard. Two residents of Fort Worth, Texas, traveling with three small children, were en route to Houston, Texas, from Ciudad Miguel Aleman, Tamaulipas, where they had picked up the cocaine. The cocaine packages displayed one of three unusual markings: a label with the words "THAT GOOD CHAMPION" with a picture of two thumbs up, on an inner yellow paper or tape layer, covered in clear plastic; "I LOVE FISHING" with a picture of a fish on pink paper or tape covered in clear plastic; or "LLUVIA DE ORO" on orange paper or tape covered in clear plastic.
- o On May 9, pursuant to a canine alert, USCS Inspectors at the Laredo, Texas, Bridge II POE seized 19 kilograms of cocaine from a 1989 Mercury Cougar, two-door coupe, with Texas plates. Eleven packages of cocaine, wrapped in multiple layers of cellophane, baking soda, and tape, were found in the rear passenger seat, doors, and rear quarter panels of the vehicle. The driver, a 42-year-old male Mexican national from Grant, Michigan, claimed to be en route to North Carolina. The vehicle was registered to another individual from Dallas, Texas.

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- o On May 9, Refugio, Texas, police officers seized \$1,214,225 from a 1990 Freightliner tractor towing a 1988 Wabash trailer, traveling south on U.S. Highway 77 in Refugio County. A male Guatemalan national resident of Guatemala was en route to Guatemala from Houston, Texas. A 1997 Chevrolet Astro van with Texas plates and a 1994 Nissan Sentra were being carried inside the trailer. All of the vehicles were registered to a business in Guatemala. The currency, wrapped in aluminum foil, was inside the rear doors of the van. Currency was also discovered inside two clothes dryers and two roaster ovens.
- o On May 10, INS/BP Agents seized 903 kilograms of marijuana from a 1984 Chevrolet pickup 11 miles east of the Brownsville-Gateway Bridge POE. When agents attempted to follow, the driver fled at a high rate of speed. Agents later found the vehicle, with its engine still running, abandoned at a residence in Brownsville, Texas.
- o On May 11, a Texas DPS officer seized 444 kilograms of marijuana from a White tractor towing a 1996 Dane flatbed trailer, both with Texas plates, traveling on U.S. Highway 77 in Refugio County. The marijuana was concealed inside the backhoe arm of a large Caterpillar Trackhoe (heavy-duty construction crane) on the trailer. An access panel had been cut into the boom. The truck driver, a 40-year-old white male from Houston, Texas, was en route to Ruskin, Florida, from Edinburg, Texas. The driver had been directed by his dispatcher to meet several individuals at a local truck stop where the construction equipment had been loaded from another flatbed trailer to his. Initial inquiries discovered the trucking company had been contracted the previous day to haul an identical load for the same individuals.
- o On May 12, after a canine alert, INS/BP Agents at the immigration checkpoint on U.S. Highway 281 near Falfurrias, Texas, seized 39 kilograms of cocaine from a 1996 Ford Aspire, with a temporary Ohio registration. A resident alien from Mexico and his naturalized U.S. citizen wife were traveling with their two minor children to Houston from Edinburg, Texas, and Valle Hermosa, Tamaulipas. [REDACTED] The cocaine had been concealed in a fiberglass compartment built into the floor of a vehicle, which had been purchased for cash by another individual in Finley, Ohio, 2 weeks earlier. The packaging closely resembled that found on the 28 kilograms of cocaine seized on May 8; specifically, a round label with "LLUVIA DE ORO" in black letters, on mustard yellow or pink tape covered in clear cellophane.
- o On May 14, as the result of an investigation, DEA Special Agents in McAllen, Texas, seized 511 kilograms of marijuana from a Ford pickup with Texas plates. Eight male suspects were arrested; one of whom, a Mexican businessman with commercial interests in McAllen, Texas, has been the subject of four other DEA McAllen and Corpus Christi investigations into marijuana and cocaine smuggling via tractor-

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trailer from McAllen to Houston, Texas; Chicago, Illinois; and Atlanta, Georgia. DEA McAllen indicated that the May 14 seizure is related to two other seizures of marijuana, totaling 836 kilograms, which took place in McAllen during May.

- o On May 14, Willacy County Sheriff's officers and Texas DPS officers seized 465 kilograms of cocaine and 210 kilograms of marijuana from a 1979 Freightliner towing an empty 1975 Timpte grain trailer, both with Texas plates, traveling on U.S. Highway 77 north of Raymondville, Texas. The drugs were concealed in a void in the front hopper of the trailer. The entire drug shipment smelled strongly of limes. The cocaine packages, wrapped in cellophane and duct tape, were placed inside duffel bags that had been chained together. The letter "J," in black marker, was displayed on the packages. One cocaine package also displayed the picture of a bikini-clad girl. The driver/owner, a 32-year-old male U.S. citizen from Lyford, Texas, was arrested. At the time of the seizure, the tractor was displaying plates for a 1991 International tractor owned by an individual in Houston, Texas.
- o On May 20, as the result of an investigation, DEA Houston, Texas, Special Agents and Houston, Texas, police officers seized 465 kilograms of marijuana in Starr County.
- o On May 22, pursuant to a canine alert, USCS Inspectors at the Laredo, Texas, Bridge II POE seized 18.6 kilograms of cocaine hidden in a compartment in a 1991 Dodge Ram pickup with Texas plates. The driver, a 29-year-old male Mexican national residing in Houston, Texas, was arrested. The pickup was registered to another individual in Houston, Texas.
- o On May 24, Dallas, Texas, police officers seized 470 kilograms of marijuana from a 1985 Chevrolet van with Texas plates, traveling from Dallas. A Hispanic male was arrested.
- o On May 27, as the result of an investigation, DEA Special Agents seized 657 kilograms of marijuana from a business in El Paso, Texas. The marijuana packages were coated with powdered fabric softener and packed in 15 U-Haul boxes used to transport television sets. The organization involved has smuggled the marijuana from Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, where it had been stashed in a residential area before being further moved to Chicago, Illinois; New York City, New York; or St. Louis, Missouri. This shipment was reportedly destined for Chicago.
- o On May 28, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, USCS, and Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigative Division Special Agents executed a search warrant on a residence in El Paso, Texas, and seized 33 semiautomatic rifles, 2 submachine guns, 3 silencers, and 2 scanners. The scanners had been intercepting the entry team's radio signals at the time the search warrant was executed. The suspect has trafficked in at least 1,500 firearms of every style and caliber. Two of these firearms were recovered in Mexico. One was used to murder two Mexican antidrug officers during a raid. Three weapons traced to this trafficker were found in the possession

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[REDACTED], the former drug czar of Mexico. It is believed that the suspect, in conjunction with a smuggler of cellular intercept devices, has illegally exported the majority of the firearms to a large Mexican drug-trafficking organization in Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico. The suspect was arrested.

- o On May 29, as the result of an investigation, Houston Police officers seized 465 kilograms of marijuana from a residence in Houston, Texas. The marijuana reportedly came into Houston from the Rio Grande Valley (south Texas) area. One 28-year-old male Mexican national was arrested.
- o On May 29, INS/BP Agents in Laredo, Texas, seized 159 kilograms of cocaine from the trunk of a 1985 Mercury with Texas plates. A 24-year-old Hispanic male was arrested. The vehicle had crossed at the Laredo POE the day before the seizure.
- o On June 2, DEA McAllen Special Agents executed search warrants and seized a total of \$457,662 from a McAllen self-storage facility, a bank safe-deposit box, and a female relative of one of the investigative targets living in McAllen, culminating an 18-month-long Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force investigation into a drug-trafficking organization. This organization used parcel delivery services and commercial airline passengers to transport marijuana from McAllen, Texas, to Puerto Rico and Florida. This followed two currency seizures totaling \$309,390 made at McAllen residences during May. This currency was not obtained by the McAllen suspect through his illicit drug-distribution activities, but rather it was payment made to him by the organization for his assistance in facilitating the safe passage of drug shipments through the McAllen-Miller Airport. The McAllen suspect had been an x-ray scanner technician and received payments in exchange for allowing couriers to pass undetected through his airport security checkpoint. He coordinated his duty schedule with the organization to ensure that couriers traveled only when he was on duty. Thirteen members of this organization have been arrested and additional arrests are anticipated.
- o On June 2, pursuant to a canine alert, USCS Inspectors and Texas National Guardsmen at the Pharr, Texas, POE import lot discovered 172 kilograms of cocaine in the side wall panels of a 1975 Great Dane refrigerated trailer being towed by a 1981 Kenworth Kenmex diesel tractor, both with Mexico plates. The cocaine packages were marked with the words "VACA" and "COLOR" or the "GUESS" trademark. The driver, a 37-year-old male Mexican national from Reynosa, Tamaulipas, was detained but later released. The tractor-trailer was reportedly owned by a trucking company in Tlapacoyan, Veracruz, despite the fact that another transport company's name was displayed on the side of the cab.
- o On June 5, INS/BP Agents seized 361 kilograms of marijuana along a trail on ranch property in Fronton, Texas. Agents observed 8 to 15 suspects, sitting on the sacks, who then ran when spotted.

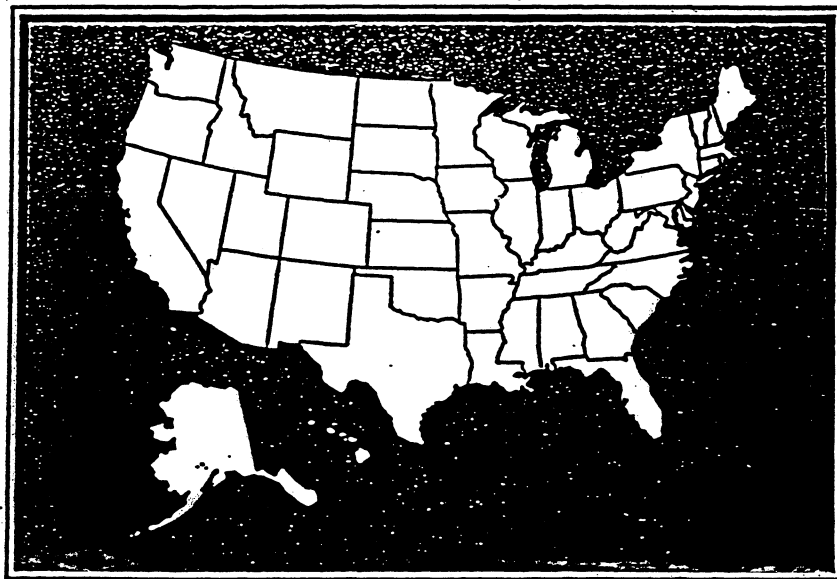
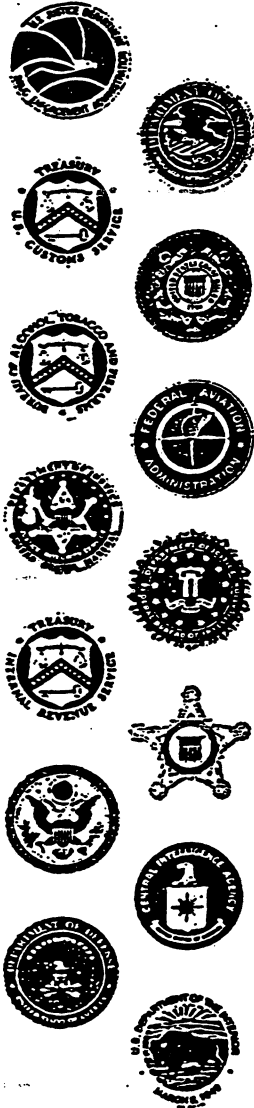
U.S. Department of Justice
Drug Enforcement Administration
El Paso Intelligence Center

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DEA
EPIC Domestic Quarterly Threat Brief January -
March 1997
Seizures, and Associated Material

EPIC

Domestic Quarterly Threat Brief



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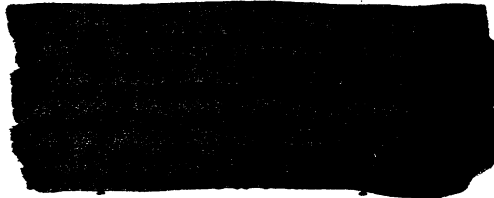
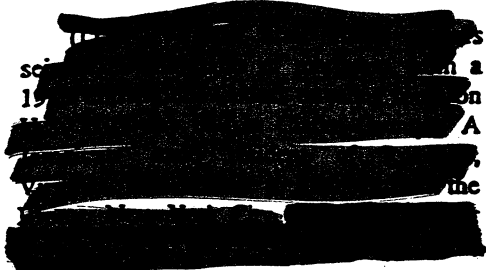
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(Photographs courtesy of the New Mexico State Police)



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(Photographs courtesy of the Virginia State Police)

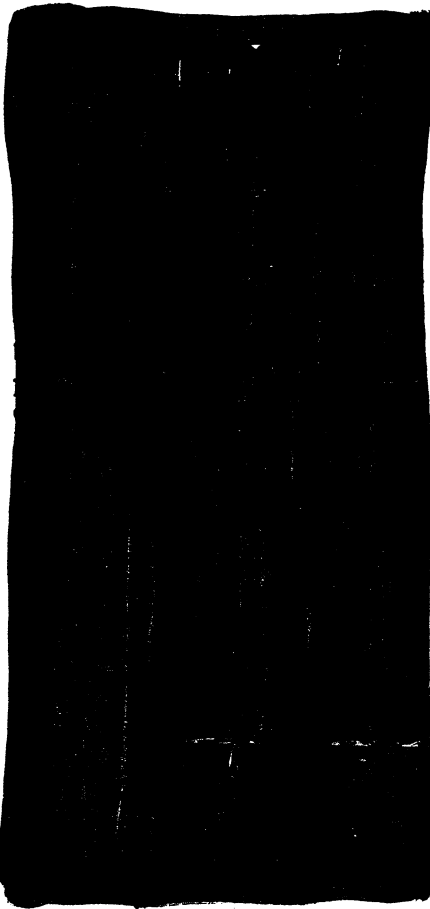
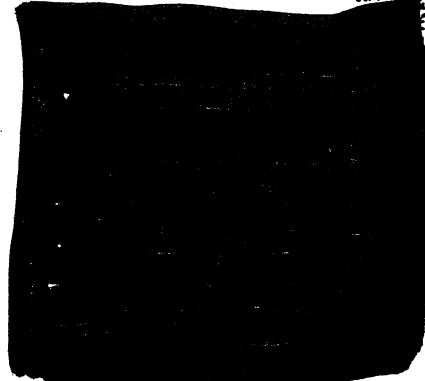


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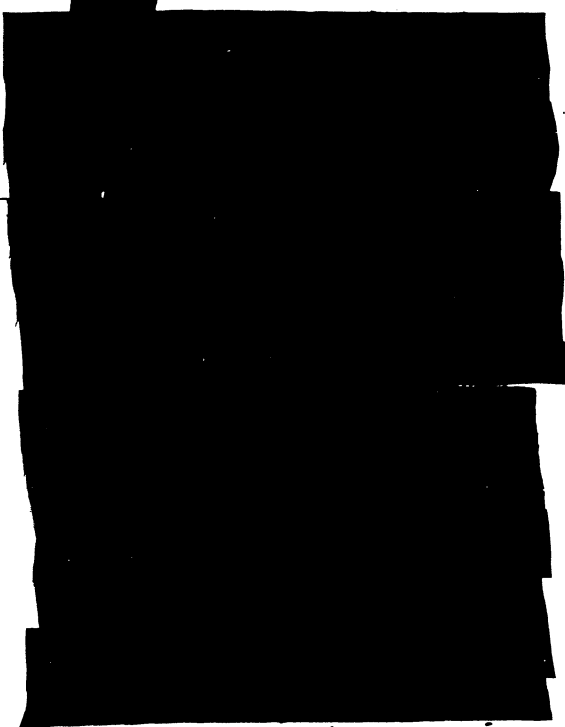
same period last year. During the first 6 weeks of 1996, a total of 51 kilograms of Mexico-manufactured methamphetamine was seized along the border. Nearly all of it (97 percent) was seized at the California border, with the remaining 3 percent seized in Arizona. During the same period in 1997, a total of 203 kilograms was seized along the border, again, mostly in California (nearly 80 percent), with the balance seized in south Texas (12 percent) and Arizona (8 percent).

(Source: DEA Headquarters, Washington, D.C. and EPIC)



- o (DS) A cocaine-trafficking organization based in Tijuana, Baja California Norte, was preparing to smuggle a multiton load of cocaine into the United States during March 1997. The cocaine was expected to arrive off the Baja California coast in a Mexican fishing vessel and be transferred to Zodiac-type boats, which would transport the cocaine to a point near Rosarita Beach, Baja California Norte. The cocaine would then be transported overland to the Los Angeles, California, area, probably through the San Ysidro, California, POE. This trafficking group reportedly smuggled multiton quantities of cocaine into the United States during 1996. Intelligence suggests that this group received two separate 3-ton shipments, one in May and one in June 1996. Reportedly, the cocaine was moved by vessel from Colombia, transferred to Mexico-registered vessels at sea, and finally delivered to Rosarita Beach. The cocaine was divided into smaller quantities at several stash locations in Tijuana, Baja California Norte, and subsequently smuggled into the United States through the San Ysidro POE using passenger vehicles equipped with hidden compartments. (Source: DEA San Diego)

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enforcement agent in retaliation for the loss of a significant drug shipment. Reportedly, the organization had hitmen in the United States who were actively searching for an agent to murder; however, it was unknown if the proposed murder was to have taken place in the United States or Mexico. A series of murders of Mexican police officers and prosecutors in Tijuana, Baja California Norte, attributed to the [redacted] organization, has demonstrated the organization's willingness to kill. Although the organization currently operates primarily in Tijuana, it is feasible the group could operate anywhere along the United States/Mexico border.

(Source: NIN, San Diego, California)

If these statements are not exaggerated, it could be assumed that these Gulf Mafia members were responsible for smuggling 116 metric tons of cocaine into the United States per year between 1988 and 1992. In theory, this is conceivable, as it has been estimated that 300 metric tons of cocaine each year transits Mexico and presumably crosses the United States/Mexico border.

(Source: DEA Monterrey)

- o (DS) According to an Officer Safety Bulletin from the San Diego and Imperial Counties Narcotic Information Network (NIN) Regional Intelligence Center, the San Diego Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) received information indicating that the [redacted] organization again threatened to kidnap or kill a U.S. law

- o (DS) A local smuggling group has been conducting surveillance on USCS Special Agents residing in Douglas, Arizona, prior to the movement of any major drug shipments from Agua Prieta, Sonora, to Douglas. Reportedly, when a major smuggling venture is planned, the traffickers watch the residences of USCS Special Agents to determine if their official government vehicles are parked at their respective homes during off-duty hours. If not, the smuggling operation is aborted.

(Source: DEA Sierra Vista and USCS Douglas, Arizona)

- o (DS) INS/BP Agents in Del Rio, Texas, indicated that during March, 35 tons of marijuana were being stockpiled throughout Piedras Negras, Coahuila. (There had been several additional drug stockpile reportings received by other INS/BP Agents in the area, but none of this quantity.)

(Source: INS/BP Del Rio, Texas)

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o (DS) Novel hidden compartments were discovered during a seizure of \$32,310 and 3 kilograms of cocaine that occurred on January 1 from a 1986 Buick LeSabre traveling north on I-65 in Tippecanoe County. The vehicle was en route to Chicago, Illinois, from Indianapolis, Indiana, and a Mexican national from Chicago was the only occupant in the vehicle. Two compartments located in the natural cavities in the rear quarter panels were activated by electric trunk locks. Two grease spots on the carpet along the left side of the driver's seat marked the locations of two switches that opened the compartment doors. The front switch controlled the left compartment door and the back switch controlled the right compartment door. The system was wired directly to the battery. The compartments were secured by electric trunk lock mechanisms which were welded to the body of the car. The sequence for gaining access to the compartments required the ignition switch to be in the on position, the temperature control on the defroster set on hot, the fan on high, and the rear window defroster switch turned on. (Source: Indiana State Police)

o (DS) The smuggling of drugs across the Southwest border by private aircraft remains at a relatively low level. Three indicators for air smuggling on the Southwest border were reviewed: seizures, known trafficking flights, and unidentified border-crossing flights. Although air smuggling across the Southwest border in the first quarter of CY97 increased from the last quarter of CY96, it was less than that noted in the first quarter of CY96. A comparison of the last five quarters revealed that the third quarter of CY96 was the most

active. Over the five quarters, California and Arizona had the greatest activity.

- (DS) During the first quarter of CY97, the only drug seizure from an aircraft crossing the Southwest border occurred when 35 kilograms of marijuana were seized from an airdrop near Casa Grande, Arizona. In CY96, 390 kilograms of cocaine were seized in three incidents during the third quarter: 32 kilograms at El Paso, Texas; 181 kilograms at Desert Center, California; and 177 kilograms at Magdalena, Sonora, Mexico, from an aircraft which had aborted an airdrop attempt to California. Seizure data alone showed that although more significant seizures were made from cross-border flights in CY96 than in CY94 or CY95, the most significant seizures occurred in CY93, when 1,016 kilograms of cocaine and 45 kilograms of marijuana were seized.

- (DS) A review of known trafficking flights in the Southwest border area identified by the Interagency Counterdrug Performance Assessment Working Group (ICPAWG) showed that the first quarter of CY96 was the most active with four flights, the third quarter CY96 was second with three flights, and the first quarter of CY97 was third with one confirmed and one probable trafficking flight.

- (DS) The DAICC reporting of unidentified suspect aircraft crossing the border indicated that the greatest number of unidentified border-crossings by aircraft occurred

the vessels on the Mexican side of the river. The offload reportedly occurred on January 28.

(Source: USCG Corpus Christi, Texas)

- o (DS) On February 20, three Mexican lanchas made a successful landing on Boca Chica Beach, Texas, between Texas Highway 4 and Brazos Santiago Pass, and unloaded an unknown quantity of marijuana. A search of the area revealed no drugs. On February 21, three Mexican lanchas were en route to the United States with marijuana and were expected to make the delivery near Boca Chica Beach, Texas. In separate reporting, the Matamoros, Mexico, newspaper [REDACTED] reported the seizure of 1 ton of marijuana from six Veracruz fishermen in two boats. According to the newspaper, the seizure occurred in an area approximately 1 hour south of the United States/Mexico border. These two reports may have been about the same drug-movement event.
(Source: EPIC)

- o (DS) On March 20, one Mexican lancha, with two persons on board, was observed northbound, without navigation lights, in the vicinity of the Port Isabel, Texas, jetties. A short time later, the lancha was detected fleeing south and was pursued to the Mexican border. At the same time, a vehicle was observed flashing its lights over the water in the vicinity of the Rio Grande River. The car had four well-dressed occupants with cellular telephones and beepers, probably attempting to receive a delivery of drugs from Mexico.

(Source: USCG Corpus Christi, Texas)

- o (DS) On March 24, law enforcement authorities observed a Ford Bronco on Boca Chica Beach, Texas. A few hours later, the vehicle began flashing its headlights and taillights across the Rio Grande River toward Mexico, out to sea, and toward Texas Highway 4, in a manner that appeared to be a signal. A short while later the vehicle departed the beach, via Texas Highway 4, at a high rate of speed. The vehicle plate revealed that it was associated with a known marijuana trafficker. It is likely that the operators were attempting to receive a delivery of drugs from Mexico.

(Source: USCG Corpus Christi, Texas)

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SIGNIFICANT ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

DOMESTIC

This section contains intelligence capsules of significant drug-enforcement activity in the United States. It is based on information available to EPIC and should not be considered all inclusive. Information on seizures, with controlled deliveries pending, will not be published in this report without the prior approval of the agency reporting the seizure. Therefore, significant enforcement activities may have occurred which are not reflected herein.

Arizona

- o (DS) On January 3, INS/BP Agents seized 116 kilograms of marijuana from backpackers in the desert outside Nogales, Arizona. A group of eight individuals was observed traveling north from the border. When challenged, the group scattered, leaving behind six burlap bags and one backpack. A few hours later, INS/BP Agents seized an additional 289 kilograms of marijuana 1 mile east of Nogales, Arizona. A group of 17 backpackers fled south to Mexico.
- o (DS) On January 16, USCS Inspectors at the Nogales, Arizona, POE seized 526 kilograms of marijuana from a 1958 Chevrolet tractor truck. One male Mexican national resident of Nogales, Sonora, was arrested.
- o (DS) On January 17, INS/BP Agents seized 410 kilograms of marijuana which had been crossed into the United States south of Pisinemo, Arizona, by a group of six men and several horses. One 41-year-old male Mexican national, illegally in the United States, was arrested.
- o (DS) On January 19, INS/BP Agents seized 467 kilograms of marijuana from a group of 14 backpackers that entered the United States on the west side of Nogales, Arizona. One 19-year-old male Mexican national, illegally in the United States, was arrested. The suspect claimed he was to be paid \$400 to carry the bundles.
- o (DS) On January 22, USCS Inspectors at the Mariposa Avenue POE in Nogales, Arizona, discovered 11 kilograms of methamphetamine in the cab of a 1994 Kenworth tractor with Mexico plates, towing a 1981 American refrigerated trailer. Eleven of the 22 packages were discovered inside the natural compartment holding speakers. Initial probing of this area was negative, but when the area was probed a second time, the packages were discovered behind foam insulation. The remaining packages were hidden in the passenger's side door of the sleeper. During inspection of the vehicle, the driver fled back to Mexico on foot.
- o (DS) On January 26, as the result of an investigation, DEA Special Agents seized 1 kilogram of Mexican brown heroin in Tucson, Arizona. Eight bundles of heroin were concealed in an Igloo cooler. The heroin was so well-wrapped that a canine did not alert until a hole was punched into the cooler wall.

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- o (DS) On January 29, INS/BP Agents and an Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) officer seized 463 kilograms of marijuana from the bed of a 1978 GMC utility truck with Arizona plates, traveling on I-19 near Tubac, Arizona. The vehicle was first observed leaving a known rendezvous site, used by both alien and drug smugglers, located north of the immigration checkpoint on I-19. The truck was the last of three trucks exiting this area at the same time, giving the impression that they were traveling in tandem. The first two vehicles entered I-19 and the third vehicle continued in a northerly direction. The Arizona DPS officer initiated a traffic stop on the third truck. The driver refused to yield, but slowed to a point where he jumped from the truck and fled while the truck was still rolling.
- o (DS) On February 3, INS/BP Agents seized 1,204 kilograms of marijuana near Arivaca, Arizona, in areas known as Schumaker Canyon and Ruby Lakes. These areas have been heavily used recently as transit points where marijuana smuggled across the border is stashed until it can be transported farther north. The agents followed footprints of several packhorses to the bundles of marijuana, which were wrapped in burlap sacks and hidden under dead branches and other debris.
- o (DS) On February 4, as the result of an investigation, DEA Special Agents seized 340 kilograms of cocaine from a van in a garage in Yuma, Arizona. The unmarked cocaine was in bundles weighing 23 kilograms each. One 28-year-old male suspect was arrested.
- o (DS) On February 8, as the result of an investigation, DEA Special Agents seized 577 kilograms of marijuana from a residence in Tucson, Arizona. The marijuana was discovered in a studio apartment attached to the garage. Some of the marijuana bundles bore a "1" or "2" handwritten with black marker. Eleven suspects were arrested.
- o (DS) On February 11, joint efforts by USCS Special Agents and U.S. Forest Service officers resulted in the seizure of 482 kilograms of marijuana west of Nogales in an area of the Coronado National Forest known as Bear Valley. There were no arrests; however, five horses and a Smith and Wesson model 19 revolver were also seized.
- o (DS) On February 17, USCS Inspectors at the Nogales POE cargo facility seized 744 kilograms of marijuana hidden beneath the floor of a refrigerated trailer. The discovery was made after USCS Inspectors obtained high Buster Density Meter readings in the fifth-wheel area (kingpin plate) and rear wheels of the trailer. The driver, a male Mexican national from Nogales, Sonora, was questioned and released.
- o (DS) On February 25, approximately 35 kilograms of marijuana was seized in the desert south of I-8, between Gila Bend and Casa Grande, Arizona, after an airdrop. A Maule single-engine high-wing aircraft had been observed crossing the border southwest of Sells, Arizona, flying at approximately 75 feet above ground level. There was no radar contact with the aircraft as it crossed the border or during much of its northbound flight. After the airdrop, [REDACTED] intercepted the aircraft which was flying northwest at 100 feet and at 90

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knots, without doors, with covered tail numbers, and with two persons on board. The aircraft was tracked south back into Mexico where it sustained damage upon landing at a dirt airstrip at [REDACTED] near Diplo North, Sonora. Several vehicles from a nearby ranch met the aircraft at the airstrip. The aircraft and a pickup were later seized by Mexican authorities in the area, and four Mexican nationals were arrested. Five bundles of marijuana were recovered at the airdrop site in Arizona.

- o (DS) On February 26, INS/BP Agents seized 395 kilograms of marijuana from a group of backpackers in the desert near Nogales, Arizona. Three males were arrested.
- o (DS) On March 5, INS/BP Agents seized 302 kilograms of marijuana from the cab and bed of a 1984 Chevrolet pickup with Arizona plates in Huachuca City, Arizona. The pickup was first observed traveling north along Arizona Route 90 in tandem with a sedan with dark tinted windows and temporary plates. As the agents approached, the vehicles sped away. The agents caught up with the fleeing vehicles just prior to arriving in Huachuca City, and were able to determine that there were two additional vehicles, a Ford pickup and another unidentified sedan, also traveling in tandem with the Chevrolet pickup. A traffic stop was attempted on the Chevrolet pickup; however, it did not come to a complete stop until arriving in a residential neighborhood of Huachuca City. As the agents exited their service vehicles, the pickup sped away. The pickup and marijuana were discovered abandoned a short distance away. The bundles in the bed of the

pickup were covered by two sheets of plywood which were hinged in a manner to conceal the load. Arizona DPS officers stopped the Ford pickup and seized an undetermined amount of marijuana. Information was subsequently received indicating that five vehicles had crossed the Arizona/Sonora border east of Naco in the Palominas, Arizona, area just prior to the above seizures.

- o (DS) On March 17, USCS Inspectors at the Nogales, Arizona, POE discovered 5.4 kilograms of heroin concealed in the dash area of a 1989 Pontiac Grand Am with California plates. The heroin was pure white with small flecks of an unknown black substance. A 27-year-old male Mexican national resident of San Jose, California, claimed he was en route to San Jose, California, from Jalisco, Mexico.

Arkansas

- o (DS) On January 4, Arkansas Highway Police officers at the weigh station seized 1,179 kilograms of marijuana from a 1996 Kenworth tractor with Ohio plates (no trailer attached), traveling east on I-40 in Crittenden County. Two male Jamaican nationals, residents of New York City, were allegedly en route to west Memphis, Tennessee, but may have been destined for New York. The marijuana was stacked behind the driver and passenger seats inside the sleeper compartment. In September 1996, Maryland State Police officers in Potomac River, Washington County, seized \$559,107 from the same two subjects, who were traveling south on I-81 in the same tractor. They were en route to Florida from New York.

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- o (DS) On February 6, Arkansas Highway Police officers seized 474 kilograms of marijuana and \$27,243 from a 1972 Peterbilt tractor with Oklahoma plates, towing a refrigerated trailer, traveling north on U.S. Highway 67 at Hope, Hempstead County. The tractor-trailer had bypassed the license and weigh station. The driver, a white male resident of Viola, Arkansas, was en route to Chicago, Illinois, from McAllen, Texas. He had no bill of lading. The name of the trucking company on the tractor was fictitious and carried no ICC or DOT numbers. The marijuana was found in the nose of the trailer, behind 32,000 pounds of rotten oranges, which had been in the trailer for 3 weeks. Originally, the marijuana and oranges were destined for Florida, but a group refused to take delivery. The driver admitted to stashing \$60,000 in Texas, and \$20,000 in Viola, Arkansas. The money was later seized.
- o (DS) On February 8, Arkansas State Police officers seized 21 kilograms of methamphetamine from a 1988 Ford Tempo with Utah plates, traveling on U.S. Highway 65 in McGehee, Desha County. A female Mexican national, a legal permanent resident of Riverside, California, accompanied by her juvenile son, was en route to Macon, Georgia, from Salt Lake City, Utah. The driver could not produce registration papers for the vehicle, nor did she know to whom it was registered. The methamphetamine was discovered in a hidden compartment in the gas tank.
- California
 - o (DS) On January 8, USCS Inspectors at the Oakland, California, mail facility seized 1.1 kilograms of opium in a parcel arriving from Thailand and destined for Rancho Cordova, California. The opium was concealed in a box of Electrasol automatic dishwashing detergent.
 - o (DS) On January 8, as the result of an investigation, Riverside Police officers seized 103.6 kilograms of methamphetamine, 50 grams of Mexican black tar heroin, \$37,000, assorted cutting agents, and packaging material from a residence in Ontario, California. Two suspects were arrested. According to DEA Riverside Special Agents, drug distributors at the site were breaking down methamphetamine wrapped in vacuum-sealed 1-pound packages, mixing it with cutting agents, and re-packaging it.
 - o (DS) On January 9, as the result of an investigation, Riverside and Ontario, California, police officers seized 118 kilograms of methamphetamine at a residence in Ontario. The investigation was initiated on January 8 when CHP officers seized 528 grams of methamphetamine during a traffic stop south of San Bernardino. Evidence at the residence indicated that it was used as a cutting and packaging site. Two male Mexican nationals, 37 and 40 years old, residing in San Bernardino and Fontana, California, were taken into custody.
 - o (DS) On January 13, USCS Inspectors at the San Ysidro, California, POE discovered 29 kilograms of cocaine hidden in the quarter panels of a 1978

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- Volkswagen Scirocco with California plates. The 25 unmarked packages were wrapped in layers of cellophane and grease. One 58-year-old male Mexican national living in Tijuana, Baja California Norte, was arrested.
- o (DS) On January 13, USCS Inspectors at the San Ysidro, California, POE seized 2 kilograms of Mexican black tar heroin from a pedestrian as he attempted entry into the United States. The packages were wrapped in masking tape and taped to the subject's thighs. One 38-year-old male Mexican national with a Los Angeles, California, address was arrested.
 - o (DS) On January 14, USCS Inspectors at the San Ysidro, California, POE seized 10 kilograms of methamphetamine from the gas tank of a 1983 Ford Ranger pickup with California plates. Removing the pickup bed revealed an access plate on the top of the gas tank. One 23-year-old male Mexican national residing in San Ysidro was detained.
 - o (DS) On January 14, as the result of an investigation, DEA Task Force Agents seized 54 kilograms of cocaine and 68 kilograms of marijuana from a Long Beach, California, residence. Both the cocaine and marijuana were wrapped in cellophane and bore no markings. One male was arrested.
 - o (DS) On January 14, USCS Inspectors at the Oakland, California, mail facility seized 1.7 kilograms of opium in a parcel arriving from Phayao, Thailand, and destined for Stockton, California. The opium was concealed inside the handles of three knives.
 - o (DS) On January 14, USCS Inspectors at the Oakland, California, mail facility seized 1.5 kilograms of opium in a parcel arriving from Saraburi, Thailand, and destined for Rancho Cordova, California. The opium was hidden among wood chips.
 - o (DS) On January 15, as the result of an investigation, FBI Special Agents seized 150 kilograms of cocaine from a Van Nuys, California, residence. The packages, contained within eight cardboard boxes, were double-wrapped in plastic. The cocaine was probably smuggled into the United States across the United States/Mexico border.
 - o (DS) On January 16, USCS Inspectors at the San Ysidro, California, POE seized 17 kilograms of methamphetamine from the spare tire of a 1985 Ford F-150 pickup with California plates. The 15 unmarked packages were wrapped in layers of cellophane covered with a lemon-scented substance. One 27-year-old male Mexican national resident of National City, California, was arrested.
 - o (DS) On January 18, personnel on the USCG cutter seized 454 kilograms of marijuana from a 25-foot Mexican panga southwest of San Clemente Island, California. The vessel had departed from San Lucas or La Paz, Baja California Sur, and the suspects were to offload to another vessel. The other vessel left without making the transfer. Two male Mexican nationals were arrested.
 - o (DS) On January 19, INS/BP Agents seized 401 kilograms of marijuana after following footprints of a large group of backpackers that illegally entered the

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- United States west of Tecate, California. The 15 military-style duffel bags contained 173 bundles, 18 of which were covered with wax. One 27-year-old male Mexican national was arrested.
- o (DS) On January 19, INS/BP Agents seized 1,025 kilograms of marijuana from the bed of a Toyota 4x4 pickup with a camper shell and fraudulent California plates after it illegally entered the United States approximately 8 miles east of Calexico, California, at the All American Canal in an area known as the Allison Check. Allison Check is a bridge with locked gates on the north and south sides between the United States and Mexico. An hour earlier, several individuals had been observed at Allison Check, apparently conducting a trial run with a different pickup and 10 scouts opening and closing the gates, allowing the vehicle to pass through. The pickup had proceeded only a short distance before returning to Mexico across the same bridge.
 - o (DS) On January 21, USCS Inspectors at the Otay Mesa, California, POE discovered 505 kilograms of marijuana in a compartment behind the front interior wall of an empty 40-foot 1976 trailer being towed by a tractor, both with California plates. A space discrepancy was noted behind the front plywood wall, and fresh silicone sealant was detected on the top corners of the interior wall. The compartment was 16 inches in depth and reached from floor to ceiling. The 34 bundles of marijuana were vacuum-packed and wrapped in contact paper.
 - o (DS) On January 21, USCS Inspectors at the Otay Mesa, California, POE seized 488 kilograms of marijuana from an empty 1978 Trailmobile trailer being towed by a 1992 International tractor, both with California plates. A hidden compartment, 16 inches deep, was discovered behind the front wall of the trailer. The 448 bundles were wrapped in layers of contact paper, dryer sheets, cellophane, and aluminum foil.
 - o (DS) On January 23, Riverside, California, County Sheriff's officers seized \$500,000 from two men traveling in a 1997 Nissan. A Glock model 20 handgun was also seized. Some currency packages bore the markings "Huero," "Sobronte," "Il," "Lobo," "Chan," "Duke," "M," or "W."
 - o (DS) On January 23, CHP officers seized 11 kilograms of methamphetamine from a 1995 Chevrolet S-10 pickup with California plates. A Hispanic male resident of San Jose, California, claimed to be en route to Dallas, Texas, from San Jose, but had no luggage. The methamphetamine was discovered in the spare tire.
 - o (DS) On January 25, USCS Inspectors at the Calexico, California, POE seized 17 kilograms of cocaine from the cab of a 1990 Ford F-150 pickup with California plates. The 15 unmarked packages of cocaine, wrapped in brown and gray tape, were hidden under a raised floor behind the bench seat inside the cab of the pickup. One 23-year-old male Mexican national resident of Calexico was arrested.
 - o (DS) On January 26, USCS Inspectors at the San Ysidro, California, POE seized 13 kilograms of

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methamphetamine from compartments in the quarter panels of a 1988 Toyota Corolla with California plates. One of the compartments also contained a loaded 10mm handgun and five rounds of ammunition. One 34-year-old male Mexican national residing in Los Angeles, California, was arrested.

- o (DS) On January 27, USCS Inspectors at the San Ysidro, California, POE seized a total of 2.7 kilograms of Mexican black tar heroin from a 1988 Chevrolet Beretta with California plates. Sausage-shaped heroin packages were taped in the groin areas of the occupants. The driver, a 27-year-old female Mexican national, and two juvenile female passengers, all residents of Ontario, California, were arrested.
 - o (DS) On January 27, USCS Inspectors at the Otay Mesa, California, POE discovered 410 kilograms of marijuana in a compartment behind the front wall of an empty 40-foot trailer being towed by a 1978 Kenworth tractor, both with California plates. This was the third marijuana seizure at the Otay Mesa POE in a week involving an apparently empty 40-foot trailer with a hidden compartment behind the front wall. The other two seizures occurred on January 21. In all three cases, the trailers appeared empty, the compartments were 16 inches deep and occupied the entire front portion of the trailer (floor-to-ceiling), and some part of the marijuana packaging involved the use of contact paper.
 - o (DS) On January 28, INS/BP Agents seized 448 kilograms of marijuana from the bed of a 1987 Toyota flatbed pickup with side panels and California plates. The marijuana was loaded into
- the pickup moments earlier by 15 backpackers who crossed the All American Canal at an Imperial Irrigation District concrete work bridge located 4 miles east of the Calexico, California, POE. One 37-year-old male Mexican national, illegally in the United States, was arrested.
- o (DS) On January 28, as the result of an investigation, DEA Special Agents and Imperial County Sheriff's officers seized 395 kilograms of marijuana from an abandoned vehicle in Holtville, California.
 - o (DS) On January 28, CHP officers seized 9.7 kilograms of methamphetamine from a 1989 Nissan Sentra with California plates, traveling south on I-5 in Kern County. Two Mexican males, both residents of Anaheim, California, were en route to Los Angeles, California, from San Francisco, California. The methamphetamine was discovered behind the rear bumper.
 - o (DS) On January 28, joint efforts by USCS and INS Inspectors at the Tecate, California, POE resulted in the seizure of 532 kilograms of marijuana hidden in a compartment in the front of an apparently empty 40-foot trailer being towed by a Peterbilt tractor, both with California plates. Three subjects were arrested.
 - o (DS) On January 29, INS/BP Agents at the checkpoint on I-5 near San Clemente, California, seized 1.3 kilograms of Mexican black tar heroin from a compartment in the battery of a 1986 Ford LTD with Oregon plates. [REDACTED] indicated a U.S. entry by [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

Two male Mexican nationals in their early 30's, residents of Culiacan, Sinaloa, and Tijuana, Baja California Norte, were arrested.

- o (DS) On January 30, as the result of an investigation, DEA Special Agents seized 1.3 kilograms of Mexican black tar heroin in Santa Ana, California. The four ball-shaped packages were wrapped in duct tape and placed inside zip-lock bags. Agents believe this group has been smuggling heroin into the United States inside tires of vehicles entering through California POE's. Two males, 19 and 20 years of age, were arrested.
- o (DS) On January 30, as the result of an investigation, DEA Special Agents seized 17 kilograms of cocaine from a La Puente, California, residence. The 17 packages of cocaine, wrapped in silver tape and cellophane, were discovered inside a suitcase. Two cocaine packages were marked with a Yamaha decal. One 29-year-old female suspect was arrested.
- o (DS) On January 31, CHP officers seized 30 kilograms of cocaine from a 1993 Mitsubishi Montero with Florida plates, traveling north on I-15 in San Bernardino County. The cocaine was discovered under the front fender and in a hidden compartment under the rear seat. The driver and owner of the vehicle, a Mexican male resident of Lauderdale, Florida, and his passenger, a female Colombian national resident of Middletown, New York, traveling with a child, were en route to New York. The couple had flown in from New York the previous day to pick up the vehicle in Los Angeles.
- o (DS) On February 4, as the result of an investigation, DEA Special Agents seized 37 kilograms of cocaine in Long Beach, California. The cocaine was discovered behind interior side panels and within the trunk of a 1992 Nissan with Texas plates. The unmarked packages were wrapped in yellow, orange, and white cellophane.
- o (DS) On February 5, as the result of an investigation, DEA Special Agents seized 100 kilograms of cocaine from a Los Angeles, California, business. Agents believe the cocaine was smuggled into the United States through a California POE. The unmarked cocaine was wrapped in brown tape. One 46-year-old male was arrested.
- o (DS) On February 7, USCS Inspectors at the San Ysidro, California, POE seized 20 kilograms of Mexican brown heroin in the gas tank of a 1982 Datsun B-210 station wagon bearing California plates. Two female U.S. citizens, 28 and 30 years of age, residing in Spring Valley and San Diego, California, were arrested.
- o (DS) On February 9, a multiagency joint operation patrolling the waters off the coast of San Diego, California, seized 458 kilograms of marijuana and a 16-foot inflatable vessel. A vessel with no navigational lights was detected entering U.S. waters from Mexico traveling at a high rate of speed. When the traffickers realized they had been detected, they threw the marijuana overboard and attempted to escape. A U.S. citizen and a Mexican national were arrested.

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- o (DS) On February 14, USCS Inspectors at the Calexico, California, POE discovered 118 kilograms of cocaine inside four unidentified merchandise boxes which were being transported in a 1986 Ford Econoline van with Baja California plates. Other boxes in the load contained aircraft gas turbine parts. The cocaine was divided among the four boxes in 100 individual packages wrapped in cellophane and brown duct tape. One 33-year-old male Mexican national residing in Mexicali, Baja California Norte, was arrested.
- o (DS) On February 14, CHP officers seized 9.5 kilograms of methamphetamine from a 1997 Jeep with Ohio plates, traveling east on I-40 in San Bernardino County. The officers noted the odor of chemicals emanating from the vehicle. Officers located the methamphetamine in 1-pound vacuum-sealed packages. The suspects were allegedly en route to St. Louis, Missouri, from Riverside, California.
- o (DS) On February 14, INS/BP Agents at an agricultural checkpoint on I-10 near Blythe, California, discovered 63 kilograms of cocaine in the rear quarter panel and tailgate of a 1994 Chevrolet Blazer with Texas plates. The driver and his passenger, both 25-year-old male Mexican nationals from Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, claimed to be en route to Santa Monica, California. The driver later admitted to complicity in a cocaine-smuggling scheme from Ciudad Juarez to Yakima, Washington. The two suspects were to receive \$5,000 each for their transportation services. A controlled delivery orchestrated by DEA Riverside, Yakima, and El Paso Special Agents concluded on February 17 with two additional arrests.
- o (DS) On February 14, USCS Inspectors at the Los Angeles, California, seaport seized 625 kilograms of marijuana concealed within a 1,100-box shipment of Choyote fruit shipped aboard the vessel [REDACTED] from Mexico. Inspectors discovered the wrapped and taped packages concealed within 275 boxes of Choyote near the middle of the container.
- o (DS) On February 19, USCS Inspectors at the Otay Mesa POE discovered 438 kilograms of marijuana concealed in a front wall compartment of an empty 40-foot trailer being towed by a 1978 Kenworth tractor with California plates. [REDACTED]
The marijuana was wrapped in contact paper.
- o (DS) On February 20, Los Angeles airport task force officers seized \$379,700 from three white males, two residents of Forrest Hills, New York, and a resident of Great Neck, New York, traveling from Miami, Florida, to Los Angeles, California, on American Airlines. The currency was in their carry-on luggage.
- o (DS) On February 20, as the result of an investigation, DEA Special Agents seized 119 kilograms of cocaine from a residence in Los Angeles, California. The unmarked cocaine was equally divided into kilogram-sized packages, all tightly wrapped in brown packing tape. Further investigation suggests that the source of supply was located in Tijuana, Baja California Norte, and that the cocaine may have been smuggled

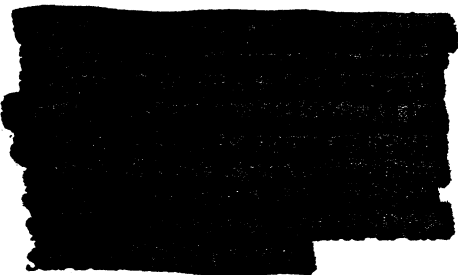
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- into the United States in vehicles at a California POE.
- o (DS) On February 21, USCS Inspectors at the Los Angeles International Airport seized 38 kilograms of opium from three male U.S. citizens arriving aboard a China Airlines flight from Taiwan. Fourteen kilograms were concealed within athletic shoes in one passenger's luggage, 9 kilograms were concealed in food packets contained in the second passenger's luggage, and 15 kilograms were concealed in the third passenger's shoes and luggage.
 - o (DS) On February 24, INS/BP Agents seized 742 kilograms of marijuana from a group of backpackers who had crossed the All American Canal, west of the Calexico POE. Also seized was a 1979 Ford van which was being loaded with the marijuana. All but two of the suspects fled to Mexico. A male Mexican national from Imuris, Sonora, and a female Mexican national from Los Mochis, Sinaloa, were arrested.
 - o (DS) On February 27, an investigation conducted by DEA Special Agents resulted in the seizure of 2.5 kilograms of Mexican black tar heroin in Bell, California. Agents believe that the heroin originated in Tijuana, Baja California Norte, and was probably smuggled into the United States across the California/Mexico border. Four male suspects were arrested.
 - o (DS) On March 3, as the result of an investigation, DEA Special Agents seized 1.2 kilograms of Mexican black tar heroin at a residence in Oxnard, California. Four male Mexican nationals, two residing in Oxnard and two residing in Mexico, were arrested. Agents believe the heroin was smuggled into the United States hidden in vehicles entering at California POE's.
 - o (DS) On March 3, as the result of an investigation, USCS Inspectors at the Calexico, California, POE discovered 953 kilograms of marijuana in the cargo section of a 1987 Ford Econoline van with California plates. The marijuana was destined for Pomona, California.
 - o (DS) On March 4, INS/BP Agents seized 574 kilograms of marijuana after they received an anonymous report that an unidentified individual had been observed retrieving several large bundles from a drainage ditch near the intersection of the All American Canal and the Ash Canal, located 5 miles east of the Calexico, California, POE. The suspect vehicle, a 1973 GMC 4x4 with Mexico plates, was located and subsequently stopped on Ware Road. The driver, a Mexican national illegally in the United States, was arrested.
 - o (DS) On March 4, CHP officers in El Centro, California, seized 583 kilograms of marijuana from a 1984 Dodge van bearing Mexico plates. A male Mexican national resident of Mexicali, Baja California Norte, was arrested.
 - o (DS) On March 6, USCS Inspectors at the San Ysidro, California, POE discovered 10 kilograms of methamphetamine concealed in the gas tank of a 1973 Dodge van with Baja California plates. The methamphetamine was broken down into 20 packages wrapped in layers of cellophane and grease. Also found in the gas tank were 21 kilograms of marijuana. [REDACTED]

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- led into the gas tank. One 34-year-old male Mexican national residing in Tijuana, Baja California Norte, was arrested.
- o (DS) On March 7, CHP officers seized \$227,332 from a 1991 Nissan Sentra with California plates, traveling east on I-10 in Riverside County. A Hispanic male resident of Thermal, California, was en route to Thermal from Los Angeles, California. The currency was located in the rear side panels.
 - o (DS) On March 8, USCS Inspectors at the Los Angeles, California, international airport seized 1.1 kilograms of heroin from a male Mexican national resident of Las Vegas, Nevada, arriving on Delta Airlines from Acapulco, Mexico. The 18-year-old male concealed the heroin in the insulation of a thermos cooler found inside a brown box he was carrying.
 - o (DS) On March 18, Ontario Police officers, assisting DEA Special Agents, seized 10 kilograms of methamphetamine from a 1989 Ford pickup with California plates in Ontario, California. Two Hispanic males, both residents of Chino, California, were arrested. The methamphetamine was located in the cab and in a filing cabinet located in the bed of the pickup.
 - o (DS) On March 19, USCS Inspectors at the Los Angeles, California, international airport seized 4.8 kilograms of opium concealed in an express mail parcel arriving from Beyastis, Turkey, and destined for Los Angeles, California. The opium was discovered within five lacquer picture frames.
 - o (DS) On March 20, DEA Special Agents seized 413 kilograms of marijuana from a 1995 Chevrolet van with California plates in Otay Mesa, California. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] The marijuana was wrapped in layers of plastic, tape, and baby powder, and marked with numbers corresponding to individual package weights. Two males, 35 and 37 years of age, were arrested.
 - o (DS) On March 20, CHP officers seized \$350,000 from a 1989 Mazda van with Ohio plates, traveling west on I-40 in San Bernardino County. Two males, residents of Compton and Los Angeles, California, were en route to Los Angeles from Cleveland, Ohio. The currency was discovered in two hidden compartments built into the rear seats.
 - o (DS) On March 26, as the result of an investigation, DEA Special Agents seized 1.1 kilograms of Mexican black tar heroin in Camarillo, California. The heroin was transported by a female courier who traveled from Mexicali, Baja California Norte, but it is unknown how she entered the United States. One 47-year-old male subject was arrested.
 - o (DS) On March 26, CHP officers seized 431 kilograms of marijuana from the rear cargo area of a 1991 Ford Aerostar van with Arizona plates. The vehicle was found abandoned on I-8 West near El Centro, California. [REDACTED]

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DEA Nassau and Metro-Dade Police officers, seized 20 kilograms of liquid hashish oil from two male passengers who had arrived at the Miami International Airport in Miami, Florida, from Freeport, Bahamas, on board Bahamas Air.

Delaware

- o (DS) On March 19, USCS Inspectors at the Wilmington, Delaware, seaport seized 21 kilograms of cocaine discovered in the refrigeration unit of a cargo container shipped aboard the vessel [REDACTED] arriving from Santa Marta, Colombia. The bricks of cocaine had been placed around the intake fan and were discovered by the crew when the refrigeration unit malfunctioned during the voyage.

Florida

- o (DS) On January 9, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 31 kilograms of cocaine discovered in the starboard compartments within the front wheel well of an Arrow Airline aircraft that had arrived from Medellin, Colombia.
- o (DS) On January 10, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 1 kilogram of suspected Colombian heroin from a male Colombian national resident of Palmira, Colombia, arriving on American Airlines from Cali, Colombia. The 80 pellets of heroin had been ingested.
- o (DS) On January 10, DEA Miami Special Agents, in conjunction with

- o (DS) On January 11, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 10 kilograms of cocaine on an American Airlines flight arriving from St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. The cocaine was discovered in an abandoned hard-sided suitcase.
- o (DS) On January 13, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport discovered 2 kilograms of cocaine concealed inside bottles of essence. The bottles were contained in two separate packages, and were in transit from Quito, Ecuador to Madrid, Spain.
- o (DS) On January 14, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 1.2 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a male Colombian national resident of Cali, Colombia, arriving from Cali on American Airlines. The 37-year-old seaman had ingested 24 pellets of heroin.
- o (DS) On January 15, USCS Inspectors at the Port Everglades, Florida, seaport seized 175 kilograms of cocaine from a cargo container shipped aboard the vessel [REDACTED] arriving from Panama via Costa Rica. The cocaine was concealed in cartons of bicycles.
- o (DS) On January 15, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, seaport seized 120 kilograms of cocaine from a container shipped aboard the vessel

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[REDACTED] arriving from Costa Rica. The cocaine was discovered after inspectors stripped the container and drilled the front wall.

- o (DS) On January 15, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 6.6 kilograms of cocaine found on an Aces Airline aircraft. An aircraft search was performed and the cocaine packages were discovered between the rear galley wall and starboard side bathroom. To remove the cocaine, an airline mechanic had to cut a small circular hole into the side wall of the bathroom.
- o (DS) On January 16, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 36 kilograms of cocaine from the wheel well area of a Lineas Aereas Suramericanas commercial aircraft arriving from Colombia.
- o (DS) On January 17, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 11.6 kilograms of cocaine from a black leather bag left on an American Airlines flight arriving from Port-au-Prince, Haiti.
- o (DS) On January 19, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 1 kilogram of heroin from a female passenger and her boyfriend arriving on American Airlines from Cali, Colombia. The heroin was discovered in shoes worn by the female passenger and in sandals contained in the passengers' checked luggage. A wallet was also found to contain heroin.
- o (DS) On January 22, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 19 kilograms of cocaine from six unclaimed bags that had arrived from Caracas, Venezuela, on a Viasa flight.
- o (DS) On January 22, marine enforcement officers recovered six bales containing approximately 230 kilograms of cocaine. The cocaine had washed ashore near Fort Lauderdale, Florida.
- o (DS) On January 23, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, seaport seized 65 kilograms of cocaine from a cargo container shipped aboard the vessel [REDACTED] arriving from Panama. The cocaine was discovered below netted and boxed squash.
- o (DS) On January 25, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized \$522,625 within computer battery packs at the Aerofloral warehouse. The currency was in transit from Jamaica, New York, through Miami, Florida, to Colombia.
- o (DS) On January 26, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 1.4 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a female Colombian national resident of North Hills, California, arriving from Cali, Colombia, on American Airlines. The heroin was concealed in the shoes she was wearing, in two pair of shoes in her luggage, and in a jacket.
- o (DS) On January 27, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 1.1 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a passenger arriving on American Airlines from Cali, Colombia. The passenger had ingested 88 pellets of heroin.
- o (DS) On January 29, USCS Inspectors at the Port Everglades, Florida, seaport

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- seized 10 kilograms of cocaine from a container shipped aboard the vessel [REDACTED], which arrived from Panama via Costa Rica. The cocaine was concealed in a duffel bag located at the rear of the container.
- o (DS) On February 1, USCS Inspectors at Port Everglades, Florida, seized 205 kilograms of cocaine discovered in a container of floor tiles that had arrived from Colombia aboard the Crowley American Transport Lines vessel [REDACTED] via Jamaica. The cocaine was in travel bags commingled with the tiles.
 - o (DS) On February 6, USCS Inspectors at the International Courier Association in Miami, Florida, seized 123.6 kilograms of cocaine concealed in 3 of 12 TNT courier bags arriving from Bogota, Colombia. The three courier bags containing the cocaine had not been manifested.
 - o (DS) On February 7, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 1 kilogram of suspected Colombian heroin and \$1,100 in counterfeit currency from a male Colombian national resident of Astoria, New York, arriving from Cali, Colombia, on American Airlines. The heroin was concealed in the soles of a pair of Adidas sneakers and a pair of Brahma boots.
 - o (DS) On February 15, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 14 kilograms of cocaine from an Aero Peru aircraft. The cocaine was discovered in abandoned luggage.
 - o (DS) On February 16, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 705 grams of liquid cocaine and 959 grams of heroin from a female passenger arriving aboard American Airlines flight 960 from Cali, Colombia. The cocaine was concealed in two condoms that had each been placed in the bottom of a bottle of lotion. The heroin was concealed in the soles of the shoes worn by the passenger. A second female passenger aboard this same flight attempted to smuggle 227 grams of cocaine and 682 grams of heroin into the Miami International Airport using the same concealments.
 - o (DS) On February 16, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 1 kilogram of suspected Colombian heroin from a female passenger and her son who had arrived aboard American Airlines from Cali, Colombia. The heroin was concealed in the soles of the shoes worn by both passengers. Additionally, the female passenger had ingested heroin.
 - o (DS) On February 16, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 41 kilograms of cocaine from abandoned luggage that arrived on Avianca Airlines from Bogota, Colombia.
 - o (DS) On February 16, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 2.8 kilograms of heroin from a male Colombian national arriving on an American Airlines flight from Cali, Colombia. The heroin was concealed in the shoes worn by the passenger and in a second pair of shoes in his luggage.

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- o (DS) On February 21, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 1.8 kilograms of heroin from a passenger arriving aboard American Airlines from Managua, Nicaragua. The heroin was concealed in six unusually heavy jackets, each giving off a glue-like odor.
- o (DS) On February 22, USCS Special Agents seized 612 kilograms of marijuana which had been concealed on the sailing vessel [REDACTED]. The marijuana, seized on Stock Island, Key West, Florida, brought to an end a 5-month investigation into a drug-smuggling importation conspiracy.
- o (DS) On February 25, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 15 kilograms of cocaine from a 25-piece air cargo shipment of flowers. The cocaine was discovered in tubes that had been inserted into the stems of the sunflowers.
- o (DS) On February 25, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 1.5 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a male Colombian national resident of Bogota, Colombia, arriving from Panama City, Panama, on American Airlines. The heroin was concealed within the sides of his suitcase. The 43-year-old male was carrying a French passport and was destined for New York City.
- o (DS) On February 28, approximately 2,268 kilograms of marijuana was seized at the Miami, Florida, seaport from a container manifested as syrup and crackers. The container had arrived aboard the vessel [REDACTED] from Jamaica.
- o (DS) On March 2, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 1.3 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a female Colombian national resident of Cali, Colombia, arriving on American Airlines from Cali. The 25-year-old female concealed the heroin within the lining of her cosmetic and lingerie bags.
- o (DS) On March 3, USCS Inspectors and Florida National Guard personnel at the Miami, Florida, seaport seized 1,480 kilograms of cocaine discovered in a container of sanitary ware that had arrived on the vessel [REDACTED] from Cartagena, Colombia. The cocaine was found inside 41 boxes located near the nose of the container.
- o (DS) On March 4, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 44 kilograms of cocaine from two abandoned bags that had arrived on a Lan Chile flight from Santiago, Chile.
- o (DS) On March 4, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 28 kilograms of cocaine from three Federal Express packages that had arrived from Bogota, Colombia, and were destined for Amsterdam, Netherlands. The cocaine was discovered in posters.
- o (DS) On March 4, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 1.2 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a male Guatemalan national resident of Guatemala City, Guatemala, arriving from Cali, Colombia, on American Airlines. The 27-year-old male had ingested 100 pellets of heroin.

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- o (DS) On March 7, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 9 kilograms of cocaine from an Avianca Airlines aircraft arriving from Colombia. The cocaine was concealed in six food carts in the rear galley.
- o (DS) On March 7, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 87 kilograms of cocaine discovered under a floor constructed above the bottom of a crate of personal effects arriving on a Lineas Aereas Suramericanas flight from Bogota, Colombia.
- o (DS) On March 7, USCG personnel intercepted the sailing vessel [REDACTED] east of Port Everglades, Florida. The vessel was escorted to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, where a joint boarding was conducted. A destructive search revealed two concealed compartments containing 158 kilograms of cocaine.
- o (DS) On March 11, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 16.8 kilograms of cocaine from an American Airlines aircraft that had arrived from Lima, Peru, and was departing for Bogota, Colombia. The cocaine was discovered in both cockpit intercoms.
- o (DS) On March 15, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 23.4 kilograms of hash oil from a male U.S. citizen resident of Opa-Locka, Florida, arriving from Caracas, Venezuela, on Air Jamaica. The hash oil was in his carry-on luggage.
- o (DS) On March 19, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 38 kilograms of cocaine from an unmanifested courier bag shipped aboard an Avianca flight arriving from Bogota, Colombia.
- o (DS) On March 19, USCS Inspectors seized 141 kilograms of marijuana and a 29-foot Phantom Ocean racer vessel. The vessel was running without navigation lights 30 miles east of Dade County, Florida. It entered Biscayne Bay and fled with USCS vessels in pursuit. The vessel's crew threw several pieces of luggage containing marijuana overboard. After colliding with one USCS vessel and ramming another, the racer vessel was boarded. Four Bahamian nationals were placed under arrest.
- o (DS) On March 20, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 15.4 kilograms of cocaine from cargo shipped aboard a commercial airlines flight from Bogota, Colombia, destined for Spain. The cocaine was concealed inside 21 cans labeled Palmitos and Duraznos en Mitades (Palm Hearts and Peach Halves).
- o (DS) On March 20, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 15.1 kilograms of cocaine from a female passenger arriving on AeroPeru Airlines from Peru. The cocaine was concealed under the bottom of a bag contained inside another bag.
- o (DS) On March 22, USCS Inspectors and Florida National Guard personnel at Port Everglades, Florida, seized 1,363 kilograms of marijuana discovered in a container, manifested as 500 cases of syrup, that arrived from Kingston, Jamaica, aboard the vessel [REDACTED]

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The packages of marijuana were hidden among the rows of syrup.

- o (DS) On March 28, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, seaport seized 403 kilograms of cocaine from a cargo container that had arrived aboard the vessel [REDACTED] from Colombia. The cocaine was discovered by drilling the nose of the container from the exterior.
- o (DS) On March 28, USCS Inspectors at the Miami, Florida, international airport seized 4.5 kilograms of cocaine from cargo that had arrived aboard Tampa Airlines. The cocaine was discovered in seven boxes marked "Honey of Bee." Examination of the bottles of honey revealed false tops filled with a small amount of honey and the balance of the bottle filled with a dark colored liquid which tested positive for cocaine.

Georgia

- o (DS) On January 3, Bryan County, Georgia, sheriff's officers seized \$441,520 from the trunk of a 1994 Lincoln Town Car with New York plates, traveling south on I-95. The Colombian couple, residents of Flushing and New York City, New York, were en route to Miami, Florida, from New York. The currency was stacked loosely in neatly folded articles of clothing in their luggage.
- o (DS) On January 26, Villa Rica, Georgia, police officers seized 956 kilograms of marijuana from a 1987 Fruehauf refrigerated trailer being towed by a 1997 Kenworth tractor traveling east on I-20 in Carroll County. A Hispanic male resident of Edcouch,

Texas, was en route to Atlanta, Georgia, from McAllen, Texas. The tractor was registered to an individual in Pharr, Texas, and the trailer was registered to a firm in Mission, Texas. The marijuana was discovered within boxes of papayas located on pallets in the front portion of the trailer. The boxes of papayas in the rear of the trailer were stacked nearly to the ceiling of the trailer, but were poorly packed with many boxes overturned on the floor between the loaded pallets. In the rear half of the trailer, the pallets were loosely stacked to allow one to see in and around the boxes. The front half of the load was packed very tightly. The marijuana was located in boxes found under the boxes in the middle of the tight load. The marijuana and papayas were wrapped in Mexican newspapers dated January 24, 1997.

- o (DS) On January 27, Savannah, Georgia, Operation JETWAY Task Force officers seized \$232,610 from two male Venezuelan nationals, residents of Valencia and Carabobo, Venezuela, traveling from New York City, New York, to Miami, Florida, on an Amtrak train. The currency was in their carry-on luggage.
- o (DS) On January 30, Gainesville Operation JETWAY Task Force officers seized approximately \$988,000 from suspects traveling from New York City, New York, to New Orleans, Louisiana, via Toccoa, Georgia, and Gainesville, Georgia, on an Amtrak train. There was currency in six pieces of luggage.
- o (DS) On February 10, Carroll County, Georgia, sheriff's deputies seized 682 kilograms of marijuana from a 1988 Great Dane cargo trailer, towed by a

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1992 Freightliner with Arizona plates, traveling on I-20 west of Atlanta, Georgia. The marijuana was found inside three metal vaults which were manifested as fine delicate furniture from Mexico. Wooden boxes, also inside the trailer, purportedly filled with furniture, contained only sand bags. Each vault held 227 kilograms of marijuana and could be opened only by a locksmith. Two male U.S. citizens, 43 and 37 years of age and residents of Tucson, Arizona, were en route to the Bronx, New York City, from Tucson.

- o (DS) On February 16, Lowndes County, Georgia, sheriff's officers seized \$150,747 from a rented 1997 Mitsubishi Diamante with Florida plates, traveling south on I-75. Two Hispanic males, accompanied by a juvenile female, residents of Hialeah and Miami, Florida, were en route to Miami from Atlanta, Georgia. The currency was found inside a nylon bag on the floor of the vehicle. A small amount of marijuana was also found.
- o (DS) On February 26, Lowndes County, Georgia, sheriff's officers seized 27 kilograms of cocaine from a rented 1997 Dodge Caravan with Illinois plates, traveling north on I-75. Two black males, both residents of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, were en route to Detroit, Michigan, from Florida. There were only two of four screws holding speakers in the side walls of the van. The remaining screws were found in a cupholder. After the speakers were removed, packages wrapped in green plastic and smeared with grease were found. There were 14 kilograms of cocaine hidden in the right side wall and 13 kilograms in the left

side wall. Each package had the marking "POSTOBON" on the outside.

- o (DS) On March 6, Spalding County, Georgia, sheriff's officers seized 30 kilograms of cocaine from a 1994 Ford Thunderbird with Illinois plates, traveling north on I-75. A black couple, residents of Harvey, Illinois, was en route to Harvey from Miami, Florida. The front trunk wall behind the rear seat was closer to the rear of the vehicle than normal. While tapping on the wall, officers could hear objects falling and moving around. The center armrest in the rear seat area had been sewn shut and the rear seat had been securely mounted to the frame. Officers also noticed a wire originating from behind the rear seat. Attaching a power source to the wire released the rear seat, which revealed the cocaine in a compartment 1½ feet deep and running the width of the vehicle. The seat back had been secured by two trunk latches, one on each side. The cocaine was wrapped in brown packing tape and some of the kilogram-sized packages were marked "XXO."
- o (DS) On March 21, Gwinnett County Sheriff's deputies seized \$489,850 discovered in the trunk of a rented 1997 Buick Skylark with Virginia plates in Duluth, Georgia. Two male Colombian nationals, one a resident of Colombia and the other from Miami, Florida, were en route to Atlanta, Georgia, from New York City.

Hawaii

- o (DS) From January 14 to 30, USCS Inspectors at the Honolulu, Hawaii, mail facility seized a total of 40.1 kilograms of opium in 28 parcels arriving from

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Laos and destined for Sacramento, Fair Oaks, Folsom, Orangevale, Carmichael, Stockton, Woodland, Galt, and Rancho Cordova, California, and Sloughhouse, Louisiana. The opium was concealed predominately in saturated wood chips.

- o (DS) On February 5, USCS Inspectors at the Honolulu, Hawaii, international airport seized a total of 3.1 kilograms of opium in two parcels arriving from Laos and destined for Sacramento, California. The opium was concealed among saturated wood chips and inside packets of an herbal mixture.
- o (DS) On February 11, USCS Inspectors at the Honolulu, Hawaii, international airport seized a total of 4.1 kilograms of opium in three parcels arriving from Laos and destined for Sacramento and Elks Grove, California. The opium was concealed among saturated wood chips, inside 14 packages of Port Satay Seasoning Mix, and inside 16 metal cans.
- o (DS) On February 12 and 13, USCS Inspectors at the Honolulu, Hawaii, international airport seized a total of 3.3 kilograms of opium from two parcels arriving from Laos and destined for Elk Grove and Sacramento, California. The opium was concealed in medicinal packages and in saturated wood chips.
- o (DS) Between February 19 and 25, USCS Inspectors at the Honolulu, Hawaii, international airport seized a total of 7.4 kilograms of opium from five parcels arriving from Laos and destined for Elk Grove, Sacramento, and Galt, California. The opium was concealed in sealed rat poison packs and saturated wood chips.
- o (DS) On March 14, USCS Inspectors at the Honolulu, Hawaii, international airport seized 2.1 kilograms of opium in a parcel arriving from Laos and destined for Sacramento, California. The opium was saturated into wood chip pulp cakes.
- o (DS) On March 20, USCS Inspectors at the Honolulu, Hawaii, international airport seized 1.1 kilograms of opium from a parcel arriving from Laos and destined for Waterford, California. The opium was saturated in wood chips.
- o (DS) On March 28, USCS Inspectors at the Honolulu, Hawaii, international airport seized 1.4 kilograms of opium from a parcel arriving from Laos. The opium was concealed in 80 commercially sealed tea bags.

Illinois

- o (DS) On January 7, Illinois State Police officers seized 14.3 kilograms of cocaine from a 1993 Chevrolet pickup with Texas plates, traveling north on I-57 in Effingham County. The Hispanic driver, a resident of San Antonio, Texas, and his Hispanic female passenger from Houston, Texas, were en route to Indianapolis, Indiana, from Houston. The cocaine was found inside existing cavities in the extended cab area. A controlled delivery in Indianapolis resulted in the arrest of three Cuban nationals.
- o (DS) On February 5, Illinois State Police officers seized 20 kilograms of cocaine from a 1990 Buick Regal with California plates, traveling west on I-80 in LaSalle County. Two male Mexican nationals, residents of Mexicali, Baja California Norte, were en route to

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Omaha, Nebraska, from Cicero, Illinois. The cocaine was concealed inside an electrically controlled compartment built into the rear quarter panels. Trunk releases were used to open the hinged compartments. The packages of cocaine had the number "13," the word "CORONA," a picture of a small red sports car, or a picture of a yellow bulldog on them.

- o (DS) On March 10, Illinois State Police officers seized \$320,000 from a rented 1997 Mercury with Oregon plates, traveling south on I-55 in Montgomery County. Two Hispanic females, residents of southern California, were en route to El Paso, Texas, from Chicago, Illinois. One of the subjects was posing as an invalid and hid part of the currency hidden underneath her leg braces. The other subject had the remaining currency taped around her legs and midsection. The women had flown to Chicago from Mexico. Their passports showed recent travel.

Kansas

- o (DS) On January 20, Kansas Highway Patrol officers seized 391 kilograms of marijuana and \$1,000 from a 1992 Pace Arrow motor home with California plates, traveling north on I-35 in Osage County near Melvern. Two white males, residents of San Diego, California, were arrested. The marijuana was found behind a wall that covered the entire back closet of the motor home. The compartment was approximately 6 inches deep and the screws and molding had to be removed

from the plywood in order to access the packages of marijuana.

- o (DS) On March 6, Kansas Highway Patrol officers seized \$304,983 from a rented 1998 Ford Windstar van with Indiana plates, traveling west on I-70 in Ellsworth County near Salina. A black male resident of Indianapolis, Indiana, was en route to Fairfield, California, from Indianapolis. The currency was inside a duffel bag located in the cargo area of the van. Dryer sheets had been placed among the bundles of currency; however, a drug-detection canine alerted to the vehicle.

Kentucky

- o (DS) On March 20, Kentucky Department of Motor Vehicles officers seized 381 kilograms of marijuana in a tractor-trailer traveling north on I-75 in Laurel County near London, Kentucky. Two male Jamaican nationals, legal permanent residents of Fort Lauderdale and Landerhill, Florida, were en route to Springfield, Massachusetts. Approximately 284 kilograms were found in the trailer, and the tractor held 97 kilograms of marijuana within two nylon bags located in the sleeper berth. All of the marijuana had been picked up in Houston, Texas, and only the marijuana in the tractor was destined for Cleveland, Ohio.

Louisiana

- o (DS) On January 17, Louisiana State Police officers seized 816 kilograms of marijuana from a 1985 Chevrolet Silverado with a camper shell, escorted by two other vehicles, traveling east on I-10 in Slidell, St. Tammany Parish. All three vehicles had Louisiana plates.

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A Mexican male was en route to New Orleans, Louisiana. The marijuana was found inside 36 cardboard boxes located in the bed of the truck under the camper shell. The two escort vehicles were a 1989 Dodge Spirit and a 1984 Buick Skylark. The marijuana came from Chihuahua, Mexico; however, [REDACTED]

(DS) On February 9, Madison Parish Sheriff's officers seized 341 kilograms of cocaine from a 1989 Ford pickup with Texas plates, traveling north in the southbound lane, north of I-20 near Tallulah, Louisiana. The two men had been on I-20, but exited from I-20 at Tallulah. The bed of the pickup was made of particle board, under which was a metal floor containing several openings to a compartment. The men, residents of Northridge, California, were destined for New York from Mexico. [REDACTED]

- o (DS) On March 9, Louisiana State Police officers seized 13 kilograms of cocaine from a 1989 Dodge van with Louisiana plates, traveling east on U.S. Highway 90 in Jefferson Parish. Three males were en route to New Orleans, Louisiana. The cocaine was discovered inside two pieces of luggage on the floor behind the seats.

Michigan

- o (DS) On March 6, Michigan State Police officers seized 342 kilograms of marijuana from a rented 1996 Peterbilt

tractor traveling north on U.S. Highway 23 in Washtenaw County near Whitmore Lake. The white male resident of Red Oak, Texas, was en route to Ann Arbor, Michigan, from Mission, Texas. The large marijuana packages had been smeared with motor oil and the letter "E" had been handwritten on some of them. The smaller marijuana packages, smeared with diesel fuel, appeared to have been compressed.

Mississippi

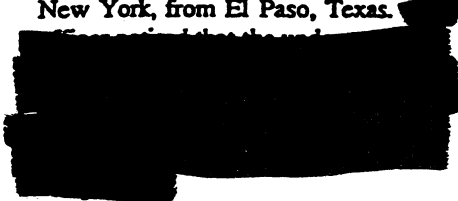
- o (DS) On January 17, Mississippi Highway Patrol officers seized 2,495 kilograms of marijuana from a 1985 trailer with Texas plates, being towed by a 1991 Peterbilt tractor with Illinois plates, traveling east on I-20 in Rankin County. The driver, from Alice, Texas, was en route to Atlanta, Georgia, from McAllen, Texas.
- o (DS) On February 2, Rankin County, Mississippi, sheriff's officers seized 10 kilograms of crystal methamphetamine from a Nissan pickup with expired Georgia plates, traveling east on I-20. The Hispanic male resident of Pico Rivera, California, was arrested. The crystal methamphetamine was found under the dashboard and in the rocker panel area.
- o (DS) On March 24, Hancock County, Mississippi, sheriff's officers seized 27 kilograms of cocaine from a 1987 Mitsubishi pickup, with a camper shell and temporary New York plates, traveling east on I-10. A black male was en route to New York from Houston, Texas. The cocaine packages, wrapped in garbage bags and duct tape and smeared with axle grease, were

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found inside luggage in the bed of the pickup.

Missouri

- o (DS) On January 29, Phelps County Sheriff's officers seized 251 kilograms of cocaine from a 1991 Ford F-350 flatbed truck with Oklahoma plates, traveling east on I-44 near Rolla, Missouri. The couple, both from Pennsylvania, was en route to Yonkers, New York, from El Paso, Texas.



- o (DS) On January 29, Missouri Highway Patrol officers seized \$473,790 from the trunk of a rented 1997 Dodge Intrepid with Minnesota plates, traveling south on I-35 in Clay County near Liberty. Two white males from Minneapolis and Hanover, Minnesota, were en route to Houston, Texas, from Minneapolis.
- o (DS) On February 28, Missouri Highway Patrol officers seized 47 kilograms of cocaine and 158 kilograms of marijuana from a 1993 Kenworth conventional tractor with Oklahoma plates, at the weigh station in Pemiscot County. Two male El Salvadoran nationals, residents of Los Angeles, California, were en route to St. Louis, Missouri, from El Paso, Texas. The drugs were found in a hidden compartment located under the sleeper mattress. The access plate, attached with screws, was located underneath the bed. Axle grease had been used as a

masking agent. A 2-foot-long machete was found with the drugs.

- o (DS) On March 18, Missouri Highway Patrol officers seized 991 kilograms of marijuana from a 1989 Freightliner tractor with temporary Florida plates, towing a refrigerated trailer, traveling east on I-44 in Greene County near Springfield. A white male resident of Cocoa, Florida, was en route to Cincinnati, Ohio, from Odessa, Texas. The 61 bundles of marijuana were located under moldy bales of hay in the nose of the trailer.

Nebraska

- o (DS) On February 9, Nebraska State Patrol officers seized 15 kilograms of methamphetamine from a 1989 Ford pickup with California plates, traveling east on I-0 in Hall County near Grand Island. Two Hispanic males, residents of Livingston, California, were en route to Sioux City, Iowa, from Livingston. The methamphetamine was concealed inside all four tires mounted on the pickup.
- o (DS) On February 22, Nebraska State Patrol officers seized 23 kilograms of cocaine from the trunk of a rented 1997 Dodge with California plates, traveling east on I-80 in Lancaster County. The couple, both residents of Indianapolis, Indiana, was detained.
- o (DS) On February 24, Nebraska State Patrol officers seized 17 kilograms of cocaine from a 1994 Mercury Marquis with Illinois plates, traveling east on I-80 in Hall County. A couple, traveling with their two minor children (9 and 6 years of age), both residents of Chicago, Illinois, was en route to

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Chicago from Phoenix, Arizona. The cocaine was found inside a hidden compartment located between the rear passenger seat and trunk. The packages of cocaine were wrapped with contact paper which was decorated with animals and dinosaurs. The inner wrapping was green cellophane, and some of the packages were marked "GTN."

Nevada

- o (DS) On February 2, Nevada Highway Patrol officers seized 13.6 kilograms of methamphetamine from a 1989 Ford Taurus with Iowa plates, traveling north on I-15 in Clark County. The Hispanic couple, both residents of Los Angeles, California, was traveling from Los Angeles to a destination in Iowa, possibly Muscatine. The methamphetamine was hidden within the vehicle's rocker panels. The packages were loaded from the front of the rocker panels and had string attached to them, apparently for easy extraction.
- o (DS) On February 11, Nevada Highway Patrol officers seized \$760,550 from a 1990 Ford van with California plates, traveling south on I-15 in Clark County. The currency, which was wrapped in foil and masking tape, was hidden within the van's walls. Two Hispanic males, one a resident of Downey, California, and the other a resident of Corona, New York, were en route to California from Denver, Colorado.

New Jersey

- o (DS) On January 1, USCS Inspectors at the Newark, New Jersey, international airport seized 1.4 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin and \$700 in counterfeit currency from a male U.S. citizen resident of Jackson Heights, New York, arriving from Colombia on Avianca Airlines. The 20-year-old male had ingested the heroin and concealed it in deodorant spray cans and Barelli shoes.
- o (DS) On January 2, New Jersey State Police officers seized \$426,428 from a stolen 1996 Jeep Grand Cherokee with New Jersey plates, traveling south on the New Jersey turnpike in Salem County. Three male and two female Colombian nationals, residents of Miami, Florida, and Bogota, Colombia, were en route to Miami from Queens, New York City.
- o (DS) On January 3, USCS Inspectors at the Newark, New Jersey, international airport seized 1.3 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a male Colombian national resident of Elizabeth, New Jersey, arriving from Colombia on Avianca Airlines. The 28-year-old male had concealed the heroin in the soles of two pairs of shoes, in two leather organizers, and in two wallets.
- o (DS) On January 21, USCS Inspectors at the Newark, New Jersey, seaport seized 366 kilograms of cocaine from a container shipped aboard the vessel [REDACTED] arriving from Colombia. Cargo in the container consisted of eight pallets of boxes of books and one pallet of five burlap and three plastic bundles. The cocaine was

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discovered on the latter pallet, suggesting an internal conspiracy.

aboard the vessel CSAV RUNGUE from Ecuador.

- o (DS) On January 22, USCS Inspectors at the Newark, New Jersey, seaport seized 83 kilograms of cocaine and 27 kilograms of marijuana from a refrigerated cargo container shipped aboard the vessel [REDACTED]. The drugs were concealed in the support beams of the pallets carrying the cargo.
- o (DS) On January 24, USCS Inspectors at the Newark, New Jersey, international airport seized 1.2 kilograms of heroin from a female passenger who had arrived aboard Avianca Airlines from Colombia. The heroin was concealed internally and ingested.
- o (DS) On February 2, New Jersey State Police officers seized \$300,497 from the trunk of a rented 1996 Pontiac with Florida plates, traveling south on the New Jersey Turnpike near Woolwich Township, Gloucester County. A male Colombian national resident of Miami, Florida, was en route to Miami from Manhattan, New York City.
- o (DS) On February 5, USCS Inspectors at the Newark, New Jersey, international airport seized a total of 1.3 kilograms of heroin from two female passengers arriving from Aruba aboard Air Aruba. The heroin was sewn into the women's bras, carried internally, and taped to their groin areas.
- o (DS) On February 10, USCS Inspectors at the port of Newark, New Jersey, seized 485 kilograms of cocaine discovered inside the roof of a refrigerated container manifested as bananas. The container had arrived
- o (DS) On February 26, USCS Inspectors at the Newark, New Jersey, international airport seized 1.6 kilograms of heroin from a male passenger arriving from Colombia aboard Avianca Airlines. The heroin was concealed in the soles of two pairs of shoes in his luggage. The heroin was also found on his body and in his wallet, belt, and shoes.
- o (DS) On March 9, USCS Inspectors at the Newark, New Jersey, international airport seized 1.3 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a female passenger who had arrived from Colombia on Continental Airlines. The heroin was concealed in her purse and in her carry-on cosmetic bag.
- o (DS) On March 13, USCS Inspectors at the Newark, New Jersey, seaport seized 109 kilograms of cocaine from cargo shipped aboard the vessel [REDACTED] from the Dominican Republic. The container was manifested as having 950 cans of guava pulp, 26 of which contained the cocaine.
- o (DS) On March 27, USCS Inspectors at the Newark, New Jersey, international airport seized 9.6 kilograms of cocaine from an Avianca Airlines aircraft arriving from Colombia. Three bricks of cocaine were discovered behind the walls around the left side rear emergency door, and six bricks were discovered in the same location around the right door of the aircraft.

New Mexico

- o (DS) On January 16, USCS Inspectors at the Columbus, New Mexico, POE

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discovered 2.5 kilograms of Mexican black tar heroin in a hidden compartment under the engine manifold area of a 1990 Toyota pickup with California plates. The five packages were wrapped in cellophane and hidden inside a plastic mold shaped to fit the underside of the engine manifold. The concealed compartment was discovered after the engine manifold had been removed. One 33-year-old male Mexican national residing in Hollister, California, was arrested.

- o (DS) On January 18, a New Mexico State Police officer seized 12 kilograms of Mexican brown heroin and 19 kilograms of cocaine discovered in the roof of a camper shell on a 1989 Chevrolet pickup traveling west on I-10 near Lordsburg, New Mexico. The officer also seized 62 kilograms of tablets that are believed to be a form of amphetamine. The tablets were marked "HR60" on one side, and "mini-thins" on the other side. Two male Mexican nationals were en route to Modesto, California, from Laredo, Texas.
- o (DS) On January 21, as the result of an investigation, 363 kilograms of marijuana were discovered at a Vado, New Mexico, residence. One 32-year-old male was arrested.
- o (DS) On January 22, USCS Inspectors at the Columbus, New Mexico, POE discovered 4.8 kilograms of Mexican black tar heroin hidden in a fiberglass mold hidden under the manifold and inside the engine block of a 1989 Toyota pickup with California plates. The compartment under the engine manifold, containing five packages, was molded to conform to the bottom of the manifold. Once the molded

compartment was removed, an additional four packages were found inside the engine block. One 40-year-old female U.S. citizen residing in Visalia, California, was arrested. Also discovered in the driver's purse were an airline ticket receipt, an itinerary from San Francisco, California, to Morelia, Mexico, for January 18, and a map showing a route to the Columbus POE.

- o (DS) On January 22, INS/BP Agents seized 373 kilograms of marijuana from the bed of a 1986 Nissan pickup on New Mexico Highway 9 near Santa Teresa, New Mexico. The pickup was first observed traveling east on New Mexico Highway 9 behind and in tandem with a Dodge Ram 2500 pickup. But, even before these two pickups were sighted, two late-model cars, a Cadillac sedan and a Ford Thunderbird, were observed traveling the same route in a manner that would suggest to the agents that they were scout or lead vehicles. Once the agents attempted to stop the Nissan, the driver drove south off the road, in attempt to flee to Mexico, and became stuck in the sand. The driver exited the pickup and fled south. The lead pickup, the Dodge Ram, was eventually stopped and the driver, a 35-year-old male Mexican national from Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, was arrested. Also seized from both vehicles were two Kenwood two-way radios and two bottles of tequila.
- o (DS) On January 26, INS/BP Agents seized 608 kilograms of marijuana from the bed of a 1994 Chevrolet pickup with Arizona plates and equipped with a camper shell without windows. The pickup was first observed in a remote area of rough terrain west of Deming, New Mexico, and 28 miles north of the

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United States/Mexico border. The pickup was traveling north along New Mexico Highway 146 with the headlights and taillights taped over. Three male U.S. citizens, residents of Deming, were arrested.

- o (DS) On February 21, USCS Inspectors at the Santa Teresa, New Mexico, POE seized 1,131 kilograms of marijuana from a 1980 Ford 800 flatbed commercial truck carrying a load of scrap metal. The marijuana was in twenty-five 55-gallon drums labeled Chopped Green Chilies, which were underneath the scrap metal. The driver, a resident of El Paso, Texas, claimed he was to drop the truck off at a convenience store near the New Mexico/Texas State line where someone else would pick it up.
- o (DS) On March 6, New Mexico State Police officers seized 11 kilograms of methamphetamine from the trunk of a rented 1997 Mercury Sable with Oregon plates, traveling north on I-25 in Valencia County. The male resident of Saltillo, Mississippi, was en route to Tupelo, Mississippi, from Huntington Beach, California.
- o (DS) On March 10, INS/BP Agents at the checkpoint on New Mexico Highway 11, located 13 miles north of the Columbus, New Mexico, POE, seized a total of 140 kilograms of cocaine from two Mercury Grand Marquis sedans. Both vehicles were equipped with identical hidden compartments in the roof and floor. These two seizure incidents occurred within 30 minutes of each other, and both Hispanic couples, residents of Mexicali and Tijuana, Baja California Norte, claimed to be en route to

Deming, New Mexico. Both vehicles are owned by the same Chihuahua, Mexico, resident who was not present in either vehicle. Some of the cocaine packages, in both seizures, bore clear labels of either a leopard or a dove drawn in red ink.

- o (DS) On March 11, USCS Inspectors at the Columbus, New Mexico, POE discovered 99 kilograms of cocaine concealed in hidden compartments within the ceiling and floor of a 1991 Ford Taurus station wagon with Chihuahua, Mexico, plates. This seizure scenario was nearly identical to two seizures made by INS/BP on March 10 at the temporary checkpoint north of Columbus. Five Mexican nationals, one 28-year-old male residing in Cello Grande, Chihuahua, and two females, 31 and 26 years of age, residing in Mexicali, Baja California Norte, and Cerro Grande respectively, as well as two juveniles, were en route from Nuevo Casa Grande, Chihuahua, to El Paso, Texas.
- o (DS) On March 22, USCS Inspectors at the Columbus, New Mexico, POE discovered 71 kilograms of cocaine in hidden compartments behind the head liner and under the floor of a 1994 Ford Topaz with Chihuahua plates. The cocaine packages were wrapped in plastic and stamped with a picture of a dove. These concealment locations, as well as the dove marking, are identical to three recent cocaine seizures made in the Columbus area. The occupants of the vehicle were in the process of obtaining permits to travel to Phoenix, Arizona. Two Mexican nationals from Tijuana, Baja California Norte, who presented themselves as husband and wife, were detained.

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New York

- o (DS) On January 11, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 3.2 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a male Venezuelan national resident of Patria Caracas, Venezuela, arriving from Venezuela on United Airlines. The heroin was concealed within the sides of a suitcase and in the linings of four jackets.
- o (DS) On January 14, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 1.8 kilograms of heroin from a male Ecuadorean national resident of Richmond Hill, New York, arriving on SAETA Airlines from Guayaquil, Ecuador. The heroin was concealed in four jackets and six shirts in his luggage.
- o (DS) On January 21, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 4.1 kilograms of heroin from a male Pakistani national arriving from Germany on a Lufthansa flight. The heroin was concealed within the sides of an American Tourister suitcase.
- o (DS) On January 22, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 1.1 kilograms of heroin from a male Togolese national arriving from Togo via Belgium on a Sabena Airlines flight. The heroin had been ingested.
- o (DS) On January 22, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 1.6 kilograms of heroin from a passenger who had arrived aboard British Airways from Pakistan via Great Britain. The heroin was discovered in a modified hard-sided suitcase.
- o (DS) On February 3, New York City Police officers seized 61 kilograms of cocaine from the trunk of a Lincoln Town Car with New York plates. The male Colombian national resident of Jackson Heights, New York, was en route to an address in Jackson Heights from Washington Heights, New York.
- o (DS) On February 17, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 1.4 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a male passenger arriving aboard Avianca Airlines from Bogota, Colombia. The heroin was discovered in two jackets found in his luggage.
- o (DS) On February 26, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 46.3 kilograms of cocaine from an American Airlines aircraft arriving from Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic. The cocaine was concealed in two abandoned suitcases.
- o (DS) On March 10, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 1.8 kilograms of heroin from a male U.S. citizen resident of Princeton, New Jersey, arriving from Paris, France, on Air France. The 15-year-old male claimed to be a resident of Nigeria living with his grandparents. The heroin was concealed in his shoes.
- o (DS) On March 20, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 5 kilograms of unidentified heroin discovered in the sides of luggage belonging to a Spanish male arriving from Caracas, Venezuela, on American Airlines.

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- o (DS) On March 27, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized a total of 7.9 kilograms of opium from four parcels arriving from Khasab, Oman, and destined for Calabasas, West Hills, Woodland Hills, and North Ridge, California. The opium was concealed in picture frames.

North Carolina

- o (DS) On March 10, Cumberland County, North Carolina, sheriff's officers seized \$398,795 from the trunk of a rented 1996 Chevrolet Cavalier with Florida plates, traveling south on I-95. The Hispanic couple, residents of Astoria, New York, and Fairview, New Jersey, was en route to Miami, Florida, from New York. The currency was primarily tied with rubber bands in \$10,000 bundles. Each \$10,000 bundle consisted of ten \$1,000 bundles.

Oklahoma

- o (DS) On January 1, Oklahoma Highway Patrol officers seized 2 kilograms of Mexican black tar heroin and 79 kilograms of marijuana from a 1991 Dodge pickup with Texas plates, traveling east on I-44 at the Will Rogers Turnpike. The Hispanic couple, brother and sister, residents of Odessa, Texas, was arrested. The inside walls of the extended cab appeared to have been altered and the outside wall of the cab appeared to have recent bondo and paint in two places. The marijuana was hidden in a compartment in the wall of the cab and the heroin was found on the female passenger's body.
- o (DS) On February 7, an Oklahoma Highway Patrol officer seized 5,384 kilograms of marijuana and \$1,054

from a trailer load of onions (some rotten) being towed by a 1988 Peterbilt tractor with Illinois plates, on the Indian Nation Turnpike near McAlester, Oklahoma. The tractor-trailer was involved in an accident, causing the vehicle to overturn and the trailer to break open, spilling out 320 packages of marijuana along with the cover load of onions. Two men, residents of Elmhurst and Chicago, Illinois, were en route to Chicago, Illinois, from either McAllen or Edinburg, Texas.

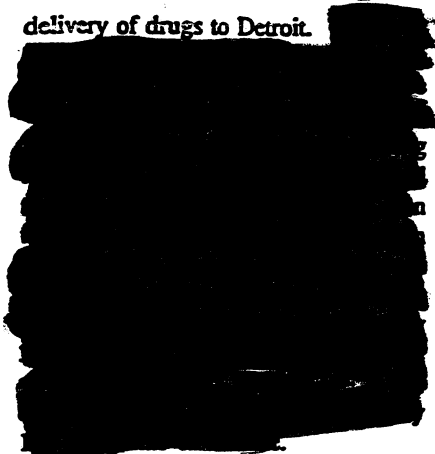
- o (DS) On February 17, Oklahoma Highway Patrol officers seized 473 kilograms of marijuana and \$1,737 from a 1990 Dodge van with Maryland plates, traveling east on I-40 in Washita County near Foss. The male, a resident of Baltimore, Maryland, was en route to Baltimore from Phoenix, Arizona.
- o (DS) On February 23, the Central Oklahoma Metro Interdiction Team seized \$200,490 from a 1995 Acura Legend with Illinois plates, traveling south on I-35 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The Hispanic couple, residents of Chicago, Illinois, was en route to Tucson, Arizona, from Chicago. The bundles of currency were found underneath the back seat.

Pennsylvania

- o (DS) On February 19, Pennsylvania State Police officers seized 6 kilograms of cocaine and \$87,805 from a 1987 Honda Accord with New York plates, traveling east on I-80 in Monroe County. An undocumented male Colombian national resident of Jackson Heights, New York, was en route to New York from Detroit, Michigan. He may have been returning from making a

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delivery of drugs to Detroit.



- o (DS) On February 27, Pennsylvania State Police officers seized 11 kilograms of cocaine and \$1,761 from a 1977 Chevrolet Monte Carlo with New York plates, traveling east on I-76 northwest of Philadelphia. Four kilograms of cocaine and \$1,000 were discovered under the driver's side rear seat, and the remaining 7 kilograms of cocaine were discovered inside a microwave oven in the trunk. The microwave was inside the original, sealed cardboard box. The driver and passenger, both naturalized U.S. citizens originally from Mexico and currently residing in Cudahy and Anaheim, California, were en route to Philadelphia from El Paso, Texas.
- o (DS) On March 30, USCS Inspectors in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, seized 42 kilograms of cocaine from aboard the vessel [REDACTED]. The cocaine was discovered in the ventilation shaft of a cargo hold by crew members during the voyage from Finland to Philadelphia. The packages were wrapped in plastic inside two carry-on bags. Past itinerary of the

vessel showed a port call in Santa Marta, Colombia, on November 8, 1996.

Puerto Rico

- o (DS) On January 13, USCS Inspectors at the San Juan, Puerto Rico, international airport seized 49 kilograms of cocaine discovered in four pieces of abandoned luggage that had arrived from the U.S. Virgin Islands on American Airlines. There were no identification tags on the luggage.
- o (DS) On January 16, USCS Inspectors at the Luis Munoz Marin International Airport in San Juan, Puerto Rico, seized 15.8 kilograms of heroin from a male U.S. citizen resident of Fajardo, Puerto Rico, arriving from Colombia via Costa Rica. The heroin was concealed in the lining of two suitcases. The passenger was also in possession of \$56,300 in counterfeit currency.
- o (DS) On February 4, USCS Inspectors at the seaport in San Juan, Puerto Rico, seized 87 kilograms of cocaine from a container that had arrived aboard the vessel [REDACTED] from Cartagena, Colombia. The cocaine was concealed in nylon tote bags located just inside the container doors.

South Carolina

- o (DS) On February 12, USCS Inspectors in Charleston, South Carolina, seized 17 kilograms of cocaine from the vessel [REDACTED], arriving from Panama. The cocaine was sewn into handmade vests located inside luggage in the nose of the container.

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Tennessee

- o (DS) On February 13, a Shelby County Sheriff's deputy seized 10 kilograms of methamphetamine from a 1967 Ford two-door sedan with California plates, traveling on I-40 east of Memphis, Tennessee. The methamphetamine, wrapped in 20 individual packages, was discovered in a hidden compartment in the trunk. Two females, 25 and 47 years of age, residing in San Bernardino and Fontana, California, were arrested. USCS Special Agents from Oceanside, California, believe the drug was manufactured in Mexico and smuggled into the United States through a California POE.
- o (DS) On March 14, USCS Inspectors in Memphis, Tennessee, seized 22.7 kilograms of cocaine from two parcels that had arrived from Sao Paulo, Brazil, destined for Niamey, Niger. The cocaine was concealed in two parcels with 12 molded fiberglass boxes each, containing paintings. The parcels were manifested to contain "Painting with Cast."
- o (DS) On March 18, USCS Inspectors at the Memphis, Tennessee, international airport seized 22.6 kilograms of cocaine from a Suriname Airlines aircraft that had arrived from Suriname. The cocaine was discovered in a one-piece shipment, manifested to contain a hydraulic pump jack.

Texas

- o (DS) On January 2, INS/BP Agents seized 533 kilograms of marijuana abandoned along a path leading to the river in the La Santa Cruz area of Rio Grande City, Texas. Several

individuals observed in the area fled across the river to Mexico. Some of the bundles were marked with "Lupe" in red ink, the weight in black ink, or the number of kilograms in orange ink.

- o (DS) On January 3, INS/BP Agents seized 592 kilograms of marijuana from the cargo area of a 1992 GMC Ryder 24-foot moving van with Kansas plates near George West, Texas. The marijuana was hidden inside speakers located at the front of the cargo area. The entire van was loaded with musical instruments being transported from Mission, Texas, to Dallas, Texas, for a group known as Deluvio. One 22-year-old male U.S. citizen and one 24-year-old male Mexican national, both residents of Mission, were arrested.
- o (DS) On January 3, INS/BP Agents discovered 648 kilograms of marijuana in the bed of an abandoned 1983 Ford pickup with Texas plates at a block house under construction in Refugio, Texas. The 15 bundles of crudely refined marijuana were carelessly covered with brown carpeting.
- o (DS) On January 4, as the result of an investigation, DEA Special Agents and Task Force Agents seized 383 kilograms of marijuana from a San Antonio, Texas, residence. The agents believe the marijuana belongs to the LOS TEJAS organization.
- o (DS) On January 7, Zavala County Sheriff's officers seized 420 kilograms of marijuana from a 1992 Dodge van with Texas plates, traveling north on U.S. Highway 57 near Batesville, Texas. The male Mexican national, a resident

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of Piedras Negras, Coahuila, was en route to San Antonio, Texas, from the Eagle Pass, Texas, area.

- o (DS) On January 8, INS/BP Agents discovered 522 kilograms of marijuana in a raft in the Rio Grande River near Escobares, Texas. Several subjects were observed crossing the river in the raft, and when challenged, fled back to Mexico.
- o (DS) On January 11, INS/BP Agents at the checkpoint on U.S. Highway 22 near Sarita, Texas, seized 388 kilograms of marijuana under the rear bed of a 1995 Chevrolet Flyer motor home with California plates.
- o (DS) On January 11, as the result of an investigation, USCS Special Agents seized 118 kilograms of cocaine from an El Paso, Texas, residence. The unmarked packages were wrapped in tan tape.
- o (DS) On January 12, INS/BP Agents at the checkpoint on U.S. Highway 281 near Falfurrias, Texas, seized 350 kilograms of marijuana from the cargo area of a U-Haul being towed by a 1985 Ford bus with Texas plates. The marijuana was discovered inside speaker units.
- o (DS) On January 13, USCS Inspectors at the Bridge of the Americas POE in El Paso, Texas, seized 39 kilograms of cocaine discovered in a hidden floor compartment of a 1987 Dodge Aries station wagon with Mexico plates. The
- o (DS) On January 15, INS/BP Agents seized 1,061 kilograms of marijuana from inside of a 1981 Plymouth Voyager van with Texas plates. The van was first observed at the Rio Grande River near Madero, Texas, being loaded with large bundles. It was followed to an area near the Rancho Apartments in Madero where the driver stopped the van and fled. One 28-year-old male U.S. citizen was later apprehended.
- o (DS) On January 15, Nueces County Sheriff's officers seized \$528,406 from a rented Dodge Caravan traveling south on U.S. Highway 77 in Robstown, Texas. The Hispanic male was en route to Monterrey, Mexico, from Houston, Texas. The vehicle renter, who was not in the vehicle, was subsequently arrested for money laundering. There was a discrepancy in the insulation around the tire jack where currency was hidden. Bundles of money were also discovered in the fenders, inside both front door panels, inside both sliding door panels, and inside the backs of the rear seats.
- o (DS) On January 15, USCS Inspectors in Houston, Texas, seized 1,089 kilograms of cocaine from a container that had arrived in Houston from Venezuela aboard the vessel [REDACTED]
- o (DS) On January 16, Maverick County, Texas, sheriff's officers seized 772 kilograms of marijuana from an abandoned 1984 Chevrolet Suburban. The officers saw the Suburban leave the

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- banks of the Rio Grande River near Eagle Pass and conducted a traffic stop. The driver fled and swam back to Mexico.
- o (DS) On January 17, USCS Inspectors at the Laredo, Texas, POE seized 1,225 kilograms of marijuana and \$200,000 from an International tractor with Mexico plates. The marijuana was concealed within boxes of iron beds originally manifested for delivery to Houston, Texas. The cargo was being hauled from San Nicolas de los Garza, Nuevo Leon, to Orlando, Florida. The marijuana and cash were concealed within individual bed boxes, with each of these boxes labeled differently from the legitimate boxes. One 51-year-old male Mexican national residing in Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, and several others were arrested.
 - o (DS) On January 20, INS/BP Agents seized 746 kilograms of marijuana from the bed and passenger area of a 1988 Chevrolet pickup with Texas plates near Salineno, Texas. When challenged by the INS/BP Agents, they all jumped into a motor boat and fled back to Mexico.
 - o (DS) On January 22, as the result of an investigation, INS/BP Agents, in coordination with USCS and DEA Special Agents, seized 91 kilograms of cocaine from a Del Rio, Texas, residence. An earlier arrest of one 25-year-old male U.S. citizen attempting to smuggle three Chinese aliens into the United States revealed the existence of this drop house. The unmarked cocaine packages were wrapped in cellophane.
 - o (DS) On January 24, INS/BP Agents seized 668 kilograms of marijuana hidden under tarps in the beds of two pickups, a 1974 Ford F-100 and a 1978 Chevrolet Sierra, both bearing Texas plates. The vehicles were parked in front of a residence in the El Chaparral subdivision of Rio Grande City, Texas. The 34 bundles of marijuana were cylindrical shaped. Two 33-year-old male Mexican nationals were arrested.
 - o (DS) On January 26, INS/BP Agents seized 499 kilograms of marijuana at a residence 1 mile east of Alto Bonito, Texas, on U.S Highway 83. The marijuana was discovered after agents followed footprints of 20 individuals to a house.
 - o (DS) On January 27, USCS Inspectors at the Bridge of the Americas POE in El Paso, Texas, discovered 23 kilograms of cocaine in an oversized spare tire bolted under the bed of a 1984 Chevrolet S-10 pickup with Texas plates. The 12 bundles of cocaine were wrapped in cellophane and yellow tape with "94" written in blue marker on one of the bundles. There were illegible marks on the other bundles. One 19-year-old male U.S. citizen residing in Berino, New Mexico, was arrested.
 - o (DS) On January 27, USCS Inspectors at the Pharr, Texas, POE discovered 944 kilograms of marijuana in a compartment under the floor of a refrigerated trailer, loaded with watermelons, being towed by a Freightliner tractor as it entered the United States.
 - o (DS) On January 28, USCS Special Agents seized 42 kilograms of cocaine from the trunk of a Mercury Grand

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Marquis with Texas plates. The packages were wrapped in yellow plastic tape and rubber and hidden inside two spare tires. Two males, in their 20's, were arrested. After further investigation, an additional 98 kilograms of cocaine were seized from a residence in El Paso, Texas. A 20-year-old male resident of El Paso was arrested.

- o (DS) On January 29, combined investigative efforts by USCS Special Agents, Texas DPS Investigators, and South Texas Auto Theft Enforcement Task Force officers led to the seizure of 649 kilograms of marijuana from an Edinburg, Texas, residence. Earlier information indicated the residence was being used to store stolen vehicles and drugs. One 22-year-old male U.S. citizen residing in Edinburg was arrested and admitted to being involved in smuggling marijuana from Mexico across the river near Rio Grande City, Texas.
- o (DS) On January 30, subsequent to information received that drugs were being shipped via American Freightways, DEA El Paso Special Agents seized 636 kilograms of marijuana contained in 22 U-Haul boxes on 2 pallets. The shipment was destined for Elizabethtown, New Jersey.
- o (DS) On February 2, a Refugio County Sheriff's officer seized 1,005 kilograms of marijuana and \$1,600 from a 1987 Utility trailer being towed by a 1986 Peterbilt tractor, both bearing Florida plates, traveling north on U.S. Highway 77 near Refugio, Texas. The marijuana was hidden under crates of produce. The driver claimed the marijuana belonged to a Jamaican organization operating from Florida and New York, and that he was to be paid \$50,000 upon delivery. One 40-year-old male Jamaican national residing in North Lauderdale, Florida, was en route to New York from McAllen, Texas.
- o (DS) On February 3, INS/BP Agents seized 457 kilograms of marijuana from the rear passenger area of a 1984 Ford Bronco bearing fraudulent Texas plates, 7 miles west of the Fabens, Texas, POE. The vehicle was observed traveling east and then west along the levee road until it left the levee road and continued west along the riverbank. As the agents closed in, the driver made a sudden turn into the river, where the driver and passenger abandoned the vehicle and swam across the river to Mexico.
- o (DS) On February 4, USCS Inspectors at the Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas, international airport seized a total of 1,009 grams of heroin from two American Airlines Boeing 757 aircraft that had arrived from San Jose, Costa Rica. The heroin was discovered under seats, inside the electrical boxes that contain the telephone and headphone wires of the aircraft. On February 6, USCS Inspectors seized 904 grams of heroin inside electrical boxes underneath aircraft seats on an American Airlines flight arriving from Cali, Colombia. On February 20, a total of 118 grams of heroin was discovered in the electrical box of an aircraft seat on an American Airlines flight arriving from Costa Rica. On March 6 and 14, a total of 719 grams of heroin was concealed in the same location. The American Airlines flights had arrived from San Jose, Costa Rica.


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- o (DS) On February 4, Texas DPS officers seized 33 kilograms of cocaine from a 1994 Nissan Sentra with Texas plates, traveling east on I-40 in Oldham County near Vega. The two black occupants, both residents of Dallas, Texas, were en route to Dallas from California. The cocaine was found hidden in the rear quarter panels.
- o (DS) On February 5, Texas DPS officers seized 1,556 kilograms of marijuana from a 1995 Ford utility van with New York plates, traveling north on U.S. Highway 59 in Panola County near Carthage. Two Jamaican males were en route to five separate locations: New York City, New York; Rochester, New York; Washington, D.C.; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; from Houston, Texas. The marijuana was found in boxes commingled with used furniture in the cargo area.
- o (DS) On February 5, Texas DPS officers seized 14 kilograms of methamphetamine from a 1987 Ford Ranger pickup with Texas plates, traveling east on I-10 in Fayette County near Schulenburg. A male Mexican national resident of Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, was en route to Pasadena, Texas, from Laredo, Texas. The methamphetamine was found inside a duffel bag located on the floorboard.
- o (DS) On February 5, INS/BP Agents at the checkpoint on U.S. Highway 77 near Sarita, Texas, seized 3,284 kilograms of marijuana from a 1961 Masten LPX Transport propane tanker trailer being towed by a 1992 Freightliner tractor, both bearing Texas plates. The driver claimed that the tanker was empty; however, the agents noticed substantial readings on the pressure gauge. The trailer was also freshly painted, with new decals and placards placed all over the tanker. The marijuana was visible inside the tanker. There were three small propane tanks inside the trailer, with lines running to various points inside the tanker, to give the appearance the tanker was pressurized. One 54-year-old male U.S. citizen residing in Bishop, Texas, was arrested.
- o (DS) On February 7, INS/BP Agents seized 472 kilograms of marijuana from three backpackers and the driver of a 1985 Ford van, 4 miles north of the Laredo, Texas, POE. The backpackers claimed that they were to be paid \$300 each to transport the marijuana across the river to the load site. The driver claimed that he was to be paid \$500. One 26-year-old male U.S. citizen residing in Mexico, and three male Mexican nationals were arrested.
- o (DS) On February 8, as the result of an investigation, DEA McAllen Special Agents seized 154 kilograms of cocaine from a 1986 Ford van with Indiana plates in Pharr, Texas. The cocaine was in five duffel bags, two of which were marked with the name "Ovinis."
- o (DS) On February 10, as the result of an investigation, task force agents seized 454 kilograms of marijuana at a residence in Houston, Texas.
- o (DS) On February 12, USCS Inspectors at the Ysleta POE in El Paso, Texas, discovered 38 kilograms of cocaine concealed in the dashboard of a 1971 Dodge van with Chihuahua plates. One 28-year-old male Mexican national

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- residing in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, was arrested.
- 26-year-old male Mexican national was arrested.
- o (DS) On February 12, INS/BP Agents seized 392 kilograms of marijuana from a U-Haul being towed by a 1989 Ford van with Texas plates near Raymondville, Texas. The marijuana was inside produce boxes. A couple was arrested.
 - o (DS) On February 13, INS/BP Agents at the checkpoint on U.S. Highway 281 near Falfurnias, Texas, discovered 20 kilograms of cocaine in a compartment constructed behind the front wall of a 1992 Ford pickup with Texas plates. The unmarked cocaine was wrapped in duct tape and brown packing tape. Also seized were 10 kilograms of marijuana. Two males, 37 and 18 years of age, and one 37-year-old female were detained.
 - o (DS) On February 13, Texas DPS officers seized 30 kilograms of cocaine from a 1995 Chevrolet pickup with Texas plates, traveling east on I-10 in Gonzales County near Harwood. The Hispanic male resident of San Antonio, Texas, was en route to Houston from San Antonio. A rubber floor mat was laying on top of the gas tank and the gas tank showed signs of having been previously removed. The marijuana was inside the functioning gas tank.
 - o (DS) On February 14, INS/BP Agents, assisted by Starr County Sheriff's deputies, seized 1,052 kilograms of marijuana from backpackers east of Falcon Dam, Texas. The marijuana was discovered after agents received a report that a Ford Explorer and a GMC van were observed being loaded with bundles at a landing near the dam. One
 - o (DS) On February 15, INS/BP Agents at the checkpoint on U.S. Highway 281 near Falfurnias, Texas, seized 885 kilograms of marijuana from a 1995 Gulfstream Sun motor home with Texas plates. The driver, a 32-year-old female U.S. citizen, claimed she was given the keys to the motor home at a Wal-Mart in McAllen, Texas, and was en route to McKinley, Texas.
 - o (DS) On February 15, Maverick County Sheriff's deputies responded to a 911 call concerning drugs being loaded into the rear of a van parked at an Eagle Pass, Texas, residence. The deputies discovered 360 kilograms of marijuana and 182 kilograms of cocaine inside a 1991 Chevrolet pickup and a 1984 GMC van parked inside the fence of the residence.
 - o (DS) On February 16, Maverick County Sheriff's officers discovered 772 kilograms of marijuana in a 1984 Chevrolet Suburban with Texas plates, at the Rio Grande River near Eagle Pass, Texas. The driver abandoned the vehicle and fled south to Mexico on foot.
 - o (DS) On February 16, INS/BP Agents seized 1,002 kilograms of marijuana south of Donna, Texas. The marijuana, divided into 34 numbered bales, was found along the riverbank and in an abandoned 1987 Chevrolet Astro van with temporary Texas plates. The van was at the riverbank with the engine running. One 42-year-old male Mexican national was apprehended.

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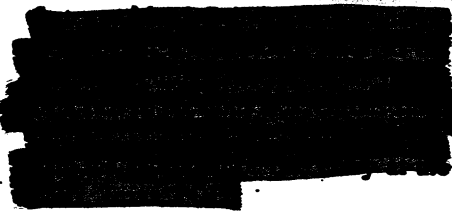

- o (DS) On February 16, as the result of an investigation, DEA Special Agents seized 475 kilograms of marijuana from a 1984 Chevrolet van with Texas plates in Alamo, Texas. The marijuana was reportedly en route to Sarasota, Florida.
- o (DS) On February 17, Refugio County Sheriff's officers seized 851 kilograms of marijuana from a 1985 Freightliner tractor towing a 1990 Fontain flatbed trailer, both with Texas plates, traveling north on U.S. Highway 77 in Refugio County near Woodsboro, Texas. A male Mexican national legal permanent resident of Houston, Texas, was en route to Houston from Raymondville, Texas. The subject was transporting a street roller, a backhoe bucket, and a dump truck bed on the flatbed trailer.


... This was the second seizure by Refugio County Sheriff's officers involving the concealment of marijuana in a street roller on a flatbed trailer.
- o (DS) On February 17, Texas DPS officers seized 412 kilograms of marijuana from a 1991 Freightliner tractor towing a Great Dane flatbed trailer, both bearing Texas plates, traveling on U.S. Highway 77 near Riviera, Texas. The vehicle was stopped for inspection at the weigh station. The load on the flatbed trailer consisted of steel beams; however, the marijuana was discovered in compartments built behind the sleeper walls of the tractor. One 38-year-old male was en route to Houston, from the Rio Grande Valley area.
- o (DS) On February 17, as the result of an arrest by U.S. Marshals, DEA Special Agents seized 4,105 kilograms of marijuana from a warehouse in Dallas, Texas. A commercial vacuum scaler and air compressor, computerized scales with label marker, and packaging materials were also seized. Two suspects were arrested.
- o (DS) On February 17, Alice, Texas, police officers seized \$248,810 from a Plymouth Voyager with Illinois plates, traveling south on U.S. Highway 281. Two Hispanic males and one Hispanic female, one a resident of Edinburg, Texas, were en route to McAllen, Texas, from Chicago, Illinois. Sixteen bundles of currency were found, with the assistance of a canine, in a bag half full of dog food. The rest of the currency was found hidden in the female's purse and undergarments.
- o (DS) On February 18, USCS Inspectors at the Hidalgo, Texas, POE seized \$231,435 in currency and \$220 in counterfeit currency from a Hispanic male as he attempted to enter Mexico in a 1994 Nissan Sentra. The currency was discovered behind the rear seat and under the rear speaker console.
- o (DS) On February 18, Texas DPS officers seized \$500,000 from the trunk of a 1991 Ford with Texas plates, traveling south on U.S. Highway 77 in San Patricio County near Sinton. A white male resident of Austin, Texas, was arrested.

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- o (DS) On February 21, INS/BP Agents in Salinero, Starr County, Texas, discovered 436 kilograms of marijuana under the bed of a 1984 Ford pickup with Texas plates.
- o (DS) On February 25, INS/BP Agents discovered 500 kilograms of marijuana abandoned by a group of 20 backpackers at the Rio Grande River near Fronton, Texas. All of the backpackers dropped bundles and fled south to Mexico, when approached by the agents.
- o (DS) On February 26, INS/BP Agents at the Falfurrias, Texas, checkpoint seized 21 kilograms of cocaine from the quarter panels of a 1987 Dodge Ramcharger with Texas plates. One Mexican national resident of Mission, Texas, was arrested. A vehicle archive check revealed that a vehicle bearing the same Texas plates had crossed the border through the Hidalgo, Texas, POE 5 hours prior to the seizure.
- o (DS) On February 26, Texas DPS officers seized 20 kilograms of cocaine from a Mexican male legal permanent resident of the United States. The Mission, Texas, resident was driving his 1987 Dodge Ram with Texas plates northbound on U.S. 281 in Hidalgo County en route to Alvin, Texas, from McAllen, Texas. The cocaine was found in the quarter panels of the vehicle. Research indicates a vehicle bearing the same Texas plates entered the United States at the Hidalgo International Bridge POE in Hidalgo, Texas, prior to the stop.
- o (DS) On February 27, INS/BP Agents seized 648 kilograms of marijuana from a vehicle with Texas plates near Carrizo Springs, Texas.
- o (DS) On February 28, as the result of an investigation, DEA Special Agents seized 381 kilograms of marijuana in McAllen, Texas.
- o (DS) On February 28, Texas DPS officers seized \$165,000 discovered in the gas tank of a 1992 Ford pickup traveling south from Houston, Texas, on U.S. Highway 77 in Willacy County.
- o (DS) On March 2, Texas DPS officers seized 23 kilograms of cocaine from a 1994 Mercury with Georgia plates, traveling north on U.S. Highway 79 in Panola County. The black male resident of College Park, Georgia, was en route to Atlanta, Georgia, from Houston, Texas. The cocaine was in a hidden compartment built into the rear bumper. Some of the cocaine packages were stamped with the word "CORONA" in black letters, while the rest of the packages were unmarked and wrapped in brown or yellow tape.
- o (DS) On March 5, INS/BP Agents seized 355 kilograms of marijuana from the bed and behind the seats of a 1982 Ford Lariat pickup with Texas plates, 1 mile north of the checkpoint on I-35 north of Laredo, Texas. A few minutes earlier, the pickup had run the checkpoint after the driver had been instructed to proceed to secondary inspection, leaving behind his driver's license. The driver was identified as a 28-year-old male U.S. citizen residing in Encinal, Texas. The truck was discovered after a Webb County Sheriff's deputy reported an abandoned pickup that had crashed into the front gate of a local ranch.

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- o (DS) On March 6, a DEA investigation led task force officers, who were assisted by Odessa, Texas, police officers, to 987 kilograms of marijuana at a residence in Odessa. The marijuana was hidden inside a storage building behind the residence. Five subjects were arrested. One bundle, wrapped in layers of cellophane, fabric softener sheets, and mustard, had a cardboard piece taped to it with the number "18" written on it. 
- o (DS) On March 6, Colorado County, Texas, sheriff's officers, assisted by 25th Judicial District Narcotics Task Force officers, Weimar Police officers, and Eagle Lake Police officers, seized 33.6 kilograms of unmarked cocaine from the gas tank of a 1992 Chevrolet extended cab pickup traveling east on I-10 near Weimar, Texas. The Hispanic male driver entered Texas through the Eagle Pass area and was destined for Houston, Texas. The subject stated that he had made a trip 2 days previously to deliver cocaine.
- o (DS) On March 7, Texas DPS officers discovered 5 kilograms of an unknown type of heroin in the quarter panels of a 1987 Mercury Cougar with Texas plates, traveling north on U.S. Highway 77 near Riviera, Texas. Subsequent investigation revealed that the owner of the heroin was an attorney from Reynosa, Tamaulipas, who was eventually arrested. The driver, a 22-year-old male Mexican national resident of McAllen, was en route from McAllen to Houston where four other men would meet him at a motel and he would turn over the vehicle keys. 
- o (DS) On March 7, as the result of an investigation, law enforcement authorities seized 613 kilograms of marijuana, \$289,500, six firearms, and five vehicles at two residences in Fort Worth, Texas.
- o (DS) On March 11, as the result of an investigation, DEA Special Agents seized 554 kilograms of marijuana from a Roma, Texas, residence. One 47-year-old male was arrested.
- o (DS) On March 12, INS/BP Agents at the checkpoint on U.S. Highway 281 south of Falfurrias, Texas, seized 367 kilograms of marijuana from the bed of a 1976 Ford pickup with Texas plates. One 40-year-old female was arrested.
- o (DS) On March 13, Texas DPS officers seized 1,361 kilograms of marijuana from a hidden compartment built in the front wall of a utility trailer being towed by a Freightliner tractor, both bearing Texas plates, traveling east on I-20 near Weatherford, Texas. The trailer was also carrying a shipment of assorted produce. The marijuana was packaged in compressed bundles of various sizes; wrapped in combinations of cellophane, foil, black electrical tape, and green plastic; and bore various unspecified markings. The sealant of the 4-foot-deep compartment was still damp at the time of the seizure. One 50-year-old male U.S. citizen residing in San Elizario, Texas, was en route to the

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Bronx, New York City, from El Paso, Texas.

- o (DS) On March 18, as the result of an investigation, USCS Special Agents seized 378 kilograms of marijuana from a residence in El Paso, Texas. Two suspects were arrested.
- o (DS) On March 19, USCS Inspectors at the Bridge of the Americas POE in El Paso, Texas, seized 907 grams of white heroin from the passenger of a 1985 Ford Crown Victoria with Chihuahua plates. The heroin was strapped to the passenger's body. Two male Mexican nationals, 22 and 23 years of age, residing in El Paso and Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, respectively, were arrested.
- o (DS) On March 20, INS/BP Agents at the checkpoint located on I-10 west of Sierra Blanca, Texas, discovered 677 kilograms of marijuana in a 1990 North American trailer being towed by a 1994 Freightliner tractor, both bearing Texas plates. The marijuana was inside 17 U-Haul boxes located in the middle section of the trailer. A couple, accompanied by their daughter and residing in Euless, Texas, was arrested.
- o (DS) On March 20, INS/BP Agents seized 308 kilograms of marijuana discovered in the bedroom of a Rio Grande City, Texas, residence.
- o (DS) On March 21, as the result of an investigation, DEA Special Agents seized 724 kilograms of marijuana from a Pharr, Texas, residence. One 40-year-old male subject was arrested.
- o (DS) On March 23, El Paso Police officers seized 383 kilograms of marijuana from a 1995 Chevrolet Blazer towing a homemade flatbed trailer, traveling east on the I-10 access road in El Paso, Texas. Two Hispanic males, 50 and 27 years of age and residents of Arlington, Texas, were en route to Charlotte, North Carolina, from El Paso. The boxes of marijuana were commingled with tire rims.
- o (DS) On March 23, Texas DPS officers seized 499 kilograms of marijuana from the sleeper area of a 1993 Kenworth tractor with Georgia plates, traveling north on U.S. Highway 59 in Victoria County. The black male residents of Statesboro, Georgia, were en route to Houston, Texas, from McAllen, Texas.
- o (DS) On March 23, a USCG/INS/BP team seized 493 kilograms of marijuana delivered by a Mexican lancha on Boca Chica Beach. The lancha was initially sighted beached but got underway when it detected the patrol vehicle. An INS/BP vessel was vectored to intercept the fleeing lancha, which was identified as one that had been earlier loitering south of the border. The marijuana was located in a hole dug in the sand.
- o (DS) On March 24, USCS Inspectors at the Laredo, Texas, POE discovered 107 kilograms of cocaine in the fifth-wheel area of a 1978 Kenworth tractor trailer towing an empty flatbed trailer, bearing Mexico and Texas plates respectively. The cocaine was divided into 100 kilogram-sized bricks wrapped in cellophane. One 49-year-old male Mexican national residing in Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, was arrested.
- o (DS) On March 28, USCS Inspectors at the Houston, Texas, seaport seized 907 kilograms of cocaine from cargo that

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had arrived aboard the vessel [REDACTED] from Venezuela. The cocaine was discovered after inspectors drilled the chlorine cylinders, the manifested cargo of the container.

U.S. Virgin Islands

- o (DS) On March 5, USCS Inspectors at the St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands international airport seized 30 kilograms of cocaine discovered in the cargo hold of a Delta Airlines aircraft. The cocaine was in an abandoned suitcase.

Utah

- o (DS) On January 13, Sevier County Sheriff's officers seized 422 kilograms of marijuana from a 1996 Winnebago motor home with New York plates, traveling east on I-70 near Salina, Utah. Two male Jamaican nationals and one male Indian, residents of Brentwood and the Bronx, New York City, and a black female from San Diego, California, were detained. The marijuana was found inside 13 metal containers located under the hide-a-beds of the motor home. The containers were made out of metal furnace duct material, the ends had been bolted on, putty was smeared over the screws, and black undercoating was sprayed over the entire area.
- o (DS) On February 19, Sevier County Sheriff's officers seized 9 kilograms of methamphetamine from the trunk of a rented 1996 Pontiac Grand Am with Minnesota plates, traveling east on I-70 near Richfield, Utah. A white male resident of Minnesota was en route to Minneapolis, Minnesota, from Las Vegas, Nevada.

Virginia

- o (DS) On January 22, Virginia State Police officers seized 22.5 kilograms of cocaine from the trunk of a 1984 Chevrolet Beretta with Virginia plates, traveling south on U.S. Highway 13 in Northampton County. Two black females, residents of Virginia Beach and Norfolk, Virginia, were en route to Norfolk from Salisbury, Maryland, and were accompanied by two minor children. The cocaine consisted of nine packages weighing 2 kilograms each and two packages weighing 1 kilogram each. Eight of the large packages were wrapped in cellophane and one in yellow plastic. The two small packages were wrapped in black electrical tape and an outer layer of clear cellophane. Six of the large packages were marked with a red spray-painted "V." The remaining three large packages bore a red spray-painted "P." The two small packages were unmarked.

Washington, D.C.

- o (DS) On February 20, Washington, D.C. Amtrak Police officers seized \$237,250 from five Hispanic males, residents of New York City, New York; San Ysidro, California; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and Puerto Rico. They were traveling from New York, to Orlando, Florida, on Amtrak. The currency was in their carry-on luggage.
- o (DS) On March 20, USCS Inspectors at the Dulles International Airport in Washington, D.C., seized 1.5 kilograms of heroin from a male German national resident of New York City, New York, arriving on United Airlines from Zurich, Switzerland, via Colombia. The heroin was in four pairs of footwear.

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DEA
EPIC Domestic Quarterly Threat Brief, Jan - Mar
1997

Articles of General Interest: Exec Summary

ARTICLES OF GENERAL INTEREST

DOMESTIC

SOUTHWEST BORDER THREAT ASSESSMENT - CY96

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

(DS) During CY96, the Southwest border continued to be the preferred corridor to smuggle drugs into the United States. Entry across the Southwest border was achieved primarily by using land conveyances. Drug seizure amounts increased with the exception of cocaine, which again decreased. Traffickers continue to take advantage of the busiest ports by blending in with legitimate border-crossing activities, whether it is pedestrian traffic or private or commercial vehicles. Sparsely populated areas between the ports of entry (POE's) are also used to move drugs into the United States by pedestrians, on horseback, and in vehicles. In addition to the vehicular and pedestrian threats, private aircraft movements and maritime activities also play a role in smuggling at the border.

(DS) Intelligence indicated that single- and twin-engine aircraft continued to play a significant role in the transportation of drugs to staging areas in northern Mexico, where hundreds of private, abandoned, and clandestine airstrips facilitate the movement of drugs via aircraft. In CY96, the State of Sonora, opposite Arizona, was by far the most active, with half of the suspect air activities along the border recorded there. In addition to flights fading over Sonora, there were also suspect flights initially detected over Sonora flying through Arizona into California.

(DS) The [redacted] administration increased its military presence along the

border during CY96. New military bases were built, and hundreds of soldiers were deployed to military garrisons along the border. Successful military interdiction and reconnaissance operations were carried out, and permanent checkpoints were established in some areas. There were several reported incursions into the United States by Mexican military personnel; however, none resulted in confrontation with U.S. law enforcement authorities.

(DS) Law enforcement personnel on both sides of the border were targets of escalating armed violence. Some of the violence was believed to be directed against rival drug organizations vying for control of overland corridors. Seven current or former Federal prosecutors, agents or commanders in Tijuana, Baja California Norte, were slain in CY96. Much of the violence in Mexico appeared to implicate corrupt Mexican officials who were tied to smuggling operations. On the U.S. side of the border, Federal, State and local law enforcement officers are increasingly confronted with violence from drug traffickers and street-gang members. In south Texas, an INS/Border Patrol (INS/BP) Agent was killed during an exchange of gunfire with marijuana smugglers in the vicinity of Eagle Pass. An increasing number of weapons were seized from vehicles used to transport drugs across the border; and at methamphetamine lab sites.

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(DS) The U.S. border with Mexico continues to be the most vulnerable geographic area of the United States to trafficking of the widest variety of illegal drugs. The Northern Mexico border area and the adjacent California and Texas coasts afford traffickers unparalleled access to maritime, land, and air smuggling routes, using all conceivable conveyances. There has been no reduction in quantity or pace of drug smuggling in any of the five major Southwest border drug corridors in the last year, which is also reflected in low drug price and high purity indicators. Marijuana, heroin, and methamphetamine seizure totals increased in CY96 from the previous year, reflecting at least a sustained level of availability. Mexican black tar remains the predominant heroin type in all the Western States; California is witnessing an explosion of methamphetamine manufactured in Mexican megalabs scattered along the border; and Mexican marijuana is still the most available of all the four drugs of concern.

(DS) Cocaine, however, remains the primary drug threat. The CY96 drop in Southwest border cocaine seizures represents an anomaly in the face of interagency estimates that indicate relative parity between the flow of cocaine through the Central America/Mexico axis to the Southwest border and the flow through the Caribbean axis to Florida. Of the 582 metric tons of cocaine estimated to have moved toward the United States in CY96, as much as 57 percent is believed to have been destined to cross the Southwest border. Fully 70 percent of that amount (234 metric tons) is believed to have moved through the eastern Pacific corridor using air and maritime conveyances alone, virtually all of it destined for the Southwest border States. There is no reliable estimate on the amount of cocaine transiting overland through

Central America and Mexico to the United States, but it is believed to be significant.

(DS) Cocaine seizures continued to decrease (13 percent) for the second consecutive year. Seizure amounts for the entire border totaled 35,602 kilograms, with 67 percent of the cocaine being seized in Arizona and California. The majority of the cocaine was seized as a result of investigations; however, several significant seizures were made at the POE's from commercial trailers. Cocaine was found in commercial transformers in Nogales and in compartments in a refrigerated meat trailer in Brownsville. The largest cocaine seizure in CY96 was made in Tucson, where 5,298 kilograms were found in a warehouse. Subsequent investigations into this seizure indicated that the shipment was probably owned by the [REDACTED] organization. Maritime smuggling along the south Texas coast, previously confined to marijuana, expanded in CY96 to include the movement of cocaine.

(DS) Marijuana seizures along the Southwest border totaled 474,870 kilograms in CY96. This is an increase of approximately 14 percent over CY95, comparison based on 100-kilogram seizure threshold applied to both years. California and South Texas seized 69 percent of the borderwide total in CY96. More marijuana (31 percent) was interdicted at the POE's than was interdicted between the POE's (23 percent). In California and West Texas, a higher percentage of the marijuana was seized at the POE's than between them; whereas in Arizona, New Mexico, and South Texas, more marijuana was interdicted between the POE's than at the POE's. During the second half of CY96, maritime-smuggling activity increased along the southern California coast, with marijuana being smuggled into San Diego from the

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Coronado Islands, just south of the United States/Mexico border.

(DS) Heroin seizures along the border totaled 233 kilograms in CY96, a 32-percent increase over the previous year, and an increase for the third consecutive year. The majority was seized in California (52 percent of the borderwide total), followed by South Texas and West Texas (33 percent). Interdiction at the POE's accounted for 60 percent of the heroin seized along the border in CY96. The single largest border heroin seizure was 25 kilograms, seized on January 25 at the Del Rio POE from a motor home. The majority of heroin seized on the border was of Mexican origin; however, Colombian heroin was encountered in four incidents in El Paso, with seizures totaling 9.4 kilograms. Colombian heroin was smuggled through the El Paso POE from commercial airline passengers who arrived at the Ciudad Juarez International Airport, and used an airport shuttle or taxi to cross the border.

(DS) For the past 3 calendar years, methamphetamine seizures have increased slightly; however, seizure amounts in California doubled from CY95 amounts. A single large seizure of methamphetamine (315 kilograms) in CY95 in New Mexico skewed the totals for that year. In CY96, 787 kilograms of methamphetamine were seized, with the greatest amount being seized in California (85 percent). Interdiction at the POE's accounted for 68 percent of the methamphetamine seized along the Southwest border, with California POE's alone accounting for 465 kilograms. Mexican traffickers south of the border have increasingly supplanted U.S.-based motorcycle gangs in the production of methamphetamine, and now control most of the sources of supply; seizures continue to show California as the main arrival area for methamphetamine now produced in Mexico.

The Mexican-controlled labs south of the border are consistently producing amounts in excess of 100 pounds per 2-day cook; they have established reliable delivery schedules and high purity levels; and they have well-established contacts in southern California.

(DS) Street gangs operating in communities along the Southwest border are involved in drug distribution at the street level (primarily heroin and cocaine), stolen vehicles, and weapons trading. Most of the gangs are comprised of family members or longtime friends from the communities. Gang members have recently begun to present a more clean-cut appearance in order to reduce their visibility and blend into the community. It is common for members to be well-armed with high-grade semiautomatic handguns, assault rifles, and shotguns. The San Diego Logan Heights gang has been associated with protecting and carrying out assassinations for the [REDACTED] organization and the Mexican Mafia.

(DS) The Southwest border is one line of defense in efforts to reduce drug availability in the United States. Others exist throughout the country, in the form of single agency, task force, multiagency, and multijurisdictional cooperative programs. Analysis of the seizures made under these programs continues to underscore the significant role of the border on drug transportation patterns throughout the United States. Over 40 percent of highway seizure incidents reported nationwide through Operation PIPELINE occurred in the four Southwest border States. These incidents accounted for the majority of drugs seized in traffic stops nationwide and one-third of the drug-related currency. Operation JETWAY seizures made in the four Southwest border States accounted for 53 percent of Operation JETWAY seizures nationwide.

DEA Intelligence Division INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN
THE SOUTH AMERICAN HEROIN THREAT

January 1997

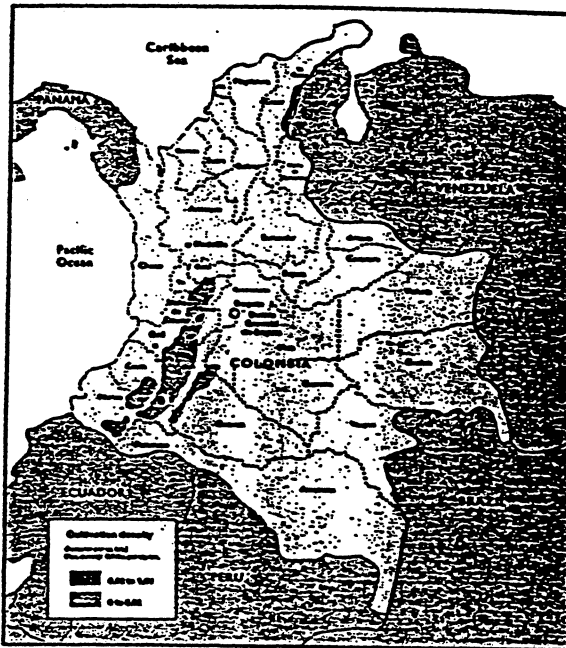
Introduction

The threat to the United States posed by South American heroin has increased significantly in recent years. Opium poppy cultivation and heroin trafficking has emerged as an integral part of the Colombian illicit drug trade since the early 1990's. Very limited opium poppy cultivation—several hundred hectares in Venezuela and a few hectares in Peru—may be found elsewhere in South America. Heroin production in Venezuela and Peru, however, is believed to be relatively negligible. Practically all of the heroin sent to the United States from South America comes from Colombia.

DEA investigative reporting and laboratory analysis of heroin samples confirm that South American heroin has become widely available in the northeastern United States. Colombian heroin traffickers have been able to establish themselves as major sources of supply in the Northeast—the largest heroin market in the United States—by offering a high-purity drug at a relatively low price.

Heroin production in Colombia remains relatively limited at this time compared to source countries in Asia and remains in the hands of independent trafficking groups that operate outside the control of either the [redacted]. To date, no single trafficking group in Colombia has been identified as a principal supplier of heroin to the United States. In time, however, DEA anticipates that certain [redacted] will attempt to exert greater control over the opiate trade in Colombia.

Should this occur, the threat posed by South American heroin would increase due to the trafficking resources available to the major cocaine trafficking organizations. They would be expected to use the transportation, wholesale distribution, and money laundering networks they have established over the last decade to expand their current foothold in the U.S. heroin market.



Areas of Opium Poppy Cultivation in Colombia
Opium Poppy Cultivation

Reporting from a variety of sources indicates that opium poppy cultivation in Colombia has increased since the early 1990's. The U.S. Government (USG) estimates Colombia's 1995 opium poppy cultivation at 2,180 hectares,¹ with year-round cultivation. The opium poppy plant can mature in 90 to 140 days, allowing for three crops to be harvested per year.² Assuming three crops per year are possible, annual opium poppy cultivation in

¹ In 1992, 1993, and 1994, the USG estimated net opium poppy cultivation in Colombia at 20,000 hectares. These estimates, however, reflected both land under actual cultivation and adjacent land cleared for cultivation. The 1995 estimate reflects only that land judged to be under actual opium poppy cultivation.

² In comparison, only one opium poppy crop can be harvested per year in Southeast Asia and Southwest Asia. Multiple annual opium poppy harvests are possible in parts of Mexico.

Colombia would be approximately 6,540 hectares (2,180 hectares multiplied by three crops per year).

The most significant areas of opium poppy cultivation in Colombia are found in the Andean Mountain ranges located in Cauca, Huila, and Tolima Departments. Opium poppy farming, however, has been reported in more than a dozen departments in Colombia.

Excellent growing conditions exist for opium poppies (*Papaver somniferum*) at higher elevations (from 2,000 to 2,600 meters) on remote mountain slopes. This rugged terrain not only provides ideal growing conditions for opium poppies, it also hampers detection and access by counterdrug forces.

The independent farmers who grow opium poppies and harvest the opium gum will sell their product to "brokers."³ The brokers, in turn, will sell the opium gum obtained from a number of farmers to the "chemists" involved in morphine base/heroin production. These chemists often work on commission for the trafficking group that will smuggle the heroin into the United States.

Opiate Production

Opium gum yields in Colombia probably are relatively low compared to other traditional source regions.⁴ At this time, insufficient empirical data precludes firm estimates regarding opium gum yields and efficiency in converting opium gum into morphine base or morphine base into heroin in Colombia.⁴ The results obtained from DEA's Operation BREAKTHROUGH initiative in Colombia are expected to produce a more exact estimate of opiate production efficiencies.⁴

One recent USG estimate suggests that potential annual opium gum production in Colombia may be as high as 65 metric tons. This estimate assumes, however, that Colombian farmers are able to collect 10 kilograms of opium gum from each hectare of opium poppy under cultivation. This estimate has not been confirmed by on-site observations.

One recent USG estimate suggests that potential annual heroin production in Colombia may be as high as 6.0 metric tons. This estimate assumes, however, that Colombian farmers are able to collect 10 kilograms of opium gum from each hectare under cultivation and that Colombian heroin chemists are able to convert opium gum into heroin at a 10:1 ratio.

At least two possible explanations may be cited for the suspected relatively low opium gum yields being realized in Colombia. First, Colombian farmers, as a group, probably are not as skilled at scoring poppies as their counterparts in the three traditional source areas (Southeast Asia, Southwest Asia, and Mexico).⁷ Second, Colombian opium poppy plants, on the average, have more and smaller capsules per plant than opium poppy plants in the traditional source regions. Smaller capsules, of course, yield less opium gum.

Colombian heroin chemists are not believed to be producing the narcotic in the quantities seen in the three traditional source areas. Two observations support this premise. First, the heroin laboratories seized in Colombia have not been equipped to produce heroin in bulk. Second, Colombian dealers, in undercover negotiations, have yet to prove themselves capable of supplying multikilogram quantities of heroin on a regular basis.

Despite the fact that Colombian traffickers do not appear adept at producing large quantities of heroin, it is important to note that they are producing a very high-quality product. DEA laboratory analysis of South American heroin samples often indicates very high purity levels.

³ Some farmers reportedly prefer to use a "barter system" in order to avoid receiving cash from the brokers. Cash is undesirable in that it often attracts unwanted attention from local insurgents who support their cause by extorting "taxes" from farmers involved in drug cultivation.

⁴ Estimated opium gum yields in the major source countries are as follows: Burma, 15 kilograms per hectare; Laos, 7 kilograms per hectare; Thailand, 11.5 kilograms per hectare; and Mexico, 10 kilograms per hectare.

⁵ In order to match the average efficiency levels achieved by their counterparts in Southeast Asia, Southwest Asia, or Mexico, Colombian opiate producers would need to convert their opium gum into morphine base at a 10:1 ratio (i.e., 10 kilograms of opium gum would be required to produce 1 kilogram of morphine base.) Morphine base would be converted into heroin at a 1:1 ratio.

⁶ Operation BREAKTHROUGH will use scientific field survey methodologies and laboratory analysis to determine actual opium gum, morphine base, and heroin production levels in Colombia.

⁷ The farmer's skill in scoring poppy capsules is crucial in determining opium gum yields. If the pods are cut too deeply, the opium will flow into the hollow center of the capsule and be unrecoverable. If the incisions are too shallow, the flow will be too slow and the opium will harden in the capsule. Colombian farmers probably have become more proficient in opium poppy scoring since the early 1990's.

Opiate Eradication

In 1996, Colombian Government figures indicate that over 7,400 hectares of opium poppy were eradicated, compared to almost 4,000 hectares in 1995. Competing counterdrug priorities, civic protests over the aerial chemical spraying of drug crops, and insurgent attacks against Colombian National Police (CNP) airborne assets have slowed down the Colombian Government's opium poppy aerial spraying program.

Opiate Laboratory and Drug Seizures

Urban areas in Cauca, Cundinamarca, Huila, Risaralda, Tolima, and Valle del Cauca Departments are identified most frequently as suspect locations for opiate processing laboratories. DEA reporting indicates that relatively few opiate laboratories have been seized in Colombia. To date, most of the opiate laboratories seized in Colombia have been located in private residences.

In 1996, the CNP reportedly seized 9 opiate laboratories, compared to the 11 seized in 1995. The largest heroin laboratory seized in Colombia to date was able to produce as much as 14 kilograms of heroin per week. All of these heroin production operations have been relatively limited in scope, only involving small quantities of drugs, chemicals, and equipment.

Colombian authorities reportedly seized 78 kilograms of opium gum and 419 kilograms of heroin/morphine base in 1995. According to official Colombian Government statistics, approximately 60 kilograms of heroin, 29 kilograms of opium gum, and 86 kilograms of morphine base were seized in the first 9 months of 1996. These opiate seizure statistics are consistent with other DEA reporting that suggests heroin production in Colombia has increased but still remains relatively limited.

Heroin Trafficking Groups in Colombia

The South American heroin trade is dominated by independent Colombian traffickers. To date, no single trafficking group in Colombia has been identified as a principal supplier of heroin to the United States. [redacted] mafia involvement in the heroin trade appears to be

Opiate Seizures in Colombia (in kilograms)					
Drug	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Opium Gum	0	43	261	128	78
Heroin/Morphine	0	50	55	181	419

Note: These seizure numbers have not been confirmed independently by the USG.

limited.⁸ It is not clear from available intelligence information and investigative reporting why the drug mafias to date have not attempted to dominate the Colombian heroin trade. In time, however, some [redacted] probably will attempt to exert more control over opiate production in Colombia and the wholesale distribution of South American heroin in the United States.

Major Smuggling Routes and Methods of Operation

In the early 1990's, most of the South American heroin smuggled into the United States was transported via couriers on direct commercial flights from Colombia to the international airports in Miami or New York City. Most of the couriers arrested in Miami were en route to New York City. Ingestion of small quantities of heroin (1 kilogram or less) wrapped in latex was the most common smuggling method used by these couriers. Heroin also was concealed inside hollowed-out shoes, luggage, and in the lining of clothes.

Since the mid-1990's, Colombian heroin traffickers have diversified their methods of operation. Couriers still come into Miami, New York City, San Juan, and other U.S. airports on direct commercial flights from Colombia. Increased quantities of Colombian heroin, however, are being concealed in luggage and air cargo. In April 1996, U.S. authorities at the Miami International Airport seized 5.7 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin that had been concealed in electronic components.

Likewise, Colombian traffickers have increasingly smuggled their heroin through such countries as Ecuador and Venezuela. In recent years, there also has been an increase in the size of some Colombian heroin seizures made in the United States and South

⁸ The most dramatic instance that suggested direct drug mafia involvement in heroin trafficking was the June 1992 airdrop near Isabela, Puerto Rico. A 15-kilogram bale of suspected South American heroin was discovered by the U.S. Customs Service after the drop was made onto a beach. This is the only known airdrop of suspected South American heroin. Although it is not known which trafficking group was responsible for this airdrop, the operation had all the earmarks of a drug mafia operation.

America. In March 1996, for example, the Ecuadorian National Police seized 6.2 kilograms of suspected South American heroin at the international airport in Quito that had been hidden in two false-sided suitcases. In November 1995, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) seized 15.5 kilograms of South American heroin in Miami—the single largest domestic seizure of Colombian heroin to date.

Availability of Colombian Heroin in the United States

DEA's Heroin Signature Program (HSP)⁹ data for 1995 revealed that 62 percent of the heroin seized was from South America, 17 percent from Southeast Asia, 16 percent from Southwest Asia, and 5 percent from Mexico. Part of the reason for the high proportion of South American heroin shown in the HSP was the result of arrests of numerous couriers transporting small quantities—generally 1 to 2 kilograms or less. Most of these couriers travel on commercial airlines primarily bound for Miami and New York City. As a result, Colombian smuggling networks are highly susceptible to U.S. interdiction efforts.

Data obtained from DEA's Domestic Monitor Program (DMP)¹⁰ has confirmed that South American heroin is widely available in the Northeastern United States as well as Puerto Rico. The heaviest concentrations of South American heroin have been found in Boston, Newark, New York City, Philadelphia, and San Juan. In the first 6 months of 1996, at least 90 percent of all DMP heroin purchases made in Boston, Newark, New York City, and Philadelphia (for which a signature could be determined) were of South American origin.

These DMP data are consistent with other DEA reporting that indicates that Colombian heroin

⁹ The HSP identifies and quantifies the chemical characteristics and secondary constituents of all heroin seized at U.S. ports of entry as well as random samples of domestic purchases and seizures. From the resultant data, heroin exhibits are classified according to the process by which they were manufactured, which in turn enables the association of exhibits with specific geographic heroin source regions. Although available intelligence information and investigative reporting indicates that practically all of the heroin from South America comes from Colombia, the HSP process per se does not allow DEA chemists to link a given heroin sample to a specific source country. Accordingly, for HSP purposes, all heroin from Colombia is characterized as being South American in origin. DEA first identified a signature for South American heroin in July 1993. The DMP is a street-level heroin purchase program designed to provide Federal, State, and local authorities with information relating to heroin purity, price, availability, adulterants, and geographic source areas (signature analysis).

trafficking organizations have focused their efforts on the heroin markets in the northeastern United States. South American heroin, however, has been found in such diverse cities as Atlanta, Baltimore, Chicago, Detroit, Ft. Lauderdale, Miami, New Orleans, and Washington, DC.

Market Strategies Used by Colombian Heroin Traffickers

Colombian drug trafficking groups are using a variety of tactics to establish outlets for their heroin. In addition to providing heroin of high purity, Colombian traffickers have offered to front ounce and multiounce quantities of heroin to first-time buyers. Colombian traffickers also are underselling competitors in some cities in an effort to win over potential retail distributors. Ounce and gram prices for South American heroin are well below those for Southeast Asian heroin. In the New York City metropolitan area, South American heroin sells for \$2,600 to \$5,000 per ounce and \$95 to \$110 per gram. Southeast Asian heroin, in contrast, sells for \$5,500 to \$8,000 per ounce and \$300 to \$400 per gram. Kilogram quantities of South American heroin are not available widely but sell for \$85,000 to \$100,000, below the price for a kilogram of Southeast Asian heroin, which sells for \$150,000 to \$180,000.

Outlook for the Future

Much of the current heroin smuggling from South America is controlled by independent Colombian traffickers who are not yet able to supply bulk quantities of heroin. Investigative reporting, however, indicates increased efforts are being made to supply multikilogram quantities of high-purity South American heroin to U.S. distributors.

Certain [redacted] probably will attempt to exert greater control over the opiate trade in Colombia. Should this occur, the threat posed by South American heroin would increase due to the trafficking resources available to the major cocaine trafficking organizations. [redacted] traffickers would be expected to use the transportation, wholesale distribution, and money laundering networks they have established over the last decade to expand their involvement in the U.S. heroin market.

This report was prepared by the Domestic and Latin America Units of the Strategic Intelligence Section. Requests for copies are welcome, and may be directed to the Intelligence Production Unit, Intelligence Division, DEA Headquarters, at (202) 307-8726.

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CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

DEA
EPIC Monthly Threat Brief, 12/1996
Current Developments

DOMESTIC

- o USCS Special Agents in southern California have identified a Tijuana-based smuggling organization that smuggles marijuana through California POE's. The group has been linked to 11 California POE seizures in which, in almost every case, the marijuana or other contraband was discovered in the trunk of passenger cars with California plates. To date, marijuana seized from this organization consists of 601 kilograms at the Calexico, California, POE and 304 kilograms at the San Ysidro, California, POE.
(Source: USCS California)
- o Arivaca, Arizona, is a small isolated town relatively close to the United States/Mexico border. The area between Arivaca and the border is mountainous terrain with several valleys used to raise cattle and horses. The vegetation is lush and affords backpackers easy concealment for transporting drugs north to Arivaca. For these reasons, Arivaca has been a popular smuggling route for many years.
(Source: INS/BP Tucson, Arizona)
- o The USCS in Laredo, Texas, reported in early November that a drug organization located in Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, Mexico, was smuggling cocaine and marijuana through the POE in a cavity in the rear of railroad hopper cars previously used to smuggle aliens. The compartment normally houses railcar instruments, and the organization has apparently obtained the assistance of railroad personnel working at the Nuevo Laredo railyard to access the compartments.
(Source: USCS Laredo, Texas)
- o On November 21, Neosho County Sheriff's officers seized a methamphetamine lab while executing a search warrant at a mobile home in Chanute, Kansas. During the operation, officers discovered the front door was booby-trapped with an electrical charge designed to electrocute anyone touching it.
(Source: Attorney General's Weekly)
- o Lomas De Arena, Chihuahua, across the Rio Grande River from the Bennett Ranch in west Texas, was possibly being used to smuggle drugs from Mexico. Past intelligence has indicated that smugglers usually cross there, take the border road north to Green River Draw, and then drive northeast to Van Horn, Texas. An alternate route follows the border road southeast to Chispa Road. Several airstrips have been reported in the area. At Indian Rock Canyon, near Lomas De Arena, a horse caravan transporting 210 kilograms of marijuana was intercepted by INS/BP Agents. Another site that is possibly being used to smuggle drugs is the Pilares Crossing area near Ejido Pilares, Chihuahua, across from the Sanchez Ranch on the United States side. Traffickers enter the United States and follow the border road north to Chispa Road.
(Source: INS/BP Marfa, Texas)
- o INS/BP in Calexico, California, has encountered smugglers normally

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associated with cocaine smuggling who are now transporting marijuana. It is unknown if this indicates a lack of cocaine availability in the Mexicali, Baja California Norte, area.

(Source: INS/BP Calexico, California)

- o Two recent Operation PIPELINE currency seizures led to the discovery of a marijuana drug-smuggling operation based in Alamogordo, New Mexico. On October 20, Kansas Highway Patrol troopers seized \$29,842 from a compartment in a pickup gas tank, and on November 5, Kansas troopers seized \$34,100 from an altered gas tank on another pickup. Investigative efforts by DEA Kansas Special Agents have established that both currency shipments are linked and were being transported to Alamogordo. The organization regularly smuggled marijuana from Mexico concealed in vehicle compartments, through an undisclosed entry location, then to Alamogordo for further shipment to Kansas, Minnesota, Texas, and Oklahoma, on a weekly basis.

(Source: DEA Kansas)

[REDACTED]
(Source: INS/BP Deming, New Mexico)

- o Several drug-trafficking organizations based in Juarez, Chihuahua, are recruiting tractor-trailer drivers to transport illegal aliens carrying luggage filled with drugs to the interior of the United States. If the drugs are detected and seized, the drivers feign ignorance of the contents of the luggage, claiming their passengers were hitchhikers. The passengers deliver the drugs to distributors in Dallas, Texas; Los Angeles, California; and Dayton, Ohio. The organizations are also sending couriers with drug-filled luggage on commercial buses.

(Source: DEA El Paso)

- o In late November, as the result of a joint Federal, State, and county investigation, a possible link was discovered between three cocaine distribution cells operating between Houston, Texas; New Jersey; and the Province of Ontario, Canada. The cells, all reputedly associated with a Colombian trafficker in the greater Houston area, were associated with several recent cocaine seizures made from Canadian-registered tractor-trailers.

(Source: Multiagency)

[REDACTED]

The El Paso INS/BP sector reported that since December 5, a total of 318 kilograms of marijuana was seized as the result of DAICC suspicious aircraft activity notifications. On December 4 and 5, DAICC notified the El Paso INS/BP sector of several aircraft landings short of the border in the Sierra De La Nariz, Chihuahua, area.

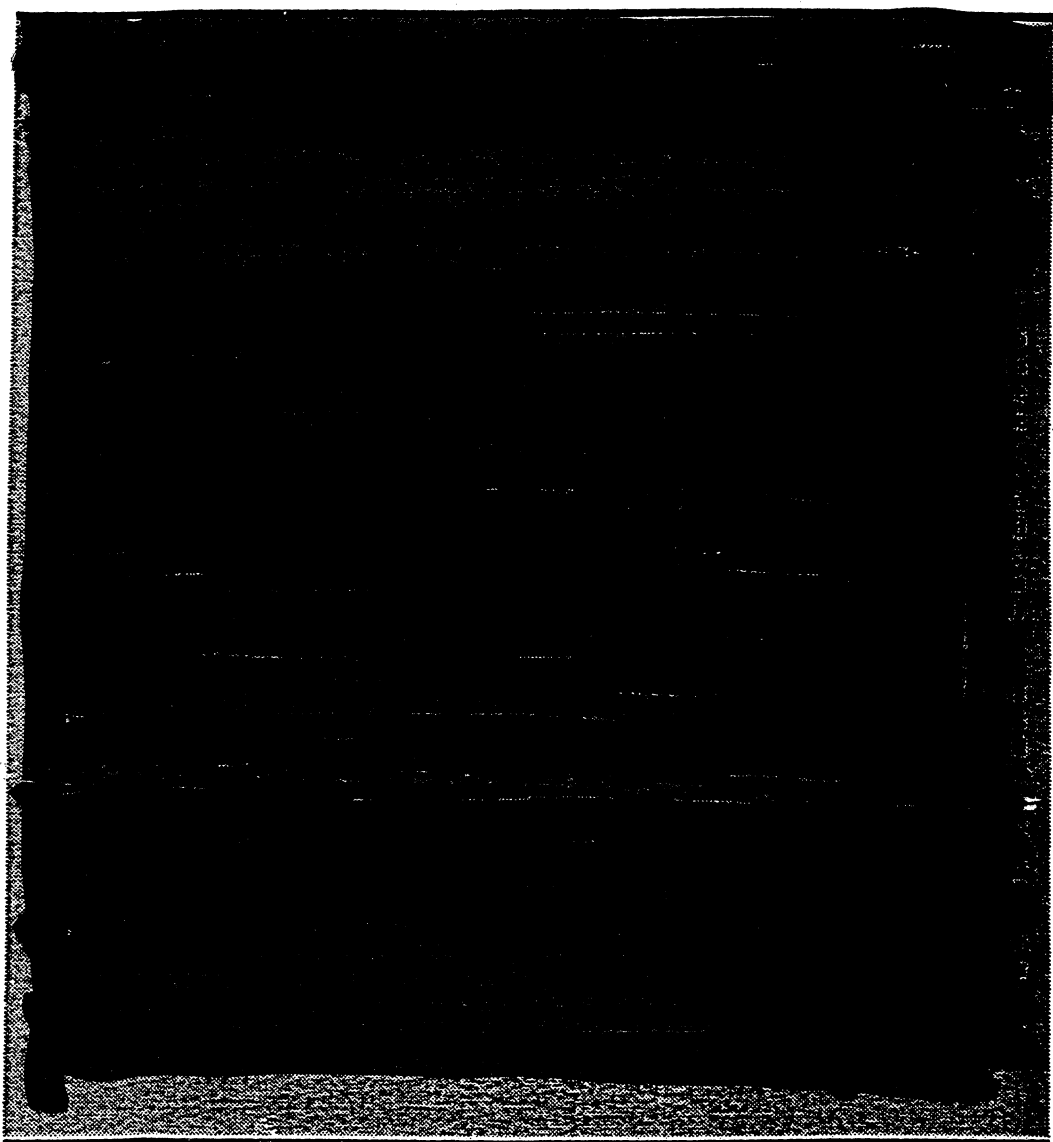
(Source: INS/BP El Paso, Texas)

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- o The abundant tomato crop in Florida, combined with a shortage of agricultural workers, is expected to have a significant impact on alien smuggling across the Texas/Mexico border. Organized smuggling groups are using high-capacity vehicles, vans, and rental trucks to transport aliens to Florida for a fee of \$800 each. Comstock, Texas, INS/BP Agents recently stopped a Ford Bronco loaded with 27 aliens en route to Florida.
(Source: INS/BP Del Rio, Texas)
- o On November 29, a cocaine airdrop was believed to have taken place at the northwestern point of Vieques Island, Puerto Rico, in the Laguna Arenas. The bales reportedly sunk in a marsh there and were retrieved by traffickers who then hid them on a Marine Corps training facility for several days. The stash site was later searched, and plastic wrappings, which tested positive for cocaine, were found. It was estimated that 20 small bales had been airdropped.
(Source: USCG CTU 4.7.2)
- o On December 11 at the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport (DFW), a 26-kilogram marijuana seizure by DFW police officers and DEA DFW Task Force Special Agents led to the discovery of a drug transportation organization that has been shipping marijuana to the Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota, area. The organization, based in Arlington, Texas, has been shipping marijuana from Odessa or El Paso, Texas, in passenger-checked cardboard boxes via commercial airlines to Minnesota. Other seizure events linked to this organization include the 28 kilograms of marijuana seized in El Paso on March 7, which was destined for St. Paul; 14 kilograms of marijuana seized in Minneapolis on September 9; \$50,000 seized at the El Paso International Airport on June 17; and \$43,605 which had been shipped from Minneapolis and seized at the Dallas United Parcel Service (UPS) on September 9.
(Source: DEA El Paso)
- o Airdrop activity may be occurring in the Gross Point area near Lake Salvador, Louisiana, south of New Orleans. Barrels and other containers are reportedly used to airdrop drugs. Crabtrap markers arranged in a circular pattern are used to identify airdrop locations. A local bayou tour company may be facilitating smuggling activity in this area.
(Source: USCG ICC)

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DEA
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Drug Smuggling in Gas Tanks




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CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

DOMESTIC

- o The USCS Office of Internal Affairs received intelligence from the Defense Investigation Service regarding a handcuff master key that may jeopardize officer safety. The 1-inch hard plastic key is a snap away element of a circle, much like the small parts of a plastic car model. Because of its small size and plastic composition, it is easily concealed and undetectable by metal detectors.
(Source: USCS El Paso, Texas)
- o 
- o Cocaine traffickers employ many tactics to increase their chances for successfully smuggling into the United States. Distributing cocaine among several smuggling vehicles is done primarily to reduce the cost of discovery of the cocaine in any single vehicle. Reporting also suggests that traffickers send smaller ill-concealed marijuana shipments as a diversion for cocaine shipments. Transporters have also hired females and children to accompany drivers of cocaine-laden vehicles. Often drivers enter POE's during peak traffic hours and then run the POE if sent to a secondary inspection site. This tactic seems prevalent among gang members residing in the San Diego, California, and El Paso, Texas, areas. A continued high rate of port-runner incidents, and numerous seizures from vehicles where no effort was made to conceal the cocaine, lend credence to the reported use of this tactic. Traffickers also continue to use high-powered video recorders to monitor law enforcement activities at POE's and radios equipped with computer-controlled frequencies that make monitoring difficult. Finally, cocaine loads have been increasingly escorted with armed scouts who have resorted to violence to evade U.S. border officials.
(Source: EPIC; USCS Columbus, New Mexico; DEA Carlsbad; and DEA Imperial County)
- o A 248-kilogram marijuana seizure at the Tecate, California, POE on May 16, and a 318-kilogram cocaine seizure at the Nogales, Arizona, POE on May 18,

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- o Commercial vessel crew members are believed to be involved in delivering cocaine to divers in the Houston ship channel. Divers using scuba gear swim to a ship from which cocaine, in amounts up to 78 kilograms, is lowered. The use of parasitic devices has not been observed. Divers may be armed with handguns. At least one group of divers has been linked to either the Colombian or Cuban special forces.
(Source: USCG District Eight New Orleans, Louisiana)
- o Methamphetamine smuggling may be on the increase in south Texas. The [redacted] smuggling organization, widely accepted as the largest methamphetamine distributor in Mexico, may be using the McAllen, Texas, area to expand its methamphetamine trade to U.S. markets. Unconfirmed reporting indicated that a load may have already transited the area. Although the organization's focus in the past has been directed toward California, higher prices attainable in south Texas may have precipitated its expansion.
(Source: DEA Guadalajara, Mexico)
- o Cocaine and marijuana are allegedly being smuggled through the Columbus, New Mexico, cattle crossing and stockyards by a trafficking group based in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The drugs are smuggled through the stockyards with herds of horses legally imported from Janos and Cuauhtemoc, Chihuahua, by American buyers.
(Source: INS/BP Columbus, New Mexico)
- o Some tanker trailers manufactured by [redacted] have been extended in length from 40 to 45 feet to create a hidden compartment used to transport drugs.
- o The altered section of the tanker is found in the forward portion of the trailer. Access to the 5-foot compartment is found in the fifth wheel linchpin plate. [redacted] only manufactures 40-foot tanker trailers; consequently, if any [redacted] tanker longer than that is encountered, it should be considered suspect. [redacted] logo is found on the top front of the trailer in small letters.
(Source: USCS Rouses Point, NY)
- o The [redacted] motorcycle gang has established an internal group known as [redacted] to increase drug trafficking profits by attempting to organize its drug trafficking. Members of [redacted] have reportedly met with Peruvian and Colombian traffickers to buy cocaine, which will be transported from Florida to New York and Pennsylvania in a vehicle with hidden compartments. It is also believed the [redacted] are producing and distributing methamphetamine in Pennsylvania and have established ties with an African-American motorcycle gang from the Pennsylvania/New Jersey area, whose members can reportedly distribute all the methamphetamine the [redacted] can provide.
(Source: DEA Harrisburg, Pennsylvania)
- o Alien apprehensions in the Eagle Pass, Texas, INS/BP station have increased significantly. Between January 1 and May 15, there were over 17,000 apprehensions, compared to almost 24,000 for all of calendar year 1995 (CY95). In the past, the majority of apprehensions were groups of single males, but more families are now being apprehended. Smugglers recruit aliens at the Piedras Negras, Coahuila, bus

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stations and charge from \$400 to \$600 to smuggle them to safe houses in San Antonio, Texas. In San Antonio, relatives or potential employers in the United States are contacted to sponsor the smuggled aliens and to pay any remaining fee. (When employers pay the fee, the cost is often later deducted from the aliens' wages.)

(Source: INS/BP Eagle Pass, Texas)

- o INS/BP Agents in Harlingen, Texas, recently apprehended a group of 33 Central American and 5 Mexican nationals from a sealed boxcar. Smugglers had loaded the aliens into the boxcar in Matamoros, Tamaulipas, 7 hours earlier, after recruiting the group at the Matamoros bus terminal. The group was told they would be let out of the boxcar in Houston, Texas. No smuggling fees were paid in advance as

arrangements were to be made with family members to pay \$1,000 per alien.

(Source: INS/BP Harlingen, Texas)

- o Alien smugglers based in Tijuana, Baja California Norte, are recruiting aliens at local bus terminals and are then transporting them across the border, where they are loaded into motor homes or large trucks. The aliens are transported east to circumvent fixed checkpoints, prior to heading west to the Los Angeles, California, area. Smuggling fees range from \$400 to \$800. This method of operation is increasing the numbers of aliens transiting the El Centro, California, INS/BP sector, where alien apprehensions during May totaled 6,108 as compared to 4,271 during the same period in 1995.

(Source: INS/BP El Centro, California)

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The overall drug threat relating to U.S. highways is as follows:

Drivers of load vehicles typically were males (90 percent of incidents) driving solo (68 percent of incidents) and, when identified, were either U.S. nationals (777 incidents) or Mexican nationals (413 incidents). Other nationalities identified included Colombian (33 incidents), Cuban (17 incidents), Dominican Republican (27 incidents), Guatemalan (10 incidents), Jamaican (18 incidents), and Puerto Rican (13 incidents).

Regardless of sex, individuals who drove vehicles loaded with drugs and/or drug proceeds ranged in ages from 15 to 78 years. Drivers in 43 percent of the incidents were from 21 to 30 years of age and in 29 percent of the incidents, drivers were 31 to 40 years of age.

Couriers continued to use major interstates to transport drugs and currency throughout the country. As in the past 2 years, over half of the seizures (60 percent) occurred on I-10, I-15, I-20, I-25, I-35, I-40, I-44, I-55, I-70, I-75, I-80, I-95, and U.S. 59. Couriers also commonly favored other U.S. highways such as U.S. 101, U.S. 13, U.S. 281, U.S. 54, and U.S. 77 to move their illicit loads.

Drug and currency couriers preferred automobiles as their primary mode of transportation during CY95. In reporting, where type of conveyance was identified, 57 percent of the incidents mentioned automobiles as the load vehicle. Pickups (11 percent)—with or without camper shells—and vans (9 percent) were also utilized extensively for drug and currency transportation.

Reporting indicated that traffickers used more recreational vehicles to transport contraband this year as compared to previous years. In CY93, 31 incidents involved motor homes and in CY94, 34 seizures were from recreational vehicles. This year, 44 Operation PIPELINE stops resulted in 758 kilograms of marijuana, 1,619 kilograms of cocaine, and \$295,579 in U.S. currency being seized from recreational vehicles.

Couriers stopped at nothing to conceal their illicit cargo during CY95. Highway interdiction personnel reported locating drugs and currency throughout vehicles in just about every conceivable location and on suspects and their clothing, or both. Bags (163 incidents), boxes (108 incidents), and luggage (282 incidents) were used repeatedly. Officers also encountered numerous vehicles equipped with false compartments (341 incidents), many electrically operated, loaded with drugs and/or currency. In addition to encountering drugs and/or currency in vehicles on the nation's roadways, officers involved in highway interdiction seized 301 firearms.

There was a 6-percent increase in the amount of firearms seized from drug and money couriers this year over CY94. Although officers seized firearms from couriers transporting cocaine HCl, crack cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamine, they confiscated more from currency (182 firearms) and marijuana (65 firearms) couriers.

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Cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamine transportation via the nation's highways will continue to pose a threat. Couriers have increasingly moved more and larger loads of the drugs. Couriers may employ new techniques to smuggle and transport cocaine, such as liquid cocaine in vehicle gas tanks.

Heroin and methamphetamine transportation via the country's highways will increase due to the drugs' heightened popularity and possible lower costs to users. Mexican-manufactured methamphetamine and heroin will continue to be smuggled into the United States and moved on the nation's highways.

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NORTHEASTERN UNITED STATES

This region includes the 22-State area of Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, ~~Maine~~, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. Agencies from each State, except Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont, reported highway seizures to EPIC during CY95.

Highway drug and currency seizure activity in the Northeastern region was significant; 25 percent (929 incidents) of all seizures reported to EPIC came from this region. Officers in Illinois (130 incidents), Maryland (194 incidents), Missouri (165 incidents), and New Jersey (212 incidents) reported the most activity.

COCAINE HCL

Twenty-four percent (2,542 kilograms) of the cocaine seized from vehicles on roadways and reported in the continental United States occurred in the Northeastern region. Agencies in Illinois, especially the State Police, reported about 40 percent of the amount seized. Highway interdiction personnel in New Jersey (19 percent), New York (14 percent), and Virginia (14 percent) also reported seizing significant amounts of cocaine.

Three of the top ten cocaine seizures that highway interdiction personnel reported to EPIC transpired in this region. The Illinois State Police's seizure of 442 kilograms was the third largest reported to EPIC during the year. On November 6, officers stopped a male Colombian national and a female Puerto Rican national, both residents of Miami, Florida, for a traffic violation on I-80 east in Henry County. Also, in the vehicle were three male Colombian national residents of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Florida, and a female Cuban national, residence unknown. The suspects, who ranged in age from 22 to 43 years of age, allegedly were traveling to Chicago, Illinois, from Los Angeles, California, in a rented 1995 Chevrolet motor home with Florida plates. With consent granted, officers searched the motor home and located the cocaine in garbage bags strewn throughout the vehicle.

The Newark Police Department in New Jersey and the California Highway Patrol in the Southwestern region, each reported seizing 300 kilograms of cocaine, the sixth largest cocaine seizures in the country. On January 23, officers from the Newark Police Department reported having seized a cocaine load from a 44-year-old male Colombian resident of Queens, New York. Officers stopped the suspect who was in a 1986 Plymouth Voyager with New York plates for a traffic violation on U.S. 1. During a consent search, the officers located numerous cocaine packages inside 12 cardboard boxes. The packages were marked "FIRST."

The seventh largest cocaine (295 kilograms) seizure occurred in Illinois. On November 6, officers from the Illinois State Police stopped a 62-year-old white male traveling east on I-80 in La Salle County for a traffic violation. The Las Cruces, New Mexico, resident was traveling in a rented 1989 Ford pickup with Georgia plates from El Paso, Texas, to Merris, Illinois.

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During the contact, officers checked the vehicle with a canine who alerted to nine cocaine-filled cardboard boxes in the pickup's cargo area. Officers also seized three weapons and over \$200 in U.S. currency.

CRACK COCAINE

Sixty-two percent of the crack cocaine amounts seized nationally took place in the Northeastern region. Regionally, agencies seized 66 kilograms of crack cocaine. The traffic stops resulting in drug and currency seizures occurred primarily in Maryland (23 kilograms) and New Jersey (34 kilograms). Indiana and Ohio agencies each reported two seizures totaling over 1 kilogram. New York agencies reported 15 seizure incidents, also for a total of over 1 kilogram of crack cocaine.

Six of the largest crack cocaine seizures for CY95 reported to EPIC this year occurred in the Northeastern region. The largest Operation PIPELINE seizure occurred in New Jersey. On December 10 New Jersey State Police seized 4,994 grams of crack cocaine from a male Cuban and a male Dominican Republic national traveling west on I-78. Officers stopped the suspects in a 1991 Lincoln Continental with North Carolina plates for a traffic violation. The owner of the vehicle was not present. During a consent search, with the aid of a canine, officers located the crack cocaine in a electrically operated compartment between the back seat and trunk. The driver, a 49 year-old male from Miami, Florida, and his passenger, a 30-year-old male from Brooklyn, New York, were allegedly en route to Winston-Salem, North Carolina, from New York City, New York.

On October 19, the New Jersey State Police in Woodbury, New Jersey, seized 4,100 grams, the second largest crack cocaine seizure for CY95. Officers stopped a privately owned 1989 Acura Integra with Virginia plates, occupied by two black male residents of Bronx, New York City, for a traffic violation. The owner of the vehicle was not present. The suspects, allegedly traveling via the New Jersey Turnpike from New York to Lynchburg, Virginia, gave officers consent to search the vehicle. Officers located the crack cocaine in an electromagnetic lock compartment in the trunk. [REDACTED]

New Jersey State Police officers reported the fourth largest crack cocaine seizure which occurred on June 30. Officers seized 2,700 grams from the passenger's 1988 Ford Taurus with Pennsylvania plates on the New Jersey Turnpike in Middlesex County. Two male Hispanic suspects, 33 and 38 years of age, residents of Pennsylvania, were arrested when officers located the crack cocaine in the vehicle's dashboard.

A 42-year-old black male resident of Littleton, North Carolina, and a 22-year-old black male resident of Rocky Mount, North Carolina, were transporting what was the sixth largest crack cocaine (2,081 grams) amount seized in CY95. On December 3, Maryland State Police officers stopped the two suspects traveling south on I-9 in Harford County. During a search of the vehicle with North Carolina plates (NFI), officers located the crack cocaine in the spare tire. Officers also seized \$1,506 in U.S. currency.

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Officers from the New Jersey State Police made the seventh largest crack cocaine seizure reported to EPIC during CY95. Two black males and a black female, residents of Brooklyn, New York, were transporting 2,043 grams of crack cocaine to Wilmington, Delaware, from New York City, New York, when New Jersey State Police officers arrested them on October 9. The arrests were the result of officers stopping the suspects in a rented 1995 Dodge with Pennsylvania plates on the New Jersey Turnpike in Middlesex County. During the stop, officers obtained consent to search the vehicle and, with the aid of a canine, located the crack cocaine inside a backpack located in the trunk. The suspects were 28, 29, and 30 years of age.

Finally, this region recorded the ninth largest crack cocaine seizure in the continental United States for CY95. This seizure occurred on December 5 when Maryland State Police officers seized 1,942 grams from two black males, 26 and 36 years of age, traveling south on U.S. 13 in Wicomico County. Officers stopped the suspects in a 1989 Toyota Tercel with North Carolina plates. The owner of the vehicle was not present. During a consent search, officers located the crack cocaine in a freezer bag which was further hidden in a larger bag. The drugs were allegedly being taken to Washington and North Carolina, from New York City, New York.

HEROIN

Thirty-three percent of the heroin (12 kilograms) seized nationally was confiscated in this region. Only 9 of the 22 States in the region (Illinois, Massachusetts, Maryland, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Rhode Island, and Wisconsin) reported 59 traffic stops which involved heroin seizures. Most of the incidents and amounts reported were from Maryland (4,169 grams in 21 incidents) and New Jersey (2,584 grams in 24 incidents). Agencies in New York reported five incidents totalling 2,075 grams.

Missouri reported the third largest seizure and New York reported the fourth largest seizure for the year. Other agencies in the remaining Northeastern States reported from one to three incidents each, netting 1 gram to 291 grams of heroin. On October 28, Missouri Highway Patrol officers effected a traffic stop on a privately owned 1988 Nissan Sentra with Virginia plates for a moving violation. The owner of the vehicle was not present. During a consent search, with the aid of a canine, officers located 2,331 grams of heroin and 1 kilogram of cocaine inside a metal container which had been suspended in the vehicle's gas tank. The vehicle's two male Guatemalan occupants, 36 and 37 years of age, residents of Guatemala City, were allegedly en route to New York via I-44 with the drugs. Officers also seized \$2,800 in U.S. currency.

Officers from the New York State Police in the Manhattan, New York City, area seized 2,000 grams of heroin from a female resident of Detroit, Michigan, on April 21, 1995. Officers stopped the suspect, who was traveling in a rental vehicle from New York City to Detroit, for a traffic violation. During an inventory search of the vehicle, officers found the heroin in a plastic bag located in the trunk alongside several packages of cocaine (34 kilograms).

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METHAMPHETAMINE

Methamphetamine transportation in the Northeastern United States was not as significant as it was in other areas of the country. Law enforcement agencies in Iowa, Illinois, and Missouri reported five Operation PIPELINE stops which resulted in the seizure of 7 kilograms—2 percent of the national total.

In this region, Illinois State Police officers seized most of the methamphetamine in a single incident. On January 5, they stopped two white male residents of California, 40 and 49 years of age, on the eastbound lanes of I-55 in Madison County. The suspects were traveling to Terre Haute, Indiana, from California in the passenger's 1987 Ford Bronco. Officers obtained consent to search the vehicle and subsequently located the methamphetamine in a laundry detergent box alongside two weapons.

MARIJUANA

Operations PIPELINE and CONVOY marijuana (20,400 kilograms) seizures in the Northeastern region totaled 18 percent of the amount reported nationally. Eighty-four percent of the amount reported was from agencies in Illinois (45 percent) and Missouri (39 percent). Ohio law enforcement agencies reported the next largest total for the region, 1,572 kilograms in 29 incidents. The remaining seizures occurred in Delaware, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, and Virginia.

Officers from the Kankakee Police Department and Illinois State Troopers reported the second and eighth largest highway marijuana interdictions, respectively, for CY95. A 1987 Freightliner tractor with a reefer utility trailer hauling a load of limes and red peppers was the conveyance three Hispanic couriers used on August 24 to transport 2,270 kilograms of marijuana. The suspects, 29, 32, and 39 years of age, were allegedly traveling to Chicago, Illinois, from Houston, Texas, when Kankakee Police officers discovered the 18-wheeler stuck under an overpass. During the investigation, officers conducted an inventory search of the vehicle and located bales of marijuana commingled with boxes of produce.

Illinois State Police officers reported a seizure of 811 kilograms of marijuana which occurred on April 20. On this date, officers stopped a white woman driving a Pennsylvania-registered Ford rental pickup with Pennsylvania plates traveling east on I-80 in La Salle County. The Brownsville, Wisconsin, 30-year-old resident was traveling with a 4-year-old child en route from El Paso, Texas, to Joliet, Illinois. A search of the vehicle's cargo area produced 20 cardboard boxes of marijuana among old furniture. Officers also seized \$1,346 in U.S. currency.

U.S. CURRENCY

One-third (34 percent) of all highway interdiction currency seized during CY95 took place in the Northeastern region. Law enforcement officers reported seizing \$12,751,613 in 393 traffic stops. In this region, agencies in New Jersey seized the most currency, \$5,040,960 in 98 incidents. Other States reporting significant amounts of money seizures included Illinois, \$3,076,380 in 54

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incidents; Ohio, \$1,596,918 in 30 incidents; and Maryland, \$1,229,933 in 85 incidents. Agencies from each State in the region, except Rhode Island, reported currency seizures.

Three of the top ten currency seizures reported to EPIC during CY95 transpired in Illinois, New Jersey, and Ohio. On June 14, Illinois State Troopers from the seized the largest amount of currency. The stop occurred on I-394 west near Lynwood, Illinois, in Cook County. Officers stopped a 46-year-old male Hispanic resident of Lynwood for a traffic violation. A consensual search of the rented 1995 Pontiac Transport with Florida plates revealed \$1,996,885 inside cardboard boxes located on the floor.

The second largest money seizure involved two male couriers, 26 and 33 years of age who utilized a rented 1995 Oldsmobile with Nevada plates to transport \$1,841,587 in U.S. currency. On May 26, New Jersey State Police officers stopped the vehicle on the New Jersey Turnpike, traveling south. Officers made contact with the driver, a Colombian resident of Fort Lee, New Jersey, and his passenger, a resident of Flushing, New York, and requested consent to search the vehicle. With permission granted, officers searched the vehicle and located bundles of currency as well as marijuana and cocaine residue inside four suitcases in the trunk.

On December 12, Ohio State Highway Patrol officers seized \$837,015, the fifth largest amount reported to EPIC this year. The seizure took place on I-80 east in Williams County. Officers stopped two male Colombian residents of Orlando, Florida, for a traffic violation. The 27 and 28 year-old suspects were traveling in a 1990 Honda Accord with New York plates to New York from Chicago, Illinois. The owner of the vehicle was not present. Officers searched the vehicle and located the money in the trunk. A can is alerted on the money.

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[REDACTED]

CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

DOMESTIC

- o Methamphetamine smuggling may be on the increase in south Texas. The [REDACTED] smuggling organization, widely accepted as the largest methamphetamine distributor in Mexico, may be using the McAllen, Texas, area to smuggle methamphetamine to U.S. markets. Unconfirmed reporting suggested that a load may have already transited the area. Methamphetamine prices in the Southwest indicated that it was more profitable to sell methamphetamine in Texas than in California. The [REDACTED] organization is not expected to abandon the California methamphetamine market but may be expanding to meet demand in other areas.
(Source: DEA Guadalajara, Mexico)
- o Mexican shark boats were believed to have been transporting 1 ton of cocaine and marijuana per week into the South Texas area. Subjects in pickup vehicles on the beach signal the shark boats, which then beach and the drugs are offloaded into the vehicles. The offload crews discharge firearms to signal law enforcement presence and prevent the shark boats from landing to offload. Sometimes the drugs are buried at prearranged locations on the beach for later pickup. It is believed traffickers operating at night use night-vision goggles and cyalume light sticks.
(Source: U.S. Coast Guard District Headquarters, New Orleans, Louisiana)
- o Marijuana continues to be offloaded from Mexican fishing vessels on the southern Texas Gulf Coast. On April 24, a multiagency drug-surveillance team observed a Mexican shark boat make landfall on the north end of Andy Bowie Beach, South Padre Island, with three individuals and numerous bundles on board. One Hispanic male had left the boat when the agents' presence was noted by the other two Hispanic males in the boat. The men in the boat fled south to Mexico and the Hispanic male resident of Matamoros, Tamaulipas, was arrested. Agents suspected that the bundles contained marijuana. Near this site on February 15, a seizure of 336 kilograms of cocaine and 755 kilograms of marijuana was made at Andy Bowie Park after being unloaded by as many as 20 people from an unknown number of shark boats. On April 17, just before sunrise, a Mexican fishing vessel was observed being pushed off the beach north of Port Isabel, Texas, and heading south just inside the surf line. The vessel had been seen before on several occasions, and appears to have a radio and possibly a radio scanner. Other Mexican fishing vessels have been observed as well. Since February 15, a total of 336 kilograms of cocaine and 3,263 kilograms of marijuana have been seized either at or near the Boca Chica area. The drugs were transported in Mexican shark boats.
(Source: USCS Brownsville, Texas, and New Orleans, Louisiana)

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- o Mexican backpackers are transporting drugs across the Rio Grande River near Reagan Canyon in Brewster County. The traffickers are well organized, dress in military camouflage clothing, carry military backpacks, and use a telescope for countersurveillance. The backpackers rendezvous in Fort Stockton or Sanderson, Texas.
(Source: INS/BP Marfa, Texas)
- o Southwest Louisiana has experienced an increase in alien smuggling in recent weeks. The aliens are typically boarding large container barges just prior to their departure from South American countries en route to the United States. The alien smugglers seem to prefer the largest of the barges, which are over 600 by 100 feet, and five stories high with three decks. The barges typically carry several hundred containers. Many of the containers, returning from Haiti and Central and South American countries, are empty and unlocked. There are also several rooms in which to hide in the forward part of the first and second decks of the barges. During a recent incident, several aliens arriving from Honduras were equipped with cold-water gear and carried extra clothing inside waterproof bags.
(Source: CCGD Eight, New Orleans)
- o During March, there were four separate landings of suspect aircraft at an airstrip 30 to 40 miles southeast of La Linda, Coahuila. The aircraft were on the ground for about 10 minutes. La Linda is a river crossing on the Coahuila/Texas border leading to a paved farm road which connects to U.S. Highway 385.
(Source: INS/BP Marfa, Texas)
- o Low-flying aircraft were observed near a mesa west of New Mexico Highway 185 near Radium Springs. The mesa has several ranch roads capable of supporting aircraft landing. Suspect aircraft were also observed landing on ranch roads east of Upham, New Mexico, and I-25. Other landing strips in the area which are capable of sustaining drug-smuggling aircraft are on the Corralitos Ranch north of the I-10 checkpoint; at the Hatch municipal airport; Akela, west of the I-10 checkpoint; on the ranch road north of I-10 near the Lazy E I-10 exit; and on a ranch road south of the I-10 checkpoint and south of Exit 127.
(Source: INS/BP Las Cruces, New Mexico)
- o A marijuana transportation organization based in Zapata, Texas, was reportedly planning to transport 3 metric tons of marijuana from Zapata to Houston, Texas, during April or May. The organization, which has been trafficking since 1973, utilizes 10 tractor-trailer drivers who routinely transport the marijuana.
(Source: DEA Laredo, Texas)
- o Drugs or illegal aliens are suspected of being transported through White Sands Missile Range (WSMR), New Mexico. During the past months, the locks on access gates to U.S. Highway 70 from WSMR around the Engle Gate area, have been continually cut or shot off. Suspicious individuals, who hid when approached, have been observed on WSMR roads. A gate leading to U.S. Highway 70, at mile marker 197, was completely cut off. Drug backpackers or illegal aliens are probably circumventing the INS/BP checkpoint via WSMR

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improved dirt roads that provide access to U.S. Highway 54.

(Source: INS/BP Truth or Consequences, New Mexico)

- o An organization operating in Baja California is allegedly smuggling cocaine from Mexico into the United States in bags of salt transported by tractor-trailers. These traffickers may be using the Otay Mesa and/or Tecate, California, POE's. Traffickers reportedly believe that the salt makes the cocaine difficult for canines to detect. (Source: USCS Headquarters, Washington, D.C.)
- o Cocaine and marijuana are allegedly being smuggled through the Columbus, New Mexico, cattle crossing and stockyards by a drug-trafficking group based in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The drugs are smuggled through the stockyards concurrently with herds of horses legally imported from Janos and Cuauhtemoc, Chihuahua, by American buyers. The horses are staged in Las Palomas, Chihuahua, prior to entry at Columbus. (Source: USCS Deming, New Mexico)
- o Traffickers associated with the [redacted] organization were negotiating for the purchase of 40 kilograms of methamphetamine at \$4,200 per pound. The methamphetamine was to be smuggled to Tucson, Arizona, from the Culiacan, Sinaloa, area. This organization allegedly had an unlimited supply of methamphetamine. The source indicated that the chemicals were transported from Mexico City, D.F., to Culiacan, where they were processed, and the methamphetamine was subsequently transported to Nogales, Sonora. The methamphetamine was smuggled through the Nogales POE's in 2- to 10-kilogram increments by either pedestrians carrying it on their body or in compartments of passenger cars. The organization was reportedly using Arizona because California had become too risky. (Source: DEA Guadalajara, Mexico)
- o A cocaine transportation group based in Guatemala receives cocaine from Panama and transportes it in tractor-trailers through Guatemala and Mexico to the United States/Mexico border. A shipment was reportedly being planned for entry into the United States, possibly through a south Texas POE. (Source: USCS Brownsville, Texas)
- o El Mesquital fishing port in Tamaulipas, Mexico, about 45 miles south of Brownsville, Texas, is allegedly providing fuel to fishing vessels and speedboats suspected of transporting large quantities of cocaine into the United States, possibly through South Padre Island, Texas. Allegedly, boat owners pay the fuel providers with cocaine. (Source: DEA Brownsville, Texas)
- o A joint investigation by West Virginia State Police officers and DEA Special Agents in Charleston, South Carolina, uncovered a drug transportation group that was smuggling marijuana from Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, through POE's at Laredo, Texas, in USCS-sealed tractor-trailers transporting meat. Sport utility vehicles were reportedly utilized by the group to transport the marijuana in lots of 50 to 100 kilograms to distributors in Indianapolis, Indiana; Cincinnati, Ohio; and West Virginia.

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Drug-proceed money transfers were made by wire from West Virginia to Laredo.

(Source: DEA Charleston, South Carolina)

- o Drug smuggling by air in the Deming, New Mexico, area continued, as suggested by recent incidents involving suspect aircraft.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The pilot also made inquiries concerning the Aerostat airborne radar south of Deming, particularly to its hours of operation. On April 29, a report was received alleging that a suspect Bellanca aircraft, registered to an individual from Woods Cross, Utah, was being operated in the Deming area by an unlicensed pilot.

(Source: DAICC and EPIC)

- o A Jamaican organization is using tractor-trailers to deliver wholesale quantities of marijuana to designated rest stops along major interstate highways in West Virginia.

(Source: DEA Charleston, South Carolina)

- o Drugs are reportedly being shipped in railroad tanker cars from Monclova, Coahuila, through the Brownsville, Texas, POE.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] company
 ma [REDACTED]
 (Source: USCG [REDACTED])

- o On April 20, the manager of a restaurant in Matamoros, Mexico, stated that there was a \$100,000 bounty for any law enforcement personnel involved in drug interdiction.

(Source: CCGD Eight New Orleans, Louisiana)

- o An operative associated with the [REDACTED] organization negotiated to obtain kilogram quantities of Mexican black tar heroin from Santiago Papasquero, Durango, for smuggling into the El Paso, Texas, area.

(Source: DEA El Paso, Texas)

- o Cocaine and aliens hidden in grain trucks are being smuggled from El Paso, Texas, to Clovis, New Mexico. Aliens are staged at an El Paso business and loaded in the grain trucks, which move to Clovis in a convoy. The truck drivers communicate with each other via cellular phones.

(Source: INS/BP Carlsbad, New Mexico)

- o Marijuana is being smuggled through Texas POE's inside tires on tractor trucks. On March 27, Department of Transportation inspectors at the Anthony, New Mexico, weigh station seized 75 kilograms of marijuana inside eight boxes welded to the wheels of four tires on a 1979 Freightliner tractor truck with California plates.

[REDACTED] This incident is similar to a seizure which occurred on December 11, 1995, at the Hidalgo, Texas, POE in when 361 kilograms of

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marijuana were found in 6 tires on a 1992 Kenworth tractor and in 12 tires being transported on a flatbed trailer it was towing. The marijuana was found in containers shaped in a semi-circle that were tack-welded to the wheels of the tires.

(Source: INS/BP Las Cruces, New Mexico and EPIC)

- o Drug and alien smugglers in the Eagle Pass, Texas, area are utilizing radio monitors to track law enforcement operations. On March 24, INS/BP Agents seized 316 kilograms of marijuana from a 1971 Chevrolet pickup abandoned 2 miles west of the Eagle Pass POE. Agents encountered an individual nearby with a Radio Shack scanner from which INS/BP radio communications were heard. A battery charger for the scanner was found in the abandoned truck. On April 3, a rubber raft, 10 duffel bags, and a group of individuals were seen near the boat ramp across from the southern end of Bowles Ranch. Almost immediately after this activity was reported by routine INS/BP radio communications, the group grabbed the duffel bags and fled the area. More recently, INS/BP Agents, on two successive nights, observed groups of individuals carrying bundles approach the Rio Grande River, downriver from the Eagle Pass POE. In both instances, the suspect groups fled the riverbank subsequent to INS/BP radio communication describing their movement.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
(Source: [REDACTED])

- o Metric tons of marijuana and cocaine are allegedly being smuggled across the Rio Grande River into the United States near Eagle Pass, Texas. The drugs are stockpiled and staged in Piedras Negras, Coahuila. Further transport of the drugs is made to San Antonio, Texas.

(Source: USCS Eagle Pass, Texas)

- o The Rosita Valley area continues to be used as a crossing point from Mexico to Texas for large groups of aliens and drug transporters. The area is located on the Rio Grande about 400 yards downriver from the [REDACTED] ranch fence line, 8 miles south of Eagle Pass, Texas, and opposite Rancho Rincon de San Nicolas, Coahuila. INS/BP Agents have encountered aliens and drug smugglers equipped with night-vision devices and radio equipment. Innocent picnickers have reported encounters with armed men who threatened to shoot them if they did not leave the area. This river crossing is also being used by traffickers transporting marijuana on modified bicycles. This location affords an unrestricted open area where bicyclists can pedal to the river's edge without trespassing on fenced property.

(Source: INS/BP Del Rio, Texas)

- o A drug-smuggling group was transporting drugs across the Rio Grande River in the Escobedo, Texas, area. On several occasions, between 12 and 15 backpackers have been seen carrying bundles from the river area to an awaiting pickup. The traffickers even enter the property boundaries of uninvolved residents and threaten them with bodily harm if they object. Several

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SIGNIFICANT ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

DOMESTIC

Alaska

- o On February 19, USCS Inspectors at the Federal Express office in Anchorage, Alaska, seized 1 kilogram of heroin in a parcel from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, destined for Brooklyn, New York. The heroin was concealed in a leather Pierre Cardin folder.
- o On March 2, USCS Inspectors at the Federal Express facility in Anchorage, Alaska, seized 518 grams of heroin in a parcel from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, destined for Columbia, Missouri. The heroin was concealed in a leather Pierre Cardin folder.
- o On March 14, as the result of an investigation, DEA Special Agents in Anchorage, Alaska, seized a total of 4.4 kilograms of cocaine in various packaging. The cocaine purity ranged from 86 to 99 percent. Two unopened kilogram packages of cocaine had inner wax wrappings and the outsides were marked with a green five-point star under the word "Diamond."

Arizona

- o On February 16, INS/BP Agents seized 176 kilograms of marijuana from a group of backpackers at milepost 6 on Arizona State Route 82 near Nogales, Arizona. A male Mexican national resident of Nogales, Sonora, was arrested, while the remaining group of backpackers fled.
- o On February 20, as the result of an investigation, High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Task Force agents in Phoenix, Arizona, seized 2.7 kilograms of methamphetamine and 12 weapons. Three suspects were arrested.
- o On February 21, USCS Inspectors in Nogales, Arizona, seized 528 grams of Mexican brown heroin concealed in the soles of sandals of a male Mexican national from Culiacan, Sinaloa, attempting entry as a pedestrian into the United States at the Morley Avenue POE. The suspect had in his possession a key for a bus terminal locker. USCS Special Agents located the locker at the Greyhound bus terminal and discovered an identical pair of sandals that contained an additional 556 grams of heroin.
- o On February 23, Cochise County Sheriff's officers, assisted by USCS Special Agents, seized 159 kilograms of marijuana found in the extended cab portion of a 1995 Chevrolet pickup with Arizona plates, traveling north on Arizona State Route 92 near Sierra Vista, Arizona. The driver, a male Mexican national resident of Tucson, Arizona, was arrested.
- o On February 23, as the result of a joint operation of USCS Special Agents, Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS), and the Border Alliance Group, 253 kilograms of marijuana were found in a 1989 Chevrolet Astro van

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near Huachuca City, Arizona. The vehicle had entered the United States illegally between the POE's. A female Mexican national from Naco, Sonora, was arrested. The male driver, who had fled, was later arrested.

- o On February 24, INS/BP Agents seized 168 kilograms of marijuana abandoned at 7th Street and Airport Road in Douglas, Arizona.
- o On February 26, U.S. Fish and Wildlife officers and USCS Special Agents seized 154 kilograms of marijuana that had been stashed in the hills east of Arivaca, Arizona. The seizure followed a 4-hour tracking expedition in remote mountainous terrain.
- o On February 27, Arizona DPS officers seized 10 kilograms of cocaine from the trunk of a rented 1996 Toyota Camry with California plates, traveling east on I-40 in Coconino County. A male resident of Encino, California, was en route to New Mexico from Los Angeles, California. Three gift-wrapped packages contained seven bricks of 95-percent-pure cocaine.
- o On February 29, USCS and DEA Special Agents seized 203 kilograms of marijuana concealed under the tarp of a 1989 Ford F-150 with Arizona plates, abandoned in Douglas, Arizona.
[REDACTED]
- o On March 2, Tohono O'odham Police officers and USCS patrol officers seized 156 kilograms of marijuana found in a 1983 Oldsmobile Cutlass with Arizona plates, abandoned east of

Arivaca, Arizona. Two male suspects fled.

- o On March 5, USCS Inspectors at the San Luis, Arizona, POE seized 10 kilograms of unmarked cocaine concealed under the rear seat of a 1978 Oldsmobile Cutlass Supreme with Arizona plates. The driver, a male Mexican national from San Luis Rio Colorado, Sonora, was arrested.
 - o On March 7, USCS Inspectors at the San Luis, Arizona, POE seized 93 kilograms of cocaine concealed in a 1980 BMW with California plates. The cocaine packages, wrapped in paper towels and cellophane, were found in the backs of the front seats, inside the rear seats and rear seat backs, and in both rear quarter panels. One cocaine package was stamped with the Toyota trademark. The driver, a female U.S. citizen from San Diego, California, was arrested.
[REDACTED]
- The Toyota trademark was noted in one other previous Southwest border seizure. On September 25, 1994, a 162-kilogram cocaine shipment seized at the San Luis POE had the Toyota trademark stamp. This is the third cocaine seizure at the San Luis POE during 1996 making the total for the year 114 kilograms. During the same time frame in 1995, a total of 57 kilograms of cocaine were seized in two incidents at the San Luis POE.
- o On March 7, INS/BP Agents in Nogales, Arizona, seized 250 kilograms of unmarked cocaine found

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in a 1992 Ford Explorer with Arizona plates. Agents located the vehicle at an abandoned residence near the border. The vehicle entered the United States illegally between the POE's.

- On March 8, INS/BP Agents in Nogales, Arizona, seized 207 kilograms of marijuana found in the bed of a 1988 GMC pickup with Arizona plates. Also found in the vehicle was a Yaesu transceiver radio. Agents observed the vehicle in an area just north of the Maricopa POE where three other seizures occurred in the past month. The marijuana had been backpacked across the border. The driver, a male undocumented Mexican national from Nogales, Sonora, was arrested.

- On March 14, USCS Inspectors at the Nogales, Arizona, POE seized 359 grams of white heroin concealed in the crotch area of a pedestrian attempting to enter the United States. The suspect stated that he was paid \$300 to transport cocaine across the border. Three field tests were negative for cocaine, but a test for heroin was positive. The suspect, a male Mexican national from Culiacan, Sinaloa, was arrested. It is unusual that a Mexican national pedestrian would transport any type of heroin other than black tar or Mexican brown.

- On March 14, INS/BP Agents at the I-8 checkpoint near Yuma, Arizona, seized 298 grams of Mexican brown heroin concealed in the air conditioning unit of a 1988 Mercury Grand Marquis with Arizona plates. The driver, a male Mexican national resident of Buckeye, Arizona, was arrested.

- o On March 15, INS/BP Agents in Nogales, Arizona, seized 216 kilograms of marijuana stashed near the border. The marijuana packages displayed numbers and letters written with a black marker. Agents discovered the marijuana after following footprints leading north from the border.

California

- On February 16, USCS and INS Inspectors seized 68 kilograms of cocaine concealed under the floor and in the back seat of a 1973 Volkswagen Beetle with California plates at the Calexico, California, POE. The driver, a male Mexican national resident of Mexicali, Baja California Norte, was arrested.

- On February 17, as the result of an investigation, DEA Special Agents seized 794 grams of Mexican black tar heroin from a suspect in Chula Vista, California. The heroin was reportedly smuggled into the United States via the San Ysidro, California, POE, hidden inside the master brake cylinder of a 1995 Nissan Tsuru with Mexico plates. A male Mexican national resident of Nayarit, Mexico, was arrested.

- On February 18, USCS Inspectors at the San Ysidro, California, POE seized 794 grams of Mexican brown heroin which was concealed in the crotch area of a pedestrian. The courier, a male Salvadoran national resident of Santa Ana, California, was en route to Santa Ana from Tijuana, Baja California Norte.

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- o On February 19, USCS Inspectors at the Los Angeles International Airport seized 1.9 kilograms of Mexican black tar heroin concealed in a girdle worn by a female U.S. citizen resident of Fullerton, California, arriving from Mexico.
- o On February 19, INS/BP Agents seized 227 kilograms of marijuana from a 1988 Mitsubishi Montero that had illegally entered the United States through the desert area west of Calexico, California. The driver and a passenger fled on foot to Mexico.
- o On February 19, DEA San Diego Narcotics Task Force officers seized 521 kilograms of marijuana from a boat while executing a warrant at a residence in La Mesa, California. The drugs were wrapped in foil, covered in grease, and hidden in various types of bags. Two suspects were arrested.
- o On February 20, USCS Inspectors at the Los Angeles International Airport seized 4.5 kilograms of opium from a male Vietnamese national resident of Westminster, California, arriving from Vietnam via Taiwan. The opium was concealed in 22 pairs of shoes.
- o On February 21, after a canine alert, Oakland, California, airport task force officers seized 5 kilograms of cocaine from a black male resident of Portland, Oregon, traveling on an Amtrak train from Los Angeles, California, to Portland. The cocaine, covered with red pepper, was in his carry-on luggage.
- o On February 21, CHP officers seized 25 kilograms of ephedrine and \$85,000 found in the trunk of a 1991 Toyota Corolla with California plates, traveling south in Orange County. Three Mexican males, all residents of California, were en route to Santa Ana from Orange, California.
- o On February 22, USCS Inspectors at the Los Angeles International Airport seized 380 grams of Mexican black tar heroin hidden in the ankle socks worn by a female Mexican national resident of Hesperia, California, arriving from Mexico.
- o On February 23, USCS Inspectors at the Otay Mesa, California, POE, seized 474 grams of Mexican brown heroin from a 1987 Nissan Sentra hatchback with California plates. A female U.S. citizen resident of El Cajon, California, was arrested with the heroin on her person.
- o On February 23, after a canine alert, USCS Inspectors at the San Ysidro, California, POE seized 6.6 kilograms of methamphetamine from a 1989 Dodge Colt with California plates. The methamphetamine was concealed in the dashboard. The driver, a male U.S. citizen resident of Tijuana, Baja California Norte, was arrested.
- o On February 23, as the result of an investigation, DEA Special Agents seized 20 kilograms of cocaine at a residence in Fontana, California. This incident led to an additional seizure of 154 kilograms of cocaine found in a pickup parked at a Fontana parking lot. The pickup was earlier observed leaving the residence. The cocaine was wrapped in wood grain paper or clear plastic. The marking "El Jefe" was observed on some of the packages. One suspect was arrested.

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Redwood City and Salinas, California, traveling with a juvenile male, were en route to Redwood City from Long Beach, California.

- On March 4, INS/BP Agents at the California Highway 111 checkpoint near Niland, California, seized 55 kilograms of cocaine concealed in a false floor of a 1979 Dodge van with California plates. The 50 unmarked packages of cocaine were wrapped in clear cellophane. The driver, a male Mexican national resident of Mexicali, Baja California Norte, was arrested. [REDACTED]
- On March 5, USCS Inspectors at the Andrade, California, POE seized 55 kilograms of cocaine concealed in a floor compartment of a 1977 Chevrolet van with California plates. The unmarked cocaine packages were wrapped in clear plastic. The driver, a male Mexican national from Baja California Norte, Mexico, was arrested.
- On March 5, INS/BP Agents in Jacumba, California, seized 259 kilograms of marijuana abandoned in nine duffel bags near mile marker 38 on California Highway 80. Several backpackers were observed running toward Mexico.
- On March 6, after a canine alert, USCS Inspectors at the Calexico, California, POE seized 42 kilograms of cocaine covered with talcum powder and concealed in the gas tank of a 1990 Chevrolet Astro van with California plates. One of the packages had "Condor" handwritten in blue marker. The driver, a female Mexican national, was arrested.
- On March 6, USCS Inspectors at the Los Angeles International Airport mail facility seized 7.6 kilograms of white heroin in a parcel from Khlong Lam Kham Phang Phet, Thailand, en route to Sacramento, California. The heroin, in the form of 51 green and white tablets and 23 yellow and orange tablets, was contained in an envelope.
- On March 7, USCS Inspectors at the Calexico, California, POE seized 38 kilograms of cocaine concealed in the front fenders of a 1973 Ford Maverick with California plates. The 31 unmarked cocaine packages were wrapped in gray duct tape. The driver, a Mexican male national resident of Yuma, Arizona, was arrested. [REDACTED]
- On March 7, CHP officers seized 7 kilograms of methamphetamine and \$1,148 from a male Mexican resident of Gustine, California, traveling east on I-40 in San Bernardino County, en route to Amarillo, Texas, from Gustine. The methamphetamine was discovered between the bed and liner of a 1996 Ford pickup with California plates.
- On March 7, a joint investigation by DEA Los Angeles and the Los Angeles Police Department resulted in the seizure of 1.3 kilograms of Mexican black tar heroin in Van Nuys, California. Five individuals were arrested.

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- o On March 8, USCS Inspectors at the Oakland, California, mail facility seized 1 kilogram of opium in a parcel from Thailand destined for Rancho Cordova, California. The opium was concealed in the outside ends of 43 fans. Each fan measured 23 inches in length.
- o On March 9, CHP officers seized 330 kilograms of marijuana from a 1982 Ford pickup with California plates, traveling west on I-10 in Los Angeles County. The driver, a resident of Rancho Cucamonga, California, and the passenger, a resident of Corona, California, were en route to El Monte from Pomona, California.
- o On March 9, CHP officers seized 166 kilograms of marijuana concealed in a 1986 Toyota stakebed truck with California plates, traveling south on California State Route 57 in Los Angeles County. The marijuana was packed in duffel bags and large dry goods sacks and commingled with lawn equipment and cuttings. The driver and passenger, residents of Santa Ana, California, were en route to Santa Ana from Pomona, California.
- o On March 10, INS/BP Agents seized 174 kilograms of marijuana concealed under the camper shell of a 1987 Ford F-150 with California plates, traveling west of Calexico, California. Agents observed several individuals load bundles into the pickup at the All American Canal. The driver, a male undocumented Mexican national from Mexicali, Baja California Norte, was arrested. The plates on the vehicle did not match the vehicle identification number.
- o On March 11, USCS Inspectors at the San Ysidro, California, POE seized 50 kilograms of cocaine concealed in the front fenders of a 1974 Ford Maverick with California plates. The unmarked cocaine packages were wrapped in cellophane. The driver, a male U.S. citizen from Gardena, California, was arrested.
- o On March 11, CHP officers seized \$130,294 ~~and~~ a 1990 Chevrolet Lumina with California plates, traveling south on I-5 in Kern County. A male Mexican resident of Mountain View, California, was allegedly en route to Los Angeles, California, from Mountain View. The currency was concealed in an electronically operated compartment in the left rear side panel.
- o On March 11, as the result of an investigation, USCS Special Agents and California State Narcotics Agents seized 173 kilograms of marijuana at a residence in Orange Grove, California. A U.S. citizen from Huntington Beach, California, was arrested.
- o On March 11, USCS Inspectors at the San Francisco, California, international airport seized 14 kilograms of opium at the Singapore Airlines cargo area from a shipment that arrived from Thailand via Singapore. The DHL shipment, manifested as wooden items, was en route to Boise, Idaho. The 12-carton shipment contained wooden flowers, wooden bird plaques, and wooden parrots. The opium was contained within five cartons of wooden parrots.
- o On March 12, INS/BP Agents in Imperial County, California, seized

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from seizing the currency due to a recent decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

- o On March 9, Colorado Highway Patrol officers seized 197 kilograms of marijuana found inside several boxes in the cargo area of a 1994 GMC U-Haul truck with Texas plates, traveling east on I-76 in Logan County. The driver, a resident of El Paso, Texas, was allegedly en route to Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Florida -

- o On February 12, USCS Inspectors in Miami, Florida, seized 4.5 kilograms of cocaine from the Belizean-flag coastal freighter [REDACTED]. The cocaine was in a metal box hidden inside a bucket of bolts in the engine room. The vessel had arrived from Miragoane, Haiti, and had run aground near Cuba 15 days earlier.
- o On February 16, USCS Inspectors in an investigation developed by DEA Miami, seized 112 kilograms of cocaine from a shipping container at Port Everglades, Florida. The drugs were hidden among a cargo of tiles that had arrived aboard the M/V [REDACTED] from Cartagena, Colombia. On February 23, as part of the same investigation, USCS Inspectors seized an additional 250 kilograms of cocaine from a shipping container aboard the M/V [REDACTED] at Port Everglades. The drugs were stored in duffel bags and hidden among a cargo of tires that had also arrived from Cartagena.
- o On February 16, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport mail

facility seized 5.4 kilograms of cocaine from a parcel arriving from Bogota, Colombia, destined for Burbank, California. The package contained several metal handcrafts which were poorly made and of little value.

- o On February 18, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 600 grams of heroin from a male Colombian national resident of Astoria, New York. The heroin had been ingested.
- o On February 18, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 545 grams of heroin from a male Colombian national upon arrival of an American Airlines flight from Cali, Colombia. The 24-year-old flight crew member had ingested 63 pellets.
- o On February 18, Jacksonville, Florida, airport task force officers seized 1 kilogram of cocaine and 1.2 kilograms of unidentified heroin from a white male resident of Queens, New York City, traveling from Miami, Florida, to New York City on a Greyhound bus. The cocaine was in plastic bags inside his luggage, and the heroin was behind side panels.
- o On February 18, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 1.2 kilograms of heroin from a female Colombian national resident of Bogota, Colombia, arriving from Bogota. The heroin was both concealed on her person and ingested.
- o On February 21, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized a total of 9 kilograms of cocaine from two male U.S. citizen residents of Miami, Florida, both arriving from

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- Lima, Peru. The cocaine was taped to their bodies.
- o On February 21, USCS Inspectors at Boca Grande, Florida, seized 818 kilograms of marijuana concealed in a compartment in the keel of the sailing vessel [REDACTED]. The vessel had departed Jamaica on February 10 destined for the southeastern United States via the Yucatan Channel. The ship's master and one crew member were arrested.
 - o On February 22, the USCG cutter Point Countess seized 350 kilograms of cocaine from a sailboat 12 miles southwest of Tampa Bay, Florida. The drugs were hidden in the forward compartment. Four male suspects were arrested.
 - o On February 22, as the result of an investigation, DEA and USCS Special Agents and Metro Dade Police officers seized 154 kilograms of cocaine at a seafood business in Miami, Florida. The drugs were hidden among a cargo of fresh seafood packaged in styrofoam containers. The cargo originated from a business in Panama.
 - o On February 23, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 2 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a male Colombian national resident of Bogota, Colombia, arriving from Bogota. The heroin was concealed in the linings of the jacket he was wearing and two other jackets in his luggage.
 - o On February 23, as the result of an investigation, DEA Miami Special Agents seized 1,591 kilograms of marijuana in south Florida. The drugs, which had been shipped to Florida by vessel, were the property of a drug trafficking organization based in Medellin, Colombia. Five suspects were arrested.
 - o On February 24, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 31 kilograms of cocaine concealed within an abandoned suitcase that arrived from Caracas, Venezuela, aboard a Lan Chile flight.
 - o On February 24, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 5 kilograms of cocaine concealed within the lining of a comforter found inside an abandoned hard-sided carry-on suitcase arriving from Sao Paulo, Brazil, en route to Johannesburg, South Africa, and erroneously routed through Miami, Florida.
 - o On February 24, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 149 kilograms of cocaine concealed in unmanifested courier bags arriving from Bogota, Colombia, and destined for Miami, Florida.
 - o On February 24, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 68 kilograms of cocaine concealed in a shipment of hydraulic pump equipment that had arrived from Bogota, Colombia, and was destined for a company in Citronel, Alabama.
 - o On February 24, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 431 grams of heroin from a male U.S. citizen resident of Jackson Heights, New York, arriving from Colombia. The heroin was concealed in the soles of the shoes he was wearing and the shoes in his luggage.

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- Department of Public Safety (DPS) Officers, and Mission, Texas, police officers, seized an additional 887 kilograms of marijuana at a residence near Alamo later that day. Nine individuals in Florida and one in Texas were arrested.
- On March 1, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized \$18,000,000 in Spanish pesetas (equivalent to \$145,161 in U.S. currency) and \$8,635 in negotiable instruments from a male Colombian national resident of Bogota, Colombia, arriving from Colombia.
 - o On March 2, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized \$308,519 from a female Dutch national resident of Bogota, Colombia. The currency was concealed on her person as she attempted to depart the United States for Colombia.
 - o On March 2, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 32.5 kilograms of cocaine concealed in two abandoned boxes with an Avensa tag, arriving from Maracaibo, Venezuela.
 - On March 2, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 4.4 kilograms of cocaine from a male Peruvian national resident of Lima, Peru, arriving from Chile. The cocaine was concealed on his person.
 - On March 2, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 3.2 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a male Colombian national resident of Bogota, Colombia, arriving from Colombia. The heroin was concealed in mens clothing.
 - On March 3, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 4.5 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a male Venezuelan national resident of San Cristobal, Venezuela, arriving from Venezuela. The heroin was concealed in the false bottoms of two suitcases.
 - o On March 5, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport mail facility seized 6 kilograms of cocaine from a [REDACTED] courier package that arrived from Bogota, Colombia, en route to a business in Ottawa, Canada. The cocaine was concealed inside 54 lucite paperweights.
 - o On March 5, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 2.2 kilograms of cocaine from an Aeroenvios courier parcel that arrived from Bogota, Colombia, en route to Brentwood, New York.
 - o On March 6, USCS Inspectors seized 91 kilograms of cocaine from a container aboard the M/V [REDACTED] in Port Everglades, Florida. The cocaine was discovered inside four large microwave oven boxes. The M/V [REDACTED] had traveled from Colon, Panama, through Puerto Limon, Costa Rica, to Port Everglades. A large number of the cocaine packages were marked "JJ" with a sailboat logo. The cocaine was also packaged in yellow, brown, and gray duct tape and was saturated in heavy engine oil.
 - On March 9, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 681 grams of suspected Colombian heroin from a female Colombian national arriving from Cali, Colombia. The 27-

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year-old female, traveling with her mother, infant son, and two small dogs, had concealed the heroin inside nine pairs of shoes that reeked of acetone.

- o On March 7, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport cargo facility seized 1.4 kilograms of cocaine upon arrival of an Arca flight from Bogota, Colombia. A canine alerted to the interior panel of the aircraft behind which three packages were discovered.
- o On March 7, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport cargo facility seized 35 kilograms of cocaine from an unmanifested flower box that arrived on a Southern Air transport flight from Bogota, Colombia. Only the cocaine was packed in the flower box marked "Pacifica Flowers." There were no flowers in the box.
- o On March 11, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 3 kilograms of cocaine from a female U.S. citizen resident of Miami, Florida, arriving from Lima, Peru. The 20-year-old student had concealed the cocaine around her abdominal area.
- o On March 11, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport mail facility seized 2 kilograms of cocaine from a TNT courier that arrived from Pereira, Colombia, en route to Ungarn, Hungary. The cocaine was concealed in metal gears.
- o On March 11, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 2.8 kilograms of cocaine from a male U.S. citizen resident of Washington, D.C., arriving from Panama City, Panama. The 22-year-old male was traveling

with a 35-year-old Jamaican male companion who was arrested as the alleged cocaine owner. The cocaine was located inside two boxes of Duracell batteries.

- o On March 12, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized \$159,137 from a male Colombian national business owner arriving on an Aces flight from Bogota, Colombia. The 27-year-old male had hidden the money inside stereo speakers and a VCR.
- o On March 13, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 2 kilograms of cocaine from a male Jamaican national arriving on an Air Jamaica flight from Kingston, Jamaica. The salesman had concealed the cocaine in the thick frames of his suitcase.
- o On March 13, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 24 kilograms of cocaine from a female Paraguayan national resident of Rotterdam, Netherlands, arriving from Suriname. The 10 bricks of cocaine, wrapped in carbon paper and plastic tape, were concealed in her luggage.
- o On March 14, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 4.2 kilograms of cocaine from a male Peruvian national resident of Peura, Peru, arriving from Peru. The cocaine was concealed in six taped packages held to his body by a girdle and a body suit.

Georgia

- o On February 27, as the result of an investigation, ~~Memo~~ Atlanta HIDTA

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Task Force officers seized 822 grams of heroin in Atlanta, Georgia. Three male Mexican nationals were arrested.

resulted in the arrests of three Hispanic males.

Hawaii

- o On February 27, USCS Inspectors at the Honolulu, Hawaii, international airport seized 800 grams of opium from a male Laotian national resident alien of Honolulu arriving from Laos via Japan. The opium was concealed in his luggage and on his person.
- o On March 6, USCS Inspectors at the Honolulu, Hawaii, airport mail facility seized a total of 7.6 kilograms of opium from five parcels mailed by different individuals in Vientiane, Laos, to individuals in Stockton, Carmichael, and Elk Grove, California. The opium, in brownish powder form, was concealed in individual packets in four parcels and inside four plastic bottles in the fifth parcel.

Kansas

- o On March 12, Kansas State Police officers seized 167 kilograms of marijuana from the trunk of a 1992 Ford Taurus with Pennsylvania plates, traveling east on I-70 in Thomas County near Colby. A white male resident of Tucson, Arizona, was arrested.
- o On March 15, Kansas Highway Patrol officers seized 6 kilograms of methamphetamine from a 1983 Chevrolet station wagon with California plates, traveling east on I-70 in Thomas County. The white couple, residents of California, were en route to Wichita, Kansas, from California. A controlled delivery to Wichita

Kentucky

- o On February 25, USCS Inspectors at the UPS mail facility in Louisville, Kentucky, seized 320 grams of white heroin in a parcel from Malaysia destined for Niles, Illinois. The heroin was concealed in the cover of a Pierre Cardin leather portfolio.
- o On March 3, USCS Inspectors at the UPS mail facility in Louisville, Kentucky, seized 662 grams of white heroin in a parcel from Kenya destined for an individual in New York City, New York. The heroin was concealed within the lining of a portfolio.

Louisiana

- o On February 25, Louisiana State Police officers seized 8.2 kilograms of cocaine from a 1990 Ford Thunderbird with Texas plates, traveling east on I-10 in St. Martin's Parish. Two male residents of Texas were en route to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, from Houston, Texas. The cocaine was located in two electrically controlled compartments in the quarter panels. Access was gained by pushing a release button located under the dashboard, which released the trunk latches. The unmarked cocaine packages were smeared with mustard.
- o On March 2, Louisiana State Police officers seized \$219,000 concealed between the liner and bed of a 1988 Toyota pickup with Alabama plates, traveling west on I-10 in Jefferson Davis Parish. The driver, a black male resident of Birmingham, Alabama,

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signed a disclaimer to the currency and was released.

- o On March 14, Louisiana State Police officers seized 175 kilograms of marijuana concealed in a 1986 utility refrigerated trailer being towed by a 1986 Kenworth tractor, both with Florida plates, traveling east on I-10 in St. Martin's Parish. The marijuana packages, odor-masked with fabric softener sheets, were packed in duffel bags and concealed in a load of onions. Two U.S. citizens from Miami, Florida, were en route to Miami from McAllen, Texas.

Maryland

- o On March 6, after a referral from the Los Angeles airport task force, Baltimore's Friendship Airport task force officers seized 8 kilograms of cocaine from a black male resident of Los Angeles, California, and a black female resident of Ontario, California. The couple was traveling from Los Angeles to Baltimore, Maryland. The cocaine was concealed in the female's checked luggage.
- o On February 20, Maryland State Police officers seized 6.3 kilograms of crack cocaine and \$10,000 from a 1988 Honda Accord with North Carolina plates, traveling south on I-95 in Harford County. Two black male residents of Florence and Olanta, South Carolina, were en route to Charlotte, North Carolina, from New York City. The crack cocaine was hidden in a compartment located in one rear quarter panel, and the currency was found in the other rear quarter panel. This is the largest

Operation PIPELINE crack cocaine seizure since 1986.

Michigan

- o On February 20, USCS Inspectors at Detroit, Michigan, international airport seized \$122,341 from a Korean couple arriving from Korea.

Mississippi

- o On February 26, Hinds County, Mississippi, sheriff's officers seized 181 kilograms of marijuana from a 1979 Dodge motor home with Texas plates, traveling east on I-20. The male Hispanic resident of Donna, Texas, and the female Hispanic resident of San Juan, Texas, were en route to Atlanta, Georgia, from Edinburg, Texas. The marijuana was hidden in the roof of the bathroom.

Missouri

- o On March 6, St. Louis airport task force officers seized \$124,012 from two black males and one black female, all residents of St. Louis, Missouri, who were traveling from St. Louis to Houston, Texas. The currency was concealed in the clothing worn by the three passengers.
- o On March 8, Missouri Highway Patrol officers seized 227 kilograms of marijuana from a 1984 Mercury Marquis with Texas plates, traveling east on U.S. 60 in Butler County near Poplar Bluff. A male Mexican national resident of Fort Worth, Texas, was arrested.
- o On March 14, Missouri Highway Patrol officers seized 215 kilograms of

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marijuana found in suitcases in the back of a 1990 Chevrolet conversion van with New Mexico plates. Two residents of El Paso, Texas, were arrested.

a female Iraqi national resident of Detroit, Michigan, arriving on a KLM flight from Amsterdam, Netherlands. The 38-year-old housemaid courier had concealed the heroin in the soles of her shoes and inside a body cavity.

Nebraska

- On March 11, Omaha airport task force officers seized 1 kilogram of methamphetamine from a male Hispanic resident of Sioux City, Iowa, traveling from San Jose, California, to Omaha, Nebraska, via Las Vegas, Nevada. The methamphetamine was in his carry-on luggage.

Illinois

- On February 19, Illinois State Police officers seized 114 kilograms of cocaine concealed in a metal compartment under the bed of a 1988 Chevrolet pickup traveling east on I-80 in Bureau County. Two Hispanic males, residents of the Bronx, New York City, were en route to the Bronx from Hollywood, California.
- On February 29, Illinois State Police officers seized 126 kilograms of cocaine from a 1995 Jamboree motor home traveling east on I-80 in La Salle County. The driver, a female Colombian national resident of Miami, Florida, and her passenger, a male Colombian national resident of Sunrise, Florida, were en route to Staten Island, New York City, from Los Angeles, California. The cocaine was found concealed in a false floor of the motor home.
- On March 7, USCS Inspectors at the Chicago O'Hare International Airport seized 334 grams of white heroin from

Nevada

- On February 27, the Nevada County, California, sheriff's office seized 22.7 kilograms of processed and packaged psilocybin mushrooms from a vehicle and arrested its driver in Truckee, California. As part of the same investigation, the North Lake Tahoe Task Force, in conjunction with DEA Reno, seized a fully operational indoor psilocybin mushroom manufacturing and processing facility in Washoe Valley, Nevada. The facility was located in a detached outbuilding on residential property. Authorities also seized an additional 16 kilograms of psilocybin mushrooms and \$17,000 at this location.
- On March 4, Nevada Narcotics Interdiction Task Force officers seized 5.7 kilograms of cocaine from a male Mexican national resident of Compton, California, arriving at the Las Vegas Greyhound bus terminal. The cocaine was in his hand-carried luggage. The bus was bound for Pueblo, Colorado.

New Jersey

- On February 24, New Jersey State Police officers seized 4.4 kilograms of crack cocaine from a 1991 Chevrolet Lumina van with Virginia plates, traveling on the New Jersey Turnpike near Carney's Point. The white male resident of Virginia Beach, Virginia, was en route to Virginia Beach from

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New York

- o On February 16, DEA New York Special Agents seized 221 kilograms of cocaine and arrested six members of a cocaine trafficking organization that distributed 300 kilograms of cocaine monthly in Manhattan's Washington Heights section. Approximately \$500,000 in cash, five vehicles, and two handguns were also seized.
- o On February 17, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 24.6 kilograms of cocaine from a male U.S. citizen upon arrival of a Guyana Airways flight from Guyana. The 24-year-old male had concealed the cocaine in his suitcase.
- o On February 19, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport mail facility seized 9.1 kilograms of cocaine from a shipment listed as personal effects upon arrival of a Tampa Airlines flight from Cali, Colombia. A canine alerted to a scuba tank where the cocaine was concealed.
- o On February 19, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport mail facility seized 2.1 kilograms of white heroin from a mail parcel that arrived from Karachi, Pakistan, destined for an individual in Waterbury, Connecticut. The heroin was concealed inside 100 spools wrapped with metallic thread.
- o On February 20, after information was received from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 17.7 kilograms of cocaine concealed in a flight bag in the rear cargo area of an aircraft arriving from Chile via Lagos. The bag was consigned to an individual in Miami, Florida.
- o On February 22, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 3.6 kilograms of cocaine concealed within compartment dividers of two tote bags carried by a female Uruguayan national resident of Queens, New York City, arriving from Argentina.
- o On February 23, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 2.7 kilograms of white heroin from a female Jamaican national resident of Elmsford, New York, arriving from London, England. The heroin was inside five toothpaste tubes, seven soap boxes, and one hand cream bottle.
- o On February 29, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized \$112,527 from a female Israeli national resident of Miami, Florida. The currency was concealed in a cereal box, a toothpaste box, and a can of powder.
- o On March 4, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 4.3 kilograms of liquid cocaine contained within three bottles of an alcoholic beverage, transported by a male Colombian national resident of Pereira, Colombia, arriving from Colombia.
- o On March 6, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport mail facility seized 990 grams of white heroin from express mail that arrived from Karachi, Pakistan, addressed to an individual in Flushing, New York. The heroin was contained within 50 spools of thread.

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- On March 7, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 287 grams of suspected Colombian heroin from a female Colombian national upon arrival of an Avianca flight from Colombia. The heroin was concealed inside a can of Aqua Net hair spray.
 - On March 11, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 11.3 kilograms of liquid cocaine from a male Guyanese national resident of Brooklyn, New York City, arriving from Guyana. The liquid cocaine was inside rum bottles.
 - On March 14, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 6.6 kilograms of cocaine from the rear lavatory of an aircraft arriving from Trinidad.
- Ohio
- On February 25, Ohio State Highway Patrol officers seized 19 kilograms of cocaine from a 1991 Oldsmobile Cutlass with Texas plates, traveling east on I-70 in Preble County near Eaton, Ohio. The black male resident of Houston, Texas, was en route to Detroit, Michigan, from Houston. The cocaine was found in an electrically controlled compartment located in the quarter panels. Access was gained by turning the headlights on, lifting the center console, and inserting a wire in pin holes to release a latch located inside the rear quarter panels. The packages of cocaine were wrapped in numerous layers of plastic, further wrapped with a latex material, and sealed with duct tape. Liquid and solid air freshener, as well as coffee grounds, were used as masking agents. The yellow letters "NRV" were stamped on black labels and the letters "SULZA" in red on white stickers were on the corner of each package. The letters "OVW" were embossed on the cocaine itself.
 - On February 28, Ohio State Highway Patrol officers seized 4.5 kilograms of methamphetamine from a 1986 Chevrolet Suburban with temporary plates, traveling on I-80 in Williams County near Bryan. The male driver, a resident of Prescott, Michigan, two black male passengers from North Hollywood and Montecito, California, and a white female passenger from Plainwell, Michigan, were en route to Columbus, Ohio, from Prescott. The methamphetamine was found inside a locked safe located in the back of the vehicle. An SKS assault rifle, a clip with 30 rounds, and a silencer were also seized. Information found inside the vehicle was used to seize a lab in Michigan, an additional 1.8 kilograms of methamphetamine, and a fully automatic Mac 10 pistol.
 - On March 11, after a referral from the Alicatown Operation JETWAY Task Force, Cleveland airport task force officers seized 315 grams of heroin from a black female resident of Cleveland, Ohio, traveling from New York City, New York, to Cleveland with a black male on a Greyhound bus. Upon arrival in Cleveland, the couple attempted to elude officers by running to a waiting vehicle. The male was able to get into the vehicle, however, the female was detained. The heroin was gift wrapped. Further investigation identified the two males in the getaway vehicle.

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picked up the vehicle from a parking lot and was driving it to Chicago, Illinois. The vehicle had been driven by another party to Memphis from an unknown location.

- o On March 11, Memphis, Tennessee, Operation JETWAY Task Force officers seized 195 kilograms of marijuana discovered in four 55-gallon drums at the FEDEX mail facility. The drums were sent by overnight mail from a business in Los Angeles, California. Three drums were delivered to Birmingham, Alabama, and one drum to a business in Island Park, New York.

Texas

- o On February 15, DEA Special Agents and Cameron County, Texas, task force officers seized 336 kilograms of cocaine and 755 kilograms of marijuana in a park just north of South Padre Island. It is believed that Mexican shark boats, reported to be involved in smuggling in this area, landed the drugs. As many as 20 persons may have been involved in this smuggling venture. Three suspects were arrested, and three vehicles were seized. The cocaine packages were marked "TAVO" with a picture of a male figure and "GITANO" and "GYPSY" on the top and bottom, respectively.
- o On February 16, Deep East Texas Regional Narcotics Task Force officers seized 10 kilograms of cocaine from a 1989 Ford Thunderbird with Mississippi plates, traveling north on West Loop 224 in Nacogdoches. A black male resident of Memphis, Tennessee, was en route from

Houston, Texas, to Mississippi. The cocaine was concealed in a false compartment under the vehicle where the bumper was attached.

- o On February 16, as the result of an investigation, DEA Special Agents from San Antonio and Laredo, and Texas DPS officers seized a total of 190 kilograms of marijuana at two locations in Bexar and Medina Counties. At the Medina location, authorities also seized a nonoperational clandestine methamphetamine lab, assorted chemicals, and 5.9 kilograms of methamphetamine.
- a On February 17, Texas DPS officers seized 200 kilograms of cocaine found in the back of a 1996 Ford Aerostar with California plates, traveling east on I-40 in Potter County. Markings on the cocaine packages were "CONDOR," "L" with miscellaneous numbers, "FUJIHORO" in black letters, "T," and "FUJI." Two Colombian nationals stated that they flew from New York to Los Angeles, California, where they picked up the van and were en route to Miami, Florida. The driver of the van attempted to run over the patrol officer.
- d On February 17, INS/BP Agents seized 839 grams of Mexican black tar heroin from a passenger on a northbound Greyhound bus at the Laredo, Texas, checkpoint. A Mexican national resident of Mount Pleasant, Texas, was arrested.
- a On February 19, INS/BP Agents seized 233 kilograms of marijuana from the back seat and trunk of a 1987 Ford Crown Victoria in La Casa, Texas.

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The driver, a Mexican national resident of Camargo, Tamaulipas, was arrested subsequent to a short chase which ended when the driver lost control of the vehicle.

- o On February 19, as the result of an investigation, USCS Special Agents seized 817 kilograms of marijuana from a false roof of a Timpte refrigerated trailer parked at a motel in McAllen, Texas.
- o On February 19, INS/BP Agents seized 270 kilograms of marijuana from the bed of a 1989 Chevrolet pickup near El Indio, Texas. The driver fled. The vehicle was registered to a Dallas, Texas, address.
- o On February 20, USCS Inspectors seized 309 kilograms of marijuana from the trunk of a 1988 Chevrolet Caprice at the El Paso, Texas, Bridge of the Americas POE. The driver of the vehicle fled to Mexico.
- o On February 20, INS/BP Agents seized 1.134 kilograms of marijuana found in a GMC van with Texas plates, parked inside a garage at a residence in Rio Grande City, Texas. Agents observed the van exit a known drug trafficking area and followed the van to the residence. One U.S. citizen from Rio Grande City was arrested.
- o On February 21, USCS Inspectors at the Fabens, Texas, POE seized 3.9 kilograms of suspected Mexican brown heroin concealed in the gas tank of a 1966 Chevrolet pickup.
- o On February 22, Texas DPS officers seized \$345,780 found in a suitcase in the trunk of a rented 1996 Cadillac with Pennsylvania plates, traveling west on I-30 in Hopkins County. Two white males, residents of Torrance and Belvedere, California, were en route to Dallas, Texas, from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- o On February 22, Iron County sheriff's deputies seized 210 kilograms of marijuana concealed in the cab of a 1976 Ford Ranger with Minnesota plates stopped on Highway 163 north of Barnhart, Texas. The officer stopped to assist three individuals who appeared to be having mechanical problems and discovered the marijuana hidden under some clothing in the rear portion of the pickup cab. Three male Mexican nationals fled but were later apprehended.
- o On February 23, El Paso Operation JETWAY Task Force officers seized 1.5 kilograms of opium in a parcel from El Paso, Texas, destined for Burbank, California. The package contained five opium-filled PVC pipes concealed within an automobile stereo amplifier.
- o On February 24, INS/BP Agents seized 3.578 kilograms of marijuana near Quemado, Texas, west of Eagle Pass, Texas. INS/BP Agents encountered a 1989 Ford van with Texas plates, loaded with bundles of marijuana parked behind some vacant houses near the Rio Grande River. More marijuana bundles were discovered along the trail leading to the river where additional large bundles of marijuana were found stacked on the riverbank and on an island in the river. No suspects were seen; however, a single gunshot was heard which seemed to come from the island.

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Memphis, Tennessee, was en route to Memphis from Dallas, Texas. The cocaine was found in a side door panel.

- o On May 1, Arkansas State Police officers seized 19 kilograms of cocaine concealed in the quarter panels of a 1986 Toyota Tercel with California plates traveling east on I-40 in St. Frances County. The cocaine packages were wrapped with cellophane, a yellow material, zip-lock bags, and duct tape. All of the packages were marked with the letters "TOCA." The Toyota was being escorted by a 1989 Nissan 240SX with Georgia plates. Five U.S. citizens from the Los Angeles, California, area were en route to Atlanta, Georgia, from Los Angeles.

California

- o On April 16, DEA Special Agents seized 507 grams of Mexican black tar heroin in Los Angeles, California. The heroin was very brittle and had the consistency of burned glass. One male Mexican national was arrested.
- o On April 16, as the result of an investigation, Los Angeles County Sheriff's officers, in conjunction with southern California Drug Task Force officers, seized 466 kilograms of cocaine at a residence in Los Angeles, California. One suspect was arrested.
- o On April 17, as the result of an investigation, DEA Special Agents and Huntington Park Police officers seized 6 kilograms of cocaine found in the rear passenger side panel of a 1987 Volkswagen Jetta with California plates, parked at a residence in Ontario, California. The cellophane-wrapped

packages were marked with the letters "RUBI" handwritten with either a black or orange marker.

- o On April 17, Los Angeles Task Force officers seized 67.9 kilograms of cocaine from two males and three females, all residents of Puerto Rico, traveling from Los Angeles, California, to New York, New York, on Trans World Airlines. The cocaine was inside canvas duffel bags.
- o On April 18, INS/BP Agents in Calexico, California, seized 164 kilograms of marijuana found in the bed of a 1982 Dodge pickup with California plates. The vehicle entered the United States illegally and was traveling on the All American Canal Road when agents attempted a traffic stop. The occupants fled to Mexico.
- o On April 18, as the result of an investigation, DEA Special Agents seized 425 grams of Mexican black tar heroin in San Bernardino, California. Two males from San Bernardino were arrested.
- o On April 18, San Diego Airport Task Force officers seized 2 kilograms of cocaine from a black male resident of San Diego, California, traveling from San Diego to Little Rock, Arkansas, via Phoenix, Arizona, on Southwest Airlines. From Little Rock, he was going to travel to Memphis, Tennessee, by an alternative means. The cocaine was taped to his body below his waistband and in his jacket pockets. The suspect was traveling with two other black males who were not arrested.

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from Huntington Park, California. The owner of the Pontiac was driving the Cadillac. With the aid of a canine, the methamphetamine was located within the Pontiac's doors.

- o On April 24, INS/BP Agents in Jacumba, California, seized 309 kilograms of marijuana found in the bed of a 1982 GMC pickup with California plates. Agents observed the vehicle illegally enter the United States. The driver abandoned the vehicle and fled to Mexico.
- o On April 24, USCS Inspectors at the Calexico, California, POE seized 404 kilograms of cocaine found in the trunk of a 1987 Volkswagen Jetta. Of the 383 packages, 31 had a picture of a lady (from the waist up) with long black hair, dressed in a corset and the words [REDACTED] in large letters. The driver ran back to Mexico. The plate on the Jetta did not match the Jetta's registration. [REDACTED]
- o On April 24, San Francisco airport task force officers seized 2 kilograms of cocaine, a 9mm pistol, ammunition, and a bulletproof vest discovered in checked luggage of a male and two females traveling from San Francisco, California, to New Orleans, Louisiana, on a Trans World Airlines flight.
- o On April 26, USCS Inspectors at the San Ysidro, California, POE seized 820 grams of Mexican black tar heroin concealed in the shoes of a pedestrian,

a male U.S. citizen from San Diego, California.

- o On April 26, USCS Inspectors at the San Francisco, California, international airport seized 540 grams of white heroin discovered in an express mail parcel that arrived from the Philippines en route to Mount Rainier, Maryland. The heroin was concealed inside the front and back covers of a photo album.
- o On April 27, USCS Inspectors at the San Ysidro, California, POE seized 13.7 kilograms of Mexican-manufactured methamphetamine concealed inside the gas tank of a 1979 Volkswagen Rabbit with California plates. The driver, a male Mexican national from Fallbrook, California, was arrested. [REDACTED]
- o On April 27, USCS Inspectors at the Oray Mesa, California, POE seized 17.8 kilograms of Mexican-manufactured methamphetamine concealed in a compartment under the front floor of a 1984 Nissan Maxima with California plates. The driver, a female U.S. citizen from Fontana, California, was arrested. The driver was accompanied by her 6-year-old son. [REDACTED]
- o On April 27, USCS Inspectors at the San Ysidro, California, POE seized 12 kilograms of Mexican-manufactured methamphetamine found in the trunk of a 1979 Chevrolet Caprice with

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ARTICLES OF GENERAL INTEREST

DOMESTIC

CY95 OPERATION JETWAY REPORT

Operation JETWAY targets drug and currency smuggling conducted by passengers traveling by commercial aircraft, train, or bus, and using hotels or motels located near airports, and bus and train stations; it also targets smuggling via parcel. The following is a brief synopsis of a year-end assessment which focuses on Operation JETWAY seizures reported to EPIC during Calendar Year (CY95).

During CY95, there were 3,865 Operation JETWAY seizure incidents reported to EPIC. Of these, 1,558 (40 percent) were marijuana seizures totaling 25,102 kilograms; 465 (12 percent) were cocaine HCl seizures totaling 3,181 kilograms; 125 (3 percent) were crack cocaine incidents totaling 101 kilograms; 80 (2 percent) were heroin seizures equaling 47 kilograms; 94 (2 percent) were methamphetamine seizures of 125 kilograms; 20 (1 percent) were PCP seizures amounting to 392 kilograms; and 1,421 (37 percent) were currency seizures amounting to \$48,716,018. Additionally, there were 45 weapons/weapon parts seized.

Of the 3,865 incidents, 2,399 (62 percent) involved the seizure of drugs. The vast majority of the drug seizures occurred from commercial airline passengers (1,356 incidents—57 percent), followed by parcels (684 incidents—29 percent), bus passengers (257 incidents—11 percent), and train passengers (93 incidents—4 percent). Nine seizures occurred from air cargo. The currency seizures involved commercial

airline passengers (1,218 incidents—86 percent), mail/parcel seizures, (106 incidents—7 percent), bus passengers (82 seizures—6 percent), train passengers (11 seizures—7 percent), and air cargo (4 seizures—3 percent).

The top three methods used by couriers to conceal drugs involved checked luggage (1,018 incidents—42 percent), carry-on luggage (318 incidents—13 percent), and external body carry (156 incidents—7 percent). Couriers smuggling currency preferred to use carry-on luggage (406 incidents—29 percent), and external body carry methods (398 incidents—28 percent). Checked luggage was used in 258 instances (18 percent). Other lesser used methods of concealment by couriers included internal body carry and within shoes.

A review of the drug and currency seizures reflects a fairly even distribution of seizure incidents during the Monday through Friday time frame, with a sharp decline on the weekends.

There were 5,729 people reportedly associated with Operation JETWAY seizures. Forty-seven percent of the drug couriers were males, 23 percent were females, and in 30 percent of the cases, gender was not reported. Male couriers accounted for 72 percent of the currency smugglers, females accounted for 17 percent, and 11 percent were unspecified.

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Date of birth for couriers is not always reported. In instances where it was reported, the majority of the drug (54 percent) and money couriers (55 percent) were in their twenties. Twenty-four percent of the drug couriers and 27 percent of the money couriers were in their thirties.

When race was reported, 45 percent of the couriers were black, 28 percent were white, 26 percent were Hispanic, and 1 percent was Asian. When nationality was reported, couriers were primarily found to be American (55 percent) or Mexican (23 percent). Other noteworthy nationalities were Jamaican (7 percent) and Colombian (5 percent).

Eighty-two percent of the seizure activity occurred in the Southwestern States of California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas. This region accounted for the majority of the currency, methamphetamine, marijuana, and crack cocaine seizures.

Most of the cocaine seizure incidents (126) occurred in the Southwestern States, but the largest amount of cocaine seized was in Puerto Rico (1,097 kilograms).

Most of the PCP was seized in California (9 incidents—172 kilograms). The largest seizure of PCP, however, occurred in Tennessee.

DEA SENSITIVE

ACCELERATING VIOLENCE ALONG THE SOUTHWEST BORDER

A senior INS/BP Agent was killed on January 19, 1996, during a fire fight with marijuana smugglers south of Eagle Pass, Texas. Two INS/BP Agents confronted four smugglers near the El Puente Negro railroad bridge 3 to 4 miles south of the Eagle Pass POE. A scuffle ensued and shots were fired. The smugglers abandoned 91 kilograms of marijuana and fled to Mexico. One male smuggler was wounded in the fight and is being held by Mexican authorities. The agent was killed by a .22-caliber bullet.

Although drug smuggling violence is not a new occurrence along the Southwest border, its increase in frequency and its association with marijuana smuggling is new, since most of the violence in the past was associated with cocaine smuggling.

A previous violent incident involving marijuana smuggling occurred on December 18, 1995, in Arizona at Big Sandy, a well-known smuggling corridor in the Coronado National Forest near Palominas, Arizona. A 1992 Chevrolet pickup with Sonora plates was observed traveling north on Highway 92 and approached a roadblock near Sierra Vista, Arizona. The driver executed a U-turn and fled the area, pursued by INS/BP Agents. The fleeing pickup deliberately rammed a fully marked INS/BP vehicle that attempted to block its path. The INS/BP Agent in the marked vehicle leaped to safety just seconds before his stationary vehicle was rammed head-on. Both vehicles were destroyed. The pickup was transporting 152 kilograms of marijuana, and a stolen Smith & Wesson 9mm pistol was found in the cab.

Prior to that incident, USCS Agents pursued a stolen 1995 Dodge Ram four-

wheel-drive vehicle that crossed the border at Big Sandy on November 22, 1995. During that incident, a handcuffed prisoner escaped in a USCS vehicle, drove 25 yards into Mexico, and fled on foot. When the USCS Special Agent retrieved the vehicle from Mexico, he and several other INS/BP Agents received approximately 30 rounds of machine gun fire. Subsequently, the Dodge Ram was found to contain 121 kilograms of marijuana, two boxes of 9mm ammunition, and an official MFJP jacket.

Traffickers made a forcible attempt to retake seized marijuana and a vehicle on May 4, 1995, near McNary, Texas. A 1994 Chevrolet Suburban laden with 385 kilograms of marijuana attempted to drive across the Rio Grande River, but became stuck in a drainage ditch adjacent to the river. As INS/BP Agents attempted to recover the marijuana and the vehicle, they were fired upon by semiautomatic and fully automatic weapons. An estimated 100 rounds were fired at the agents and the agents returned the fire. Shortly thereafter, five heavily armed subjects moved north from the Mexican levee and aimed their weapons at the agents recovering the load vehicle. The agents at the river fired several rounds at the group, and the subjects returned to Mexico. During the recovery of the load vehicle, at least 10 heavily armed subjects in 2 groups of 5 were observed maneuvering near the Mexican levee, but no further hostile action was encountered. No agents were injured. Reports indicate that the Suburban had been driven for several months by MFJP personnel in the area between Juarez and El Porvenir, Chihuahua, located across from Fort Hancock, Texas.

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CO 002468

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SIGNIFICANT ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

DOMESTIC

This section contains intelligence capsules of significant drug enforcement activity in the United States. It is based on information available to EPIC and should not be considered all inclusive. Information on seizures, with controlled deliveries pending, will not be published in this report without the prior approval of the agency reporting the seizure. Therefore, significant enforcement activities may have occurred which are not reflected in the report.

Arizona

- o On August 17, INS/BP Agents seized 798 kilograms of marijuana abandoned at Highway 80 west and Kings Highway near Douglas, Arizona.
- o On August 22, Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) officers seized \$100,000 concealed in the false floor of a 1988 Honda with Colorado plates, traveling west on I-40 in Coconino County. The two males, one a resident of Long Beach, California, and the other from Compton, California, were en route to Long Beach, California, from Denver, Colorado.
- o On August 23, as the result of an investigation, DEA Special Agents seized 263 grams of Mexican black tar heroin at a residence in Phoenix, Arizona. A female Mexican national resident of Phoenix and a male undocumented Mexican national were arrested. The heroin was reportedly brought into the United States by a pedestrian entering through the Nogales POE.
- o On August 24, after a referral from Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas, task force officers at the Tucson, Arizona, international airport seized \$451,895 from the checked luggage of a Hispanic male and two Hispanic females. They had purchased three cash tickets and attempted to give the impression of not traveling together upon their arrival in Tucson. The trio had traveled from Newark, New Jersey, via Chicago, Illinois, on American Airlines.
- o On August 28, based on information developed by DEA Tucson, DPS officers in Arizona seized 375 kilograms of marijuana and \$20,000 from a vehicle westbound on I-10 near Eloy, Arizona. A map with a highlighted route to North Carolina was also found. Two suspects were arrested.
- o On August 30, USCS Inspectors seized 13 kilograms of cocaine at the San Luis, Arizona, POE from the gas tank of a 1965 Ford pickup with Arizona plates. The cocaine was wrapped in cellophane and bore no markings. A male Mexican national resident of Yuma, Arizona, was arrested.
- o On September 2, as the result of an investigation, USCS Special Agents seized 177 kilograms of marijuana from a residence in Tucson, Arizona.
- o On September 6, as the result of an investigation, DEA Special Agents and

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Glendale Police officers seized 374 grams of Mexican brown heroin at a residence in Glendale, Arizona. One suspect was arrested.

- o On September 9, as the result of a canine alert, USCS inspectors at the Nogales, Arizona, POE seized 9.5 kilograms of cocaine from the door panels of a 1993 Nissan Tsuru with Sonora, Mexico, plates. The cocaine was contained in a rubber bladder, wrapped in layers of tape with spices in between, with an outer layer of aluminum foil. The driver, a male Mexican national from Caborca, Sonora, fled to Mexico on foot.
- o On September 11, INS/BP Agents seized 212 kilograms of marijuana in Chimney Canyon near Arivaca, Arizona. Several backpackers abandoned the marijuana and fled when agents approached. This area is a known smuggling route for transporting drugs to Arivaca.
- o On September 13, INS/BP Agents seized 103 kilograms of cocaine abandoned along the border near Yuma, Arizona. A late model GMC four-wheel-drive vehicle had entered the United States through a hole in the border fence and unloaded five bags containing the cocaine. As the vehicle was returning to Mexico, it became stuck in the sand and was abandoned.
- o On September 13, USCS Inspectors at the San Luis, Arizona, POE seized 6 kilograms of cocaine from the rear quarter panels of a 1986 Mercury Cougar with California plates. The cocaine was wrapped in brown tape and bore no markings. The driver, a male

Mexican national resident of Somerton, Arizona, was arrested.

- o On September 13, INS/BP Agents seized 285 kilograms of marijuana in burlap bags while it was being backpacked by approximately 40 individuals across a gravel pit road in the Douglas, Arizona, area. The subjects fled to Mexico.
- o On September 14, INS/BP Agents seized 1,127 kilograms of marijuana in a warehouse area near the Mariposa POE in Nogales, Arizona. Several groups of backpackers were observed transporting bundles across the border, and four scout vehicles were also seen in the area. Approximately 480 kilograms were located in the brush in the warehouse area, and 647 kilograms were found in the cab of a parked 1986 Kenworth tractor with a 40-foot flatbed trailer with Arizona plates. There were no arrests.

California

- o On August 16, USCS Inspectors seized 750 milliliters of liquid cocaine and 1.4 kilograms of cocaine paste from the luggage of a pedestrian at the San Ysidro, California, POE. The cocaine paste was packaged in baggies and concealed in cosmetic tubes. The liquid cocaine was in a wine bottle. A female U.S. citizen from New York was arrested. Although smuggling liquid cocaine in liquor bottles is common on commercial airline flights, this incident is believed to be the first seizure of liquid cocaine concealed in a liquor bottle carried by a pedestrian at a Southwest border POE.

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- On August 17, USCS Special Agents in conjunction with FBI Special Agents, California Department of Justice officials, and Santa Ana Police officers seized 207 kilograms of marijuana from a residence in Paramount, California. Two male Mexican nationals, one a resident of Paramount and the other a resident of Linwood, California, were arrested.
- On August 17, INS/BP Agents seized 901 kilograms of marijuana near Campo, California, from a 1989 Ford F-250 and a 1990 Ford F-250, both with California plates. The vehicles were observed crossing illegally into the United States near Jacumba, California. Both drivers, male Mexican national residents of Guadalajara, Jalisco, and Tijuana, Baja California Norte, were arrested. The marijuana was found under the camper shells of both vehicles.
- On August 17, USCS Special Agents seized 4.1 kilograms of cocaine paste and 900 milliliters of liquid cocaine at the San Diego international airport from the luggage of two female U.S. citizen residents of New York. One female had 1.9 kilograms of cocaine paste concealed in various plastic personal hygiene containers. The second female had 2.2 kilograms of cocaine concealed in similar containers and 900 milliliters of liquid cocaine in wine and mouthwash containers. The suspects flew a Panama-San Juan-Costa Rica-Mexico City-Tijuana route and crossed the border at the San Ysidro POE in a taxi. The suspects were reportedly en route to New York and ultimately to an unknown location in Canada.
- On August 22, USCS Inspectors at the Oakland mail facility seized 324 grams of opium in a parcel from Thailand that was destined for Rancho Cordova, California. The opium was concealed inside ointment tubes.
- On August 23, as the result of an investigation, DEA Special Agents seized 605 grams of Mexican black tar heroin in Santa Ana, California. Two male undocumented Mexican nationals were arrested.
- On August 24, INS/BP Agents seized 407 kilograms of marijuana near Pine Valley, California, from the bed and front seat of a 1976 Ford pickup with California plates. The driver fled the area on foot.
- On August 25, USCS Inspectors at the Los Angeles International Airport seized 1 kilogram of suspected Colombian heroin from a male Colombian national resident of Rialto, California, arriving on Avianca Airlines. Most of the heroin had been ingested, and four pellets were in his pants pocket.
- On August 25, INS/BP Agents seized 329 kilograms of marijuana west of the Calexico, California, POE. Backpackers transported the marijuana across the All American Canal, left it at a tractor-trailer storage lot, and returned to Mexico. The marijuana was covered with an unknown masking substance.
- On August 25, INS/BP Agents seized 197 kilograms of marijuana on Highway 94 in Campo, California, from the trunk of a 1977 Chevrolet Malibu with California plates. Also seized was a Motorola Radius P110 two-way radio. The driver, a male undocumented

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- Mexican national resident of Tijuana, Baja California Norte, was arrested. It is believed that the vehicle crossed into the United States between the POE's in the Campo area.
- On August 26, USCS Inspectors at the San Ysidro, California, POE seized 314 grams of Mexican brown heroin from a male Mexican national resident of Anaheim, California, driving a 1986 Pontiac Grand Am with California plates. The heroin was concealed in the subject's underwear.
 - On August 26, Los Angeles Police officers seized 6 kilograms of cocaine from the trunk of a 1989 Hyundai. The male driver, a resident of Valencia, California, was arrested.
 - On August 28, Los Angeles Operation JETWAY Task Force officers seized 177 grams of cocaine, \$190,000, an undetermined amount of marijuana, two automatic pistols, and one revolver from several Federal Express parcels destined for Memphis, Tennessee. The sender of the parcels, a black male resident of Los Angeles, is an alleged gang member. The intended Memphis recipients are under investigation.
 - On August 28, USCS Inspectors seized 217 kilograms of marijuana at the San Ysidro, California, POE from the trunk of a 1995 Volkswagen Jetta with Baja California plates. The driver, a female Mexican national from Tijuana, Baja California Norte, was arrested.
- [REDACTED]
- On August 28, USCS Inspectors at the Otay Mesa, California, POE observed a 1977 Dodge van driving north through the southbound Mexican Customs gate. The vehicle was later found by Chula Vista Police officers after it had crashed into a parked car. Approximately 840 kilograms of marijuana were discovered in the back of the van.
 - On August 29, INS/BP Agents seized 816 kilograms of marijuana from a utility pickup in Boulevard, California.
 - On August 30, California Highway Patrol officers seized 45 kilograms of cocaine from a 1980 Chrysler Cordova with Sonora, Mexico, plates, traveling west on I-8 in Imperial County, California. The cocaine, wrapped in clear cellophane marked "Nir" in black block letters, was found in both quarter panels and in the hollowed-out dashboard. The driver, a male Mexican national resident of Mexicali, Baja California Norte, was en route from San Luis Rio Colorado, Sonora, to Los Angeles, California.
 - On August 30, INS/BP Agents seized 15 kilograms of cocaine at the Highway 86 checkpoint near Salton City, California, from a 1995 Buick Century with Arizona plates. The cocaine was hidden in the back seat cushions. One male U.S. citizen resident of Yuma, Arizona, and a male undocumented Mexican national were arrested. A 1984 Plymouth Reliant with Baja California plates, suspected of being a scout vehicle, was detained.
 - On August 31, USCS Inspectors seized 168 kilograms of marijuana at the Otay Mesa, California, POE from the trunk of a stolen 1995 Ford Mustang. The

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- driver, a U.S. citizen from San Diego, California, was arrested.
- On August 31, a joint operation by Los Angeles Police officers and DEA Special Agents resulted in the seizure of 475 grams of Mexican black tar heroin in Gardena, California. One male Mexican national from Michoacan was arrested.
 - On August 31, INS/BP Agents seized 194 kilograms of marijuana from a house trailer in Boulevard, California. Agents followed footprints from the international border to the trailer.
 - On August 31, as the result of a canine alert, USCS Inspectors seized 58 kilograms of cocaine at the Calexico, California, POE from a compartment behind the rear seat of a 1983 Oldsmobile Cutlass Cierra with Baja California plates. There were no markings on the cocaine.
 - On September 1, as the result of two vehicle stops, INS/BP Agents seized 169 kilograms of cocaine on I-10 near Blythe, California, from the beds of a 1986 Chevrolet pickup and a 1978 Chevrolet pickup, both with Arizona plates. The vehicles were traveling in tandem. The cocaine bricks, wrapped in clear plastic and compressed or vacuum-packed in groups of 4 to 6 kilograms, were marked "Nit" in black block letters. Three male Mexican national residents of San Luis Rio Colorado, Sonora, were arrested.
 - On September 1, California Highway Patrol officers seized 31 kilograms of cocaine on I-8 near Winterhaven, California, from a false floor compartment in a 1980 Oldsmobile Omega with Arizona plates. The cocaine bundles were marked "Nit." The driver, a male Mexican national from San Luis Rio Colorado, Sonora, was en route from San Luis Rio Colorado to Garden Grove, California.
- [REDACTED]
- On September 2, INS/BP Agents seized 192 kilograms of marijuana in Jacumba, California, from a 1986 Toyota pickup with California plates. The driver fled on foot to Mexico.
 - On September 4, California Highway Patrol officers seized \$100,000 concealed in a suitcase within the trunk of a rented 1995 Ford Taurus with California plates, traveling north on I-5 in Kern County. The white female driver was en route to Portland, Oregon.
 - On September 4, DEA Santa Ana Special Agents and California Highway Patrol officers seized a total of \$741,455 in two operations in Bakersfield and Newport Beach, California. The currency was connected to a Colombian cocaine trafficking organization. Two suspects were arrested, one of whom had escaped from a Federal prison in Nevada in 1991 while serving a 15-year sentence for cocaine trafficking.
 - On September 4, INS/BP Agents seized 207 kilograms of marijuana on the bank of the All American Canal approximately 4 miles west of the Calexico, California, POE. Two male individuals in an inflatable 10-foot Zodiac boat on the canal observed agents in the area, abandoned the boat, and fled to Mexico. Six bundles of

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marijuana were found in the Zodiac boat, and an additional six bundles were discovered in a 1989 Nissan Stanza parked in the area. A two-way radio was also found in the vehicle.

- On September 4, as the result of a canine alert, USCS Inspectors seized 264 kilograms of cocaine at the Calexico, California, POE from the gas tank of a 1988 Chrysler Conquest with California plates. The cocaine was wrapped in gray duct tape and no markings were reported. A male Mexican national resident of Calexico, California, was arrested.
- On September 6, California Highway Patrol officers seized 25 kilograms of ephedrine concealed in trash bags within the trunk of a 1990 Toyota Celica with California plates, traveling south on I-15 in San Bernardino County. The driver, a male Mexican national resident of Ontario, California, was en route to Ontario.
- On September 6, California Highway Patrol officers seized 5 kilograms of cocaine and \$2,081 from the trunk of a rented 1995 Pontiac traveling north on I-5 in Oakland County. The black couple, residents of Oakland, California, was allegedly en route to Oakland from Los Angeles.
- On September 6, as the result of an investigation, DEA Special Agents seized 445 grams of Mexican black tar heroin in San Diego, California. Three U.S. citizens were arrested.
- On September 7, as the result of a canine alert, USCS Inspectors at the Calexico, California, POE seized 33 kilograms of cocaine concealed in a specially built compartment behind the rear seat of a 1982 Ford Fairmont with California plates. The 30 brown tape-wrapped cocaine packages had no markings. False compartments were also discovered in the dashboard and in all four doors. The driver and passenger, both female U.S. citizens from Calexico, were arrested.
- On September 7, as the result of an investigation, FBI Special Agents seized 4 kilograms of cocaine at a residence in Gardena, California. Two U.S. citizen residents of Gardena were arrested.
- On September 8, as the result of an investigation, DEA Special Agents in Chula Vista, California, seized 526 grams of Mexican black tar heroin in a 1983 Mazda with California plates. The heroin was found inside 1 followed-out centers of 4 by 4 by 24-inch pieces of wood. Three male Mexican nationals, two legal residents and one undocumented, were arrested.
- On September 8, near Ocotillo, California, INS/BP Agents seized 27 kilograms of cocaine concealed under the dashboard of a 1985 Chevrolet Caprice with Mexico plates. The cocaine was wrapped in clear cellophane and marked "Nit" in blue block letters. The driver, a male Mexican national from Calexico, California, was arrested.
- On September 10, as the result of a canine alert, USCS Inspectors at the San Ysidro, California, POE seized 5 kilograms of methamphetamine and 12 kilograms of marijuana from the gas tanks of a 1977 Ford Ranger F-150 with California plates. The female driver, a U.S. citizen from San Diego, California, claimed that she was being forced to

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drive the pickup into the United States because her son was being held until she returned the pickup. U.S. authorities located the address where the driver's son was being held and arrested ~~our suspect~~.

- On September 11, California Highway Patrol officers seized 10 kilograms of cocaine from a 1986 Nissan with Alabama plates, traveling north on I-15 in San Bernardino County. Two black males, the driver from Birmingham, Alabama, and passenger from Atlanta, Georgia, were destined for Birmingham from Sun Valley, California. The cocaine packages, marked with a picture of a snail, were located within a false floor which had been welded 4 inches above the original rear storage area. The carpet had been glued down and access to the compartment was through a trapdoor located inside the left rear wheel well.
- On September 11, USCS Inspectors at the Calexico, California, POE seized 258 kilograms of marijuana from the saddle tanks of a 1987 Freightliner tractor with California plates. The driver, a male Mexican national resident of Los Angeles, California, was arrested.
- On September 12, INS/BP Agents seized 183 kilograms of marijuana near the junction of Highways 80 and 94 in Boulevard, California, from the bed of a 1988 Nissan pickup with California plates. The driver, a male U.S. citizen resident of La Mesa, California, was arrested.
- On September 12, INS/BP Agents at the Highway 86 checkpoint near El Centro, California, seized 3.5 kilograms of Mexican black tar heroin from a bag in the upper compartment of a Greyhound bus en route from Calexico to Los Angeles, California.
- On September 13, INS/BP Agents in Boulevard, California, seized 158 kilograms of marijuana from a secret compartment under the flatbed of a 1970 Chevrolet C-20 pickup with California plates. The driver, a male Mexican national resident of National City, California, was arrested. A 1975 Dodge sedan was traveling with the pickup as a decoy vehicle.
- On September 14, USCS Inspectors at the Calexico, California, POE seized 247 kilograms of marijuana from the trunk of a 1988 Buick Century with California plates. The driver fled on foot.
- On September 15, California Highway Patrol officers seized \$166,010 from a male Hispanic resident of El Centro, California, traveling east on I-10 in Riverside County in a 1986 Ford with California plates. The subject was en route from San Bernardino to El Centro, California. The currency was behind the rear seat.
- On September 15, as the result of a canine alert, USCS Inspectors at the Tecate, California, POE seized 38 kilograms of cocaine from the gas tank of a 1983 Ford Ranger pickup with California plates. The cocaine was wrapped in clear cellophane and bore no markings. The driver, a male Mexican national from Tijuana, Baja California Norte, was arrested.
- On September 15, USCS Inspectors at the Calexico, California, POE seized

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413 grams of heroin concealed in the tennis shoes of a male pedestrian U.S. citizen from Portland, Oregon.

Elmhurst, New York, arriving from Bogota, Colombia. Four of the bags had false bottoms.

Colorado

- o On September 11, members of the Rocky Mountain Division, Denver Transportation Unit, seized 2 kilograms of crack cocaine from a female traveling to Minneapolis, Minnesota, by bus. The bus had originated in Los Angeles, California.

Florida

- o On August 14, USCS Inspectors in Miami, Florida, seized 100 kilograms of cocaine from a container of oars aboard [REDACTED] which arrived on July 31 from Buenaventura, Colombia. On August 3, USCS Inspectors in Miami had seized 100 kilograms of cocaine from the same container.
- o On August 16, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized a total of 4.7 kilograms of cocaine from two female U.S. citizens, both residents of Brooklyn, New York, arriving from Paramaribo, Suriname. The cocaine packages were taped around their waists, backs, and legs. Both couriers were enrolled in a methadone program.
- o On August 16, USCS Inspectors seized approximately 250 kilograms of cocaine at the port of Miami. The drugs were hidden among boxes of cotton cloth in a shipping container from Colombia.
- o On August 21, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 1.8 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from the luggage of a female Colombian national resident of
- o On August 21, based on information from the Orlando JETWAY Task Force, Palm Beach County Sheriff's officers seized \$175,000 from three males at a residence in West Palm Beach, Florida. One male Hispanic resident of Mission, Texas, had arrived in West Palm Beach from McAllen, Texas, on board Continental Airlines. He had purchased a cash one-way ticket one-half hour prior to the flight. Surveillance of the passenger led to the seizure.
- o On August 22, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 1.6 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a female Colombian national traveling on Copa Airlines from Panama to Miami, Florida. The heroin was concealed in a cylinder-shaped package and also ingested.
- o On August 22, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized \$654,171 in U.S. money orders from a female Colombian national resident of Maipeth, New York, traveling from Miami, Florida, to Cali, Colombia. The money orders were in two children's toys located in her checked luggage.
- o On August 22, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 2 kilograms of cocaine from a male Nicaraguan national resident of Managua, Nicaragua, arriving from Managua. The cocaine was concealed in the jacket he was wearing and on his person.
- o On August 23, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized

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approximately 99 kilograms of cocaine in a tire located in the belly of a Million Air aircraft that had arrived from Cali, Colombia. There had been a last minute change of one of the aircraft tires in Cali.

- o On August 24, USCS Inspectors at DHL Worldwide Express at the Miami International Airport seized 4.5 kilograms of cocaine in a package from Asuncion, Paraguay, destined for Santa Coloma, Andorra. The cocaine was found inside two flywheels.
- o On August 25, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 7.9 kilograms of cocaine from a male resident of Maracaibo, Venezuela, traveling from Trinidad and Tobago to Miami, Florida. The cocaine was discovered in his briefcase and in six hollowed-out coat hangers found in his garment bag.
- o On August 25, USCS Inspectors at DHL Worldwide Express at the Miami International Airport seized 2.7 kilograms of cocaine in a package from Buenaventura, Colombia, destined for Italy. The cocaine was concealed in a wooden table and table parts.
- o On August 26, a joint USCS and DEA Miami investigation culminated with the seizure of 198 kilograms of cocaine at the port of Miami, Florida. The drugs had been shipped to Miami from Barranquilla, Colombia, on board the cargo freighter [REDACTED] inside a shipping container. One subject was arrested.
- o On August 27, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 218 kilograms of cocaine from several false-bombed pallets containing flowers arriving from Bogota, Colombia, on Aero Transcolombiana de Carga Airlines.
- o On August 27, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 5.6 kilograms of cocaine from a male U.S. citizen resident of Miami, Florida, arriving from Caracas, Venezuela. The cocaine was concealed in the false lining of a backpack.
- o On August 27 and 28, Florida Joint Task Force officers seized a total of 856 kilograms of cocaine at the Miami International Airport. The drugs were hidden in aluminum pallets that had arrived on a commercial flight from Bogota, Colombia. No arrests were made.
- o On August 29, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized \$301,600 concealed in two cartons containing chairs destined to Colombia.
- o On August 29, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 175 kilograms of cocaine from two cargo pallets. Upon arrival, one of the pallets had been broken which revealed yellow packages inside.
- o On September 1, West Palm Beach Operation JETWAY Task Force officers seized 1 kilogram of heroin from the carry-on bag of a black female resident of Miami, Florida, traveling from Miami to New York, New York, aboard a Greyhound bus. The heroin was inside a gift-wrapped package.
- o On September 1, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized a total of 7.7 kilograms of cocaine from

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three female U.S. citizens, one a resident of Portsmouth, Virginia, and the other two from Brooklyn, New York, arriving from Paramaribo, Suriname. The cocaine was concealed around the waists of all three suspects.

- o On September 2, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 38.6 kilograms of cocaine from an unmanifested cargo shipment on an American Airlines flight from Cali, Colombia. X-rays of the cargo shipment produced one box containing the brick-sized packages of cocaine.
- o On September 2, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized a total of 1.5 kilograms of heroin from two male Colombian national residents of Bogota, Colombia, upon arrival from Bogota. The heroin had been ingested and was also concealed in the shoes of both men.
- o On September 3, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 116.8 kilograms of cocaine from a manifested air cargo shipment upon arrival from Bogota, Colombia, on Tampa Airlines. The cocaine, contained in four DHL courier bags, was destined for an address in Miami, Florida.
- o On September 3, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 1.8 kilograms of liquid cocaine from a female U.S. citizen resident of Stanton Island, New York, upon arrival from Panama City, Panama. The cocaine was concealed inside three liquor bottles.
- o On September 4, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 5.9 kilograms of cocaine from a male Haitian national resident of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, arriving from Port-au-Prince, Haiti. The cocaine was discovered taped to the inside of a liquor bottle carrying case.
- o On September 4, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 1.2 kilograms of cocaine from a shipment arriving from Pereira, Colombia, and destined for Miami, Florida. The cocaine was concealed in the fluid holding tank of a welding machine. The welding machine had fresh paint, was leaking fluid, and contained worn parts.
- o On September 5, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 3.2 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from the checked luggage of a female Colombian national resident of Bogota, Colombia, traveling from Colombia to Miami, Florida. The heroin was discovered in false bottoms of her two suitcases and in two jackets within one of her suitcases.
- o On September 6, DEA Miami and Metropolitan Dade County Police officers seized about \$200,000 from a vehicle in Miami, Florida. The currency was hidden inside four stereo speakers destined for shipment aboard a commercial flight to Colombia via Caracas, Venezuela. Two individuals were transporting the speakers to the Miami International Airport when stopped by authorities. Previous investigation had connected the currency to drug sales.
- o On September 6, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport cargo facility seized 2.7 kilograms of cocaine from a parcel arriving from Armenia, Colombia. The package contained

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- On September 11, USCS Inspectors at the Port Everglades International Airport seized 5 kilograms of cocaine from a male Haitian national resident of Miami, Florida. The cocaine was taped to his body.
 - On September 12, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 25 kilograms of cocaine found in a box abandoned in the USCS enclosure lot. The box was marked "Huggies" with the initials "ML" on top.
 - On September 13, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 860 grams of suspected Colombian heroin from a male Colombian national resident of Gunenberg, New Jersey, arriving from Bogota. The heroin had been ingested.
 - On September 13, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 83 kilograms of cocaine concealed in a box manifested as books upon arrival on Avianca Airlines from Colombia.
 - On September 13, after a referral from the Dallas/Fort Worth airport task force, Orlando airport task force officers seized 5 kilograms of cocaine from the checked luggage of two male Hispanics. The suspects, one a resident of Orlando, Florida, and the other from San Juan, Puerto Rico, were traveling from San Juan to Orlando. At the baggage claim area, one subject took possession of a large cardboard box, while the other subject watched from a distance. A search revealed two video cassette recorders containing five 1-kilogram bricks of cocaine.
 - On September 13, Fort Lauderdale Operation JETWAY Task Force officers seized 8 kilograms of cocaine, 3 grams of heroin, and \$841 from the luggage of a male Hispanic resident of New York, New York. The suspect was en route to New York from Miami, Florida, via Fort Lauderdale, Florida, aboard a Greyhound bus. An additional 7 kilograms of cocaine were discovered abandoned in another piece of luggage aboard the bus.
 - On September 15, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 16.6 kilograms of cocaine from a shipment from Georgetown, Guyana, and destined for Miami, Florida. The cocaine was concealed inside a microwave oven.
- Georgia
- On August 22, Albany Dougherty Drug Unit officers seized \$194,802 from a black male resident of Tampa, Florida. The passenger arrived in Albany, Georgia, on board a Greyhound bus which was traveling from Atlanta, Georgia, to Tallahassee, Florida. The currency was discovered in a pillowcase inside an orange canvas utility bag and was packaged in bundles of \$1,000 each. The passenger was arrested for an outstanding Tallahassee parole violation.
 - On August 24, Savannah, Georgia, Operation JETWAY Task Force officers seized \$309,415 concealed in the duffel bag of a Colombian female traveling on an Amtrak train from New York City, New York, to Miami, Florida.
 - On August 28, DEA Atlanta Special Agents seized 1 kilogram of crack cocaine from the checked luggage of a black male resident of Miami, Florida, arriving from Miami en route to Austin,

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- On August 29, DEA and USCS Special Agents and Chicago Police officers at the O'Hare International Airport seized 6 kilograms of cocaine from two males. One of the males was a Colombian national resident of Jackson Heights, New York, arriving from Orange County, California.

Kansas

- On September 15, Kansas Highway Patrol officers seized 156 kilograms of marijuana from a white male traveling east on I-70 in Gove County, west of Wa Keeney, Kansas. The Willow Grove, Pennsylvania, resident was en route to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, from Tucson, Arizona, in a rented 1995 Chevrolet Astro van with Pennsylvania plates. The marijuana was found in nine pieces of new luggage in the cargo area of the van. Further investigation revealed that this is the fifth rental car paid for in cash by this individual since the beginning of the year.

Louisiana

- On August 15, Louisiana State Police officers seized 140 kilograms of marijuana from a 1988 Chevrolet pickup with Texas plates, traveling east on I-12 near St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana. The marijuana was in a false compartment in the bed of the pickup. The female driver and male Mexican national passenger, residents of De Leon Springs, Florida, were en route to De Leon Springs from Roma, Texas.
- On September 8, USCS Special Agents in New Orleans, Louisiana, seized 14 kilograms of cocaine from the [REDACTED]. The cocaine was discovered inside a ceiling panel in a

recreation room. One crew member was arrested.

Maryland

- On August 22, Maryland State Police officers seized 10 kilograms of cocaine from a 1992 Toyota Tercel with Florida plates, traveling north on I-95 in Harford County near Aberdeen. Two male Colombians, one from Passaic, New Jersey, and one from Bricktown, New Jersey, were en route to Queens, New York, from Miami, Florida. The 10 packages of cocaine had been smeared with coffee and mustard and were hidden inside the hollowed-out rear seat.

Missouri

- On August 22, Missouri Highway Patrol officers seized 96 kilograms of cocaine concealed in a false compartment of a 1994 Toyota van occupied by a male traveling east on I-44 in Greene County near Springfield, Missouri. Grease had been used to mask the odor of the cocaine, and the packages were marked "Oro del Sol."
- On August 30, DEA St. Louis Special Agents seized \$502,172 from a locker at a public storage facility in St. Louis, Missouri. In this same investigation, agents seized 63.6 kilograms of marijuana at two locations in St. Charles County. Four suspects were arrested.
- On September 7, St. Louis airport task force officers seized a total of \$111,356 from a black female and two black males, all residents of St. Louis, Missouri, traveling on cash one-way tickets purchased the day of travel from St. Louis to Miami, Florida. The

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currency was concealed within belts worn around the subjects' wrists.

- On September 15, Missouri Highway Patrol officers seized \$107,729 from three black males traveling east on I-70 in Boone County near Columbia, Missouri. The three subjects, one a resident of Pasadena, California, and two from Altadena, California, were stopped while traveling in a rented limousine with Kansas plates. The subjects were en route to the Lambert/St. Louis International Airport from Kansas City, Missouri. The three subjects had flown from Los Angeles, California, to Kansas City on three different airlines and by different routes. Two of the subjects used aliases to purchase their tickets. Upon arriving in St. Louis, the three subjects had planned to fly back to Los Angeles. It is believed the subjects delivered drugs to Kansas City and were returning to Los Angeles via St. Louis with drug proceeds. The subjects were in possession of "show luggage" (baggage containing clothing which did not belong to nor fit the subjects).

New Jersey

- On August 22, New Jersey State Police officers seized 15 gallons of PCP from the trunk of a rented 1995 Mercury with Georgia plates, traveling north on the New Jersey Turnpike in Salem County near Woodstown, New Jersey. Two black males, one a resident of San Francisco, California, and one from Los Angeles, California, were en route to New York City from Los Angeles.
- On September 6, after a referral from the Las Vegas Airport Task Force, Newark Airport Task Force officers

seized 24 kilograms of cocaine from two Hispanic females, one a resident of Santa Ana, California, and one from Anaheim, California. Both were traveling from Las Vegas, Nevada, to Newark, New Jersey, via Columbus, Ohio, on America West Airlines. The cocaine was concealed in their checked luggage. Investigation into the baggage claim check disclosed that it matched the claim check of luggage seized on September 5 by the Las Vegas Airport Task Force which contained 12 kilograms of cocaine.

- On September 8, New Jersey State Police officers seized 903 grams of crack cocaine from a rented 1993 Ford Taurus with North Carolina plates, traveling south on the New Jersey Turnpike in Bergen County. The black driver from Mount Olive, North Carolina, and his black female passenger from Raleigh, North Carolina, were en route to Chapel Hill, North Carolina, from New York City, New York.

New Mexico

- On September 9, INS/BP Agents in Hatch, New Mexico, seized 378 kilograms of marijuana from a 1995 Ford Coachman motor home with Georgia plates. [REDACTED] Also seized were a cellular telephone and \$1,898. The driver, a female U.S. citizen resident of Doraville, Georgia, was arrested.
- On September 12, INS/BP and FBI Special Agents seized 595 grams of Mexican black tar heroin near Vado, New Mexico. One suspect was arrested.

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Colombian heroin from the trunk of a 1988 Nissan Maxima with New York plates, traveling on south I-85 in Warren County. The two male Hispanic residents of New York were en route to Greensboro, North Carolina, from Brooklyn, New York. This is the largest heroin seizure in North Carolina for Operation PIPELINE for this calendar year.

Ohio

- On September 10, Regional Narcotics Unit Task Force officers in Hamilton, Ohio, seized 153 kilograms of marijuana from a 1991 Peterbilt tractor with Texas plates towing a rented refrigerated trailer on I-74 near Cincinnati, Ohio. The two Hispanic residents of San Juan, Texas, were en route to Cincinnati from McAllen, Texas. The marijuana was hidden among the cargo load of broccoli and carrots.

Puerto Rico

- On August 16, USCS Inspectors at the San Juan International Airport seized a total of 51 kilograms of cocaine from three suitcases on a flight bound for the JFK International Airport. The name tags on the luggage did not match the names of any passengers.
- On August 21, USCS Inspectors at the San Juan International Airport mail facility seized 2.5 kilograms of cocaine from a parcel being sent to Rochester, New York.
- On September 2, USCS Inspectors, responding to information that a fishing vessel had run aground on U.S. Navy property near Playa Vieja, Vieques, Puerto Rico, located and seized 734

kilograms of cocaine from a 28-foot yola-type vessel. The vessel's registration numbers had been removed and the vessel was equipped with two 200HP Yamaha outboard engines and two built-in extra fuel tanks.

- On September 10, USCS Inspectors in San Juan, Puerto Rico, seized 13 kilograms of cocaine concealed within a Samsonite garment bag belonging to a passenger arriving on board the [REDACTED]. The passenger had used a fictitious name on the USCS declaration.
- On September 13, Puerto Rico Police officers seized \$498,518 from the trunk of a vehicle driven by a male Dominican. There were an unusual number of bills in small denominations. The vehicle and three papers were also seized.
- On September 14, USCS Inspectors at the San Juan International Airport seized a total of 8 kilograms of cocaine from two pieces of luggage on a flight bound for Newark, New Jersey. The name tags on the luggage did not match the names of any passengers.
- On September 14, members of a USCS Enforcement Team and National Guard personnel searched the [REDACTED] the Pan American dock at Isla Grande, and discovered 25 kilograms of cocaine in two hermetically sealed metal boxes and hidden inside the diesel tanks in the rear cargo hold. The vessel was already under USCS custody for the illegal importation of 150,000 units of anabolic steroids.

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Rhode Island

- o On September 1, DEA Special Agents in Providence, Rhode Island, arrested one person and seized 910 grams of Mexican black tar heroin after negotiating the \$180,000 purchase. Reportedly, this was the largest heroin seizure in Rhode Island and the first seizure of black tar heroin in the State.

Tennessee

- o On August 18, Shelby County, Tennessee, sheriff's officers seized 7 kilograms of cocaine on I-40 near Memphis from a 1989 Dodge Caravan with Texas plates. The cocaine was found inside a full-sized spare tire which was under a smaller spare tire in the rear luggage area. The male driver and female passenger, both Salvadoran nationals and residents of Colton, California, may have been en route to Nashville, Tennessee, from McAllen, Texas.
- o On August 22, USCS Inspectors at the Federal Express facility in Memphis, Tennessee, seized 2 kilograms of cocaine in a package from Antigua and Barbuda destined for Alexandria, Virginia. [REDACTED]
- o On September 15, USCS Inspectors at the Federal Express facility in Memphis, Tennessee, seized 1.1 kilograms of opium in a package from the Dominican Republic destined for Frankfurt, Germany. The box was manifested as liquid soap, bath cologne, and gifts, and contained four plastic bottles with liquid inside.

Texas

- o On August 11, as the result of an investigation, DEA Special Agents seized 705 grams of Mexican black tar heroin at a residence in San Antonio, Texas. Two residents of San Antonio were arrested. The heroin reportedly came from Piedras Negras, Coahuila, and crossed the border in the Eagle Pass, Texas, area.
- o On August 11, as the result of an investigation, DEA Special Agents seized 331 grams of Mexican black tar heroin in Pharr, Texas. The heroin was concealed in the floor area of the passenger side of a 1989 Chevrolet pickup. Two male Mexican nationals from Mission, Texas, and one male Mexican national from Reynosa, Tamaulipas, were arrested. The traffickers reportedly crossed the heroin at the Hidalgo, Texas, POE.
- o On August 13, Refugio County, Texas, sheriff's officers seized \$839,693 from a 1985 Furgon GMC truck with Guatemala plates, traveling south on U.S. 77 in Refugio County near Woodsboro, Texas. The currency was hidden in a false roof. The driver, a male Guatemalan national, was en route to Guatemala from New York.
- o On August 14, Dallas/Fort Worth Operation JETWAY Task Force officers seized 1 kilogram of crack cocaine from the carry-on luggage of a black male resident of Los Angeles, California, traveling from Los Angeles to St. Louis, Missouri.
- o On August 16, INS/BP Agents seized 279 kilograms of marijuana at the Sarita, Texas, Highway 77 checkpoint from the inside of a tar trailer being towed by a 1982 Chevrolet pickup with Texas plates.

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- The driver, a U.S. citizen from Hartlingen, Texas, was arrested.
- o On August 17, an airdrop occurred in the early morning hours at the salt flats in Hudspeth County, Texas. Numerous vehicle tracks were found at the site. It is believed the flight originated at an airstrip called Rancho Venado in Chihuahua, Mexico.
 - o On August 18, USCS Inspectors seized 272 kilograms of marijuana at the El Paso, Texas, Paso del Norte POE from the trunk of a 1991 Chevrolet Caprice with Texas plates. The driver, a female Mexican national from El Paso, Texas, was arrested.
 - o On August 23, INS/BP Agents seized 197 kilograms of marijuana near Laredo, Texas, from the bed of a 1986 Dodge Re n Charger with Texas plates. The marijuana was crossed into the United States in the Mines Road area. The driver, a male Mexican national from Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, was arrested.
 - o On August 24, as the result of an investigation, DEA Fort Worth Task Force officers seized 2.3 kilograms of methamphetamine and \$56,071 in Graham, Texas. Two individuals were arrested.
 - o On August 25, DEA San Antonio Special Agents and Bexar County drug officers seized 181 kilograms of marijuana and a firearm at a stash site in Bexar County. Two suspects were arrested. The marijuana had been shipped in a refrigerator from Laredo to a San Antonio freight company.
 - o On August 25, as the result of an investigation, DEA Special Agents seized 261 kilograms of marijuana at a residence in San Antonio, Texas. A male U.S. citizen resident of San Antonio was arrested.
 - o On August 25, Refugio County, Texas, sheriff's officers seized 160 kilograms of marijuana and \$1,700 from a 1987 Kenworth tractor and 1974 flatbed trailer with temporary Texas plates, traveling north on U.S. 77 in Refugio County near Woodsboro. The male Hispanic resident of Houston, Texas, was en route to Houston, Texas, from Hidalgo, Texas. The marijuana was found in a false floor compartment in the sleeper of the tractor.
 - o On August 25, INS/BP Agents seized 10 kilograms of cocaine near Eagle Pass, Texas, from the rear quarter panels of a 1990 Chrysler Shadow with Nuevo Leon, Mexico, plates. Three male Mexican nationals, one with a border-crossing card and two who were undocumented, were arrested. A vehicle archive check revealed no recent POE crossings.
 - o On August 26, INS/BP Agents seized 307 kilograms of marijuana east of Rio Grande City, Texas, from the trunk of a 1985 Mercury Grand Marquis with Texas plates. Some of the marijuana packages were marked "128" or "P." After being pursued by INS/BP Agents, the driver abandoned the vehicle and fled on foot.
 - o On August 29, INS/BP Agents seized 236 kilograms of marijuana at the I-35 checkpoint north of Laredo, Texas, from a 1988 Kenworth tractor with Texas plates towing a trailer with Maine plates. The marijuana was commingled with a load of candy. The driver, a male Mexican national resident of Laredo, Texas, was arrested.

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7/95

CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

DOMESTIC

- o The amount of cocaine seized in the Southwest border States between the first and second quarters of CY95 decreased 50 percent, from 16 metric tons to 8 metric tons. This is in stark contrast to the first two quarters of CY94 when there was an increase from 16 metric tons to 17 metric tons. In Florida, cocaine seizures dropped from 4.8 metric tons to 3.3 metric tons between the two quarters. In contrast, in CY94, there was an increase between the first and second quarters, from 5.7 metric tons to 8.8 metric tons. These significant decreases in seizures of cocaine in Florida and along the Southwest border States may indicate a disrupted movement of cocaine to the United States.
(Source: EPIC)
- o A comparison of significant cocaine seizures along the California/Baja California Norte border during the first 5 months of 1995 with the same period during 1994 reveals a significant decrease from 1994. Cocaine seizures dropped 51 percent, and the number of incidents decreased 57 percent. During the first 5 months of 1994, a total of 14.5 metric tons of cocaine was seized in 127 incidents, with the largest seizure involving 1.5 metric tons seized as the result of an investigation in Ontario, California. During the first 5 months of 1995, only 7 metric tons of cocaine were seized in 55 incidents, with the largest seizure involving 1.9 metric tons seized in Los Angeles as the result of an investigation.
(Source: EPIC)
- o The use of "give-away" marijuana loads at California ports of entry (POE's) increased. These marijuana loads are shotgunned through the POE's in order to distract U.S. officials so as to allow 20- to 40-kilogram loads of cocaine to safely pass.
(Source: Imperial Valley Project, California)

Uncorroborated source reporting indicates that during April or May as much as 1 metric ton of cocaine may have been smuggled into the United States concealed inside a fuel tanker truck and taken to the Bakersfield, California, area for distribution. It is unknown where the drug entered the United States.
(Source: USCS Riverside)
- o Uncorroborated source reporting suggests that an organization based in the Tecate, Baja California Norte, area is smuggling cocaine through the Tecate, California, POE and between the POE's near Potrero, California. The group, possibly associated with the [redacted] polydrug smuggling organization, uses rental trucks to cross as much as 200 kilograms per trip.
(Source: USCS San Ysidro)
- o A multiton cocaine trafficking organization based in the Mexicali, Baja California Norte, area is recruiting U.S. citizens to drive cocaine loads through the Calexico, California, POE. The organization uses motor homes bearing Canada, Washington State, or other out-

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of-State plates to give the appearance that the vehicle is occupied by vacationers.

(Source: DEA El Centro)

- o A multikilogram cocaine smuggling organization based in Tijuana, Baja California Norte, is reportedly retrofitting motor homes and tanker trucks with compartments (installed at an automobile body shop located in the La Mesa area of Tijuana) to carry ton quantities into the United States. The entry point for the drugs is unknown.

(Source: DEA San Ysidro)

- o The San Felipe, Baja California Norte, seaport remains an active cocaine transfer point for loads moving from the interior of Mexico to California markets. An organization reportedly receives shipments of 4 to 6 tons, six to eight times per year, at this port. Vehicles transport the loads to the Mexicali, Baja California Norte, area where they cross into the United States en route to the Los Angeles, California, area.

(Source: DEA Imperial County)

o [REDACTED]

- o Almost one-third of the heroin seized in the United States during 1994 originated in South America. Some of the Colombian heroin is entering the United States through the Southwest border. A

U.S. east coast-based organization, comprised of individuals of Colombian or Nicaraguan descent, is smuggling between 2 to 3 kilograms of Colombian heroin in shoes and luggage through the Brownsville, Texas, area. The heroin is believed to be smuggled via land transport through Guatemala, Mexico, and Brownsville, Texas, to the northeast coast. The organization's established cocaine network is being utilized to distribute the heroin.

(Source: DEA Washington, D.C.)

- o A comparison of heroin seizures made during the first 5 months of 1995 with those made during the same period in 1994 indicates that Colombian traffickers are attempting to move substantial quantities of heroin into the United States during 1995. Seizures of Colombian heroin along the Southwest border thus far during 1995 have increased over 280 percent above the same time frame in 1994. Similar increases have been noted at Miami where seizures of Colombian heroin from international flights have increased approximately 200 percent and in New York where seizures from international flights have increased approximately 80 percent.

(Source: EPIC)

- o Miami, Florida, is emerging as a significant entry point for heroin coming from South America. The amount of heroin seized from commercial aircraft at the Miami International Airport during the first 6 months of 1995 has surpassed the entire amount seized during 1994. Most of the flights transporting the heroin originated in Colombia or Venezuela. With South American countries becoming major sources for heroin, and the large

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airstrip was reportedly illuminated by headlights from as many as seven vehicles. This landing area would be desirable to drug traffickers because it provides easy access to major highways and is located north of INS/BP checkpoints.

(Source: DEA Alpine)

- o During the first 5 months of 1994, a total of 2.9 metric tons of cocaine was seized in 21 incidents in the New Mexico/West Texas border area, with the largest seizure involving 2.4 metric tons seized as the result of an investigation in Hatch, New Mexico. During the first 5 months of 1995, over 4.7 metric tons of cocaine were seized in 24 incidents with 2 of the incidents involving quantities of 1 metric ton or more. On January 17, approximately 1 metric ton of cocaine was seized as the result of an investigation in El Paso, Texas; and on April 10, 1 metric ton of cocaine was seized as the result of an investigation in Alamogordo, New Mexico.

(Source: EPIC)

- o Large cocaine shipments were being flown into the airport in Muzquiz, Coahuila, Mexico, offloaded with the help of Mexican officials, and transported to the U.S. border. At the border, rafts loaded with 50 to 60 kilograms crossed the cocaine into the United States.

(Source: DEA Houston)

- o A transportation organization is smuggling marijuana from Mexico into the United States by floating it across the Rio Grande River near Eagle Pass, Texas. The marijuana shipments are then transported to a stash site in San Antonio, Texas, for future shipment to

Austin and Dallas, Texas, and Chicago, Illinois. Reportedly, at least 500 kilograms of marijuana have been stored at one time at the San Antonio stash location. This transportation organization may be responsible for the attempted smuggling of 184 kilograms of marijuana on June 22 near Eagle Pass by about eight backpackers.

(Source: USCS Austin)

- o During the first 5 months of 1994, a total of 307 kilograms of cocaine was seized in 26 incidents in South Texas, with the largest seizure involving 102 kilograms seized from a tractor-trailer on March 23 at the Falfurrias, Texas, checkpoint. During the first 5 months of 1995, over 6.4 metric tons of cocaine were seized in 17 incidents, with 3 of the incidents involving quantities of 1 metric ton or more. On January 12, approximately 2 metric tons of cocaine were seized from a tractor-trailer in Freer, Texas, as the result of a traffic stop; on March 7, 1 metric ton of cocaine was seized from a tractor-trailer at the Falfurrias, Texas, checkpoint; and on May 3, approximately 1.2 metric tons of cocaine were seized after being transported across the Rio Grande River near Pharr, Texas.

(Source: EPIC)


- o [REDACTED] Safety
(DPS)
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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(Source: Texas DPS)

- o A comparison of significant cocaine seizures made in the Arizona/Sonora border area during the first 5 months of 1995 with the same time period during 1994 reveals a significant difference in the amount of cocaine seized. Cocaine seizures increased 93 percent and the number of incidents increased 35 percent in 1995. During the first 5 months of 1994, a total of 1.4 metric tons of cocaine was seized in 14 incidents, with the largest seizure involving over 1 metric ton seized as the result of an investigation in Tucson, Arizona. During the first 5 months of 1995, over 2.7 metric tons of cocaine were seized in 19 incidents, with the largest seizure involving over 1 metric ton seized from backpackers in the Coronado National Forest.

(Source: EPIC)

- o A drug trafficking group, possibly associated with the  organization, may be smuggling multikilogram quantities of cocaine into the United States through the Papago Farms and Menagers Dam areas near Lukeville, Arizona. The group reportedly had as much as 1,300 kilograms of cocaine stashed at nearby ranches in Sonora—300 kilograms were believed to be at Rancho el Obregon, located approximately 2 miles south of Lukeville. This group recruits juvenile males between the ages of 15 and 17, who each transport up to 25 kilograms of cocaine. The boys may backpack the cocaine as far as 12 miles north of the

border before leaving it at a cache pickup site, usually near an asphalt road.
(Source: USCS Phoenix)


(Source: EPIC)

- o A trafficking organization is smuggling drugs away from the Southwest border inside tractor-trailer loads of scrap metal. It is believed the tractor-trailers are loaded with cocaine or marijuana after clearing the Douglas POE. The drugs are then transported throughout the United States as well as to Canada.
(Source: USCS Douglas)
- o On May 16, INS/BP Agents investigating fresh footprints in the area known as "Big Sandy," located just east of the entrance to the Coronado National Park in Cochise County, Arizona, were fired upon after observing two individuals climb the border fence and return to Mexico. The "Big Sandy" area is frequently used by drug smugglers. This is the third shooting incident in this area since March 27.
(Source: INS/BP Arizona)
- o An increase in the availability of methamphetamine availability in Bisbee, Arizona, and throughout Cochise County has been noted. This may in part be due to an increase in clandestine labs within Cochise County and labs which are operated by Mexican traffickers in

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northern Sonora. Methamphetamine seizures along the Southwest border where the methamphetamine was believed to have been smuggled across are significantly higher this year than during the same period last year. The total amount of methamphetamine seized during the first 5 months of 1995 (569 kilograms in 25 incidents) is nearing the total amount seized during all of 1994 (681 kilograms in 35 incidents).

(Source: DEA Phoenix and EPIC)

o [REDACTED]

reported to be between 80 and 90 percent pure.

(Source: DEA Phoenix)

o [REDACTED]

(Source: [REDACTED])

o The price for ephedrine in Guadalajara, Jalisco, has dropped. Recent intelligence indicates that a 25-kilogram drum can be purchased for \$12,000 (U.S. currency). The majority of ephedrine destined for clandestine labs in Baja California Norte is shipped from the Guadalajara area.
(Source: DEA Imperial Valley)

o Mexican smugglers are apparently capable of supplying dealers with multikilogram quantities of Mexican black tar heroin on a monthly basis. Heroin from Culiacan, Sinaloa, is

o The amount of cocaine smuggled in commercial aircraft originating in or transiting Hispaniola during the second quarter of CY95 increased significantly. Over 260 kilograms of cocaine were seized during this quarter as compared to 29 kilograms seized during the previous 3 months. Most of the cocaine was seized in three incidents from flights originating in Port-au-Prince or Santo Domingo en route to New York. Smaller amounts of cocaine were seized in Miami and Fort Lauderdale from flights originating in Haiti. This activity may be the result of traffickers returning to Haiti after leaving during U.S. military intervention.
(Source: USCS Miami)

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SIGNIFICANT ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

DOMESTIC

This section contains intelligence capsules of significant drug enforcement activity in the United States. It is based on information available to EPIC and should not be considered all inclusive. Information on seizures, with controlled deliveries pending, will not be published in this report without the prior approval of the agency reporting the seizure. Therefore, significant enforcement activities may have occurred which are not reflected in the report.

Arizona

- o On February 16, INS/BP Agents at the Yuma, Arizona, checkpoint seized 127 kilograms of marijuana from a compartment under the bed of a 1977 Ford F-350 pickup with Arizona plates. The marijuana was covered by talcum or baby powder. The compartment had been built by inserting a piece of plywood into the area between the frame rails. The driver, a Mexican male resident of San Luis, Sonora, was arrested.
- o On February 21, INS/BP Agents seized 114 kilograms of marijuana abandoned south of Patagonia, Arizona.
- o On February 22, INS/BP Agents seized 143 kilograms of marijuana from eight backpackers just west of Douglas, Arizona. Four Mexican nationals, residents of Agua Prieta, Sonora, were arrested; the other four fled to Mexico.
- o On February 23, INS/BP Agents seized 327 kilograms of marijuana from the trunk of a 1986 Ford Thunderbird with California plates, following a traffic stop on Arizona Highway 95 near Dome, Arizona. Two other vehicles, a 1990 Ford Probe and a 1990 Ford Ranger pickup, were also seized after it was determined that the vehicles were being used to run interference for the load vehicle. Four suspects, residents of Calexico and El Centro, California, were arrested.
- o On February 23, INS/BP Agents seized 132 kilograms of marijuana abandoned just east of the Nogales, Arizona, POE. Agents observed eight individuals carrying packs away from the border area. All eight individuals fled to Mexico.
- o On February 23, INS/BP Agents seized 167 kilograms of marijuana abandoned south of Kino Springs, Arizona. An unknown number of backpackers abandoned the marijuana prior to the agents' arrival.
- o On February 24, U.S. Customs Service (USCS) Inspectors seized 16 kilograms of methamphetamine from the right door panel of a 1988 Chevrolet pickup at the San Luis, Arizona, POE. The driver, a Mexican national and resident of Los Angeles, California, was arrested.
- o On February 24, USCS Inspectors seized 194 kilograms of marijuana from a 1978 Ford F-100 pickup at the Douglas, Arizona, POE. The marijuana was found under a false bed. The

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- driver, a Mexican national and resident of Agua Prieta, Sonora, was arrested.
- o On February 27, as the result of an investigation, USCS Inspectors and Douglas, Arizona, police officers seized 131 kilograms of marijuana from a storage shed behind a residence in Douglas.
 - o On March 1, USCS Special Agents seized 105 kilograms of marijuana from the bed of a 1981 Ford pickup with Arizona plates near Three Points, Arizona. The driver, a resident of Tucson, Arizona, was arrested.
 - o On March 1, INS/BP Agents seized 108 kilograms of marijuana from the trunk of a 1978 Mercury Zephyr, along the Colorado River near Yuma, Arizona. The driver fled to Mexico.
 - o On March 1, INS/BP Agents seized 240 kilograms of marijuana in Nogales, Arizona.
 - o On March 5, INS/BP Agents seized 126 kilograms of marijuana from a vehicle in Nogales, Arizona.
 - o On March 6, USCS Special Agents seized 370 kilograms of marijuana from an abandoned 1981 Ford van with Arizona plates in Sells, Arizona.
 - o On March 6, INS/BP Agents seized 139 kilograms of marijuana in Nogales, Arizona. Agents approached a group of suspects dragging what appeared to be bundles of marijuana. The group dispersed, leaving the marijuana behind. Three suspects, all Mexican nationals and residents of Obregon, Sonora, were arrested.
 - o On March 8, USCS Inspectors seized 246 kilograms of marijuana from a 1979 Chevrolet van on the Tohono O'Odham Indian Reservation, west of Sells, Arizona. Three suspects were arrested.
 - o On March 8, INS/BP Agents seized 524 kilograms of marijuana abandoned by a group of 27 backpackers west of Nogales, Arizona.
 - o On March 9, USCS Special Agents seized 102 kilograms of marijuana just north of Gu Vo, Arizona, in the Tohono O'Odham Indian Reservation. The abandoned 1984 Chevrolet Blazer with Arizona plates had crossed the border near the Menagers Dam gate. The driver fled.
 - o On March 10, INS/BP Agents seized 141 kilograms of marijuana from the trunk of an abandoned 1988 Buick Regal with Arizona plates on I-10 near Benson, Arizona. The suspects fled.
 - o On March 13, INS and USCS Inspectors seized 176 grams of Mexican brown heroin from a pedestrian at the Grand Avenue POE in Nogales, Arizona. The heroin was found in the suspect's boxer shorts. A male Mexican national and resident of Ahome, Sinaloa, was arrested.
 - o On March 14, INS/BP Agents seized 444 kilograms of marijuana abandoned by a group of 16 backpackers near Firestone Gardens, west of Nogales, Arizona. One Mexican national, a resident of Nogales, Sonora, was arrested.
 - o On March 14, USCS Special Agents seized 165 kilograms of marijuana from a 1970 Ford F-100 pickup near Ajo.

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Arizona. One male Mexican national, a resident of Sonoyta, Sonora, was arrested.

- o On March 14, DEA Special Agents and INS/BP Agents, as the result of an investigation, seized 126 kilograms of marijuana from an abandoned pickup in Arivaca, Arizona. The marijuana had been smuggled from Mexico into the United States by backpackers.
- o On March 14, DEA Special Agents seized 617 kilograms of cocaine at a residence in Nogales, Arizona, as the result of an investigation. The cocaine packages were marked with pictures of green and orange four-leaf clovers with the letter "J," the "Herbalife" and "Junior" logos, a black triangle with an eye in the middle, and the letters "R" and "HO." One male Mexican national, a resident of Nogales, Arizona, was arrested.
- o On March 15, INS/BP Agents seized 371 kilograms of marijuana abandoned by a group of backpackers near Nogales, Arizona. No arrests were made.
- o On March 15, INS/BP Agents seized 434 kilograms of marijuana abandoned by a group of backpackers near Washington Camp, Arizona.

California

- o On February 15, DEA Special Agents and Riverside County Sheriff's officers from Blythe, California, seized 571 kilograms of cocaine near Blythe. Sheriff's officers approached two suspects loading packages into a 1986 Ford Aerostar van in an alfalfa field near Blythe during the early morning hours. The cocaine packages were

marked with a "White Diamond" label or a large scorpion with an olive tree branch in both claws. Some of the packages had "10" embossed on the kilogram bricks. Two male suspects, residents of Calexico and Brawley, California, were arrested.

- o On February 16, USCS Inspectors at the San Ysidro, California, POE seized 110 kilograms of marijuana from the trunk of a 1985 Nissan Maxima sedan with California plates. The driver, a male U.S. citizen and resident of Chula Vista, California, attempted to run but was apprehended and arrested.
- o On February 16, INS/BP Agents at the Jacumba, California, checkpoint seized 112 kilograms of marijuana from compartments behind the seats of a 1980 Chevrolet El Camino with California plates. The factory compartments in the El Camino are designed to hold the spare tire and are large enough to accommodate a person. The marijuana was covered with pine scent. The driver, a male naturalized U.S. citizen born in Ciudad Morelos, Baja California, and residing in Fontana, California, was arrested.
- o On February 16, USCS Inspectors at the Los Angeles International Airport seized 951 grams of suspected Mexican heroin. The female passenger had traveled on Aero California from Culiacan, Mexico, to Los Angeles, California. The heroin was wrapped in two plastic bags and secured to her body.
- o On February 17, INS/BP Agents seized 106 kilograms of marijuana abandoned near the border fence, 10 miles east of Tecate, California.

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- o On February 17, USCS Inspectors seized 108 kilograms of marijuana from a 1991 Toyota Camry at the San Ysidro, California, POE. The marijuana was found in the area between the rear seat and trunk. The driver, a male Mexican national and resident of Tijuana, Baja California Norte, was arrested.
- o On February 17, USCS Special Agents seized 25 kilograms of cocaine at a motel in Rowland Heights, near Los Angeles, California, as the result of an investigation. A male resident of Calexico, California, was arrested. Agents suspect the cocaine entered the United States via the San Ysidro, California, POE. No markings were observed.
- o On February 18, USCS Inspectors seized 177 kilograms of marijuana from the trunk of a 1985 Buick Century at the San Ysidro, California, POE. The male driver, a resident of Cherry Valley, California, was arrested.
- o On February 19, USCS Inspectors seized 7 kilograms of methamphetamine from a 1991 Ford Thunderbird at the Calexico, California, POE. The methamphetamine was inside a compartment in the rear bumper. The male driver, a resident of Whittier, California, was arrested.
- o On February 21, DEA Special Agents seized 5 kilograms of cocaine in San Diego, California, as the result of an investigation. The cocaine packages were marked "Junior" or displayed the Harley-Davidson winged emblem. Both markings have been seen during recent multikilogram seizures at or near the Southwest border.
- o On February 21, USCS Special Agents seized 12 kilograms of cocaine in Norwalk, California, as the result of an investigation. A male resident of Paramount, California, was arrested. No markings were observed. This seizure is related to the previously mentioned February 17 seizure of 25 kilograms of cocaine.
- o On February 22, USCS Special Agents seized 61 kilograms of cocaine at a residence in Glendora, California, as the result of an investigation. One suspect, a resident of Glendora, was arrested. No markings were observed. This seizure is related to the seizures on February 17 (25 kilograms of cocaine) and on February 21 (12 kilograms of cocaine). The cocaine in these seizures was reportedly transported from Cali, Colombia, to Mexicali, Baja California Norte, and entered the United States via POE's at either Calexico or San Ysidro, California.
- o On February 22, INS/BP Agents seized 119 kilograms of marijuana abandoned by an unknown number of backpackers near Dulzura, California.
- o On February 22, INS and USCS Inspectors seized 419 kilograms of cocaine from a 1985 Oldsmobile Cutlass at the Calexico, California, POE. The driver of the vehicle attempted to run the POE after being asked to open the trunk; however, heavy vehicular traffic at the POE forced the driver to abandon the vehicle and run back to Mexico. A total of 397 cocaine packages, marked "Herbalife," "Herbalife/Caution-Sealed with Pilfer Resistance Tape," "The First," or "R" with a picture of an eyeball, were removed from the vehicle. Most of the packages were white, while

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others were blue, brown, or silver. Many of the packages were also affixed with either green, blue, brown, or yellow strips of tape, possibly used by traffickers to identify a particular lot. The vehicle is registered to a car dealership in Mexicali, Baja California Norte.

- o On February 23, USCS Special Agents seized 159 kilograms of marijuana from a residence in El Centro, California, as the result of an investigation. A male Mexican national, a resident of El Centro, was arrested.
- o On February 23, USCS Inspectors seized 127 kilograms of marijuana from the trunk of a 1990 Acura Legend with California plates at the San Ysidro, California, POE. The male driver, a resident of San Ysidro, was arrested.
- o On February 23, USCS Inspectors seized 104 kilograms of marijuana from a 1978 Plymouth Voyager van at the San Ysidro, California, POE. The marijuana was found inside the door panels and under the seats. The female driver, a resident of Fontana, California, was arrested.
- o On February 24, ENS/BP Agents seized 558 kilograms of marijuana from the bed of a 1979 Ford pickup on I-8 near Ocotillo, California. The load was smuggled from Baja California Norte via the O'Neill Valley. The male driver, a Mexican national and resident of Mexicali, Baja California Norte, was arrested.
- o On February 24, USCS Inspectors at the San Francisco International Airport seized 3.6 kilograms of Southeast Asian heroin from a white female, a resident of Baltimore, Maryland, arriving from Hong Kong. The heroin was in a false compartment of a checked leather garment bag.
- o On February 24, California Highway Patrol officers seized S201,195 concealed in a compartment behind the rear seat of a 1992 Nissan Sentra driven by a Latin male traveling south on I-5 in Kern County, en route from Los Banos to Los Angeles.
- o On February 26, USCS Special Agents seized 1.2 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin and arrested a Colombian national at a hotel in Englewood, California. The suspect concealed the heroin internally and reportedly entered the United States on a Mexicana Airlines flight from Guatemala.
- o On February 26, USCS Inspectors at the Los Angeles International Airport seized 1 kilogram of suspected Colombian heroin. The passenger, a Colombian national, arrived at Los Angeles aboard Mexicana Airlines from Guatemala. He had ingested 93 balloons containing the heroin for which he was to be paid \$5,000 for transporting it.
- o On February 27, California Highway Patrol officers seized 454 grams of heroin and \$5,072 concealed under the front passenger seat of a Chevrolet Cavalier occupied by two Latin males

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- 1 kilogram of suspected Colombian heroin from a Guatemalan national, a resident of Los Angeles, California. The passenger had arrived from Guatemala internally carrying the heroin.
- o On March 4, USCS Inspectors at the San Francisco International Airport seized 332 grams of Southeast Asian heroin from a Vietnamese national, a resident of San Francisco, California, traveling on Singapore Airlines from Vietnam via Hong Kong. The heroin was discovered in the soles of his shoes.
 - o On March 5, D/S/BP Agents seized 675 kilograms of cocaine from a 1970 Datsun pickup and a 1990 Toyota pickup, both with California plates, near Boulevard, California. The two vehicles, driving in tandem, crossed the border from Mexico near Tierra Del Sol Road, an area notorious for vehicular border intrusions. The cellophane-wrapped cocaine packages, marked "Herbalife" with a picture of a pyramid with an eye similar to that on a U.S. \$1 bill, were found in compartments underneath the ~~front door~~ panels of both vehicles. The two male drivers, residents of Chula Vista and San Diego, California, were arrested.
 - o On March 5, USCS Inspectors at the Los Angeles International Airport seized a total of 6.5 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from five male Colombians traveling from Colombia via Mexico City. All five suspects had ingested the heroin, were traveling on false documents, had cash airline tickets purchased by another individual, and had purchased their passports for \$1,000 to \$1,500 each.
 - o On March 6, USCS Inspectors and D/S/BP Agents seized 111 kilograms of marijuana from the trunk of a 1977 Nissan Maxima with California plates after it attempted to run the POE at Tecate, California. ~~packages~~ ~~and passenger, residents of El Cajon and La Mesa, California, were arrested.~~
 - o On March 6, USCS Inspectors seized 108 kilograms of marijuana from the trunk of a 1990 Ford Thunderbird with California plates. The vehicle attempted to run the San Ysidro, California, POE. A male Mexican national, a resident of Tijuana, Baja California Norte, was arrested.
 - o On March 6, USCS Inspectors seized 26 kilograms of methamphetamine from a 1989 Oldsmobile Cutlass Supreme with California plates at the San Ysidro, California, POE. The methamphetamine was concealed inside the rear bumper. A female Mexican national and resident of San Ysidro, was arrested.
 - o On March 6, USCS Inspectors seized \$147,500 from a Mexican citizen and resident of Anaheim, California, as he attempted to enter the United States at the Otay Mesa, California, POE. The currency was in a compartment under the windshield wipers of a 1988 ~~Scion~~ with California plates. The car and currency were seized, but the driver was not arrested.
 - o On March 7, USCS Inspectors at the San Francisco mail facility seized 268 grams of opium from inside seven audio cassette tapes within an airmail parcel from Thailand.

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- o On February 16, USCS Inspectors in Port Everglades, Florida, seized 239 kilograms of cocaine from containerized cargo on the [REDACTED]. The vessel had arrived from Panama and Costa Rica.
- o On February 16, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 1 kilogram of suspected Colombian heroin from a Latin female arriving from Medellin, Colombia. Some of the heroin was concealed in a hand-carried makeup case that was unusually thick and rigid. The remaining heroin was concealed in two handbags, two belts, and one wallet lining.
- o On February 17, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 2.7 kilograms of cocaine concealed in a DHL mail cargo shipment manifested and shipped to Sao Paulo, Brazil, from Cali, Colombia. The parcel contained an automobile drive shaft packed in a wooden frame. The cocaine was concealed in hollowed-out areas in the frame. The parcel was in transit at the Miami facility.
- o On February 18, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport arrested two male New York residents who had arrived on American Airlines from Cali, Colombia. The pair was in possession of 1.5 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin concealed in shoes they wore and in shoes inside their checked luggage.
- o On February 19, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 141 kilograms of marijuana from the checked luggage of four passengers. The passengers, a black female resident of Bronx, New York; a black male resident of Brooklyn, New York; a black female resident of Falls Church, Virginia; and a white female resident of Reston, Virginia; were traveling on Air Jamaica from Montego Bay, Jamaica.
- o On February 22, Florida Highway Patrol officers seized 1 kilogram of crack cocaine from a 1986 Oldsmobile Cutlass Supreme with Florida plates on I-95 in Indian River County. The two black males from West Palm Beach, Florida, were en route to Jacksonville, Florida. The crack cocaine was in the blower motor.
- o On February 25, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 5.5 kilograms of heroin from a male U.S. citizen and resident of Jamaica, New York, traveling from Cali, Colombia. The heroin was concealed in the false bottom of his luggage and inside eight jackets.
- o On March 1, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 2 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a female Colombian national and resident of Bogota, Colombia, traveling on American Airlines from Bogota. The heroin was discovered in her carry-on bag in false panels.
- o On March 1, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 3.6 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a female Colombian national and resident of Pereira, Colombia, traveling from Cali, Colombia, on American Airlines. The heroin was discovered in 14 pieces of clothing within her checked luggage.

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- o On March 2, the USCS Miami Contraband Enforcement Team and members of the Florida National Guard seized 7,500 kilograms of marijuana concealed in numerous 55-gallon drums of frozen pineapple pulp. The drums were located in a container that arrived from Buenaventura, Colombia, aboard the vessel [REDACTED]. A controlled delivery was successfully completed at a warehouse in Miami on March 16. Seven persons were arrested.
- o On March 3, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 2 kilograms of cocaine from the engine compartment of an Arca flight from Bogota, Colombia.
- o On March 4, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 4 kilograms of cocaine from the engine compartment of an Arca flight from Bogota, Colombia.
- o On March 5, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 785 grams of suspected Colombian heroin from a male Colombian national and resident of Medellin, Colombia, traveling from Medellin on Zullana de Aviacion Airlines. The heroin was discovered in the passenger's crotch under his quilted shorts.
- o On March 6, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 7.5 kilograms of cocaine from an unmanifested box that arrived from Lima, Peru, on Faucett Airlines.
- o On March 8, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 8 kilograms of cocaine from an express mail parcel from Colombia destined for a residence in New York City. The parcel contained six leather amache cases.
- o On March 9, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 1.3 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a female Colombian national and resident of Cali, Colombia, traveling from Cali on American Airlines. The heroin was discovered in a pair of sandals packed in her checked bag, in the lining of her hand-carried purse, and in the soles of the shoes she was wearing.
- o On March 9, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 1.5 kilograms of heroin from a female Colombian national residing in Pereira, Colombia, arriving from Cali, Colombia. The heroin was concealed in book covers.
- o On March 10, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 9 kilograms of cocaine taped to the body of a female passenger arriving on American Airlines from Colombia. She had fallen to her knees and could not get up due to the restraints of the tape and cocaine packages. The passenger's husband was arrested with 3 kilograms of cocaine on May 26, 1994, by USCS Miami when he arrived from Colombia.
- o On March 11, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 906 grams of suspected Colombian heroin from a female Colombian national and resident of Miami, Florida, traveling with her juvenile son from Colombia on Aces Airlines. The heroin was discovered in the soles of the shoes they wore.

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from Whitehouse, Ohio, were en route to Ohio from Tucson, Arizona.

- o Illinois State Police officers seized \$115,000 on ~~March 13~~ from a couple in a 1980 Chrysler traveling west on I-80 in Henry County en route from the New York City area to Tucson, Arizona. The currency was taped to the underside of the back seat.
- o On March 13, Illinois State Police officers seized a total of 434 kilograms of marijuana from subjects traveling east in two vans on I-70 in Madison County en route to Columbus, Ohio, from Nogales, Arizona. The 1995 Plymouth van with Florida plates contained 238 kilograms of marijuana and was being driven by a Mexican male with a female passenger from Rio Rico, Arizona. The 1995 Dodge van, also with Florida plates, contained 196 kilograms of marijuana and was being driven by a Mexican male from Nogales with a Latin passenger from Rio Rico. The marijuana packages were located in the cargo area and in the luggage storage container of both vans.

Kansas

- o On February 25, Kansas Highway Patrol officers seized 200 kilograms of cocaine from a 1989 Chevrolet van pulling a homemade 30-foot trailer on I-70 in Thomas County, Kansas. The cocaine packages, wrapped in yellow latex and marked "Junior" and "Harley-Davidson" with a winged emblem, were found in four separate false compartments which ran the length of the trailer. The driver, a resident of Chicago, Illinois, was en route to Chicago from Los Angeles, California.

- o On February 25, Kansas Highway Patrol officers seized \$294,000 concealed in a suitcase in the cargo area of a 1994 Dodge van traveling west on I-70 in Wabamsee County.
- o On February 27, Kansas Highway Patrol officers seized \$190,000 from a white male traveling west on I-70 in Trego County. The Novi, Michigan, resident was stopped for speeding near WaKeeney, Kansas, in a 1990 Chevrolet pickup with Michigan plates. The subject was reportedly en route to Denver, Colorado, from Detroit, Michigan. The currency was in a false bed compartment under the original bed of the pickup.

Louisiana

- o On February 15, Louisiana State Police officer seized \$117,217 concealed in a plastic bag in the trunk of a 1987 Volkswagen Jetta driven by a Colombian national traveling east on I-10 in St. Martin Parish.
- o On February 23, Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana, sheriff's officers seized 20,000 dosage units of diazepam on I-10 eastbound near Lake Charles. Two white male residents of Acworth, Georgia, were traveling in a 1989 Ford Thunderbird with Georgia plates. The pills, packaged in eight zip-lock bags and rolled into cylinders, were found in the spare tire of the vehicle.

New Jersey

- o On March 7, USCS Inspectors at the Newark International Airport seized 945 grams of suspected Colombian heroin from a Puerto Rican male resident of Paterson, New Jersey, traveling from

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Aruba on Air Aruba Airlines. The heroin was discovered concealed in the passenger's video camera, in the camera adapter, and in two video camera batteries.

New Mexico

- o On February 21, INS/BP Agents seized \$145,000 from the glove compartment and a suitcase in the trunk of a car at the checkpoint on I-10 westbound near Las Cruces, New Mexico. Two U.S. citizens were released.
- o On March 12, INS/BP Agents seized 1.4 kilograms of abandoned cocaine located in the luggage compartment of a Tourimos Rápidos transit bus at the Las Cruces, New Mexico, checkpoint.

New York

- o On February 17, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 1.3 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from two passengers traveling from Aruba. The roommates were Latin female residents of New York traveling on American Airlines. The heroin was discovered in condoms concealed by a girdle.
- o On February 22, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 2.6 kilograms of liquid cocaine concealed in two bottles of Sanatogen wine carried by a Jamaican national arriving from Kingston, Jamaica.
- o On February 26, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 7.4 kilograms of cocaine concealed in a container of baby powder. The male U.S. citizen and resident of High Point, North Carolina, had arrived from Guyana.
- o On February 27, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 980 grams of suspected Colombian heroin from a Colombian national resident of Cali, Colombia, traveling on Avianca Airlines from Colombia. The heroin was in 78 ingested condoms.
- o On February 28, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 669 grams of suspected Colombian heroin from a male Colombian national and resident of Sunnyside, New York, traveling on Delta Airlines from Colombia. The heroin was found in a football jacket in his carry-on roller bag.
- o On March 1, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 1 kilogram of suspected Colombian heroin from a male Colombian national and resident of Pereira, Colombia, traveling on Avianca Airlines from Colombia. The heroin was in 89 ingested condoms.
- o On March 1, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 485 grams of suspected Colombian heroin from a female Colombian national and resident of Brooklyn, New York, traveling on Avianca Airlines from Colombia. The heroin was concealed in the false top compartment of a hard-sided Echolac suitcase.
- o On March 3, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 6.1 kilograms of liquid cocaine concealed in three bottles of green ginger wine and one bottle of Sanatogen wine carried by a Jamaican national arriving from Jamaica.
- o On March 3, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport mail facility seized 6 kilograms of cocaine in a

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shipment manifested as candlestick holders. The cocaine was in the bottom wooden slats of the crates.

- On March 5, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 3 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a female Colombian national and resident of Jackson Heights, New York, traveling from Colombia on Avianca Airlines. The heroin was discovered in unusually thick panels of the passenger's carry-on bag and purse.

Ohio

- On February 20, Dayton, Ohio, airport task force agents seized 2 kilograms of cocaine and arrested three persons. One person had traveled from Los Angeles, California, to Dayton on U.S. Air with the cocaine concealed in his hand-carried briefcase. The other two subjects met the passenger upon his arrival at the Dayton Airport.

Oklahoma

- On March 2, Oklahoma Highway Patrol officers seized 843 kilograms of marijuana concealed in trash cans in a 1985 Kenworth tractor-trailer with California plates traveling east on I-40 in Custer County. The two Latin males from San Diego, California, were en route to Washington, D.C.
- On March 8, USCS Inspectors at the Tulsa International Airport seized 13 kilograms of cocaine in the passenger cabin behind the panels next to the forward lavatories of an American Airlines aircraft. The aircraft had arrived from Jamaica and was undergoing routine maintenance.

Tennessee

- On February 16, Shelby County, Tennessee, sheriff's officers seized 31 kilograms of cocaine concealed in a false compartment in the floor of a 1988 Toyota Camry with Illinois plates. The vehicle was traveling east on I-40 en route to Atlanta from Los Angeles. There were no markings on the packages.
- On March 15, Nashville, Tennessee, international airport task force officers seized 3 kilograms of cocaine from the checked luggage of a female passenger traveling on Southwest Airlines from Nashville to Burbank, California.

Texas

- On February 16, INS/BP Agents seized 870 kilograms of marijuana on FM 192 near Esperanza, Texas, 4 miles south of I-10 and 1 mile from the Rio Grande River. The marijuana was transported across the river from Mexico by horse caravan and loaded in a Wells Cargo trailer towed by a Chevrolet pickup with Texas plates. The driver fled with the trailer load of marijuana and abandoned the trailer on a ranch east of Fort Hancock, Texas.
- On February 17, DEA Special Agents seized 127 kilograms of cocaine from a 1993 Ford Crown Victoria in Edinbergh, Texas, as the result of an investigation. The cocaine packages, wrapped in sealed black rubber and marked "Oro," were found in the trunk. Five suspects, four Mexican nationals and one U.S. citizen, were arrested. The cocaine was destined for the Houston, Texas, area.

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seized 5 kilograms of cocaine from a suspect on an Amtrak train in Kansas City, Missouri. The cocaine packages were marked "Harley Cycles USA."

around and fled from the POE. The cocaine was located in the engine compartment.

Canada

- o On February 28, Sevier County Sheriff's officers in Utah seized 3 kilograms of methamphetamine concealed in luggage within the trunk of a 1985 Mercury with Kentucky plates. Two white females were traveling east on I-70 en route to Kentucky from Ontario, California.
- o On February 28, Canadian Customs at the Pearson International Airport in Toronto, Canada, arrested a U.S. female upon arrival of a Guyana Airways flight from Georgetown, Guyana. The female had 2 kilograms of cocaine concealed inside a tin can in her running shoes, and in liquid form inside two shampoo bottles within her luggage. The female courier may be associated with an organized smuggling ring operating in the Miami, Florida, area. Most of the couriers are citizens of Guyana who enter the United States on visitors' visas and give the appearance of being middle-aged business professionals.
- o On March 10, Canadian Customs Inspectors at the Pearson International Airport in Toronto, Canada, seized 23 kilograms of heroin from a female U.S. national who had arrived on an Air Canada flight from Cambodia via Hong Kong and Zurich. Her itinerary was Chicago-Zurich-Toronto-Chicago. The heroin was concealed inside false compartments in her black leather garment bag.

Virginia

- o On March 12, Virginia State Police officers seized 608 grams of crack cocaine from a Latin male driving a vehicle south on I-95 near Richmond.
- o On March 13, Virginia State Police officers seized 201 kilograms of cocaine concealed in false compartments in the floor, in the ceiling, and in the left rear door of a 1989 Ford conversion van with California plates. A Latin male and his mother were traveling north on I-81 in Rockbridge County.

Washington

- o On February 24, Grays Harbor County Sheriff's officers and Aberdeen, Washington, police department officers seized 454 grams of Mexican black tar heroin concealed in the firewall of a 1985 Mercury Merkur traveling north on U.S. 101 en route to Westport, Washington.
- o On February 25, USCS Inspectors at the Lynden POE in Blaine, Washington, seized 2 kilograms of cocaine from a 1992 Chevrolet Blazer entering Canada. The couple, Canadian citizens from the Nanaimo, British Columbia, area, turned

Mexico

- o On February 13, Mexican authorities seized 569 kilograms of marijuana and a Cessna 402 aircraft at the airport in San Felipe, Baja California-Norte. The aircraft's flight originated in Mexico.
- o On March 6, Mexican authorities at a checkpoint near Villa Union, Sinaloa, seized 10 kilograms of crack cocaine

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INTRODUCTION

This assessment focuses on highway drug interdiction activity occurring in the four regions of the continental United States. These four regions are identified as the Northeastern, Southeastern, Northwestern, and Southwestern and encompass 48 States.

Amounts seized during CY94 have increased substantially over CY93 in all areas except heroin. There was a 120-percent increase in cocaine HCl, a 37-percent increase in crack cocaine, a 254-percent increase in methamphetamine, a 26-percent increase in marijuana, and a 6-percent increase in currency over CY93. There was a 36-percent decrease in heroin seizures in CY94 over CY93.

Particularly noteworthy is the increase in methamphetamine seizures; 41 incidents totaling 46 kilograms in CY93 compared to 70 incidents totaling 163 kilograms in CY94. Movement is primarily from California (94 percent) to locations within California (21 percent), Tennessee (21 percent), Iowa (11 percent), Arizona (9 percent), Texas (8 percent), and Colorado (5 percent). Couriers are using interstate highways to transport the methamphetamine, primarily I-5, I-10, I-15, I-20, I-40, I-44, and I-70. The preferred load vehicles have been privately owned automobiles and pickups (with and without camper shells), favoring the Buick Regal, Cadillac, Chevrolet Camaro, Ford Mustang, Taurus, Thunderbird, Nissan Sentra, Oldsmobile Cutlass automobiles and the Chevrolet, Ford, Mazda, Nissan, and Toyota pickups. The driver has been a Latin (71 percent) or white (28 percent) male traveling by himself, in his thirties, residing in California (61 percent) or Iowa (13 percent), and born in Mexico (62 percent) or the United States (38 percent).

Highway interdiction seizures in CY94 were made primarily by State law enforcement agencies (80 percent) followed by county (11 percent), local (7.5 percent), and task force law enforcement agencies (1.5 percent). The following is a breakdown of percentages of each drug type and currency seized by each group of agencies:

	<u>State</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Local</u>	<u>Task Force</u>
Cocaine HCl	70%	14%	15%	1%
Crack	93%	2%	2%	3%
Heroin	66.5%	10.5%	22%	1%
Methamphetamine	74%	19%	7%	0%
Marijuana	71%	19%	8%	2%
Currency	70%	20%	9%	1%

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The overall drug threat relating to U.S. highways can be described as follows:

- o Methamphetamine connection to Mexican nationals is well established in CY94 seizure activity. It is believed that Mexican production of methamphetamine is on the rise. The majority of the methamphetamine is being transported via California. It is believed this will continue throughout CY95.
- o The primary highways utilized in CY94 and CY93 to transport drugs and currency continue to be I-10, I-15, I-20, I-35, I-40, I-44, I-55, I-57, I-70, I-80, I-95, and U.S. 59. Sixty-one percent of the seizure incidents took place on these highways in CY94 compared to sixty-five percent in CY93.
- o The amounts of crack cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, marijuana, and related currency being seized on U.S. highways and other highways (i.e., State highways and farm and market roads, etc.) as opposed to interstate highways have more than doubled in CY94. The opposite is true for cocaine HCl. On these highways in CY94, cocaine HCl amounts have decreased by 28 percent in CY94 compared to a 128-percent increase on interstate highways for the same period.
- o Where identified, U.S. citizen drivers were involved in 57 percent of the seizure incidents reported during CY94. Mexican nationals (29 percent), Colombian nationals (4 percent), and Jamaican nationals (2 percent) were the next largest group involved. The number of female drivers in CY94 increased by 14 percent over CY93.
- o The majority of the incidents in CY94, as in CY93, involved a vehicle occupied by a single male. Noteworthy is the fact that there was a 22-percent increase during CY94 in the number of incidents where a female was traveling alone and a 30-percent increase in incidents involving a family unit (i.e., father, mother, and child).
- o Commercial motor vehicles continue to be used to transport cocaine HCl and marijuana on U.S. highways. In only 6 percent of the cocaine and marijuana seizure incidents reported to EPIC, commercial motor vehicles transported 46 percent of the cocaine HCl in CY94 compared to 37 percent in CY93, and 34 percent of the marijuana in CY94 compared to 22 percent in CY93.

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Maryland State Police also made the sixth largest crack cocaine seizure (2,970 grams) on November 22 from a black male, 39 years of age. The seizure occurred on U.S. 13 southbound in Wicomico County at 1135 hours. ~~Consent to search was obtained.~~

~~Virginia~~

The seizure of 2,890 grams of crack cocaine made by the New Jersey State Police on February 10 was the seventh largest reported in CY94. The incident occurred on I-80 eastbound in Warren County at 1309 hours. The contraband was located on the rear floorboard of a privately owned 1983 Chevrolet Blazer with New York plates, following a canine alert. The owner of the vehicle was not present. The driver, a black male 30 years of age, was from Plainfield, New Jersey. His passenger, a black female 24 years of age, was from Brooklyn, New York. The crack cocaine was en route to Binghamton, New York, from Brooklyn.

The eighth largest crack cocaine seizure (2,805 grams) was made by the Maryland State Police on June 29 at 1450 hours on I-95 southbound in Harford County. ~~The~~

~~co~~
a 1991 Mercury Cougar. The driver and passenger, two black males 22 and 26 years of age, were both from Brooklyn. Also seized from the compartment were 126 grams of cocaine and 91 grams of marijuana, and \$600. The contraband was discovered following a consent to search.

~~The~~

~~seizure was made by the New Jersey State Police~~
on October 25 in Harford County on I-95 southbound at 1210 hours. The crack cocaine was en route to Goldsboro, North Carolina, from New York City. The driver and one passenger, 23 and 20 years of age, were from Springfield, New York. The second passenger, a 19-year-old black male, was from Goldsboro. The drugs were located after a canine alert and a consent to search was obtained.

The 2,100 grams of crack cocaine seized by the New Jersey State Police on September 28 was the 10th largest crack cocaine seizure during CY94. The seizure was made on the New Jersey Turnpike southbound in Middlesex County at 1551 hours. ~~The contraband was found in the~~

~~trunk of a 1988 Buick Wildcat with Pennsylvania plates~~
Wilmington, Delaware, from New York City. The black male driver, 27 years of age, was from Wilmington. His black male passenger, 24 years of age, was from New York City. A consent to search was obtained.

HEROIN

Sixty percent (7 kilograms) of the heroin confiscated in highway interdiction was seized in this region. The majority of that amount was seized in New Jersey (32 percent), Pennsylvania (21 percent), Connecticut (11 percent), and Maryland (10 percent). The remaining 26 percent was seized in Illinois, Michigan, Missouri, New York, Ohio, and Virginia.

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Six of the top ten heroin seizures in the nation for highway interdiction during CY94 took place in the Northeastern region of the United States. The largest seizure for CY94 was the 1.5 kilograms of heroin seized by the Pennsylvania State Police on December 9. The seizure took place on I-80 westbound in Stroudsburg at 0800 hours from two Colombian males.

[REDACTED] a privately owned vehicle was not present. The heroin was in pellet form which could conceivably have been ingested for smuggling into the United States.

The Newark, New Jersey, police department made the second largest heroin seizure for the reporting period on April 20. The 1,362 grams of heroin were found on the floor of a privately owned 1994 Dodge Shadow with New Jersey plates. The seizure took place on U.S. 78 westbound at 2220 hours. The driver, a black male 28 years of age, was from Newark. He was returning to Newark from New York City. The decks of heroin were in three separate bundles wrapped in magazine pages and bore the marking of "Misery." A search warrant was obtained to search the vehicle and its contents.

A Ford F-350 rental truck containing a motorcycle, car parts, furniture and clothing was the load vehicle for the sixth largest heroin seizure in CY94. The Missouri Highway Patrol seized 550 grams of Mexican black tar heroin, 2.4 kilograms of cocaine, 57 grams of crack cocaine, and 92 kilograms of marijuana in Greene County on I-44 eastbound at 1321 hours. The contraband was discovered inside cardboard moving boxes among clothing in the cargo hold of the rental truck after a consent to search was obtained. The driver, a Latin female 30 years of age, was from Brownsville, Texas. She was allegedly traveling to Dayton, Ohio, from McAllen, Texas.

The Ohio State Highway Patrol's seizure of 457 grams of Mexican black tar heroin on I-80 westbound in Lucas County at 1352 hours on October 18 was the seventh largest heroin seizure in CY94. The heroin was found in 16 baggies on the front seat of a privately owned 1988 Oldsmobile Delta 88 with Illinois plates, following a canine alert and after obtaining a consent to search. The owner of the vehicle was not present. The driver, a Latin male 28 years of age, was from Los Angeles, California. The two passengers, a Latin male 14 years of age and a Latin female 20 years of age, were both from Chicago, Illinois. The heroin was en route to Toledo, Ohio, from Chicago.

The 450 grams of heroin seized by the Connecticut State Police in New Britain on I-84 eastbound on January 31 at 1230 hours was the ninth largest for CY94. The heroin, along with 573 grams of cocaine HCl, was seized from a 21-year-old Dominican female traveling in a rented 1994 Dodge van with New Hampshire plates, which was being used as a commuter van. The female was a Lawrence, Massachusetts, resident.

The Maryland State Police seizure of 414 grams of heroin on December 7 at 0947 hours was the 10th largest in CY94. The heroin was seized on U.S. 13 southbound in Wicomico County from a Dominican couple traveling in a privately owned 1988 Ford LTD with New York plates.

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One was wrapped in Christmas wrapping paper and the other with magazine pages. The individual packets of heroin were marked "White Monkey" and bore the picture of a chimpanzee.

METHAMPHETAMINE

Seven percent (12 kilograms) of the methamphetamine seized in the United States as a result of highway interdiction was seized in the Northeastern States. Agencies in Missouri (77 percent) and Kentucky (14 percent) seized the majority of that amount. The remaining 9 percent was seized in Illinois. Two of the top ten methamphetamine seizures during CY94 were made in Missouri.

The Missouri Highway Patrol's seizure of approximately 5 kilograms of methamphetamine was the fifth largest for CY94. The seizure took place on April 24 at 1350 hours in St. Louis County on I-44 eastbound. The methamphetamine was found inside a sofa in the cargo area of a 1993 Chevrolet rental truck following a canine alert and a consent to search. The cylinder-shaped packages were wrapped in cellophane and duct tape. The driver of the rental truck was a Mexican male, 26 years of age, from Huntington Park, California. The contraband was en route to St. Louis, Missouri, from Los Angeles, California.

A seizure of 4,540 grams of methamphetamine was the seventh largest for CY94. That seizure was made by the Joplin, Missouri, police department on April 18 at 1240 hours on I-44 eastbound. The methamphetamine was found in a cardboard box inside a briefcase located in the trunk of a rented 1994 Oldsmobile Cutlass with California plates. A drug detection canine alerted and a consent to search was obtained. The driver, a 45-year-old white male, was from Long Beach, California.

Also seized was a .22-caliber North American Arms derringer.

MARIJUANA

Law enforcement agencies in the Northeastern States were responsible for 19 percent (17,369 kilograms) of the marijuana seized nationally. Agencies in Missouri (44 percent), Illinois (36 percent), and Ohio (14 percent) seized 94 percent of that amount. The remaining 6 percent was seized in the States of Iowa, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.

The Illinois State Police made the fourth largest seizure reported to EPIC for highway interdiction during CY94. The seizure took place on I-55 northbound in McLean County on February 15 at 0749 hours. The marijuana was found in the nose of a refrigerated trailer loaded with cabbage being towed by a 1987 Peterbilt tractor, both with Texas plates. The owner/operator and his brother were from Childress, Texas. The driver and his passenger, both black males, were 37 and 42 years of age. The marijuana was en route to Chicago, Illinois, from McAllen, Texas.

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U.S. CURRENCY

Thirty-five percent (\$15,077,292) of the drug-related currency seized on U.S. highways during CY94 was seized in this area. Sixty-nine percent of that amount was seized in Illinois (31 percent), Missouri (19 percent), and New Jersey (19 percent). The remaining 31 percent was seized in Connecticut, Delaware, Iowa, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Virginia, Wisconsin, and West Virginia.

Six of the top ten currency seizures reported for highway interdiction in CY94 took place in the Northeastern portion of the United States. The second largest currency seizure for CY94, \$1,498,750, was made by the Illinois State Police on I-55 southbound in Madison County on June 20 at 1316 hours.

[REDACTED]

The owner/operator of the van, a Latin male 49 years of age, and his Mexican female passenger, 41 years of age, were both from Los Angeles, California. The subjects were en route to Los Angeles from Chicago, Illinois.

The Illinois State Police were also responsible for the third largest seizure in CY94. A seizure of \$1,044,739 was made on May 5 at 0730 hours on I-70 westbound in Madison County from a Latin couple traveling with their child. Following a consent to search, the currency was discovered in the bottom compartment of a wood and glass display case in the bed of a privately owned 1983 Ford pickup with Illinois plates. The owner of the vehicle was not present. The couple, a 34-year-old male and a 29-year-old female, was traveling from Chicago, Illinois, to El Paso, Texas.

A traffic stop made by the Des Plaines, Illinois, police department resulted in the fourth largest currency seizure in CY94. The \$1,025,671 was seized from a Tanzanian male, 29 years of age, on December 15 at 2000 hours. The subject was from Skokie, Illinois.

A seizure of \$1,010,000 made by the Missouri Highway Patrol on April 22 at 2030 hours was the fifth largest for the reporting period. The currency was discovered on the floorboard of a privately owned 1994 Chevrolet Lumina van with Indiana plates. The vehicle was owned by the 69-year-old white male driver. He was accompanied by his 64-year-old wife; both resided in La Crosse, Indiana. A canine alert and consent to search led to the discovery of the currency and a loaded two-shot derringer.

A resident of Santa Fe, New Mexico, was transporting \$844,520 on February 28 when he was detained for a traffic violation by the Missouri Highway Patrol at 0812 hours. This seizure was the seventh largest for CY94.

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[REDACTED]

The Illinois State Police made the ninth largest currency seizure on October 19 when they seized \$638,366 at 0845 hours on I-55 southbound in Will County. Following a canine alert, the currency was discovered in the natural void between the rear passenger seat and trunk wall (\$500,000) and behind the driver's side door panel (\$138,366). The white male driver, 23 years of age and from Chicago, and the Latin male passenger, 22 years of age and from El Paso, were traveling in a privately owned 1987 Pontiac Bonneville with Texas plates. The owner of the vehicle was not present. The currency was en route to El Paso, Texas, from Chicago, Illinois.

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CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

DOMESTIC

United States

- o On February 4, USCS Inspectors at the San Ysidro POE seized 13 kilograms of heroin from a Colombian national. This is the first seizure involving a Colombian national attempting to smuggle heroin into the United States via the Southwest border since February 1994. On February 13, 1994, a Colombian national attempted to smuggle 784 grams of Colombian heroin into the United States in a taxi via the Laredo, Texas, POE. On February 27, 1994, another Colombian national attempted to smuggle 576 grams of Colombian heroin into the United States in a taxi, also via the Laredo POE.
(Source: USCS San Ysidro and EPIC)
- o A dramatic increase in cocaine smuggling activity was observed in the South Texas area during the first quarter of CY95. Over 2,068 kilograms of cocaine were seized at a checkpoint in Freer from a tractor-trailer originating in Laredo; 310 kilograms of cocaine were seized from a tractor-trailer originating in McAllen and stopped in Mercedes; 126 kilograms of cocaine were seized at a residence in Pasadena, but the persons and vehicles were associated with Roma; and 33 kilograms of cocaine were seized at the Roma POE.
(Source: EPIC)
- o A Mexican heroin trafficking organization smuggles 12 kilograms of Mexican black tar heroin into the United States on a monthly basis. The organization reportedly operates a heroin lab in Juarez, Chihuahua, and distributes the heroin in Las Cruces, New Mexico, and El Paso, Texas. Organization members recruit transporters to conceal the heroin inside cowboy boots and walk through the El Paso POE pedestrian lanes.
(Source: DEA El Paso)
- o Previous reporting had indicated that cocaine was being shipped to Yakima, Washington, from El Paso, Texas, and Los Angeles, California. Recent reporting now indicates that these same cocaine trafficking organizations may also manufacture and distribute methamphetamine.
(Source: DEA Seattle)
- o An illegal mind-altering drug known as "Fido Dido" recently surfaced in the United States when Cape Coral, Florida, Police officers seized several pills. "Fido Dido" is a small, round, gray pill similar in size and shape to an aspirin. The pill is inscribed with an exact replica of the head of the cartoon character Fido Dido—a triangular-shaped head with cuplike handles for ears and the hair standing up straight from the top of its head. The pill sells for about \$30 and produces a relaxed introspective state of mind for 12 hours. This drug is known to have been developed in Germany, and German authorities

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- have made seizures from German Army personnel.
(Source: USCS Fort Myers)
- o A Colombian group is using Guatemala as a transit point for heroin couriers traveling to the United States on commercial airlines. Colombian nationals swallow heroin pellets, fly to Guatemala, pass the pellets, and later reingest them prior to boarding flights to major U.S. cities.
(Source: USCS New York City)
 - o Both "Junior" and "Harley-Davidson" markings have been noted in numerous multihundred kilogram cocaine seizures along the Southwest border during the past several months. Most notably, the "Harley-Davidson USA" marking was observed in a 1,091-kilogram cocaine seizure on January 23 in Arizona's Coronado National Forest. Cocaine displaying this marking has either been seized at or transited El Paso, Texas, or Calexico, California.
(Source: EPIC)
 - o A major drug distribution organization is smuggling significant quantities of Mexican black tar heroin from Ciudad Acuna, Coahuila, to San Angelo and Fort Worth, Texas, through the Del Rio, Texas, area. This group is reportedly linked to a 1986 delivery of 10 kilograms of heroin to the Dallas area.
(Source: DEA Fort Worth and DEA Monterrey)
 - o The Internal Revenue Service seized a Cessna 310 at Livermore, California, on January 25 under a Federal tax lien. The owner is allegedly associated with methamphetamine labs in San Francisco, California.
(Source: FAA San Francisco)
 - o Traffickers will continue to smuggle cocaine into the United States through Southwest border POE's in privately owned vehicles. An exception to this occurred on January 23 with the seizure of over 1 metric ton of cocaine which had been backpacked into the United States west of Nogales, Arizona.
(Source: EPIC)
 - o Four seizures of cocaine, each over 1 metric ton, have been made along the Southwest border since the beginning of January. On January 12, 2 metric tons were seized from a tractor-trailer at a checkpoint near Freer, Texas; on January 17, 1.1 metric tons were seized at a residence in El Paso, Texas; on January 18, 1.9 metric tons were seized at residences in Bloomington and Fontana, California; and on January 23, over 1 metric ton was seized from backpackers near Nogales, Arizona. These seizures, and the reported low purchase price for cocaine in the San Diego and El Paso areas, suggest that traffickers have moved large quantities of cocaine across the Southwest border during January 1995.
(Source: EPIC)
 - o In FY94, the amount of cocaine seized in the New York City metropolitan area increased by 58 percent. The New York City area is one of the nation's top retail and wholesale cocaine markets and receives an estimated 80 percent of its cocaine from the Cali Cartel. Cocaine enters the New York area by sea cargo, air

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cargo, commercial air couriers, Amtrak trains, tractor-trailers from the Southwest border, and motor vehicles. The area's largest threat is from cocaine smuggled in commercial conveyances.

(Source: USCS New York City)

- o During the past year, black males, often gang affiliated, have been intercepted while transporting cocaine from Los Angeles, California, to Dallas, Texas, Memphis, Tennessee, and to areas in Alabama and Georgia via Greyhound buses.

(Source: EPIC)

- o An increase in the use of minors between the ages of 14 and 18 to smuggle drugs into the United States was observed in 1994. The Mexican Attorney General reported that the number of minors used to transport drugs into the United States increased 600 percent. These couriers smuggled cocaine, marijuana, and heroin, usually concealed on or inside their bodies.

(Source: USCS Miami)

Mexico

- o Mexico City continues to be a major transit point for Nigerians and Nigerian-recruited couriers traveling from West Africa and East Asia via Europe. From Mexico City, they enter the United States through Southwest border land POE's.

(Source: USCS Houston)

- o A major trafficking organization is using DC-9 jets to fly cocaine loads from Colombia to a clandestine airstrip near Hermosillo, Sonora. The cocaine is then moved by smaller aircraft or land vehicles to major staging areas along the United States/Mexico border prior to entering the United States.

(Source: DEA San Ysidro)

- o On February 7, the DEA Mexico City Country Office was alerted that a shipment of 1,200 kilograms of ephedrine was delivered to the Air France customs warehouse at the Mexico City International Airport by an Air France cargo plane. The routing on the airbill was from Ljubljana, Slovenia; to Graz, Austria; to Paris, France; to Mexico City. The ephedrine was labeled "polivinilpirolidona."

(Source: DEA Headquarters)

- o Information developed subsequent to a 1.4-kilogram seizure of methamphetamine in Matamoros, Tamaulipas, on January 12 indicates that the organization smuggles 20 to 30 kilograms of methamphetamine on a monthly basis from Culiacan, Sinaloa, to Fort Worth, Texas, via the South Texas border.

(Source: DEA Monterrey)

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SIGNIFICANT ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

DOMESTIC

This section contains intelligence capsules of significant drug enforcement activity in the United States. It is based on information available at EPIC and should not be considered all inclusive. Information on seizures, with controlled deliveries pending, will not be published in this report without the prior approval of the agency reporting the seizure. Therefore, please bear in mind that significant enforcement activities may have occurred which are not reflected in the report.

Southwest Border States

Texas

- o On December 16, INS/Border Patrol (INS/BP) Agents and Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) officers seized 44 kilograms of marijuana from a 1989 Chevrolet Astro van with Texas plates, 16 miles east of Del Rio, Texas. The driver, a U.S. citizen and resident of Del Rio, Texas, was arrested.
- o On December 16, USCS Inspectors seized 52 kilograms of cocaine from a 1994 Toyota pickup with Texas plates at the Laredo, Texas, POE. The 48 bundles of cocaine, wrapped in brown masking tape with no external markings, were found packed into four metal trays hidden in a false bed. The driver, a U.S. citizen and resident of San Antonio, Texas, was arrested.
- o On December 16, Texas DPS officers seized 212 kilograms of marijuana from a utility trailer and a 1986 Kenworth tractor with Texas plates traveling north on U.S. 281 in Hidalgo County. A portion of the load, stored in the cab, was destined for Robstown, Texas, while a second portion, hidden under the trailer's load of carrots, was destined for New York. The driver, a Mexican national and resident of McAllen, Texas, was arrested.
- o On December 17, USCS Inspectors seized 146 kilograms of marijuana from the trunk of a 1990 Mercury Grand Marquis with Texas plates at the Hidalgo, Texas, POE. The driver abandoned the vehicle and fled back to Mexico.
- o On December 17, INS/BP Agents assisted Texas DPS officers in the seizure of 587 kilograms of marijuana from a trailer being towed by a 1989 Freightliner tractor with Texas plates traveling north on U.S. 281 in Hidalgo County, Texas. The marijuana was hidden among the trailer's load of cabbages and limes. The driver, a resident alien from Edinburg, Texas, was arrested. The vehicle was en route from Edinburg to Houston, Texas.
- o On December 17, crew members on board the chemical tanker [REDACTED] reported to USCS Houston the discovery of 1.3 kilograms of cocaine in the

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- engine room's starboard suction strainer system. This is the third time cocaine has been located in the sea strainer system. Previous seizures occurred on November 11 and 23.
- o On December 17, USCS Special Agents seized 137 kilograms of marijuana located inside a parked 1986 Dodge van with Texas plates in Del Rio, Texas. Two suspects, one identified as a U.S. citizen and resident of Del Rio, Texas, were arrested.
 - o On December 18, USCS Special Agents assisted Val Verde, Texas, Sheriff's officers in the seizure of 153 kilograms of marijuana from a residence in Del Rio, Texas. A male U.S. citizen and resident of Del Rio, Texas, was arrested.
 - o On December 18, INS/BP Agents seized 123 kilograms of marijuana from a 1989 Chevrolet Caprice with Texas plates, south of Tornillo, Texas. Agents observed several suspects placing bundles into the vehicle while it was parked on the Rio Grande River levee. The driver fled back to Mexico.
 - o On December 18, Federal agents and El Paso, Texas, Police Task Force officers seized 413 kilograms of marijuana located inside a 1991 Dodge van with Texas plates in El Paso, Texas. The vehicle had run the El Paso, Texas, Paso del Norte POE and was found abandoned. The driver fled.
 - o On December 18, INS/BP Agents seized 138 kilograms of marijuana abandoned near Escobares, Texas. Three males were observed earlier backpacking the drug north from the Rio Grande River. The suspects fled back to Mexico.
 - o On December 19, INS/BP Agents seized 3.2 kilograms of abandoned cocaine from a Greyhound bus at the Sierra Blanca, Texas, checkpoint. The cocaine, wrapped in duct tape with no reported markings, was found in luggage located on the overhead baggage racks. The bus was en route from El Paso to Dallas, Texas.
 - o On December 20, El Paso County Metro Narcotics Task Force officers seized 311 kilograms of marijuana from a stash house in Clint, Texas. Two male suspects, Mexican nationals and residents of Canutillo, Texas, and Zaragoza, Chihuahua, were arrested.
 - o On December 21, Willacy County Sheriff's officers and Texas DPS officers seized 972 kilograms of marijuana from a black male travelir ; north on U.S. 77. The driver, from Childress, Texas, was in a 1977 conventional style tractor with Texas plates towing a 1984 refrigerated utility trailer with Oklahoma plates.
 - o On December 21, INS/BP Agents seized approximately 100 kilograms of marijuana from the trunk of a rented 1989 Chevrolet Corsica with Texas plates at the Brackettville, Texas, checkpoint. Two suspects, U.S. citizens and residents of Del Rio, Texas, were arrested. The suspects indicated they were en route to San Antonio, but the rental agreement listed a destination of Houston, Texas.
 - o On December 24, INS/BP Agents seized 127 kilograms of marijuana near Roma, Texas. Agents encountered four suspects carrying bundles away from the Rio Grande River. The suspects ran back to Mexico.

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marijuana abandoned south of Abram, Texas. Agents followed the footprints of four backpackers traveling north from the Rio Grande River. No suspects were apprehended.

- On January 13, INS/BP Agents seized 106 kilograms of marijuana from the trunk of a 1987 Ford Taurus with Texas plates near Fabens, Texas. The vehicle had exited a known border pickup area near the POE. The male driver, a Mexican national and resident of Fabens, Texas, was arrested.
- On January 13, INS/BP Agents seized 204 kilograms of marijuana from a 1984 GMC tractor with Mexico plates at the Hebronville, Texas, checkpoint. The marijuana was found in a secret compartment built into the diesel tanks. The driver, a Mexican national and resident of Saltillo, Coahuila, was arrested. The suspect stated that he was being paid \$500 to drive the truck and its tile-laden trailer from Mexico to Houston, Texas, and had entered the United States through the Rio Grande City POE. The owner of the marijuana, a U.S. citizen and resident of Houston, Texas, had been following the tractor-trailer from Camargo, Tamaulipas, and was also arrested.
- On January 14, INS/BP Agents and El Paso Police officers seized 885 kilograms of marijuana from a stash house in El Paso, Texas. The seizure was the result of an investigation, and the purchase price was \$300 per pound. Six suspects, U.S. and Mexican nationals and residents of Los Angeles, California; Fabens, Texas; and Chihuahua and Juarez, Chihuahua, were arrested.
- On January 16, INS/BP Agents seized 33.5 kilograms of cocaine from a 1964 Ford Falcon with Texas plates at the Desert Haven, Texas, checkpoint. The 29 bundles of cocaine (wrappings and markings not reported) were found hidden in the front fenders. Two suspects, Mexican nationals and residents of El Paso, Texas, were arrested. Records indicate the vehicle last entered the United States through the El Paso, Texas, Bridge of the Americas POE on January 5.
- On January 16, INS/BP Agents seized 125 kilograms of marijuana in Del Rio, Texas. The marijuana was seized from backpackers who abandoned their loads along the Rio Grande River and fled back to Mexico. One suspect, a Mexican national and resident of Torreon, Coahuila, was arrested.
- On January 17, USCS Inspectors seized 179 kilograms of marijuana from the false bed of a 1972 Chevrolet pickup with Mexico plates at the Hidalgo, Texas, POE. The driver, a Mexican national and resident of Reynosa, Tamaulipas, was arrested.
- On January 17, INS/BP Agents seized 170 kilograms of marijuana from a 1986 Ford van with Illinois plates parked at a storage yard in Laredo, Texas. The marijuana was hidden in the ceiling and side panels.

New Mexico

- On December 18, INS/BP Agents seized 151 kilograms of marijuana from a 1968 Ford pickup with New Mexico plates traveling west on Highway 9, west of Columbus, New Mexico. Earlier, agents observed suspects remove the bundles

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from a roadside culvert and load them into the parked vehicle. A second vehicle, a 1985 Lincoln with New Mexico plates, was also stopped and seized. Four suspects, Mexican nationals and residents of Chihuahua and Sinaloa, Mexico, were arrested.

- On January 4, Luna County Sheriff's officers seized 111 kilograms of marijuana from a 1975 Ford pickup with Mexico plates parked alongside Highway 11, north of the Columbus, New Mexico, POE. The marijuana was found in a false bed after the vehicle ran out of gas. The driver, a Mexican national and resident of Palomas, Chihuahua, was arrested. The suspect stated that he had entered the United States through the Columbus POE.
- On January 10, DEA Albuquerque Metropolitan Narcotics Task Force officers seized 4 kilograms of white heroin and arrested a Thai male. The subject was traveling aboard an Amtrak train en route from New York City to Los Angeles. Mothballs had been used in an attempt to mask the odor of the heroin.

Arizona

- On December 16, DEA Special Agents seized 293 kilograms of marijuana from a residence in Tucson, Arizona, as the result of an investigation. Three suspects, Mexican and U.S. citizens, were arrested. The marijuana had been backpacked into the United States near Douglas, Arizona.
- o On December 19, Arizona DPS officers and Federal agents seized 107 kilograms of marijuana from a 1980 Oldsmobile with Arizona plates traveling north on Highway 286, north of Sasabe, Arizona. The passenger, a resident of Altar, Sonora, was arrested. The driver escaped.
- o On December 21, USCS Special Agents seized 139 kilograms of marijuana from a residence in Tucson, Arizona, as the result of an investigation. One suspect was arrested.
- o On December 22, INS/BP Agents seized 120 kilograms of marijuana from the bed of a 1980 Chevrolet pickup with Arizona plates traveling north on Highway 85 near Why, Arizona. The male driver, a U.S. citizen and resident of San Luis, Arizona, was arrested. The marijuana is believed to have been loaded into the vehicle from a roadside stash site north of Lukeville, Arizona.
- On December 22, INS/BP Agents seized 273 kilograms of marijuana from a 1977 Ford pickup with Arizona plates near Yuma, Arizona. The passenger, a Mexican national and resident of Morelos, Baja California Norte, was arrested. The driver fled to Mexico after driving the vehicle onto the rocks of an old levee. It is believed the vehicle illegally entered the United States from Mexico.
- o On December 28, USCS Special Agents assisted Arizona DPS officers in the seizure of 252 kilograms of marijuana from a 1977 Toyota pickup with Arizona plates traveling north on Highway 286, north of Sasabe, Arizona. The driver fled on foot.
- o On December 28, INS/BP Agents seized 216 kilograms of cocaine hidden under brush at a stash site west of Pisinimo, Arizona. The unmarked cocaine was

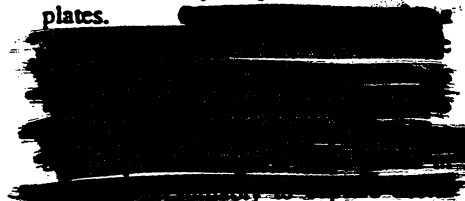
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- o On January 17, INS/BP Agents seized ~~over 2.24 metric~~ tons of marijuana from a trailer parked at an industrial park on the west side of Nogales, Arizona. Agents followed the footprints of backpackers who had crossed into the United States near the POE. The backpackers unloaded the drug into the trailer and then returned to Mexico. No arrests were made.
- o On January 17, Federal agents seized 166 kilograms of marijuana from a stash house in Yuma, Arizona, as the result of an investigation. Three Mexican nationals were arrested. Numerous ~~automatic~~ weapons and a pipe bomb were also seized.

California

- o On December 16, INS/BP Agents seized 231 kilograms of marijuana from a 1970 Chevrolet utility truck with California plates traveling west on I-8 near Ocotillo, California. The marijuana was hidden in the utility compartments. The driver, a Mexican national and resident of Mexicali, Baja California Norte, was arrested. The suspect stated he was en route from Mexicali, Baja California Norte.
- o On December 16, INS/BP Agents seized 135 kilograms of marijuana 6 miles east of San Ysidro, California. The five bundles of marijuana were abandoned by smugglers who were approached by agents monitoring a known border drug smuggling trail. One suspect, a Mexican national and resident of Apatzingan, Michoacan, was arrested. A Browning 9mm semiautomatic handgun and a Fujinon PS-910 night vision scope were also seized. The previous day, 136 kilograms of marijuana and a Mac-90 Sporter .223-caliber semiautomatic rifle were seized from smugglers on the same trail (near the squatters' camp 3 miles northeast of Otay Mesa, California).
- o On December 17, USCS Inspectors seized 112 kilograms of marijuana from the trunk of a 1994 Toyota Camry with California plates at the San Ysidro, California, POE. The driver, a U.S. citizen and resident of Spring Valley, California, was arrested.
- o On December 19, USCS Inspectors seized 193 kilograms of marijuana from the trunk of a 1981 Buick Regal with California plates at the Calexico, California, POE. The passenger, a U.S. citizen and resident of Calexico, California, was arrested. The driver fled on foot back to Mexico.
- o On December 19, DEA Special Agents seized 24 kilograms of cocaine from a storage locker in Los Angeles, California. The cocaine was seized as the result of an investigation. Agents reported that an additional 22 kilograms of cocaine (some wrapped in blue plastic with one bundle bearing the picture of a golden ram) were seized in Philadelphia and that numerous suspects associated with the case were arrested in Los Angeles, California; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and Houston, Texas.
- o On December 19, Federal agents and Chula Vista, California, Police officers seized 281 kilograms of marijuana northeast of San Ysidro, California. The seizure was the result of an investigation, and the drug was found in two residences and in two vehicles which were searched during traffic stops. Six suspects, Mexican nationals

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- and residents of Chula Vista and Spring Valley, California, and Tijuana and Culiacan, Mexico, were arrested. Three high-power rifles and a shotgun were also seized. The marijuana is believed to have been smuggled into the United States through either the San Ysidro or Otay Mesa, California, areas.
- o On December 20, California Highway Patrol officers seized 548 kilograms of cocaine from a 1989 Ford Crown Victoria with California plates traveling north on Highway 111 in Imperial County, California. The cocaine, wrapped in cellophane or green, blue, red, or white tape marked "The First" or with pictures of a golden ram or scorpion, was hidden in the trunk, door panels, and rear seat. The driver was arrested. This seizure places the total of cocaine (most marked "The First" or with a picture of a golden ram) seized within the previous 3 weeks in northbound transit through the Mexicali, Baja California Norte, drug smuggling corridor at over 2.6 metric tons.
 - o On December 20, USCS Inspectors at the Calexico, California, POE seized 357 kilograms of cocaine which were concealed in the trunk of a Chrysler Fifth Avenue. The cocaine packages were marked "The First" or with a picture of a golden ram. The driver fled.
 - o On December 21, INS/BP Agents seized 141 kilograms of marijuana from the trunk of a 1985 Oldsmobile Sierra with Mexico plates at the I-5 checkpoint in California. The driver, a Mexican national, was arrested. Records indicate that the vehicle had entered the United States through the San Ysidro, California, POE on December 21.
 - o On December 23, INS/BP Agents and USCS Inspectors seized 109 kilograms of marijuana from the trunk of a 1989 Nissan Maxima with California plates near the Otay Mesa, California, POE. The vehicle had run the POE and was later found abandoned. The driver, a U.S. citizen and resident of Santa Rosa, California, was later arrested.
 - o On December 24, USCS Inspectors seized 102 kilograms of marijuana from a 1987 Mazda RX-7 with California plates at the San Ysidro, California, POE. The marijuana was found in the spare tire well, rear quarter panels, trunk, and under the floorboard behind both seats. The driver, a Mexican national and resident of San Diego, California, attempted to run the POE, but was arrested.
 - o On December 24, USCS Inspectors seized 177 grams of Mexican brown heroin from the driver of a 1984 Nissan Sentra with California plates at the Otay Mesa, California, POE. The heroin was found under a strap on the suspect's arm. A female Mexican national and resident of Tijuana, Baja California Norte, was arrested.
 - o On December 26, California Highway Patrol officers seized 4.9 kilograms of methamphetamine from two Mexican males traveling east on I-40 in San Bernardino County. The Santa Ana, California, residents were driving a 1989 Nissan pickup with California plates.
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- o On December 30, USCS Inspectors seized 108 kilograms of marijuana from the walls of a 1983 Dodge van with California plates at the San Ysidro, California, POE. Two suspects, U.S. citizens and residents of Los Angeles, California, were arrested.
- o On December 30, INS/BP Agents seized 232 kilograms of marijuana from a 1982 Ford Bronco with California plates traveling west on I-8 near Jacumba, California. After the vehicle exited a known border drug pickup area, a traffic stop was conducted. Two suspects, U.S. citizens and residents of Campo, California, were arrested.
- a On January 2, INS/BP Agents seized 105 kilograms of marijuana from the trunk of a 1978 Ford Granada with Arizona plates in Calexico, California. The vehicle had exited a border drug pickup area near the old Calexico international golf course. The driver, a Mexican national and resident of Tepic, Nayarit, was arrested.
- a On January 2, INS/BP Agents seized 311 grams of Mexican black tar heroin at the San Ysidro, California, POE. A pedestrian hid the heroin in the soles of his basketball shoes. A Mexican national and resident of The Dalles, Oregon, was arrested.
- d On January 4, USCS Inspectors seized 415 grams of Mexican black tar heroin at the San Ysidro, California, POE. The pedestrian concealed the heroin in the soles of his high-top basketball shoes. A male Mexican national and resident of Yadkinville, North Carolina, was arrested.
- o On January 4, California Highway Patrol officers seized 1.6 kilograms of cocaine from a 1990 Ford Festiva with New Mexico plates traveling east on I-40 in San Bernardino County. The cocaine, marked "The First," was found hidden under the rear seat. The driver, a Mexican national and resident of Los Angeles, California, was arrested. The vehicle was en route from Los Angeles to Albuquerque, New Mexico.
- o On January 5, in three incidents, DEA Los Angeles Task Force Special Agents seized 103 kilograms of marijuana and 1 kilogram of cocaine from three passengers traveling on Continental Airlines from Los Angeles, California to Atlanta, Georgia, via Houston, Texas. The marijuana and cocaine were concealed in checked luggage.
- d On January 5, USCS Inspectors seized 256 kilograms of marijuana concealed in the floor of a boat being towed by a 1991 Ford pickup with California plates at the San Ysidro, California, POE. The driver, a Mexican national and resident of Los Angeles, California, was arrested.
- o On January 6, California Highway Patrol officers seized 1 kilogram of methamphetamine from two males traveling on I-580 in Alameda County. The suspects, traveling to East Palo Alto, California, from Modesto, California, were in the driver's 1980 Ford Thunderbird with California plates. Both suspects, residents of Mountain View, California, were arrested.

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- o On January 6, DEA Special Agents seized 933 grams of Mexican black tar heroin and 2 kilograms of cocaine from the luggage of two passengers at the Ontario, California, airport. The suspects were en route to Chicago, Illinois.
- o On January 7, USCS Inspectors seized 142 kilograms of marijuana from the trunk of a 1991 Hyundai Sonata with California plates at the San Ysidro, California, POE. The driver, a Mexican national and resident of San Ysidro, California, was arrested.
- o On January 8, USCS Inspectors seized 171 grams of Mexican brown heroin at the Calexico, California, POE. The pedestrian had concealed the heroin inside the top portion of his boots. A male Mexican national and resident of Culiacan, Sinaloa, was arrested.
- o On January 9, USCS Inspectors seized 519 grams of Mexican black tar heroin from a pedestrian at the San Ysidro, California, POE. The heroin was hidden in the soles of the suspect's Adidas tennis shoes. A male Mexican national and resident of Crow's Landing, California, was arrested.
- o On January 9, INS/BP Agents seized 126 kilograms of marijuana from a 1988 Chevrolet Celebrity with California plates traveling west on I-8 west of Boulevard, California. The vehicle had exited a known border drug pickup area near Jacumba, California. The driver, a female U.S. citizen and resident of Calexico, California, was arrested.
- o On January 10, USCS Inspectors seized 408 grams of Mexican black tar heroin from a pedestrian at the San Ysidro, California, POE. The heroin was found in the soles of the suspect's Adidas tennis shoes. A male Mexican national and resident of Vista, California, was arrested.
- o On January 10, DEA Los Angeles Task Force Special Agents seized a total of 2.3 kilograms of cocaine from two male passengers traveling on Alaska Airlines from Los Angeles to Anchorage, Alaska. Each passenger had 1.2 kilograms of cocaine in their checked luggage.
- o On January 10, Federal agents seized 295 grams of Mexican black tar heroin and over \$100,000 as the result of an investigation in San Diego, California. Four suspects, Mexican nationals and residents of San Diego and Santa Ana, California, were arrested. Records seized at a residence indicate that the suspects had sold over 7.5 kilograms of heroin since September 1994.
- o On January 10, INS/BP Agents seized 300 kilograms of marijuana from New River, west of the Calexico, California, POE. Two suspects, both Mexican nationals and residents of Mexicali, Baja California Norte, were observed floating the marijuana bundles across the river to the U.S. side, were arrested. Two additional bundles could not be found.
- o On January 11, USCS Inspectors seized 106 kilograms of marijuana from the trunk of a stolen 1991 Honda Accord with California plates at the San Ysidro, California, POE. The driver had attempted to run the port. The driver, a female U.S. citizen and resident of Spring Valley, California, was arrested.

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- On January 11, USCS Inspectors seized 115 kilograms of marijuana from the trunk of a 1987 Nissan Maxima with California plates at the San Ysidro, California, POE. The driver, a Mexican national and resident of San Jose, California, was arrested.
- On January 12, California Highway Patrol officers seized 190 kilograms of cocaine from the trunk of a vehicle with California plates near Seeley, California. The cocaine, wrapped in blue, green, or yellow latex and marked "The First" or with pictures of a golden ram, a scorpion, a green wreath, or with various colored patches, was seized after a traffic stop. The driver, a juvenile Mexican national and resident of Mexicali, Baja California Norte, was arrested. This is the first significant seizure of cocaine that has been made in Imperial County for several weeks and may indicate a renewed movement of the drug through the Mexicali/Calexico drug smuggling corridor. During December, traffickers were believed to have moved in quantities of similarly marked cocaine through Mexicali and Calexico to southern California stash sites.
- o On January 12, USCS Inspectors seized 121 kilograms of marijuana from a 1985 Buick Park Avenue with California plates at the San Ysidro, California, POE. The vehicle had run the port earlier and was returned to the POE by USCS Special Agents. The vehicle is on record as having also run the port on November 26.
- o On January 12, California Highway Patrol officers seized 190 kilograms of cocaine from a juvenile male traveling west on I-8 in Imperial County. The Mexicali, Baja California Norte, resident was driving a Ford Crown Victoria with California plates. Packages of cocaine, bearing pictures of either a ram, scorpion, or green wreath and marked "The First," were located in the vehicle's trunk.
- On January 13, USCS Inspectors seized over 1.2 kilograms of Mexican black tar heroin from a pedestrian at the San Ysidro, California, POE. The heroin was hidden in the suspect's jacket and the soles of his shoes. A male Mexican national and resident of Los Angeles, California, was arrested.
- On January 13, USCS Inspectors seized 333 grams of Mexican black tar heroin from a pedestrian at the San Ysidro, California, POE. The heroin was found in the soles of the suspect's new tennis shoes. A male Mexican national and resident of Santa Ana, California, was arrested.
- o On January 13, USCS Inspectors seized 116 kilograms of marijuana from the roof of a commercial bobtail trailer with California plates at the Otay Mesa, California, POE. The marijuana was hidden in a compartment built between the roof and the sliding door. The driver fled.
- o On January 14, INS/BP Agents seized 102 kilograms of marijuana near Jacumba, California. The marijuana was found in a cave by agents responding to reports that two individuals were observed carrying bundles north from the border through a local sand wash. No suspects were arrested.

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- o On January 11, Illinois State Police officers seized 30 kilograms of cocaine and \$1,300 in U.S. currency from two black females who were traveling north on I-55 in Madison County near St. Louis. The California subjects were en route to Chicago from Los Angeles in a 1990 Lincoln with Texas plates. The cocaine was wrapped in plastic Ziploc bags and concealed in a false compartment in the trunk of the vehicle.

plastic wrapped with no observed markings, was found hidden in luggage. Two suspects, Guatemalan nationals and residents of New Jersey, were arrested. The couple stated they were en route to New York from Los Angeles, California, and were being paid \$2,000 to transport the drug.

Northeastern States

Virginia

Kansas

- o On December 20, approximately 68 kilograms of marijuana were discovered by Union Pacific Railroad Police officers in Hutchinson, Kansas. The marijuana had been manifested along with cargo in Mexico and routed to Hutchinson through El Paso, Dallas, and Wichita. The cargo shipment had been consigned by [REDACTED] (NFI).

- o On December 20, USCS Inspectors at Dulles International Airport, Virginia, seized \$164,575 (including \$2,100 in Nigerian currency) from a Nigerian male resident of Greensboro, North Carolina, arriving from the Netherlands. He declared \$112,000 on the appropriate forms, but inspection revealed the excess currency. No arrests were made, but the subject had been suspected of money laundering and similar currency violations prior to this seizure.

Michigan

- o On December 21, USCS Inspectors at the Detroit Metro Airport seized 304 grams of unidentified heroin from the bra of a German female traveling from Amsterdam on Royal Dutch Airlines. The passenger walked with a severe limp, had very little clothing in her hand-carried luggage, and had no checked luggage. Documents indicated she had traveled to Turkey twice within the last month and had purchased her ticket with cash on her date of travel.

- o On January 12, USCS Inspectors at the Dulles International Airport, Virginia, seized 278 grams of heroin from a female passenger arriving from Ghana. One condom pellet was discovered in her hand-carried luggage and two pellets in each of her primary body cavities.

Maine

Missouri

- o On December 21, Federal agents seized 35.5 kilograms of cocaine from two passengers at an Amtrak station in Kansas City, Missouri. The cocaine,

- o On December 22, a 2-month investigation conducted by DEA Portland Special Agents and DEA Maine members culminated with the seizure of 700 kilograms of marijuana, six vehicles, and \$27,000. Eight individuals were arrested. The investigation revealed a multiton marijuana smuggling organization that

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extended from Dallas, Texas, to Bangor, Maine, via Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Maryland

- o Maryland State Police officers seized 260 grams of white heroin on January 10 from two black males as they were traveling south on Route 13 near Salisbury. The driver, a Portsmouth, Virginia, resident, and his passenger from St. Albans, New York, were en route to Portsmouth from Bronx, New York, in a rented 1994 Mercury Topaz with Virginia plates. The heroin was located under the front passenger's seat and was pelletized, which indicated that it had been ingested.
- On January 11, Maryland State Police officers seized 1.8 kilograms of crack cocaine concealed in the air vent of a 1983 Buick LeSabre occupied by a Virginia couple traveling south on U.S. 13 near Pocomoke City. The Puerto Rican driver and his Latin passenger were en route to Newport News, Virginia, from New York City.

New Jersey

- o On December 18, USCS Inspectors seized 645 grams of cocaine at the Newark International Airport. The passenger was destined for Frankfurt, Germany. The cocaine was concealed in a hollow section of a plastic hanger within his carry-on luggage.
- On December 18, USCS Inspectors at the Newark International Airport seized 1.2 kilograms of cocaine from a passenger returning from Jamaica. This was the passenger's third trip within a 5-week period and all tickets were purchased with cash on the day of

travel. The cocaine was internally carried.

- USCS Inspectors in Newark, New Jersey, along with members of the National Guard seized 907 kilograms of marijuana from a container on December 28. The container had arrived from Jamaica aboard the vessel [REDACTED]

New York

- o On December 13, USCS Inspectors at JFK International Airport seized 1.3 kilograms of white heroin. A male passenger traveling from Venezuela, carrying the heroin internally, had a record of frequent trips between Miami, Florida; New York; and South America.
- On December 17, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 475 grams of heroin of an unknown origin from a black female South African national residing in Corona, New York. She was traveling from South Africa on South African Airways to New York. The airline ticket was a cash purchase and her passport was newly issued. Two tube-shaped objects containing the heroin were found inside her underwear.
- On December 20, DEA Special Agents in New York seized \$740,000 and arrested six individuals at three New York City locations. Of this amount, \$90,000 was hidden in 29 rolled up socks that were destined from Lima, Peru. Of those arrested, two were Peruvians and two were Colombians.
- o On December 20, DEA Special Agents in Long Island seized 1,182 kilograms of marijuana and \$29,058 from a storage warehouse in Farmingdale and a

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Pennsylvania

- o On December 19, DEA Task Force Agents seized 22 kilograms of cocaine from the luggage of a passenger at the international airport in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The cocaine was wrapped in blue plastic with one bundle marked with a picture of a golden ram. A male U.S. citizen and resident of Philadelphia was arrested. The suspect was en route from Los Angeles, California.
- o On December 15, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 1.2 kilograms of heroin from a male passenger traveling from Bogota, Colombia. The passenger, a New York resident, had made four trips to Colombia within 1 year and was carrying the heroin internally.
- o On December 17, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 31 kilograms of cocaine and 368 grams of suspected Colombian heroin from the suitcase of a Colombian arriving from Bogota en route to his residence in Flushing, New York. The cocaine was in packages wrapped with Christmas paper. Other members of the smuggling organization were present and witnessed the arrest but were not arrested.

Southeastern States

Alabama

- o January 11, Federal agents seized 64 kilograms of cocaine from the luggage of two suspects at the international airport in Birmingham, Alabama. The cocaine, marked with a picture of a golden ram, was seized as the result of an investigation and had been flown to the airport from Houston, Texas, on a private aircraft. Three suspects, two identified as Colombians and residents of southern Florida, were arrested.

Florida

- o On December 14, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 1.2 kilograms of heroin from a male passenger traveling from Bogota, Colombia. The suspect had swallowed 100 pellets.
- o On December 13, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 908 grams of heroin. The male passenger, traveling from Bogota, Colombia, was carrying fraudulent crew member employment letters. The heroin was carried internally.
- o On December 18, USCS Inspectors at the Miami International Airport seized 2 kilograms of suspected Colombian heroin from a Spanish national resident of Villarrobledo, Spain, and Bogota, Colombia, arriving from Bogota. The heroin was concealed in the sides of his checked luggage.
- o On December 19, USCS CET Inspectors in Miami and members of the Florida National Guard discovered 54.6 kilograms of cocaine in a container of lumber covers on the cargo vessel ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~. The vessel

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Ford minivan with Virginia plates. The suspects, both residents of Portsmouth, Virginia, were en route to Portsmouth from Miami, Florida. The cocaine was concealed in the wheel wells.

Louisiana

- o On December 19, Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana, Sheriff's officers seized 341 kilograms of marijuana from a 1986 Mazda pickup with Texas plates traveling east on I-10. The marijuana was hidden in a load of hollowed-out plywood stacked on the bed. The driver, a U.S. citizen and resident of National City, California, was arrested. The vehicle was en route from El Paso, Texas, to Orlando, Florida.
- o On December 27, USCS Inspectors and St. James Parish Sheriff's officers seized 415 kilograms of marijuana from a container at the [REDACTED] in New Orleans, Louisiana. The container had come off the cargo vessel [REDACTED].
- o On December 27, members of USCS New Orleans, DEA New Orleans, INS New Orleans, and the Louisiana National Guard seized 8 kilograms of cocaine from the overhead of a crew member's quarters aboard the [REDACTED]. The vessel had arrived from Colombia via Venezuela.
- o On January 4, Louisiana State Police officers seized 213 kilograms of cocaine from a 21-foot Reinler Sport Fisher boat being towed by a 1988 Chevrolet Suburban with Texas plates traveling east on I-20 near Tallulah, Madison Parish. The cocaine, which was hidden under the deck of the boat, was wrapped

in yellow plastic and clear cellophane and bore up to 20 markings, including "Junior," "JR," "H.D.," "Harley-Davidson," and handwritten numbers. Two suspects, a U.S. citizen and resident of El Paso, Texas, and a Mexican national and resident of Yakima, Washington, were arrested. The vehicle was en route from El Paso, Texas, to Atlanta, Georgia. It is believed the cocaine came through an El Paso POE.

Mississippi

- o On December 20, Harrison County, Mississippi, Sheriff's officers seized 200 kilograms of cocaine from a rented U-Haul truck with Utah plates traveling east on I-10. The cocaine, wrapped in black and brown duct tape (markings not reported), was hidden in two boxes in the cargo area. The driver, a Colombian national and resident of Miami, Florida, was arrested. The vehicle was en route from Houston, Texas, possibly to New York.
- o On January 11, Pearl, Mississippi, Police officers seized 106 kilograms of marijuana from the trunk of a rented 1994 Ford with Texas plates traveling east on I-20. The driver, a resident of McAllen, Texas, was arrested.

North Carolina

- o On December 25, North Carolina Highway Patrol officers seized 523 kilograms of marijuana from a trailer being towed by a 1984 Peterbilt tractor with New Jersey plates traveling north on I-85 in Guilford County. The marijuana was found in 31 boxes stacked in the middle of the trailer's load of potatoes. Two U.S. citizens,

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CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

DOMESTIC

United States and Canada

[REDACTED]

- o Nigerian heroin trafficking groups, which generally smuggle multikilogram quantities of Southeast Asian heroin, are posing an increasingly sophisticated threat to the United States.

[REDACTED]

- o An alien smuggling organization that specializes in smuggling non-Mexican nationals has allegedly moved its operations from Tijuana to the Rincon and Jacume area 4 to 6 miles east of the Tecate, California, port of entry (POE). This is a major smuggling organization that controls most of the smuggling through Mexico of aliens who are nationals of countries other than Mexico. The organization allegedly aligned itself with a major drug smuggling organization, and the aliens are forced to carry drugs, probably cocaine and heroin, into the United States. The organization recently threatened to kill INS/Border Patrol (INS/BP) Agents who interfered with its operations. While no correlation has been established, the organization might be responsible for seriously injuring two INS/BP Agents who recently tried to stop a vehicle from crashing through the closed Tecate POE.
(Source: INS/BP San Diego)

[REDACTED] owners have been arrested while trying to cross the U.S. Southwest border or transiting Canada en route to the United States.
(Source: DEA Headquarters)

- o An airdrop threat in the Gulf of Mexico, particularly along the Texas gulf coast, may be reemerging. The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) has based this assessment on several indicators: reporting that a single-engine aircraft dropped four duffel bags to several go-fast boats near Port Aransas, Texas; [REDACTED] of a possible airdrop near Beaumont, Texas; [REDACTED] Houston reporting that 200 kilograms of marijuana had been airdropped to a field near Damen, Texas; [REDACTED] reporting of a large number of small aircraft with rear seats removed observed at an airport near Brownsville, Texas; and recent recoveries of floating

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drug debris wrapped for airdrops over water.

(Source: USCG District Eight New Orleans)

- o A multiagency effort, headed by DEA San Ysidro, California, resulted in the largest methamphetamine seizure in San Diego County. Nearly 45 kilograms of Mexican-produced methamphetamine were seized and four individuals arrested on November 30 as the result of a 2-month investigation. DEA Special Agents indicated that the methamphetamine may have come from three labs within Mexico: Tecate and Mexicali, Baja California Norte, and Guadalajara, Jalisco.
(Source: DEA San Ysidro)

o [REDACTED]

(Source: DAICC)

- o On December 2, a Piper Navajo aircraft was stolen from North Perry Airport, Pembroke Pines, Florida. When the aircraft was seized by Jamaican authorities on December 5, it contained 136 kilograms of marijuana.
(Source: USCS Miami)

- o During December, seizures at the Calexico, California, POE netted more than 2 metric tons of cocaine indicating that the Mexicali/Calexico area is one of the more active cross-border routes used by drug traffickers. Most of the cocaine was obtained in four seizures when traffickers attempted to move several multihundred-kilogram loads, concealed within the trunks of passenger vehicles and in the cab of a pickup, through the port.

(Source: EPIC)

- o During mid-December, marijuana traffickers attempted to cross the Southwest border near Calexico, California, and between Lukeville and Nogales, Arizona. Nearly 700 kilograms of marijuana were seized in five incidents either at the Calexico POE or in the desert areas east and west thereof. Several of these seizures involved the use of similar style duffel bags. Nearly 2.6 metric tons of marijuana were seized between Lukeville and Nogales, Arizona, in seven incidents. The most significant of these seizures involved 11 individuals using 20 horses to smuggle 1,460 kilograms of marijuana through the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument near Lukeville.

(Source: EPIC)

- o During mid-December, more than 1.8 metric tons of cocaine were seized in transit to the Northeastern United States from the Southwest border. Seizures indicate that traffickers attempted to move multiton quantities of cocaine, some marked "The First" or "Harley-Davidson," from the Southwest border to markets in the United States. While neither of these markings is being seen on cocaine seized in any significant

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ton quantities of cocaine are reportedly stored or are being moved across the border near Reynosa, Tamaulipas. Taken together, these indicators strongly suggest that cocaine continues to cross the South Texas border in significant quantities.

(Source: EPIC)

- o Intelligence reporting alleges that between 20 and 50 metric tons of cocaine were either stored along or in movement across the Southwest border during November. Border seizures and suspect flight activity in northern Mexico tentatively suggest that traffickers targeted at least the Mexicali, Baja California Norte; Nogales, Sonora; and Juarez, Chihuahua, drug smuggling corridors as staging areas for the movement of ton quantities of cocaine during November. Undetermined, but possibly large, quantities of cocaine were also targeted or movement across the Southwest border through San Luis Rio Colorado and Agua Prieta, Sonora. (Source: EPIC)

- o Several organizations in the area of Nuevo Guerrero, Tamaulipas, transport marijuana across the Rio Grande River or Falcon Lake to stash locations between Falcon Dam and Salineno, Texas. Traffickers use motorized boats of various sizes to cross the lake and maintain radio communications with scouts and controllers on the Mexican side of the border. Five tons of marijuana were reportedly smuggled across the reservoir in early November. (Source: INS/BP Rio Grande City)

- o Recent seizures at the Calexico, California, and San Luis, Arizona, POE's suggest that traffickers may be attempting to move a significant

quantity of cocaine from stash sites located in the northeastern portion of Baja California Norte. Interestingly, several suspect aircraft were detected fading in this area within the first week of December.

(Source: DAICC and EPIC)

- o Between November 15 and December 15, there have been numerous seizures of heroin throughout the United States at various airports and mail facilities. The heroin was concealed in book covers, shoes, toothpaste tubes, hand-carried and checked luggage, inserted in body cavities, or swallowed. Heroin seizures during this time frame totaled 70 kilograms in 53 incidents. (Source: EPIC)
- o Intelligence reporting indicates that traffickers are conducting frequent airdrops of drugs to isolated ranch areas in Starr County, Texas. The airdrops are conducted in the late afternoon or evening by aircraft which fly low across the Southwest border, drop their loads, and then return to Mexico. Many of the drop sites offer traffickers easy access to secondary roads leading to major northbound highways. (Source: EPIC)
- o An abandoned single-engine Mexican-registered aircraft was seized near the area of Rancho Viejo, Texas, on November 15 for failure to report. No individuals, contraband, or currency were located at the scene. The owner/pilot has been linked to several suspect aircraft, has prior failure to report and immigration violations, and allegedly has smuggled cocaine into Mexico and the United States. (Source: USCS Brownsville)

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- o A comparison of significant heroin seizures (100 grams or more seized along the Southwest border) between November 1993 and November 1994 reflects a continuing decline in 1994 heroin seizures. During November 1993, 15.8 kilograms of heroin were seized in 12 incidents; and during November 1994, 1.8 kilograms were seized in 6 incidents. In November 1994, the largest quantity of heroin was seized in California (66 percent), followed by South Texas (34 percent). No significant heroin seizures were made in Arizona or New Mexico/West Texas. All of the seizures involved Mexican black tar heroin.
(Source: EPIC)
- o A comparison between November 1993 and November 1994 significant marijuana seizures (100 kilograms or more seized along the Southwest border) shows little change in seizure quantities. In November 1993, 24.6 metric tons of marijuana were seized in 93 incidents; and during November 1994, 24.6 metric tons were seized in 97 incidents. South Texas had the most marijuana seized (10 metric tons in 31 incidents), followed in order by California (5.9 metric tons in 29 incidents), Arizona (5 metric tons in 27 incidents), and New Mexico/West Texas (3.6 metric tons in 10 incidents). Traffic stops and checkpoint seizures accounted for 45 percent of the marijuana seized in November 1994, with entry between the POE's accounting for 28 percent, investigations accounting for 14 percent, and POE seizures making up the remaining 13 percent. The largest November 1994 marijuana seizure was just over 1.2 metric tons seized from a tractor-trailer at the ~~Palmaris~~, Texas, INS/BP checkpoint.
(Source: EPIC)
- o A comparison between November 1993 and November 1994 significant cocaine seizures (500 grams or more seized along the Southwest border) shows a dramatic increase during November 1994. In November 1993, 1.9 metric tons of cocaine were seized in 27 incidents, and during November 1994, 7.44 metric tons were seized in 34 incidents. During November 1994, most of the cocaine seized was crossed from Mexico into Arizona (6.38 metric tons in 7 incidents), followed in order by California (878 kilograms in 13 incidents), New Mexico/West Texas (158 kilograms in 7 incidents), and South Texas (21 kilograms in 7 incidents). Seizures related to investigations accounted for 91 percent of the cocaine seized, with POE seizures accounting for 7 percent, and traffic stops and checkpoints making up the remaining 2 percent. One November 1994 cocaine seizure relative to an investigation totaled more than 5 metric tons. The cocaine was en route to southern California from Nogales, Sonora.
(Source: EPIC)
- o On November 14, a Canadian military search vessel located 750 kilograms of cocaine that had been submerged off the coast of Nova Scotia for over 1 year. The drugs were concealed and protected in plastic pipes. The operation resulted from an August 1993 smuggling venture in which the drugs were tossed overboard by the crew (which consisted of members of the of a vessel that developed mechanical problems at sea.

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The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and Canadian military forces used sophisticated diving and underwater search equipment to look for the cocaine. During this investigation, the RCMP arrested 18 individuals and seized 3 vessels, several firearms, and over \$500,000 in U.S. currency. (Source: DEA Headquarters)

Mexico and Central America

- o Recent suspect flight activity indicates twin-engine aircraft are landing near a dry lake bed south of Juarez, Chihuahua. The pattern appears to be the same as that in past years when twin-engine aircraft were flying up to 600 kilograms of cocaine into ranches south of Juarez. The cocaine was then offloaded and stashed in Juarez before being smuggled through El Paso, Texas, POE's. (Source: EPIC)
- o Reporting indicates that the Tijuana, Baja California Norte, area continues to be a major transit point for Mexican heroin entering the United States. Nearly 50 kilograms of heroin were seized from 36 couriers arriving at the Tijuana International Airport within the last 7 months. These couriers were most often heavyset Mexican females coming from the opium growing areas of Apatzingan, Michoacan, or Culiacan, Sinaloa, each carrying approximately 1.4 kilograms of Mexican black tar heroin strapped to their bodies or within clothing they were wearing. (Source: California SWB HIDTA)
- o According to DEA, the October 22 edition of the Mexican newspaper Excelsior reported that seven bus drivers, working for the [REDACTED] were arrested as they attempted to smuggle 1 ton of marijuana from Guadalajara, Jalisco, into the United States. The marijuana was found hidden in the luggage compartment of several company buses. (Source: DEA Mexico City)
- o Recent overland smuggling through Mexico has been characterized by the movement of large quantities of cocaine in tractor-trailers from the interior and east coast of Mexico to staging areas in Chihuahua, Nuevo Leon, and Tamaulipas. The cocaine seized from a tractor-trailer on October 30 in Durango was en route to Juarez, Chihuahua, from Queretaro. Recent reporting also indicates large quantities of cocaine are being moved in tractor-trailers from Tamaulipas and the Yucatan Peninsula to Juarez, Matamoros, and unspecified locations in Nuevo Leon for eventual movement into the United States. (Source: USCS El Paso; American Embassy, Mexico City; and EPIC)
- o On December 5, Mexican Federal Judicial Police (MFJP) officers seized a clandestine methamphetamine lab located near Tecate, Baja California Norte. A large amount of lab paraphernalia and weapons was seized, but no substantial quantity of drugs. Two subjects were arrested. (Source: American Consulate, Hermosillo)

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CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

DOMESTIC

United States

• Analysis of drug seizures from commercial vessels in the United States this calendar year through October revealed that 11,509 kilograms of marijuana, 21,433 kilograms of cocaine, and 72 kilograms of heroin were seized. The marijuana seizure amounts were consistent with last year's totals for this same time frame, but there was a 10-percent increase in the amount of cocaine seized and a 60-percent decrease in the amount of heroin seized. This year, 71 kilograms of heroin were seized in one incident from a container in Seattle which reportedly originated in China. Last year, 168 kilograms of heroin originating from Singapore were seized from a container in one incident in New Orleans. Miami continues to be the port where the most seizure incidents occur, accounting for 42 percent of the marijuana seized and 64 percent of the cocaine seized. The larger marijuana seizures were made from containers shipped from Jamaica, and the significant cocaine seizures occurred from containers originating in Colombia.

(Source: EPIC)

o A possible airdrop off Port Aransas, Texas, occurred during the July/August 1994 time frame. An oil rig worker reportedly saw a single-engine, high-wing aircraft circling approximately 25 miles offshore. After making several passes, four duffel bags attached to small parachutes were shoved out of the aircraft's side door. The duffel bags

were recovered by two go-fast vessels. The purported airdrop is consistent with past reporting that the waters off Port Aransas and South Padre Island, Texas, are popular for drug airdrops to waiting vessels.

(Source: USCG Washington, D.C.)

o On November 12, a suspect aircraft crashed into the Gulf of Mexico approximately 185 miles north of the Yucatan Peninsula. The aircraft was initially observed orbiting at a low altitude near two surface vessels approximately 57 nautical miles west of Venice, Florida, before heading further west. Although no airdrop was observed, the aircraft's flight characteristics were consistent with airdrop activity. The small, single-engine aircraft (with an altered Venezuelan tail number) had an auxiliary fuel tank on board, and may have run out of fuel. Although not significant in itself, this incident is supportive of past intelligence indicating ongoing airdrop activity along the west coast of Florida.

(Source: USCS Corpus Christi and DAICC)

o Federal, State, and local authorities in Florida seized \$1.5 million in two incidents at the same Miami shipping company between November 4 and 7. The currency was concealed in shipments of microwave ovens destined for Cali, Colombia. Follow-up research by the EPIC Financial Programs Team

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and Operation WINTERNIGHT linked the seizures to investigations involving the [REDACTED] Colombia.
(Source: USCS Miami, DEA Miami HIDTA, and DEA El Paso)

- o Reporting continues to highlight the use of commercial maritime cargo for the shipment of drugs from source countries to the United States. This problem is further compounded by the apparent increased use of feeder ship services to obscure the origins of containers carrying drugs. Recent examples of the use of feeder ship services include 32 kilograms of heroin seized from a container aboard the [REDACTED] Seattle and the seizure at the Port of Newark of 2,993 kilograms of cocaine from a container which had arrived aboard the [REDACTED]. In both cases, the vessels picked up the containers from maritime hubs not generally considered drug origination points.
(Source: ONI Suitland, Maryland, and USCG Alameda, California)
- o Recent seizures highlight the smuggling techniques of a trafficking group in Los Angeles that apparently recruits black males and females ranging in age from their early to midtwenties as couriers for drugs which are apparently picked up in Los Angeles, California, and transported to eastern distribution points on commercial buses.
(Source: EPIC)
- o In 476 incidents, a total of 3,416 kilograms of marijuana, 588 kilograms of cocaine, 31 kilograms of heroin, 500,377 dosage units of dangerous drugs, 10 kilograms of opiates, 263 kilograms of khat, 2 kilograms of methamphetamine, and \$7,621,202 in

U.S. currency was seized between October 15 and November 15 at U.S. airports. The most significant seizures occurred at the following airports: Chicago, Dallas/Fort Worth, El Paso, Houston, Laredo, Los Angeles, Memphis, Miami, New York, and San Juan.

(Source: EPIC)

- o Multikilogram quantities of cocaine have been smuggled from Mexico into the United States through a hole in the border fence on the outskirts of Nogales, Arizona. Intelligence indicates that within a 1-month period, six loads, one possibly containing up to 140 kilograms, have been crossed through this particular location. Traffickers in Nogales, Sonora, allegedly drive up to the hole, unload the cocaine from their vehicle, and pass it to a vehicle parked on the U.S. side of the border. The cocaine is then transported to unknown stash sites in California for further distribution. The organization responsible for this movement allegedly has associations with other traffickers in Mexico City, D.F., and Hermosillo, Sonora.
(Source: DEA Nogales)
- o A comparison between October 1993 and October 1994 significant cocaine seizures (500 grams or more) along the Southwest border shows a dramatic increase during October 1994 (1.1 metric tons of cocaine versus 2.4 metric tons). Over half of the cocaine seized in October 1994 was seized in California (1 metric ton), 961 kilograms were seized in the New Mexico/West Texas area, 443 kilograms in South Texas, and 13 kilograms in Arizona. One October 1994 seizure involved 893 kilograms of cocaine from a tractor-

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trailer at a weigh station in Van Horn, Texas.

(Source: EPIC)

- o A comparison between October 1993 and October 1994 significant marijuana seizures (100 kilograms or more) shows a decrease during October 1994 in the Southwest border area. In October 1993, 14.3 metric tons of marijuana were seized in 66 incidents. During October 1994, 10.8 metric tons were seized in 53 incidents. During October 1994, South Texas had the most marijuana seized (4.9 metric tons in 21 incidents), followed in order by Arizona (3.8 metric tons in 17 incidents), California (1.1 metric tons in 7 incidents), and New Mexico/West Texas (1 metric ton in 8 incidents). Investigations accounted for 30 percent of the marijuana seized in October 1994, with traffic stops and checkpoint seizures accounting for an additional 30 percent. Seizures between the ports of entry (POE's) accounted for 31 percent and POE seizures, 9 percent. The largest October 1994 marijuana seizure was just over 630 kilograms and occurred as the result of an investigation in South Texas.
(Source: EPIC)

- o A comparison of significant heroin seizures (100 grams or more) between October 1993 and October 1994 reflects a continuing decline in 1994 heroin seizures. During October 1993, 11.6 kilograms were seized in 13 incidents; during October 1994, 2.5 kilograms were seized in 5 incidents. In October 1994, the largest quantity of heroin was seized in Arizona (61 percent), followed by California (35 percent), and South Texas (4 percent). No significant heroin seizures were made in New

Mexico/West Texas. All of the seizures during October 1994 involved Mexican black tar heroin.

(Source: EPIC)

- o Significant quantities of cocaine have washed up onto local beaches in and around Port Aransas and the surrounding South Texas coastal area (Padre Island to the south and Matagorda Island to the north). A large number of occurrences are on Matagorda Island and are primarily centered at the southern neck of the refuge within one-half mile of the shipwrecked shrimp boat. The most recent event occurred on October 26 when 35 kilograms of cocaine were found on the beach.
(Source: EPIC)
- o Seizures and recent increased subject flight activity south of the Arizona border are prime indicators that drug transporters are currently involved in the movement of large quantities of marijuana into southern Arizona, with cross-border smuggling possibly being directed to the east of Nogales near the Coronado National Forest. These seizures confirm uncorroborated reporting which indicates that the trafficking of drugs in the outlying areas east and west of Nogales, Arizona, may be on the rise due to smugglers' perceptions that INS/Border Patrol (INS/BP) Agents are concentrating their efforts on halting the flow of illegal aliens in the immediate Nogales area.
(Source: EPIC)
- o Cocaine bearing the handwritten markings of "Harley-Davidson" and "222" has been seen in several seizures made in the Northeastern United States

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SIGNIFICANT ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

DOMESTIC

This section contains intelligence capsules of significant drug enforcement activity in the United States. It is based on information available at EPIC and should not be considered all inclusive. Information on seizures, with controlled deliveries pending, will not be published in this report without the prior approval of the agency reporting the seizure. Therefore, please bear in mind that significant enforcement activities may have occurred which are not reflected in the report.

Southwest Border States

Texas

- On October 16, INS/BP Agents seized 2.3 kilograms of cocaine from a 1986 Oldsmobile Cutlass with Texas plates northbound on Farm-to-Market road 1017, approximately 2 miles south of Hebbronville, Texas. The one bundle of cocaine was found in a compartment in the gas tank. Two suspects, a naturalized U.S. citizen and a Mexican national, residents of Houston, Texas, were arrested.
the Mexican side and was to meet them at the house to pick up the drug.
- On October 17, INS/BP Agents seized 436 kilograms of marijuana near Laredo, Texas. Agents had monitored the northbound movement of up to 23 individuals, 20 of whom carried large bundles to a chicken coop on a local ranch, left their loads, and returned to Mexico. The Mexican nationals who led the backpackers and remained with the stash were arrested.
- On October 17, INS/BP Agents seized 169 kilograms of marijuana near El Cenizo, Texas. Agents were checking a known Rio Grande River landing and saw a group of people standing around bundles. The suspects fled, but two Mexican nationals, residents of Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, who could not swim back to Mexico were pulled from the river and arrested. A third suspect, a possible scout, was also arrested. One suspect stated that he was being paid \$200 to assist in the movement of the marijuana to a house and that a Mexican national from Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, had dropped them off on
- On October 17, U.S. Customs Service (USCS) Inspectors seized 1.8 kilograms of cocaine from a 1986 Ford van with Illinois plates at the Hidalgo, Texas, POE. The three bundles of cocaine, wrapped in duct tape, were found in the driver's side front panel. The driver, a citizen of Brazil and resident of Chicago, Illinois, was arrested.
- On October 18, Texas Department of Public Safety officers seized 893 kilograms of cocaine from a refrigerated 1988 Trailmobile trailer being pulled by a 1994 Peterbilt tractor with Texas

plates eastbound on I-10 near Van Horn, Texas. The yellow or brown rubber-wrapped cocaine, smelling of acetone, bore two distinct labels: one with a marking of "Harley-Davidson" separated by a skeleton with long hair riding a sea horse, and the other with "Harley-Davidson" separated by a skeleton with long hair holding a sickle while riding a motorcycle. The seizure was the result of a vehicle weight inspection, and the cocaine was found in 33 boxes stacked at the front of the trailer, behind the trailer's load of bagged onions. Two suspects, Mexican nationals and residents of Dallas, Texas, were arrested. The vehicle was en route from El Paso to Dallas, Texas, and a boxed Narinco Mak 90 (AK-47-type weapon) was found in the sleeper cab. Documents indicate the vehicle had made a previous trip from El Paso to Chicago, Illinois, earlier this month. This seizure complements multisource intelligence and recent suspect air track reporting that suggest traffickers have either stashed or are moving large quantities of cocaine north through the Juarez/El Paso corridor.

- On October 18, DEA and USCG Special Agents seized 103 grams of heroin from a suspect about to depart on a bus from Laredo, Texas, to Durango, Mexico. The Mexican black tar heroin was seized as the result of an investigation and found wrapped in two packages which were on the bottom of a cream hand soap jar. The suspect, a Mexican national and resident of Durango, was arrested.
- o On October 19, INS/BP Agents seized 145 kilograms of marijuana from a 1980 GMC van with Texas plates at the Saria, Texas, checkpoint.

- On October 19, INS/BP Agents seized 286 kilograms of marijuana from a 1981 Cadillac with Texas plates parked in a carport at a residence in Fronton, Texas. Agents followed the footprints of suspects traveling north from the Rio Grande River to the vehicle where the drug was found lying on the rear seat and packed into the trunk. Two suspects, a U.S. citizen and resident of Roma, Texas, and a Mexican national and resident of Rio Grande City, Texas, were arrested.

- o On October 19, DEA Task Force Agents seized 1 kilogram of cocaine from a 1986 BMW with Texas plates in McAllen, Texas. The cocaine, bearing the "gold ram" marking, was seized as the result of an investigation. Two male suspects were arrested.

- o On October 20, USCS Inspectors seized 115 kilograms of marijuana from a 1983 GMC Sierra pickup with a camper shell displaying Texas plates at the El Paso, Texas, Ysleta POE. The marijuana was hidden in a compartment built between the cab and bed. The driver, a U.S. citizen and resident of Socorro, Texas, was arrested.


- o On October 20, police narcotics officers seized 197 kilograms of cocaine from a residence in Houston, Texas, as the result of an investigation. The cocaine was marked with "Lotus" inside of a yellow circle on a blue triangle. Two suspects were arrested. This is the third seizure reported to EPIC during October involving cocaine marked "Lotus" and the fourth seizure since its possible early September cross-border movement into South Texas. Previous seizures occurred on October 30 when Shelby County, Tennessee, Sheriff's deputies

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seized 10 kilograms from a vehicle eastbound on I-40 in Shelby County; on October 5 when Dallas County Sheriff's deputies seized 30 kilograms from a vehicle in Dallas County, Texas; and on September 2 when INS/BP Agents at a temporary checkpoint near Freer, Texas, seized similarly marked cocaine from a pickup en route from the border to San Antonio, Texas.

- o On October 21, USCS Inspectors seized 187 kilograms of marijuana from a trailer being towed by a 1981 Pontiac Bonneville with New York plates at the Laredo, Texas, POE. The marijuana was concealed in the trailer's 10 hollowed-out fiberglass floorboards. The driver, a U.S. citizen and resident of Niagara Falls, New York, was arrested.
- On October 22, INS/BP Agents seized 2 kilograms of cocaine from baggage stored in the luggage compartment of a Greyhound bus en route from Los Angeles, California, to Shreveport, Louisiana (via Dallas, Texas). Two suspects, a 44-year-old black male, resident of Santa Monica, California, and a 23-year-old female, were arrested.
- On October 22, INS/BP and FBI Special Agents seized 411 kilograms of marijuana from a shed on a ranch 6 miles north of Garceno, Texas. Two suspects, Mexican nationals and residents of Miguel Aleman and Villa Hidalgo, Tamaulipas, were arrested. A Remington shotgun, a Beretta handgun, and a two-way radio were also seized.
- On October 22, INS/BP Agents seized 148 kilograms of marijuana in Roma, Texas. The marijuana was abandoned near a local water treatment plant by backpackers observed earlier walking north from the Rio Grande River. Two suspects, Mexican nationals and residents of Miguel Aleman, Tamaulipas, were arrested as they attempted to run back to Mexico.
- On October 23, INS/BP Agents seized 689 grams of cocaine from a Greyhound bus en route from El Paso to Dallas, Texas. The cocaine, in rock form and packaged for sale, was found concealed in a carry-on bag in the overhead storage compartment. A 22-year-old black male and resident of Moreno Valley, California, was arrested.
- o On October 23, approximately 2.2 kilograms of cocaine marked with a picture of a ram on a mountain top with the sun in the background were seized as the result of an investigation in Brownsville, Texas. The purchase price was \$12,500 per kilogram. Task Force agents indicate that the "gold ram" marking has frequently been seen on cocaine seized in transit through the Brownsville area: one example is the October 19 seizure listed above.
- On October 24, INS/BP Agents seized 1.3 kilograms of cocaine and 2.4 kilograms of marijuana from a Greyhound bus at the Sierra Blanca, Texas, checkpoint. One suspect, a 20-year-old black male and resident of Long Beach, California, was arrested. The bus was en route from Los Angeles, California, to Little Rock, Arkansas, via Dallas, Texas. This was the third seizure of cocaine from an eastbound Greyhound bus at this checkpoint within a 3-day period.
- o On October 26, USCS Inspectors seized 127 kilograms of marijuana from the

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- o On November 11, INS/BP Agents seized 1.1 metric tons of marijuana from a 1988 Ford van with Texas plates near San Juan, Texas. The driver fled. A Ford LTD, believed to have been involved in this smuggling venture, also fled the area. A Midland two-way radio was also seized.
- o On November 11, INS/BP Agents seized 567 kilograms of marijuana near Rio Bravo, Texas. Two vehicles, a 1992 Ford pickup and a 1981 Ford Dually (both with Texas plates), stopped in the area with six suspects, were also seized. Numerous Motorola hand-held radios believed to have been used to coordinate the movement of the marijuana were also confiscated.
- o On November 13, Texas Department of Public Safety officers seized 20 kilograms of cocaine from a 1986 Dodge Ram with Texas plates traveling northbound on Highway 59 in Jackson County, Texas. The 19 packages of blue plastic-wrapped cocaine, 12 bearing the picture of a leopard with spots, 3 marked with "PD," and 1 bearing the picture of a white dove, were hidden in a speaker box and seat cushion. Two suspects, Mexican nationals and residents of Brownsville, Texas, were arrested. The vehicle was en route from Brownsville to Houston, Texas.

Cocaine bearing the marking of a spotted leopard or tiger has been seized during northbound movements into the United States from Matamoros, Tamaulipas, since at least late October. The first seizure reported to EPIC occurred on October 30 when
- Arkansas Highway Police officers seized 119 kilograms from a Freightliner tractor with New Jersey plates which was traveling northbound in Crittenden County. The vehicle was en route from Brownsville, Texas, to New Jersey. A second seizure occurred on November 3 when 24 kilograms were seized from a residence in Jackson Heights, New York, by DEA Special Agents.
- o On November 14, INS/BP Agents seized 1.2 metric tons of marijuana from a refrigerated trailer being pulled by a 1988 Peterbilt tractor with Texas plates at the Falfurrias, Texas, checkpoint. The 134 bundles of marijuana, wrapped in gray duct tape, were alerted to by a canine and found in a false wall built into the front of the empty trailer. The driver, a U.S. citizen and resident of Mecca, California, was arrested.
- o On November 14, DEA Special Agents seized 1 kilogram of Mexican black tar heroin taped to the waist of a suspect at a Greyhound bus station in Houston, Texas, as the result of an investigation. The suspect works for an organization that transports heroin on commercial buses from Laredo, Texas. Significant seizures of heroin made at the Texas/Mexico border continue to be rare. The last seizure made in the vicinity of Laredo, Texas, occurred on September 7 when 191 grams of heroin were seized from a local tire shop.
- o On November 14, INS/BP Agents seized 971 grams of cocaine from a Greyhound bus at the Sierra Blanca, Texas, checkpoint. The cocaine was found wrapped in a pair of pants carried in a nylon bag stored in the upper luggage bin. A 28-year-old black

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transceiver, which was to be used to notify his contact, was also seized. The suspect was being paid \$70 for each pound of marijuana he transported from Nogales to Tucson.

- o On November 5, DEA Task Force Agents seized 11.2 kilograms of cocaine at a motel in Tucson, Arizona, as the result of an investigation. The purchase price was \$16,500 per kilogram. The cocaine had been walked across the border in the Nogales, Arizona, area and had no markings.
- o On November 5, INS/BP Agents seized 122 kilogram of marijuana from a 1985 Chevrolet pickup with Arizona plates northbound on Highway 89, south of Tucson, Arizona. The marijuana was hidden under cases of Mexican soda. Two suspects, a U.S. citizen and a Mexican national, residents of Nogales, Arizona, and Nogales, Sonora, were arrested. The suspects indicated that they had stolen the marijuana from a stash site north of Nogales, where they had observed smugglers unloading the drug from approximately 20 horses.
- o On November 6, USCS Special Agents seized 310 kilograms of marijuana from a Cessna 207 aircraft that had crashed on takeoff 80 miles west of Phoenix, Arizona. The aircraft had been followed by a USCS aircraft as it crossed the border and landed. The pilot was attempting to take off to avoid arrest when he crashed. A pickup offload vehicle successfully fled the area.
- o On November 7, INS/BP Agents seized 117 kilograms of marijuana from a 1984 Oldsmobile Delta 88 with Arizona plates traveling westbound on Pima Mine Road north of Green Valley, Arizona. The vehicle had initially been observed traveling northbound from Nogales on Mission Road and was abandoned on a local jeep trail during the chase. No suspects were arrested.
- o In a series of raids, DEA and USCS Special Agents, along with State and local authorities, seized 5.6 metric tons of cocaine in southern California. [REDACTED]
- o [REDACTED] conducted a controlled delivery to Baldwin Park, California. After the delivery, agents followed suspects as they delivered the split load to various stash sites. Agents then raided the stash sites, seized the cocaine, and arrested 14 people in California and two in Arizona.
- o On November 11, USCS Special Agents and Tohono O'Odham Police officers seized 114 kilograms of marijuana from a 1983 Ford Mercury with Arizona plates traveling on Federal Route 1 on the Tohono O'Odham Indian Reservation. The driver, a U.S. citizen and resident of Why, Arizona, was arrested.
- o On November 11, INS/BP Agents seized 129 kilograms of marijuana from a 1985 Buick Century with Arizona plates traveling westbound on I-10, east of Tucson, Arizona. The driver, a Mexican national and resident of Tucson, Arizona, attempted to flee but was arrested.
- o On November 11, INS/BP Agents seized 187 kilograms of marijuana south of Arivaca, Arizona. The marijuana was found near a known stash site by

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agents following backpackers' footprints. Of the five suspects that attempted to flee the stash site area, two Mexican nationals, residents of Altar and Pituquito, Sonora, were arrested.

- o On November 12, DEA Special Agents seized 353 kilograms of marijuana from a residence in Tucson, Arizona, as the result of an investigation. One suspect was arrested.
- o On November 13, INS/BP Agents seized 123 kilograms of marijuana from the trunk and seat of a 1978 Pontiac Catalina with Arizona plates south of Patagonia, Arizona. The driver fled.
- o On November 14, INS/BP Agents seized 205 kilograms of marijuana on the east side of Nogales, Arizona. Agents observed 8 to 10 backpackers transporting the drug north from the border. The suspects dropped their loads and fled back to Mexico.

California

- o On October 16, California Highway Patrol officers seized 1.8 kilograms of methamphetamine in Kern County from a McFarland, California, resident. The Latin male, traveling westbound on California State Route 58 in his 1987 Nissan Sentra with California plates, was en route to San Bernardino from Wasco, California. The methamphetamine was concealed in an electrically operated compartment located behind the rear seat. Access to the compartment was gained by running a magnet along the door of the compartment which released the hinges.
- o On October 19, DEA Special Agents seized 170 kilograms of cocaine and

arrested three Mexican males during an operation in San Bernardino. A Mexican source had provided the drugs.

- o On October 21, USCS Inspectors seized 11 kilograms of ephedrine from a 1981 Chevrolet El Camino pickup with California plates at the San Ysidro, California, POE. The eight packages of ephedrine (and two smaller packages of marijuana) were concealed in the fuel tank. The driver, a U.S. citizen and resident of Tijuana, Baja California Norte, was arrested.
- o On October 21, DEA Special Agents seized 1.6 kilograms of cocaine in Oceanside, California, as the result of an investigation.
- o On October 22, USCS Inspectors seized 167 kilograms of marijuana from a 1988 Freightliner tractor at the Otay Mesa, California, POE. The marijuana was hidden in the inner tubes of the tractor's eight rear tires. The driver, a Mexican national and resident of Compton, California, was arrested.
- o On October 23, USCS Inspectors seized 44.5 kilograms of cocaine from a 1971 International harvester flatbed truck with California plates at the Calexico, California, POE. The 41 packages of brown plastic-wrapped cocaine, some marked with "First Name" and some with "Indio," were found in the spare tire. The driver, a Mexican national and resident of Mexicali, Baja California Norte, fled the POE on foot. The vehicle is registered to an address in San Luis, Arizona.
- o On October 24, USCS Inspectors seized 116 kilograms of marijuana from the trunk of a 1988 Chevrolet Corsica with

- California plates at the San Ysidro, California, POE. The driver abandoned the vehicle and ran back to Mexico when directed for further inspection.
- o On October 24, Barstow Police Department officers seized 3.2 kilograms of methamphetamine and \$2,400 from two males in San Bernardino County. The suspects, from Roanoke and Gordonville, Texas, were stopped on I-40 in a rented 1994 Buick Regal with Texas plates. The packages of methamphetamine were concealed in an empty 12-pack beer carton in the trunk. The suspects were en route to Texas from Calabasas, California.
 - o On October 25, police officers seized 5 kilograms of cocaine from a Chevrolet Blazer with California plates in Santa Ana, California. The cocaine, one bundle marked with "The First," two bundles bearing a picture of a tractor, and two bundles in plain paper, were seized after a traffic stop. Two suspects were arrested.
 - o On October 25, California Highway Patrol officers seized 79 kilograms of cocaine and \$1,000 in U.S. currency from two Colombian males traveling eastbound on I-40 in San Bernardino County. The driver, a resident of Dumont, New Jersey, and the passenger, from Fort Lee, New Jersey, were en route to New Jersey from Los Angeles. The suspects were stopped in a 1989 Ford Aerostar with New Jersey plates. [REDACTED]
 - o In one incident, 1.2 kilograms of southwest Asian heroin were seized at the Oakland, California, mail facility on October 26. The heroin was discovered in an air mail parcel from Ekaimai, Thailand, destined for Dallas, Texas. The parcel contained five hardback books, and the heroin was concealed in the front and back covers.
 - o On October 26, USCS Inspectors seized 1.2 kilograms of cocaine and 34 kilograms of marijuana from the front fender of a 1981 Mercury Zephyr with Mexico plates at the San Ysidro, California, POE. The driver, a Mexican national and resident of Ensenada, Baja California Norte, was arrested.
 - o On November 1, USCS Inspectors seized 10.8 kilograms of cocaine from a 1982 Plymouth Reliant with Mexico plates at the San Ysidro, California, POE. The nine bundles of cocaine, with two packages marked with an "A," were discovered in the backrest of the back seat. The driver, a Mexican national and resident of Tijuana, Baja California Norte, was arrested. [REDACTED]
 - o On November 2, USCS Special Agents seized 113 kilograms of marijuana from a 1985 Volvo with California plates in San Diego County as the result of an investigation. One suspect was arrested.
 - o On November 3, California Highway Patrol officers seized 207 kilograms of marijuana from the trunk of a 1989 Honda Accord with California plates traveling westbound on I-8 in Imperial County. The marijuana packages were smeared with motor oil. The driver, a Mexican national and resident of

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Mexicali, Baja California Norte, was arrested. The vehicle is suspected to have been en route from El Centro to Seeley, California.

- o On November 3, DEA Special Agents seized 162 kilograms of marijuana from a residence in Santa Ana, California, as the result of an investigation. Five suspects, three in California and two in New York, were arrested. The marijuana is believed to have been transported from a stash site in Tucson, Arizona, to Santa Ana for distribution. A controlled delivery led to the seizure of an additional 195 kilograms of marijuana at an undisclosed location.
- o On November 3, DEA Task Force officers seized 454 grams of Mexican black tar heroin from a residence in Santa Ana, California, as the result of an investigation. Two female Mexican nationals were arrested.
- o On November 4, INS/BP Agents seized 194 kilograms of marijuana from the trunk of a 1985 Volvo with California plates parked at a trolley station 2 miles north of San Ysidro, California. No suspects were observed.
- o On November 4, DEA Special Agents seized 274 grams of Mexican black tar heroin in San Diego, California, as the result of an investigation. The purchase price was \$2,000 per Mexican ounce (25 grams). Two Mexican juveniles were arrested.
- o On November 5, USCS Inspectors seized 113 kilograms of marijuana from the trunk of a 1987 Mazda with California plates in San Ysidro, California. The vehicle had run the
- POE and was abandoned. No suspects were arrested.
- o On November 6, USCS Inspectors seized 22 kilograms of methamphetamine from a 1988 Mitsubishi with California plates at the San Ysidro, California, POE. The methamphetamine was hidden in the dashboard and fenders. One suspect, a male Mexican national and resident of San Diego, California, was arrested.
- o On November 7, DEA Special Agents seized 125 kilograms of cocaine from a 1981 Cadillac with California plates in Anaheim, California. The cocaine was marked with "Herbalife" and found inside two U-Haul boxes. A follow-up search of a residence led to the seizure of \$867,000. Four Mexican nationals, two with California residences, were arrested.
- o On November 8, INS/BP Agents seized 117 kilograms of marijuana 16.8 miles east of Calexico, California. One suspect, a Mexican national and resident of Mexicali, Baja California Norte, was arrested.
- o On November 8, INS/BP Agents seized 121 kilograms of marijuana from a 1988 Mazda with California plates 2 miles northeast of San Ysidro, California. The 70 bundles of marijuana, packed in two large boxes, were seized from the abandoned vehicle following an accident on an I-5 northbound onramp. The vehicle had recently run the San Ysidro POE.
- o On November 8, USCS Inspectors seized 29 kilograms of cocaine from a 1988 Ford Thunderbird with California plates at the Calexico, California, POE.

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- The cocaine, wrapped in clear cellophane with no markings, was hidden in the gas tank. The driver, a Mexican national and resident of Calexico, California, was arrested.
- o On November 8, USCS Inspectors seized 167 kilograms of marijuana from the trunk of a 1986 Oldsmobile Delta 88 with California plates at the San Ysidro, California, POE. The driver fled the POE on foot back to Mexico after being asked to open the trunk.
 - o On November 8, DEA Special Agents seized 50 kilograms of cocaine from two passengers at the Los Angeles, California, international airport. The cocaine, covered with grease and with no visible markings, was seized from the luggage of two Colombian nationals en route to New York City.
 - o On November 9, USCS Special Agents and Los Angeles Police officers seized 5 kilograms of cocaine from the trunk of a 1985 Subaru with California plates in Ontario, California. The cocaine, wrapped in yellow plastic and marked with the word "Vaca" and a picture of a cow, was seized as the result of an investigation. Two suspects, Mexican nationals and residents of Alhambra and Rancho Cucamonga, California, were arrested. Cocaine marked with a picture of a clown, a picture of a Mercedes with the word "Caro," a picture of an orange with the word "Naranja," and a picture of a cow with the word "Vaca" was seized from a van with New Jersey plates in Tammany Parish, Louisiana, on September 13. The vehicle was en route to Union City, New Jersey, from Houston, Texas.
 - o On November 9, USCS Inspector seized 9.4 kilograms of cocaine from a 1988 Ford Escort with Texas plates at the Otay Mesa, California, POE. The eight bundles of plastic-wrapped cocaine, no markings reported, were hidden in the rear quarter panels. Two suspects, Mexican nationals and residents of Duarte, California, and Tijuana, Baja California Norte, were arrested.
 - o On November 10, USCS Inspectors seized 1.3 kilograms of Mexican black tar heroin from a female Mexican citizen with a residence in Las Vegas, Nevada. The subject had arrived in San Diego on an AeroMexico flight and was carrying the heroin secured with a bodice under one of her arms.
 - o On November 9, DEA Task Force Agents seized 200 kilograms of cocaine from a rented 1994 Ford Aerostar van with California plates on I-40 near Barstow, California. The cocaine, marked with "Junior," "Rio," "2x2," "4x4," "Ram," or the Harley-Davidson wing emblem, was seized as the result of an investigation. Four suspects, two in California, one in New York, and one in Montreal, Canada, were arrested after a controlled delivery to New York. The cocaine entered the United States across the California/Baja California Norte border and was stashed in Orange County, California, by a French Canadian/Mexican cocaine trafficking group. The traffickers employed vans driven by French Canadian citizens with no police records to run multihundred-kilogram quantities of cocaine from southern California to New York. The organization is also believed to have

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moved a similar quantity of cocaine about a week earlier to Canada after its arrival in the New York area.

- o On November 13, INS/BP Agents seized 149 kilograms of marijuana stashed beside Highway 3 near Ocotillo, California. Three suspects who were hiding in the area, Mexican nationals and residents of Colonia Progreso, Mexicali, Baja California Norte, were arrested. The suspects indicated that they had entered the United States by walking through the mountains west of Calexico, California.
- o On November 13, INS/BP Agents seized 297 kilograms of marijuana from a U-Haul truck with Pennsylvania plates at the San Clemente, California, checkpoint. Two suspects, one identified as a Mexican national and resident of Tijuana, Baja California Norte, were arrested.
- o On November 15, USCS Inspectors seized 7.8 kilograms of methamphetamine from a 1991 Plymouth Colt with California plates at the San Ysidro, California, POE. The 17 packages of methamphetamine were alerted to by a canine and found in the dashboard. The driver, a U.S. citizen and resident of Hemet, California, was arrested.

Northwest States

- o On October 30, DEA Special Agents seized 3.5 kilograms of cocaine at a hotel parking lot in Fife, Washington. The cocaine, marked with "Bose" and "Nit," was seized as the result of an investigation and priced at \$20,000 per kilogram. Three suspects, residents of Washington, were arrested. One-half

metric ton of cocaine marked with "Bose," "Nit," "Caballo Loco," "Fresco," or "Gma" was seized on September 13 while being crossed over the All American Canal west of Mexicali, Baja California Norte. The following day 100 kilograms of similarly marked cocaine were seized from a vehicle that was en route from southern California to New York.

Rocky Mountain States

- o On October 26, Sevier County Sheriff's deputies in Utah seized 42 kilograms of cocaine and \$6,000 from a black male traveling eastbound on I-10. The Los Angeles, California, resident was in a rented 1994 Lincoln Continental displaying Georgia plates and was en route to Kansas City, Missouri, from Los Angeles. The cocaine, some packages stamped with the word "Junior," and \$5,000 were concealed in a suitcase in the trunk. The other \$1,000 was found in the driver's clothing.
- o On November 1, Utah Highway Patrol officers seized 23 kilograms of methamphetamine from two males and a female in Esmeralda County. The driver, a resident of California, and his two Mexican passengers were stopped on the eastbound lanes of I-70 in a 1986 Oldsmobile Calais with Iowa plates. The owner of the vehicle was not present. After a canine alert, the methamphetamine was discovered in the ~~quarter panels~~. The suspects were en route to Des Moines, Iowa, from California.
- o On November 5, Idaho State Police officers seized 3.2 kilograms of methamphetamine from two Latin males

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traveling northbound on I-19 in Owyhee County. The Long Beach, California, residents were en route to Caldwell, Idaho, from Long Beach in a 1969 Ford Mustang with California plates. The methamphetamine was in a false compartment in the backrest of the rear seat. Access to the compartment was gained by depressing a switch on the driver's seat which released two latches and lowered the backrest.

Midwest States

o On October 18 at the Detroit International Airport, 386 kilograms of khat and \$17,000 were seized from a passenger's checked luggage.

x On October 28, USCS Special Agents in Detroit, Michigan, seized 224 grams of Southeast Asian heroin from a white female U.S. citizen who resided in Fall River, Massachusetts. The subject had traveled from Manila, Philippines, via Seoul, Korea, to Detroit, and was destined for Boston, Massachusetts. The heroin was concealed in the binding of a children's book. She had been hired by a Nigerian smuggling organization.

o On October 20, Missouri Highway Patrol officers seized 227 kilograms of marijuana from a trailer being pulled by a 1992 Kenworth tractor with Texas plates northbound on I-55 in Pemiscot County. The [redacted]

[redacted] was seized after a traffic stop. The driver, a resident of Edinburg, Texas, was arrested. The vehicle was en route from Hidalgo County, Texas, to either Detroit, Michigan, or Indianapolis, Indiana. Papers were found in the truck that gave detailed instructions on roads

to be traveled and the times that weigh stations were open.

o Missouri Highway Patrol officers seized \$300,000 in U.S. currency on I-70 westbound in Boonville from two Latin males on October 27. The currency was found in the top portion of a modified gas tank of a 1978 Chrysler Cordoba with California plates. The compartment could be accessed through a trapdoor on top of the gas tank once the tank was removed. The subjects, both Redwood City, California, residents, were en route to San Jose, California, from St. Louis, Missouri.

o On October 18, Ohio State Patrol officers seized 457 grams of Mexican black tar heroin from two males and one female who were westbound on I-80 in Lucas County near Toledo. The Los Angeles driver and his passengers from Chicago were traveling to Chicago from Toledo in a 1988 Oldsmobile with Illinois plates. The heroin was inside plastic baggies on the front seat.

o On November 8, a total of \$93,300 in \$100 bills of suspected counterfeit U.S. currency was seized at the Wilmington, Ohio, international air mail facility. The currency was discovered in a shipment of documents. The shipment originated in Canada and was destined for Royal Palm Beach, Florida.

o Ohio State Highway Patrol officers seized 340 kilograms of marijuana on November 11 from two males eastbound on I-80 near Montpelier. The marijuana was en route to New York City from Los Angeles in a 1983 Southwind motor home with California plates. The driver, a Latvian male, was from Los Angeles and the passenger, a Latin

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male, was from San Francisco. The marijuana was located within the natural void underneath the sleeping area of the motor home. Maintenance records found in the vehicle indicated 18,595 miles had been logged during the period of September 1 to 19.

- o On October 24, Kansas Highway Patrol officers seized 31 kilograms of cocaine from a 1984 Ford station wagon with Pennsylvania plates in Trego County. The 27 bundles of cocaine, 7 marked with a golden ram, 4 with a black scorpion with a red tail, and 1 marked "Sony," were found in a false compartment in the rear of the station wagon. Two suspects, residents of Bellmawr, New Jersey, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, were arrested. The vehicle was en route from California to Pennsylvania and the suspects indicated they were being paid \$7,000. A previous trip had been made a month earlier.
- o On October 25, Kansas State Police officers seized 98 kilograms of cocaine from a 1977 Mercedes with California plates traveling eastbound on I-70 in Ellis County. The cocaine, wrapped in clear cellophane and marked with "R," "RS," "RH," or "S," were found in the trunk and spare tire compartment. Two suspects, one born in Colombia and the other in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico, were arrested. The vehicle was en route from Los Angeles, California, to New York City, New York.
- o On October 31, Kansas State Police officers seized 9 kilograms of cocaine from the trunk of a rented 1994 Mercury Cougar with California plates eastbound on I-70 in Ellis County. The eight bundles of cocaine had no visible markings. Two female suspects, residents of Fresno and Oakland, California, were arrested. The vehicle was en route from California to Canton, Ohio.
- o On October 18, DEA Special Agents seized 51 kilograms of cocaine from a residence in Berwyn, Illinois. The cocaine, wrapped in cellophane with no markings, was seized as the result of an investigation. Three suspects, two identified as Mexican nationals with residences in both Chicago, Illinois, and Mission, Texas, were arrested. Reporting indicates that the supplier recently moved the drug from Texas to Illinois and may distribute up to 200 kilograms per month. Mission, Texas, located just north of Reynosa, Tamaulipas, is a suspected transshipment point for multiton quantities of cocaine.
- o On October 19, Illinois State Police officers seized \$638,366 in U.S. currency from two males who were southbound on I-55 in Will County near Bolingbrook while en route to El Paso, Texas, from Chicago. The driver, from Chicago, and his passenger, from El Paso, were traveling in a 1987 Pontiac Bonneville with Texas plates. The currency was found in the natural cavity located between the back seat and the trunk area and in the door panels.
- o On October 25, DEA Special Agents seized 50 kilograms of cocaine at a hotel in Chicago, Illinois. The cocaine, wrapped in green, orange, or brown plastic tape and bearing the handwritten markings of "Harley-Davidson" and "ZZZ" (possibly "222"), were seized as the result of an investigation. Three

suspects, two identified as residents of Miami, Florida, were arrested.

- On October 29, Illinois State Police officers seized 37 kilograms of cocaine from a 1987 Mercury with Wisconsin plates northbound on I-55 near Springfield. The cocaine, indented with a printed "5" and encased in shrink-wrapped bundles marked with a picture of the Bart Simpson family, "Yamaha,"

Two Mexican nationals, a male resident of Juarez, Chihuahua, and a female resident of Cicero, Illinois, were arrested. The vehicle was en route from El Paso, Texas, to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Cocaine marked "Oro" was also seized on September 29 at an El Paso, Texas, POE after it fell out of the trunk of a vehicle which had hit speed bumps while running the port.

- During early November, Federal Agents seized 100 kilograms of cocaine in Chicago, Illinois. The cocaine, wrapped in cellophane and marked with "The First," was seized as the result of an investigation and is suspected to have entered the United States across the West Texas/Chihuahua border.
- In one incident, 1.9 kilograms of Southeast Asian heroin was seized at the Chicago International Airport on November 1. The heroin was discovered in the hard-sided checked luggage of an Afghan male resident of Boulder, Colorado, traveling from Pakistan via the Netherlands and Chicago to Boulder.
- In nine incidents at the Chicago International Airport, 168 kilograms of marijuana were seized. In all of the

seizures, the marijuana had been concealed in the passengers' checked luggage. Passenger indicated travel had originated in southern California, Nevada, or the Southwest Texas area (i.e., Los Angeles, Las Vegas, and El Paso) with a final destination of Chicago. These seizures continue to confirm an established route utilized by marijuana smugglers from source locations and Southwest border POE's.

Northeast States

- In late reporting, on September 3, Newark, New Jersey, detectives seized 300 kilograms of cocaine, wrapped in bales (20 bundles per bale), that had allegedly been transported to New Jersey from Douglas, Arizona. Two suspects, U.S. citizens and residents of Douglas, stated that they were being paid \$8() per kilogram to transport the load. They had received the cocaine from individuals in Douglas who had crossed the drug into the United States through the Douglas POE in cars or vans. The suspects indicated that Douglas was currently a "large stash area" for cocaine traffickers.
- On October 18, airport police and DEA Special Agents seized 20.5 kilograms of cocaine from a passenger's suitcase at the Newark, New Jersey, international airport. One suspect, a Mexican national who was en route from Los Angeles, California, and listed residences in both Tijuana, Baja California Norte, and San Diego, California, was arrested. The suspect indicated that he knew nothing about the drugs and was in New Jersey to buy items for his Tijuana flea market.

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- New Jersey State Police officers seized 1.4 kilograms of crack cocaine on October 29 from a black couple on the New Jersey Turnpike in Bergen County. The male driver, from East Orange, New Jersey, and the female passenger from Newark, New Jersey, were en route to East Orange from New York City. The crack cocaine was inside a paper bag under a jacket on the rear passenger seat. The subjects were traveling in a 1983 Chrysler Town & Country station wagon displaying New Jersey plates.
- In one incident, 2.3 kilograms of heroin of an unknown origin were seized at the Newark International Airport on October 29. The heroin was discovered in the lining of the divider of a soft-sided canvas bag. The checked luggage belonged to a black male Brooklyn, New York, resident. He was traveling from Japan to Brooklyn.
- On November 3, 19EA Special Agents seized 24 kilograms of cocaine from a residence in Jackson Heights, New York, as the result of an investigation. The cocaine was wrapped in blue paper and bore a white label sketched with a charging spotted leopard. Several New York City residents were arrested. Four days earlier, on October 30, Arkansas Highway Police officers seized 119 kilograms of similarly marked and wrapped cocaine from the right fuel tank of a 1986 Freightliner tractor with New Jersey plates. The vehicle was traveling on I-55 en route from Brownsville, Texas, to New Jersey. Two occupants, a resident of Rockaway, New Jersey, and a resident of Puerto Rico, were arrested.
- USCS Special Agents seized \$472,236 from a white male entering the United States in a taxi at the Niagara Falls, New York, POE on November 5. Just over \$13,000 was seized in the taxi and the remainder, based on information provided by the suspect, was seized at another location in the United States. The suspect was a resident of Miami Beach, Florida.
- On November 5, USCS Inspectors at the JFK International Airport seized 2 kilograms of white heroin. The female U.S. citizen and a resident of New York City had arrived from Thailand via Singapore. The heroin was concealed in the middle of a carry-on bag.
- In nine incidents at the New York International Airport and air cargo mail facility, 123 kilograms of cocaine were seized. In a majority of the seizure incidents, the cocaine had been concealed in checked luggage. Passenger [redacted] indicated all travel had originated in Jamaica or South America (Colombia).

Southern States

- On September 28, a Mexican male and resident of Riverside, California, was arrested at the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport carrying 960 grams of white heroin (possibly Colombian) in his luggage. The subject stated he flew from Tijuana, Baja California Norte, Mexico, to Panama City, Panama, where he met a Colombian male who gave him the heroin. He then flew back to Tijuana while internally carrying the heroin and crossed the border at the San Ysidro POE. He flew from San Diego to Los Angeles, California, and then to

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A canine alert led to the discovery of the crack in a leather pouch located under the driver's seat.

o On November 3, Lauderdale County, Mississippi, Sheriff's officers seized 201 kilograms of marijuana from a trailer being towed by a 1985 Peterbilt tractor with California plates eastbound on I-20. The driver, a resident of Grandview, Missouri, was arrested. The vehicle was en route from Texas to Brooklyn, New York.

o On October 15, Vinton, Louisiana, Police officers seized 4,317 dosage units of LSD in the passenger's 1984 Toyota Camry with Mississippi plates on I-10 eastbound. A couple from Foxworth, Mississippi, was en route to Foxworth from Houston, Texas.

o Louisiana State Police officers seized \$135,830 on October 20 on I-10 west in Calcasieu Parish. Two white males were driving a rented 1994 Oldsmobile Cutlass with Florida plates en route to Houston, Texas, from Pensacola, Florida. Both suspects were residents of Pensacola.

o On October 28, Louisiana State Police officers seized over 5 kilograms of crack cocaine on I-10 eastbound in Calcasieu Parish. A black couple was en route in the driver's 1988 Buick with Texas plates to Biloxi, Mississippi, from Houston, Texas. The crack cocaine was masked with coffee grounds and fabric softener sheets. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

o On November 8, Acadia, Louisiana, Sheriff's deputies seized 175 kilograms of cocaine from a 1994 Lincoln with Missouri plates eastbound on I-10 in Acadia. The 87 bundles of cocaine, bearing a picture of a green triangle inside of a yellow circle with the word "Lotus" under the letter "C" (which contained the letters "AB" over-stamped with a "C"), were found in four gym-type bags in the trunk. The driver, a resident of Burleson, Texas, was arrested. This is the second seizure of cocaine marked with "Lotus" reported to EPIC during November. Cocaine bearing several versions of the "Lotus" marking has been seen since October, with October seizures occurring on the 30th, when Shelby County, Tennessee, Sheriff's deputies seized 10 kilograms from a vehicle eastbound on I-40 in Shelby County; on the 20th, when police narcotics officers seized 197 kilograms from a residence in Houston, Texas; and on the 5th, when Dallas County Sheriff's deputies seized 30 kilograms from a vehicle in Dallas County, Texas. On September 2, INS/BP Agents at a temporary checkpoint near Freer, Texas, seized similarly marked cocaine from a pickup possibly en route from Hidalgo to San Antonio, Texas.

o On October 23, Florida Highway Patrol officers seized \$149,963 on the Florida Turnpike southbound in Osceola County. A Latin male, resident of Miami, Florida, was driving a rented truck displaying California plates from Orlando to Miami. A canine alert led to the discovery of the currency located in a box in the cargo area of the trunk

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- mixed in with assorted household items. This seizure led to a 1994 Chrysler LeBaron with Florida plates being stopped on October 24 on U.S. 27 in Highlands County carrying \$74,965.
- o On October 24, the USCS Contraband Enforcement Team in Miami seized 137 kilograms of cocaine from a container that arrived from Colombia aboard the vessel [REDACTED]. The cocaine had been hidden in five cardboard boxes containing large rolls of tissue paper. An internal conspiracy involving the International Longshoremen's Association is strongly suspected.
- o On October 26, DEA Fort Lauderdale and USCS Special Agents seized 325 kilograms of cocaine from a Miami warehouse. The cocaine was hidden among a shipment of plantains wrapped in a green silicone and shaped exactly like the plantains. The drugs had been shipped to Miami from Venezuela aboard a commercial flight, and billing documents revealed that 658 cartons of plantains had been shipped. On October 24, the owner of the freight consignment business was arrested on money laundering charges.
- o On November 8, USCS Special Agents seized 20 kilograms of cocaine near Isla Morada in the upper Florida Keys. The cocaine, wrapped in brown tape and bearing the handwritten markings of "Harley-Davidson" and "222," was found floating in bales in the Gulf of Mexico. During October, several seizures of similarly marked cocaine were made in the northeastern United States. These shipments are believed to have primarily entered the United States across the Southwest border during early October and were moved to the northeast from Los Angeles, California, stash sites. Cocaine marked with "222" on its sides and wrapped in either green, yellow, or brown tape was initially seized at the Salton City, California, checkpoint on October 2 from a vehicle at the Calexico, California, POE.
- o In 16 incidents at the Miami International Airport, 14 kilograms of heroin were seized. The heroin was concealed by ingestion or in checked or hand-carried luggage. All passenger flights originated in South America (Colombia).
- o In 16 incidents at the Miami International Airport and air cargo mail facility, 1,774 kilograms of marijuana were seized. In most of the incidents, the marijuana had been concealed in cargo or checked luggage. All of the travel had originated in Jamaica or South America.
- o In 28 incidents at the Miami International Airport and air cargo facility, 281 kilograms of cocaine were seized. The cocaine was concealed in checked or hand-carried luggage as well as in air cargo shipments. All passenger flights and cargo shipments originated in South America (Colombia).

Hawaii

- o On November 14, approximately 2 kilograms of crystal methamphetamine (ice) were seized and three people arrested at the Honolulu, Hawaii, international airport. The crystal methamphetamine was concealed in checked luggage and placed on an aircraft destined for Honolulu, Hawaii.

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CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

DOMESTIC

United States and Canada

- o The motorcycle gang war that began earlier this year between the OUTLAWS and the HELL'S ANGELS is continuing. On September 25, in a fight in Buffalo, New York, one member of each gang was killed and two members from each were wounded. On October 8, a tattoo parlor owned by the OUTLAWS in Oak Creek, Illinois, was blown up. On October 14, the SONS OF SILENCE, an ally of the HELL'S ANGELS, had their clubhouse in Indianapolis, Indiana, damaged by a bomb. Another ally of the HELL'S ANGELS, the WARLOCKS, had their clubhouse in Florida completely destroyed by a bomb on October 17. (Source: EPIC)
- o A Laredo, Texas, resident smuggles 450 kilograms of marijuana weekly across the border at Rio Dolores or Rio Bravo and temporarily stashes the load at a Rio Bravo subdivision. Anglo tractor-trailer drivers for major companies are recruited to transport the marijuana under the auspices of legitimate merchandise to Dallas and Houston, Texas; New Orleans, Louisiana; Pensacola, Florida; and New York, New York. The loads are escorted by another vehicle to their destinations where the drivers are then paid for their services. Currency received for the marijuana is taken back through Laredo and across the border to Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, inside truck tires. (Source: DEA Laredo)
- o As the result of an 18-month joint investigation by INS/BP Blaine, Washington, and INS Investigations, Seattle, Washington, a major alien smuggling organization was dismantled with the arrest on September 21, 1994, of 11 principals and the apprehension in Seattle of 185 undocumented foreign nationals, primarily from the Punjab Region of India and Pakistan. INS teams were dispatched to California; Washington, D.C.; Texas; New York; and Virginia to apprehend approximately 700 to 800 more aliens that had been smuggled into the United States by the organization. The ring had been active since 1985, smuggling in excess of 900 aliens for fees ranging between \$10,000 to \$14,500. The aliens were smuggled across the Mexican border into Texas and Arizona, across the Canadian border into Blaine or flown directly into Seattle. Once in the United States, the aliens were sold fraudulent INS documents for additional fees ranging between \$500 and \$2,500. The organization reportedly had another 1,000 Indian nationals waiting in Moscow, Russia; Kiev, Ukraine; Bogota, Colombia; Poland; Czechoslovakia; and Bolivia to be smuggled into the United States. (Source: INS Seattle)
- o INS/BP Agents at Willcox, Arizona, have noticed similarities in several recent marijuana seizures. The loads, which ranged from 45 to 225 kilograms, were seized from U-Haul trucks towing

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vehicles which were traveling westbound on I-10. All the U-Haul trucks had been rented in Deming, New Mexico, and were occupied by one or two Hispanic males 25 years of age or younger who claimed they were destined to Colorado. This circuitous route could indicate smugglers are trying to avoid the fixed INS/BP checkpoints in New Mexico.

(Source: INS/BP Lordsburg)

- o With the fall marijuana harvest beginning, smuggling of marijuana on commercial buses will possibly increase. Since October 1, 1993, over 2,000 kilograms of marijuana were seized in 339 incidents from two U.S. bus companies at the Falfurrias and Kingsville, Texas, checkpoints, coming from the Rio Grande Valley to Houston. (Source: INS/BP McAllen)

- o A U.S.-registered Beech King Air 200 was stolen from Jonesboro Municipal Airport, Jonesboro, Arizona, between October 6 and 7. This is the seventh aircraft reported stolen in Arizona since January 1994, three of which have been Beech model aircraft with an operating range of 1,400 miles. Five of these thefts are believed to be drug-related. No recoveries have been reported. This represents a dramatic increase compared to 1993 when no stolen aircraft in this border area were reported to EPIC. It is possible that these stolen aircraft are replacement aircraft for drug smugglers. (Source: EPIC)

- o During recent months, a new trend has developed in routes being used by alien smugglers in the area of Albuquerque, New Mexico. Prior to Operation "Hold the Line" in El Paso, Texas, alien smugglers normally transported aliens

from Mexico to Colorado via I-25 northbound. Now smugglers are also using routes to the west and east of El Paso. Western routes include smuggling across the Arizona/Sonora border, north through or near Phoenix, Arizona, east on I-40 to Albuquerque, New Mexico, and then northbound on I-25 into Colorado.

(Source: INS/BP Albuquerque)

- o Aircraft thefts along the Southwest border are significantly higher during 1994 than that reported to EPIC for all of 1993. Along the Southwest border from January to September 1994, 15 aircraft have been reported ~~stolen with~~ only 4 recoveries. Nine aircraft were reportedly stolen during all of 1993 with six of the nine aircraft being recovered. California has reported the most stolen aircraft during 1994, with 9 of the 15 thefts occurring in this State. (Source: EPIC)

- o Multiton quantities of cocaine associated with trafficking through stash sites in Houston, Texas, were seized during September. A few of the markings observed in transit from Houston were the pictures of a clown, a Mercedes, an orange, and a cow. A unique emblem was seen involving a silver circle with the "City of Houston" stamped on top, a star and a locomotive (facing to the left) in the center, and "Texas" stamped at the bottom. The majority of markings observed on cocaine being moved north from Houston stash sites are not being seen on cocaine seized while in transit across the Southwest border and may support reports indicating some traffickers are repackaging their cocaine shipments

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prior to movement from Southwest border distribution sites.
(Source: EPIC)

- o In late September, traffickers attempted to move a stash of cocaine north from Mexicali, Baja California Norte. The cocaine was wrapped the same as a large part of the cocaine seized from a Datsun sedan with Mexico plates in San Luis, Arizona, on September 25 (162 kilograms). These seizures and intelligence suggest that a significant, possibly multimetric ton, quantity of cocaine is either stashed or in northbound movement within the vicinity of the northwestern tip of Baja California Norte.
(Source: EPIC)

- o A comparison between September 1993 and September 1994 significant cocaine seizure (500 grams or more) shows a dramatic increase during September 1994 in the Southwest border area. In September 1993, 397 kilograms of cocaine were seized in 17 incidents. During September 1994, 35 metric tons were seized in 42 incidents. During September 1994, California had the most cocaine seized (2.3 metric tons in 15 incidents), followed in order by Arizona (716 kilograms in 7 incidents), South Texas (442 kilograms in 11 incidents), and New Mexico/West Texas (63 kilograms in 9 incidents). During September 1994, seizures relating to investigations accounted for 71 percent of the cocaine seized, with traffic stops and checkpoints accounting for 20 percent and port of entry (POE) seizures making up the remaining 9 percent. One cocaine seizure in September 1994 involved 584 kilograms discovered during a traffic stop west of Calexico, California, from a northbound vehicle

which had recently been loaded with the drug from a raft on the All American Canal. Seizures and intelligence suggest that traffickers attempted to move several large shipments of cocaine, in some instances possibly multimetric ton, across the United States/Mexico border during September. Seizure activity indicates cross-border movements occurred in the vicinities of Tijuana and Mexicali, Baja California Norte; San Luis Rio Colorado and Nogales, Sonora; Juarez, Chihuahua; and Reynosa, Tamaulipas. Although not supported by seizures, reporting also indicates that cocaine traffickers were active within the areas of Agua Prieta, Sonora, and Nuevo Laredo and Matamoros, Tamaulipas.
(Source: EPIC)

- o A comparison between September 1993 and September 1994 significant marijuana seizures (100 kilograms or more) shows a dramatic decrease during September 1994 in the Southwest border area. In September 1993, 21.8 metric tons of marijuana were seized in 68 incidents. During September 1994, 12.6 metric tons were seized in 45 incidents. During September 1994, South Texas had the most marijuana seized (8.8 metric tons in 25 incidents), followed in order by New Mexico/West Texas (1.8 metric tons in 8 incidents), Arizona (1 metric ton in 7 incidents), and California (953 kilograms in 5 incidents). Investigations accounted for 35 percent of the marijuana seized in September 1994. Backpackers and drive-throughs between the POE's accounted for 30 percent, traffic stops and checkpoint seizures 24 percent, and POE seizures made up the remaining 11 percent. The largest September 1994 marijuana seizure occurred as the result

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of an investigation when 1.4 metric tons were seized in McAllen, Texas.
(Source: EPIC)

- o A comparison of significant heroin seizures (100 grams or more) between September 1993 and September 1994 reflects a continuing decline in 1994 heroin seizures. During September 1993, 4.2 kilograms of heroin were seized in seven incidents. During September 1994, 3.6 kilograms were seized in 11 incidents. In September 1994, the largest quantity of heroin was seized in California (57 percent), followed by New Mexico/West Texas (26 percent), South Texas (9 percent), and Arizona (8 percent). Seizures consisted of Mexican black tar (84 percent) and Mexican brown (16 percent). Contrary to seizure statistics, intelligence indicates that the cross-border trafficking of heroin continues at an active pace. During late September 1994, 5.5 kilograms of Mexican black tar heroin were seized from a suspect at the Miguel Hidalgo Airport in Guadalupe, Jalisco, who was being paid to deliver the drugs to smugglers in Mexicali, Baja California Norte. This seizure, from a single Mexican courier en route to the U.S. border, surpasses the overall quantity of heroin seized along the entire Southwest border during that same month.
(Source: EPIC)

- o During September, several markings on seized cocaine appeared to be associated with traffickers' movements of large, possible multimetric ton, quantities of cocaine across the Southwest border. Cocaine marked with the word "Junior," one of several markings observed during September on cocaine in the Los Angeles area, was

seized from a Los Angeles stash site on September 2. Subsequently, large quantities of cocaine marked "Gucci" were seized in Los Angeles, followed within a short time by cocaine bearing a Harley-Davidson emblem. Although these markings transited through Los Angeles, they have only been encountered during highway and investigative seizures in the northeastern States. These new cocaine markings appeared in Los Angeles after seizures of large quantities of cocaine marked "The First" dramatically diminished. Although uncorroborated, reporting suggests that cocaine marked with the Harley-Davidson emblem and "Junior" may have been moved north into southern California through the Tijuana, Baja California Norte, drug smuggling corridor.

(Source: EPIC)

- o [REDACTED]

(Source: [REDACTED])

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- o In 94 domestic commercial air incidents, approximately 1,924 kilograms of marijuana were seized between September 15 and October 15. Most seizures were noted at the following airports: Dallas/Fort Worth, Houston, Los Angeles, McAllen, Miami, New York, Phoenix, and Philadelphia. (Source: EPIC)
- o In 106 domestic commercial air incidents, approximately 715 kilograms of cocaine were seized between September 15 and October 15. The most noteworthy seizures were at the following airports: Los Angeles, Miami, Nashville, New York, and San Juan. (Source: EPIC)
- o Heroin trafficking along the Canadian border is increasing with the northwest area of New York State becoming a major corridor for heroin en route from Canada to New York City. In 2 months, nearly 20 kilograms of heroin were seized at Niagara Falls, New York, from luggage of passengers on Amtrak trains. The couriers pick up the heroin in the Philippines, fly to Toronto, and board trains bound for New York City. (Source: INS Buffalo)
- o control centers, and stash sites. An additional objective of this operation was to focus on the top three major Mexican trafficking organizations. (Source: American Embassy, Mexico)
- o During September, traffickers moved uniquely marked cocaine at least twice through the San Luis Rio Colorado, Sonora, drug smuggling corridor. The first movement consisted of cocaine marked with a picture of the head of a Smurf and the word "Pera" and was seized while en route to California. On September 25, a second movement of cocaine marked with the picture of a quail's head, the Kilroy emblem, "Ruby," and "Toyota," was seized in San Luis, Arizona. In Nogales, Arizona, a seizure indicated that traffickers in Nogales, Sonora, attempted to move cocaine marked with the word "Kraftsman" with a picture of a tractor and horseshoe. (Source: EPIC)
- o According to the Joint Drug Intelligence Group (JDIG) Phoenix, multisource reporting indicates that approximately 20 to 40 tons of cocaine are allegedly being stored within Nogales, Sonora. The cocaine, some in blue and pink wrappings marked with "Deer," "Fuller," "Scorpion," and "Tractor," was being stashed at two residences and guarded by the Mexican Federal Judicial Police (MFJP) and Mexican Army Intelligence units. The stash is reportedly being moved into the United States in 100-kilogram quantities and was at one time destined for crossing into the United States at San Luis Rio Colorado or Agua Prieta, Sonora. Movement of the stash to sites in Los Angeles, California, is expected to be completed prior to the end of the year. A second organization

Mexico and Central America

- o A massive counterdrug operation along the United States/Mexico border involving the States of Baja California, Sonora, Chihuahua, and Tamaulipas commenced on September 19 and continued through September 25. Approximately 1,000 Mexican Federal agents were moved to these northern States to implement roadblocks, serve arrest and search warrants, and to raid suspected strongholds, command and

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is reportedly also involved in the transshipment of a separate 10-metric ton stash. Portions of these stashes are allegedly being moved via Nogales POE's and possibly within the vicinity of Santa Cruz, Sonora. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(Source: JDIG Phoenix)

- o Air activity south of the New Mexico/West Texas border decreased during October with only two fades being detected in northern Chihuahua. One of these fades occurred during mid-October when an aircraft landed to the southwest of Ascencion, Chihuahua. The second suspect fade occurred at the end of the month in the desert 20 miles south-southeast of the Columbus, New Mexico, stockyards. Two low-flyers were reported, one being a four-engine aircraft flying at 200 feet above the ground 15 miles east of Alpine, Texas, and an unidentified aircraft observed flying back and forth near Ramah, New Mexico. One reported border crosser involved an aircraft which crossed into West Texas and upon arriving at an area 17 miles southwest of Van Horn, descended to 800 feet, orbited, and then returned to Mexico, fading at Rancho El Coloraino northwest, Coahuila.

(Source: DAICC)

- o South of the California/Baja California border, an increase in suspect air activity was noted. Of the three border crossings, two were observed near Tecate, California, with one of these identified as an aircraft suspected to be used by traffickers to scout the border for INS/BP activity with direct relaying to backpackers on the ground. The

third border crossing occurred southwest of Boulevard, California, and involved an aircraft that faded from radar at the Reider Airstrip (323841N/1163827W), after possibly having surfaced on the U.S. side of the border while traveling westbound from the general direction of Ejido Michoacan de Ocampos, Baja California Norte. South of the international border, two suspect targets were detected in northern flight with fades near El Doctor, Sonora, and east-northeast of Laguna Salada southwest Baja California Norte.

(Source: DAICC)

- o During October, a dramatic increase was noted in the quantity of northbound suspect flights which were detected fading within northern Sonora, Mexico. Fade sites included Agua Prieta (2); northwest of Caborca (1); southeast of Cananea (2); Rancho Cocospera (1); Fronteras (1); northwest of Imuris (1); Nogales (2); south of Nogales (1); Rancho El Corral de Enmedio (2); San Lazaro (2); San Luis Rio Colorado (1); the vicinity of Santa Cruz (8); and southeast of Sonoyta, Sonora (2). Not included in these figures are approximately 29 suspect tracks which faded within a 2-day period (October 19 - 20) into a triangular pattern formed between Nogales, Agua Prieta, and Cananea, Sonora. One cross-border detection was made that involved an aircraft which crossed into the United States west of Sasabe, Arizona, then returned to Mexico and faded at Nogales, Sonora. Low-flyers were observed near Tombstone, east of the Marino Mountains, and northwest of Douglas, Arizona. South of the border, a low-flying aircraft was observed overflying Nogales, Sonora. A vehicle, possibly signaling an aircraft, was

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CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

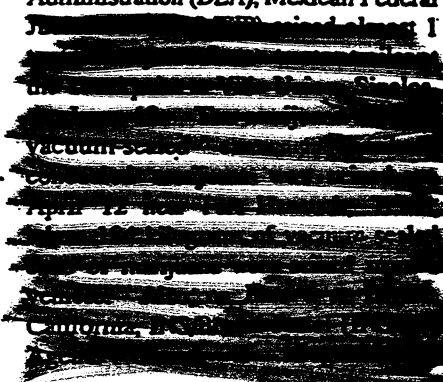
United States and Canada

- o On June 25, the president of the Chicago, Illinois, chapter of the Outlaws Motorcycle Club was shot and seriously wounded while riding his motorcycle on I-94 near Chicago. The Outlaws believe the shooting was done by the Hells Angels or a member of one of their prospect chapters, the Hells Henchmen of Rockford, Illinois. On June 28, the vice president of the Hells Henchmen was shot and then beaten to death in Rockford, Illinois, by what are believed to be members of the Janesville, Wisconsin, chapter of the Outlaws. Law enforcement officials fear these shootings could escalate to a full-scale war between the Outlaws and the Hells Angels and Hells Henchmen and could spread to other areas of the country where the clubs have chapters. (Source: BATF Chicago)

- o A comparison of cocaine seizures between June 1993 and June 1994 shows a dramatic increase in the amount of cocaine seized in June 1994 on the Southwest border. In June 1993, approximately 2.9 metric tons of cocaine were seized in 31 incidents whereas in June 1994, there were 4.3 metric tons seized in 40 incidents. Seizures and intelligence indicate that during June, multitonns of cocaine entered the United States through the Calexico, California, and El Paso, Texas, corridors, and at least 1 ton of cocaine crossed in South Texas near McAllen. Intelligence indicates significant amounts of cocaine probably

crossed the Arizona border and the Big Bend area of Texas.
(Source: EPIC)

- o Although seizures of cocaine from privately owned vehicles at the Calexico, California, Port of Entry (POE) have declined recently compared to the first 4 months of 1994, intelligence indicates traffickers still favor this port and surrounding desert, suggesting that traffickers are still smuggling successfully through this area. Since January 1994, approximately 55 privately owned vehicles carrying over 2.1 metric tons of cocaine have been seized either at the Calexico POE or at local checkpoints after entering the United States from Mexicali. A review of POE entries by these vehicles suggest that prior to their seizures, these vehicles alone could have moved over 8.3 metric tons of cocaine from Mexicali during 1994 (if cocaine-laden during their prior entries). (Source: EPIC)

- o According to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Mexican Federal


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the United States through the El Paso area in recent months. (Source: EPIC)

Mexico and Central America

- o The July 8 edition of the Mexico City newspaper, El Universal, reported that the Tamaulipas State Governor has rejected the installation of checkpoints along the roads of Tamaulipas. The roadblocks and checkpoints, promoted by the PGR and Federal highways and port police authorities, are aimed at deterring the illegal trafficking of weapons and drugs. The Governor indicated that social and civil rights representatives should be involved in these operations to preclude the violation of individual rights. (Source: Open Source)

Caribbean, Bahamas, and Gulf of Mexico

- o On June 27, the Jamaican Constabulary Force Police seized 136 kilograms of marijuana at Boscobel Airfield following a shooting incident with a prominent Bahamian trafficker/pilot who was caught in the process of loading an estimated 454 kilograms of marijuana on board his aircraft. The Jamaican Constabulary Force Police attempted to block the airfield runway when the aircraft pilot and copilot opened fire and took off evading capture. The aircraft, a twin-engine Piper, was subsequently seized on July 1 at Sangster International Airport, Montego Bay, Jamaica, and the pilot was arrested on July 4 at the same location. The marijuana load was to be airdropped off the north coast of Cuba to unknown Bahamian violators. [REDACTED] departed [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

South America

- o On July 2, an airdrop, probably involving cocaine, was made to a go-fast vessel off the coast of Carupano, Venezuela. The vessel proceeded to the Lesser Antilles where it jettisoned its load upon sighting a U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) aircraft. (Source: USCG)

[REDACTED]

- o Intelligence indicates that as of early June, a Colombian trafficker was planning the shipment of 3,000 kilograms of cocaine from Panama to Spain via Portugal. The shipment was to be split into two loads of 1,500 kilograms each and was to depart Panama on June 22, probably on the vessels [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. The cocaine was to [REDACTED]

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SIGNIFICANT ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

This section contains succinct narrative intelligence capsules by geographic area of significant drug enforcement activity. Significant enforcement activity reported in this section is based on information available at EPIC and should not be considered all inclusive. Information on seizures, with controlled deliveries pending, will not be published in this report without the prior approval of the agency reporting the seizure. Therefore, please bear in mind that significant enforcement activities may have occurred without being reflected in this report.

Also, information on foreign seizures may not be immediately available due to delays in receiving reporting from foreign offices.

United States and Canada

- The Missouri Highway Patrol seized 46 kilograms of cocaine on I-44 eastbound in Springfield from a Latin male on April 15. [REDACTED] Two packages of the cocaine bore the marking "La Esterlina." The driver, a Chicago resident, was en route to Chicago from Los Angeles.
- On April 15, DEA Atlanta in conjunction with DEA Phoenix Operation EMERALD CLIPPER Agents seized a Piper Navajo twin-engine aircraft at Dekalb/Peachtree airport in Atlanta, Georgia. The aircraft was being brokered by a Bahamian cocaine trafficker to a Jamaican trafficker and was seized for fraudulent registration.
- The Harrison County, Mississippi, Sheriff's Office seized approximately 230 kilograms of marijuana on I-10 east in Gulfport on April 16. A white male resident of Riverview, Florida, was driving a rented 1994 GMC truck with Florida plates en route to Riverview from McAllen, Texas. The 55 packages of marijuana were in a false compartment in the bulkhead of the cargo space.
- The Texas Department of Public Safety seized 150 kilograms of cocaine on April 16 on U.S. 59 northbound near Sheppard, San Jacinto County. Two Latin male residents of New Jersey were traveling in a 1990 Peterbilt tractor with New Jersey plates towing a Dorsey trailer with Indiana plates. The subjects were en route to New Jersey from Houston. The cocaine was in four cardboard boxes in the nose of the trailer which was loaded with wooden pallets.
- On April 18, USCS Miami seized approximately 49 kilograms of cocaine from containerized cargo aboard the commercial vessel [REDACTED] that had arrived from Colombia via Panama. The container was manifested as wooden doors from Barranquilla, Colombia.
- The Joplin, Missouri, Police Department seized 4.5 kilograms of methamphetamine on I-44 eastbound on April 18 from a white male. The methamphetamine was discovered inside a briefcase in the trunk of a rented 1994 Oldsmobile Cutlass with California plates. A North American

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Arms .22 caliber derringer was also seized. The driver was a resident of Long Beach, California. The methamphetamine had been placed in a zip-lock bag, further contained inside a vacuum-sealed plastic bag with coffee grounds. The package was inside a brown cardboard box in the briefcase.

- On April 20, the Arizona Department of Public Safety seized approximately 2.3 kilograms of methamphetamine on I-10 eastbound in Quartzsite, La-Paz County. A Latin male resident of Phoenix was driving a 1982 Chevrolet Camaro with California plates en route to Phoenix from Los Angeles. The methamphetamine was discovered in the left rear quarter panel.
- On April 20, the Newark Police Department seized approximately 1.36 kilograms of white heroin on U.S. 78 westbound in Newark, Essex County, New Jersey. A black male was driving a privately owned 1993 Dodge Shadow with New Jersey plates en route to Newark from New York City. The heroin was on the rear floor of the vehicle. The 3,000 decks of heroin were separated in three bundles wrapped in magazine paper. The bundles had the word "Misery" stamped on them.
- On April 20, the Texas Department of Public Safety seized \$508,263 from a male resident of Las Cruces, New Mexico. The subject was driving his 1991 Plymouth Sundance with temporary Texas plates on I-20 westbound in Parker County en route to Chihuahua State, Mexico, from Fort Worth, Texas. The currency was in two factory-made cavities behind the rear armrest panels.
- On April 21, the California Highway Patrol seized \$584,076 on I-15 northbound in Victorville, San Bernardino County. A Latin male was driving a 1978 Chrysler Cordova with California plates en route to Las Vegas from Los Angeles. The currency was in both rear seat side panels.
- On April 21, the Wisconsin State Police seized 681 grams of crack cocaine from two black males on I-94 west in Menomonie, Dunn County. The pair was traveling in the driver's 1987 GMC Jimmy with Illinois plates. The crack was wrapped in two clear plastic bags inside the tailgate of the vehicle.
- On April 22, two aircraft were seized at the Compton, California, airport by a multiagency task force as a result of a continuing investigation that resulted in the seizure of a third aircraft and 90 kilograms of cocaine. All the aircraft were believed to have been purchased with illegal drug proceeds and may have been involved in the transport of drugs.
- The Missouri Highway Patrol seized \$1,010,000 on April 22 on I-55 south in New Madrid County. An elderly white couple, both residents of La Crosse, Indiana, was traveling in their 1994 Chevrolet Lumina with Indiana plates en route to Edinburg, Texas, from Chicago. The currency was under plywood in the back of the van. The male subject was armed with a two-shot derringer carried on his person. This is the second largest Operation PIPELINE currency seizure thus far in CY 94.
- The Missouri Highway Patrol seized approximately 5 kilograms of methamphetamine on I-44 east in St. Louis on April 23. A Latin male resident of Huntington Park, California, was driving a rented 1993 Chevrolet truck

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- On May 6, USCS Miami along with the Florida National Guard seized 1,122 kilograms of cocaine shipped aboard the commercial vessel ██████████ from Colombia. The cocaine was discovered in a container manifested as "Soda Crackers." No arrests were reported.
- On May 6, the Alabama Department of Public Safety seized 1 kilogram of methamphetamine on I-65 north near Montgomery, Lowndes County. A white male resident of Rockdale, Alabama, was driving a 1992 Kenworth tractor towing a box trailer, both with Alabama plates. The subject was en route to Clanton, Alabama, from California. The methamphetamine was contained in three plastic bags inside a gallon-sized water cooler in the tractor.
- The Collinsville, Illinois, Police Department seized approximately 1.14 kilograms of methamphetamine on I-55 north in Madison County on May 7. Two white males and a white female were traveling in a rented 1994 Ford Crown Victoria with Indiana plates to Patoka, Indiana, from Hesperia, California. The methamphetamine was concealed in luggage in the trunk. Perfume was used as a masking agent. The subjects were moving to Indiana from California to start manufacturing methamphetamine in Patoka.
- On May 7, the Texas Department of Public Safety seized \$379,760 on I-10 in Jefferson County. A Latin male resident of West Palm Beach, Florida, was driving his 1987 Ford Aerostar with Florida plates. The currency was in a suitcase.
- On May 8, the New Jersey State Police seized 681 grams of crack cocaine on I-95 south in Union County. Three black males were traveling in a 1986 Chrysler Le Baron with New Jersey plates en route to Trenton, New Jersey, from New York City. The crack was in the trunk.
- The Texas Department of Public Safety seized 10,000 dosage units of Valium on I-35 north in Denton County on May 8. Three male residents of Oklahoma City were traveling in a 1983 Buick Regal with Oklahoma plates en route to Oklahoma City allegedly from Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, Mexico. The Valium was concealed in the passenger door panel.
- On May 8, the Texas Department of Public Safety seized approximately 202 kilograms of marijuana on I-35 north in Denton County. Two Latin males were traveling in a rented 1994 Ford truck with Florida plates en route to Kansas City, Missouri, from Pasadena, Texas. The marijuana was discovered in four boxes in the back of the truck.
- On May 9, the New York City Police Department seized 150 kilograms of cocaine from a Latin male in Queens. The subject was driving a 1990 Oldsmobile Cutlass with New York plates en route to New York from Los Angeles, California. The cocaine was in 150 kilogram-sized packages in the trunk. Of the 150 packages, 137 were wrapped in brown plastic tape and had markings of interlocking G's identical to the trademark used by Gucci. The other 13 packages were wrapped in gold foil and marked with the word "Gucci" and the interlocking G's.
- On May 12, the Florida Highway Patrol seized \$133,000 in U.S. currency and money orders from three Mexican males on I-75 north in Venice, Sarasota County. The three subjects were traveling in a

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area follows previous reporting of numerous suspect flights fading in the areas south of Naco and Agua Prieta during April.

(Source: INS Douglas)

- o Open source reporting from Mexico indicates that Calexico, California, situated across from the Imperial Valley of California has begun to rival Florida as the principal entrance point for cocaine into the United States. The lawless border area is ideal for night incursions and recently has seen a series of violent incidents, many related to drug trafficking.

(Source: Open Sources)

Caribbean, Bahamas, and Gulf of Mexico

- o The DEA Country Office in Nassau, Bahamas, reported that over the last 6 months there has been a substantial increase in the amount of cocaine and marijuana smuggled from Jamaica through the Bahamas en route to the United States. Pilots are using Jamaica as a base of operations due to lack of radar to detect flights flying north from Jamaica. Departure from Jamaica is aided by a corrupt air traffic controller who allows pilots to activate flight plans from a clandestine strip even though the

plan designates the Kingston airport as the point of origin. The pilots overfly Cuba and airdrop the drugs either inside the Cuban Air Defense Identification Zone or beyond in the Bahamas.

(Source: DEA Nassau)

South America

- o The constitutional court in Colombia declared on May 5 that so-called personal drug doses are not illegal in Colombia. Individuals may legally possess the following amounts for personal consumption: 20 grams of marijuana, 1 gram of cocaine, 5 grams of hashish, and 4 grams of methacholine (metacualona).

(Source: Open Sources)

- o Colombian cocaine traffickers continue to solicit airline employees of international commercial air carriers who have established routes in Colombia. The preferred method of concealing and smuggling the cocaine is by checked luggage. The cocaine is marked/tagged with a baggage claim ticket and offloaded by the handler. The handler then places the luggage in the baggage claim area where an unidentified person with a matching claim ticket picks up the cocaine.

(Source: DEA Bogota)

EX-10
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May 1, 1994

[REDACTED]

SIGNIFICANT ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

This section contains succinct narrative intelligence capsules by geographic area of significant drug enforcement activity. Each separate enforcement action, besides being addressed in the narrative, is plotted alphabetically on a corresponding map.

Significant enforcement activity reported in this section is based on information available at EPIC and should not be considered all inclusive. Information on seizures, with controlled deliveries pending, will not be published in this report without the prior approval of the agency reporting the seizure. Therefore, please bear in mind that significant enforcement activities may have occurred without being reflected in this report.

Also, information on foreign seizures may not be immediately available due to delays in receiving reporting from foreign offices.

United States and Canada

A. The Pennsylvania State Police seized \$393,415 from a Latin male driving a 1988 Nissan Stanza station wagon with Michigan plates en route to Patterson, New Jersey, on I-80 east in Carbon County on March 15. The currency was found in a false compartment located under the rear of the vehicle. Access could be gained by removing the spare tire.

way of Los Angeles. The cocaine was

[REDACTED]

Markings included a picture of a scorpion or the word "Clinton."

B. USCS and U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) members seized 113 kilograms of cocaine and arrested one crew member aboard the Haitian freighter [REDACTED] on March 16. The cocaine was concealed in the wall of a crew member's room. The vessel had arrived from Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

D. The Harrison County Sheriff's Office in Mississippi seized approximately 251 kilograms of marijuana on I-10 east in Gulfport on March 17. A Latin male resident of Weslaco, Texas, was driving a Peterbilt tractor-trailer, both of which had Texas plates, en route to Tampa, Florida, from Weslaco.

[REDACTED]

C. The Nevada Highway Patrol seized 60 kilograms of cocaine on I-15 north in Clark County on March 16. Two Latin males were traveling in a 1981 Ford truck disguised as a rental company vehicle with Pennsylvania plates en route to New Jersey from Houston by

E. On March 18, the Tennessee Public Service Commission seized

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approximately 322 kilograms of marijuana on I-75 north in Cleveland, Bradley County, from two males traveling in a Mack tractor-trailer en route to Michigan from El Paso, Texas. The marijuana was located in cardboard boxes in the nose of the trailer along with a stolen Corvette. Found in the sleeper area of the cabin was \$30,000.

F. DEA and USCS Birmingham, Alabama, seized 162 kilograms of marijuana from two subjects near the Birmingham Airport on March 19. Also seized at the airport was a Cessna 310 twin-engine aircraft which was used by the subjects to transport the marijuana from the Austin, Texas, area to Birmingham.

G. The Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office in Louisiana seized 304 grams of crack cocaine from two Louisiana residents on I-10 east in Lake Charles on March 22. The pair were traveling in a 1992 Isuzu Rodeo with Louisiana plates en route from Houston. The crack was hidden in the console between the front seats.

H. The Maryland State Police seized 598 grams of crack cocaine on March 23 from two Brooklyn, New York, residents. The two black males were traveling southbound on I-95 in Harford County in a 1986 Audi 5000. The contraband was inside a travel bag located in the trunk of the vehicle.

I. The Virginia State Police seized 681 grams of crack cocaine from two black males who were traveling southbound on I-81 in Rockingham County near Harrisonburg en route to Mount Airy, North Carolina, from Brooklyn, New York. The driver and his passenger were traveling in a rented 1986 Dodge 600. The crack cocaine was concealed

under the insulation on the front corners of the hood. The two packages were each wrapped in a thin layer of plastic which was smeared with an oily substance and sealed with silver duct tape.

J. The Sacramento, California, Police Department seized 114 kilograms of cocaine from a Latin male driving a Ford Aerostar with Missouri plates on I-5 north in Sacramento on March 24 en route to Stamford, Connecticut, from Los Angeles, California. The cocaine was concealed in three false compartments located in the roof liner of the vehicle. Markings on the cocaine packages were "Special Quality" and "Metro."

K. The Arizona Department of Public Safety seized \$141,260 from two white males traveling in a 1990 Cadillac eastbound on I-10 in Pima County near Tucson on March 24. The currency was found in a suitcase and duffel bag.

L. The Illinois State Police, in conjunction with the Interstate Commerce Commission, seized over 509 kilograms of marijuana on March 24 from the sole occupant of a 1991 Ford truck with Texas plates en route to South Bend, Indiana, from San Antonio, Texas. The marijuana was concealed behind a false wall located in the front of the cargo area of the truck. In order to access the 48 bundles of marijuana, plywood panels had to be removed.

M. On March 25, the Florida Highway Patrol seized \$173,264 from a white couple traveling southbound on US 27 in Polk County near Haines City in a 1985 Ford with Florida plates. Three weapons were also seized.

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cocaine, and 92 kilograms of marijuana in Springfield from a Latin female on March 29. The drugs were found inside cardboard boxes in the cargo area of a Ford F-350 rental truck with Washington plates. The boxes were placed among clothing, furniture, car parts, and a motorcycle. Some of the marijuana was packaged in 10-pound bricks taped together with a 1-kilogram package of cocaine and two packages of heroin. The subject, a Brownsville, Texas, resident was en route to Dayton, Ohio, from McAllen, Texas.

[REDACTED]

U. On March 30, the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) seized a total of 892 kilograms of marijuana from two Mexican males traveling in Chevrolet pickups pulling horse trailers with Texas plates. One pickup, a 1986 Chevrolet dually, had 430 kilograms and the other pickup, a 1985 Chevrolet dually, had 462 kilograms, both concealed in false compartments located in the floor of the horse trailers. The subjects were from Brownsville, Texas, and were traveling northbound on FM-1017 in Hidalgo County near San Manuel. They were en route to Houston from La Villa, Texas.

W. On March 30, the Beaumont, Texas, Police Department seized approximately 205 kilograms of marijuana from a Greer, South Carolina, resident. The male subject was eastbound on I-10 in Jefferson County en route to Greenville, South Carolina, from Rio Grande City, Texas. He was driving a rented Lincoln Town Car. The marijuana was found in the trunk of the vehicle.

X. The USCS in West Palm Beach seized approximately 259 kilograms of cocaine from a shipment of Bugle Boy shorts that arrived aboard the commercial vessel [REDACTED] from Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic, on March 31. The seizure was based on information from USCS Houston that a shipment of stolen wearing apparel from the Dominican Republic was destined for West Palm Beach. No arrests were reported.

Y. On March 31, the California Highway Patrol seized 3,302 grams of crack cocaine from three black Richmond, California, residents. The subjects were eastbound on I-40 in San Bernardino County en route to Dallas, Texas, from Richmond. They were traveling in a rented 1994 Chevrolet Lumina van with California plates. The contraband was found inside a 5-gallon ice chest in the vehicle.

V. The California Highway Patrol seized 40 kilograms of cocaine on March 30 from a black male who was eastbound on I-40 in San Bernardino County driving a 1989 Lincoln Town Car with Virginia plates en route to Brooklyn, New York, from Los Angeles, California.

Z. USCS San Diego, DEA Oceanside, and the Carlsbad, California, Police Department seized approximately 325 kilograms of marijuana concealed in a hidden compartment within an unidentified 26-foot fishing boat at the INS/BP checkpoint at San Clemente, California, on April 3. The boat, a boat

[REDACTED]

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Current Development

CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

United States and Canada

- Cocaine seizures in the United States along the South Texas border in March were limited to 88 kilograms seized in three incidents. Two seizures, totaling 77 kilograms, occurred in San Antonio and the third occurred at the Falfurrias, Texas, INS/Border Patrol (INS/BP) checkpoint. Although these seizures suggest only limited cocaine smuggling along the South Texas border, seizures in Mexico of cocaine coming to the South Texas border indicate more extensive smuggling. In March, approximately 5 metric tons of cocaine were seized in Mexico en route to Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, and the McAllen, Texas, area.
(Source: EPIC)
- A trafficking organization based in Chicago smuggles 150 to 200 kilograms of Mexican black tar heroin monthly from the State of Durango, Mexico, through the Texas ports of entry (POE's) at Eagle Pass, Laredo, and El Paso in false compartments of passenger vehicles. In Chicago, the heroin is stashed in rented garages and businesses controlled by the group. Proceeds from the heroin sales are sent back to Mexico through El Paso and Laredo. The group reportedly controls heroin distribution in California, Texas, and the Midwest.
(Source: DEA Laredo)
- Methamphetamine and ephedrine smuggling into the United States from Mexico appears to be increasing. Six seizures during March, four in February, and three in January occurred at the California POE's at Calexico and San Ysidro. The drugs were in false compartments of passenger vehicles in amounts of 15 to 25 kilograms. Mexican officials are also reporting ephedrine seizures. During February, 51 kilograms of ephedrine were seized from a vehicle coming out of Guadalajara, Jalisco, and 92 kilograms of ephedrine were seized from a vehicle being driven from an unknown location in Nayarit. These loads were probably en route to the border. These seizures may indicate that Mexican traffickers are involved in manufacturing methamphetamine as well as selling ephedrine to illegal labs in the United States.
(Source: EPIC)
- Although the Caborca, Sonora-based [redacted] organization recently experienced a temporary disruption to its transportation networks in Mexico and the United States because of financial difficulties, the group is reported to be again conducting business as usual. Associates of the [redacted] organization are reported to be smuggling large quantities of cocaine and marijuana through the Tohono O'Odham Indian Reservation in Arizona from staging areas in Caborca, Sonora. The group has contacts with the Mexican Federal Judicial Police (MFJP) and the Sonora State Police and many of their drug shipments are flown to Rancho

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Escondido and/or Rancho Veracruz near Caborca from areas in Sinaloa. Local Indians are reportedly contracted for \$100 per pound to move drugs across the border through the reservation.

(Source: DEA Tucson)

- o A resident of San Antonio, Texas, is trading AK-47 rifles for marijuana in Mexico and smuggling it west of Laredo, Texas, by backpackers. The marijuana is put on vehicles and taken to a stash site on a ranch south of San Antonio.

(Source: DEA Laredo)

- o A possible airdrop was reported in the early morning hours of April 14 near Beaumont, Texas. Witnesses observed an aircraft flying low with lights out dropping an object or objects to a wooded area. The suspect aircraft was not detected on radar, and a subsequent search by U.S. Customs Service (USCS) interdiction aircraft was negative.

(Source: C3I East)

- o On April 9, DEA Miami seized a Cessna 310 twin-engine aircraft at Opa-Locka Airport, Miami, Florida. The aircraft was outfitted for smuggling and long-range flights with the installation of three auxiliary fuel tanks, new engines, and a short take off and landing kit. It is believed that the owner/pilot of this aircraft had planned to use it for transporting cocaine loads from Colombia to Canada for eventual distribution in the United States.

(Source: DEA Miami)

- o An airdrop may have occurred on March 21 off the coast of Long Island,

New York. An executive jet-type aircraft was observed conducting an airdrop of unidentified packages off the north coast of Long Island to Long Island Sound, north of the Lloyd's Harbor area. The use of executive jets in air smuggling has previously been reported by intelligence sources. This is, however, the first report of this type aircraft possibly being used for airdrop purposes. It may be technically feasible for an executive jet with a rear cargo/baggage compartment door located under the fuselage to effect an airdrop with rudimentary modification to the door.

(Source: FAA New York)

Mexico and Central America

- o HUMINT reporting indicates a major trafficking group is using a transportation route that originates in Bacum, Sonora, Mexico, where aircraft offload their cargo at numerous clandestine airstrips in the area. It is unknown if the aircraft route originates in Colombia or southern Mexico. From Bacum, Sonora, the cocaine is transported to Hermosillo, Sonora, and on to Agua Prieta, Sonora. The cocaine may also be transported from Bacum to Nuevo Casas Grandes, Chihuahua, and then to Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua. The cocaine is generally transported via these routes by tractor-trailers equipped with hidden compartments and carrying farm animals. This group also uses delivery trucks from a milk company with plants in Nuevo Casas Grandes and Ciudad Juarez when transporting loads of cocaine in the vicinity of Ciudad Juarez.

(Source: American Consulate Hermosillo)

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o On April 7, C3I West detected a primary air suspect track of interest 1 mile northwest of Pueblito, Chihuahua, Mexico. The target was reportedly 10 miles in trail of a scheduled inbound flight to Presidio, Texas. When the suspect target was within 14 miles of the border, it reversed its course and landed 4 miles northeast of Delicias, Chihuahua. This activity occurred in the area known as "The Window," an airspace allegedly used by cocaine traffickers and by aircraft that "piggyback" for border crossing. Previous intelligence reporting indicated that this airspace was used by American pilots who were met by Mexican aircraft and led to a specific airstrip to transfer cocaine. The U.S. aircraft then would depart and fly up to "The Window." This area was believed to be controlled by an organization that operated in the Presidio, Texas/Ojinaga, Chihuahua, Mexico, area.

(Source: C3I West)

- o On March 17, a Beechcraft King Air flew a western Caribbean route to the area of Santa Maria Zoquitlan, Oaxaca, where it conducted a night airdrop of approximately 36 bundles of cocaine at a clandestine airstrip and returned to Colombia on a reciprocal route. Mexican authorities recovered two bundles containing 50 kilograms of cocaine. On February 13, a suspect aircraft flew the same route to Zoquitlan, Oaxaca, where the traffickers aborted the operation and jettisoned the load of cocaine due to law enforcement in the area. According to [REDACTED] a drug operation involving a DC-6

occurred at this location in December of 1993.

(Source: DEA Mexico City)

Central America

- o The Cali Cartel allegedly has an organization in Panama to coordinate shipments of cocaine and heroin from Colombia through Panama to the United States and Europe. The group moves 200 to 300 kilograms of cocaine and 5 to 10 kilograms of heroin weekly, storing the drugs in an apartment in Panama City and shipping them through the Colon Free Zone in containers or in cargo shipments from the international airport. They also purportedly use members of the U.S. military as couriers.

(Source: EPIC)

South America

- o [REDACTED] allegedly contracts merchant seamen of various nationalities on merchant vessels to transport drug shipments from the Colombian port-cities of Barranquilla, Cartagena, and Santa Marta to the United States and Spain. Once the boats arrive in these countries, a contact at the port receives the drug shipments. The general manager and owner of [REDACTED] allegedly a member of the Medellin drug trafficking network responsible for orchestrating the drug shipments sent by [REDACTED]

(Source: EPIC)

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SIGNIFICANT ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

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Also, information on foreign seizures may not be immediately available due to delays in receiving reporting from foreign offices.

United States

- A. The Nebraska State Patrol seized 238 kilograms of cocaine on February 15 from two Latin males on I-80 eastbound in Sarpy County traveling in a rented commercial truck with Colorado plates en route to New York from Los Angeles. The cocaine was concealed in boxes in the front of the cargo area behind a load of furniture. Markings included "Herbalife," "The First," "Horseshoe," "Craftsman" with a red tractor, "Cross" with a motorcycle, and "Kramman."
- B. On February 15, the Bay City, Texas, Police Department seized approximately 282 kilograms of marijuana from two males traveling northbound in a tractor-trailer on State Road 35. The tractor had Alabama plates while the refrigerated trailer, containing onions and cabbage, had Georgia plates. The 91 packages of marijuana, found in a false ceiling of the trailer, were placed on pallets, wrapped in clear cellophane, and covered with a white powder. When the false compartment was first penetrated, an officer developed temporary respiratory problems after breathing in the powder, which was later found to be lime.
- C. The California Highway Patrol seized approximately 451 kilograms of marijuana on February 16 from two Mexican males on I-8 in San Diego County traveling east in a 1982 GMC K-350 truck with California plates. The marijuana was concealed in the bed of the truck under several wooden boards.
- D. On February 16, the California Highway patrol seized \$143,000 on I-5 southbound in Merced County from a Latin couple traveling in a 1989 Nissan 200Z with California plates en route to Los Angeles from San Francisco. The currency was found in a bag in the trunk. A loaded semiautomatic weapon was found under the driver's seat.

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CURRENT DEVELOPMENT

4/1/84

United States and Canada

- o The DEA Blaine, Washington, Resident Office has received information from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police indicating that traffickers are attempting to secure remote and/or abandoned airstrips located in isolated areas of British Columbia, Canada. The implications are that these locations will be utilized to fly large cargo-sized aircraft directly into Canada from South America.
(Source: DEA Seattle)
- o Traffickers are transporting loads of 30 to 50 pounds of marijuana per vehicle from the Mexican border area to Denver. The traffickers are able to buy marijuana for about \$300 per pound and sell it in Denver for \$1,000 to 1,200 per pound. The drivers have little or no money and use less traveled roads in Colorado to avoid possible interdiction efforts. Information indicates that marijuana seizures are on the increase in Colorado.
(Source: DEA Colorado Springs)
- o Drug traffickers are utilizing more northerly routes, particularly I-80, avoiding such States as Missouri, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas which have been known to have active interdiction efforts. Reportedly, Denver is becoming a large distribution point for drugs and currency.
(Source: EPIC)
- o Increased enforcement by the INS/Border Patrol (INS/BP) in Nogales, Arizona, is forcing drug smugglers to alter their methods of operation in that area. An operation, similar to Operation "Hold the Line" in El Paso began on February 12 and is expected to continue through May. The INS/BP has concentrated most of its agents on roads and fence holes along a 1-mile stretch of the United States/Mexico Border east and west of the Nogales Port of Entry (POE). Searches of trains, private vehicles, buses, and taxis along I-19 and other highways and roads leading north from Nogales, Naco, and Douglas have also been increased. Since the operation began, law enforcement officials at the Nogales POE have increasingly encountered drugs, principally marijuana, unconcealed in the trunks or behind the seats of vehicles. As in El Paso, drug smuggling outside of the boundaries of the operation and violence, aimed primarily at INS/BP Agents, have also escalated since the operation began. POE's in the Nogales area are also reporting an increase in interceptions of fraudulent documents from subjects attempting entry into the United States.
(Source: INS/BP Nogales)
- o DEA Agents seized 987 kilograms of cocaine on February 17 from a residence in Los Angeles and arrested four Colombian nationals from Medellin. According to DEA, this was only a small portion of a 10-metric-ton load this newly established organization was in the process of receiving.
(Source: DEA Los Angeles)
- o An associate of the [redacted] organization is attempting to smuggle

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DEA SENSITIVE

large amounts of cocaine through the Calexico POE in passenger vehicles. The cocaine is obtained in Nayarit, Mexico, and is stored at a business in Mexicali, Baja California Norte. The loads are then taken to a stash house in San Bernardino County.
(Source: DEA Calexico)

- o A trafficking group in Mexicali, Baja California Norte, received 15 tons of cocaine from Colombian sources in January and planned to begin smuggling it through the Calexico, California, POE in 300-kilogram loads in passenger vehicles four to five times per week to a stash site in the Imperial Valley. From there, it is to be driven by tractor-trailer or flown to Los Angeles. Cocaine seizures at the Calexico POE over the past several weeks have been in the 20- to 50-kilogram range.
(Source: DEA Calexico and EPIC)
- o A trafficking group in Laredo, Texas, is awaiting the arrival of several tons of cocaine from Veracruz, Mexico, where it arrives by vessel. The cocaine is transported by unknown means to a stash site at either Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, Mexico, or Laredo. From the stash site, loads are driven to Houston and possibly Tennessee where the group has previously smuggled marijuana.
(Source: DEA Laredo)
- o Intelligence received at EPIC indicates that cocaine, heroin, and marijuana will be transported through El Paso area POE's in tires of a Chevrolet Suburban; in luggage, or trunks of 1982-87 Mercury, Chevrolet, and Ford passenger vehicles; a 1987 Dodge van; and beneath the paneling of a 1978 Dodge recreational vehicle. The drugs will be

taken to interim stash sites in Denver, Colorado, and Las Cruces, New Mexico, before being sent to Los Angeles and Illinois. One cocaine load is coming from Belize.

(Source: DEA El Paso and Albuquerque and INS/BP El Paso)

Bahamas, Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico

- o Jamaica continues to play a major role in the Caribbean as a source country for marijuana and now appears to be emerging as a significant cocaine transshipment point as well. Reporting indicates that the Bahamas is usually the recipient of drugs coming out of Jamaica via private aircraft. The direct flights between the two countries sometimes originate in the Bahamas. The aircraft is flown to Jamaica where it is unloaded with cocaine or marijuana and then flown back to the Bahamas where an airdrop is conducted to awaiting vessels, usually near Cuban territorial waters. The aircraft then lands somewhere in the Bahamas with no contraband on board. This scenario has worked well for the traffickers, and they will no doubt continue to use it. The Turks and Caicos Islands have also been identified as a transshipment point for cocaine and marijuana leaving Jamaica going to the Bahamas.
(Source: EPIC)
- o Although there have been no airdrops reported in the Windward Islands so far this year, reporting indicated that the islands of Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent, and Trinidad may be used as airdrop sites. The two main traffickers utilizing these islands are based in Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent. Their main contacts for further transshipment are located in Saint Martin, but Antigua was also

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reported. Additionally, the traffickers each have a direct link to the U.S. market with one having contacts in the U.S. Virgin Islands and the other in New York.

(Source: DEA Bridgetown)

- o Reporting indicated that loads of cocaine, possibly up to 1,000 kilograms, are being flown from Colombia into Haiti by jet prop aircraft. Once the cocaine reaches Haiti, it is transferred to sailing vessels for the final trip to the United States. Previously, military personnel in Cap Haitien were allegedly involved in making arrangements for cocaine shipments to be unloaded at the airport and flown directly to West Palm Beach, Florida.

(Source: DEA Nassau, Bahamas)

Mexico and Central America

- o The decline in general aviation activity in Mexico which began circa the fourth quarter of CY92 continues. The indicators for the first quarter of CY94 reflect an extremely low level of activity. This decline is possibly attributed to several factors previously reported including the following: (1) the use of Global Positioning Systems which allows traffickers to easily locate remote landing and airdrop areas, (2) the practice of strict communication security during flights which lessens the chances of interdiction, (3) the reduced use of the traditional twin-engine aircraft and increased use of larger cargo-type aircraft which may be entering Mexico on legitimate flight plans, and (4) the widespread corruption of Mexican and Colombian officials, as well as air traffic controllers and airport personnel. Additionally, the presence of numerous law enforcement officials and

military authorities in Chiapas, a favored drug smuggling area, may have deterred some smuggling ventures during this quarter.

(Source: EPIC)

- o Unconfirmed reporting indicates the Costa Rican Technical Customs Division (DITA) is investigating the importation of large quantities of isopropyl alcohol for possible fiscal irregularities and potential links to drug trafficking. This chemical substance presumably can be used to process cocaine, crack, and other drugs. DITA personnel suspect that a cocaine lab may be operating in Costa Rica. According to reports, this type of alcohol cannot be used for medical or industrial (liquor production) purposes. The alcohol was presumably shipped from El Salvador. Furthermore, it was described as a solvent on the list of suspected precursor chemicals.

(Source: USCG Alameda)

- o The [redacted] has at least three individuals in Panama who deliver cocaine and heroin from Buenaventura, Colombia, to Panama City, Panama. The organization in Panama receives loads of 200 to 300 kilograms of cocaine and 5 to 10 kilograms of heroin weekly from Colombia. The cocaine is stored in an apartment in Panama City awaiting further transportation to Colon, Panama. The majority of cocaine exported from Panama is sent out via the Colon Free Zone. Marine shipping of free zone merchandise with cocaine hidden in containers is a heavily utilized method, as well as aerial shipments on cargo flights from Tocumen International Airport, Panama. This organization has also used U.S. military

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personnel as couriers to transport drugs from Panama to the United States. (Source: DIA)

station wagon which had arrived as containerized cargo aboard the [redacted] (Source: EPIC)

South America

o Over 7,000 kilograms of cocaine have been seized during the first 3 months of CY94 from commercial maritime cargo shipments originating in Venezuela. Commodities included such items as heavy equipment and blocks of recycled aluminum cans. United States arrival ports were Philadelphia and Miami, but the majority of seizures occurred at European ports in France, England, and the Netherlands. Of particular interest are two seizures that occurred in Europe. In the first incident, 1,585 kilograms of marijuana and 306 kilograms of cocaine were seized on February 24 in La Havre, France. The cocaine was discovered in the hull of a catamaran being shipped in a container aboard the vessel [redacted] to the Netherlands via France. In the second incident, 41 kilograms of cocaine were seized in Amsterdam, Netherlands, on February 28. The cocaine was discovered in a 1983 Volvo

Europe

o The DEA Vienna Country Office has reported the seizure of 2 kilograms of cocaine and arrests of a Slovenian, a Croatian, and a Bosnian by Slovenian counterparts [redacted] information also revealed that the couple had been assisted by officials at the Bolivian airport who had been bribed. (Source: DEA Vienna)

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DEA SENSITIVE

CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

2/1/94

United States and Canada

- o Since Operation "Hold the Line," a virtual blockade of the border at El Paso, Texas, by the (INS/BP), began on September 19, 1993, alien and drug smuggling have increased beyond the blockade, east of El Paso, especially in the Fabens, Texas, area. Drug seizures have increased 272 percent in November 1993 from November 1992, and alien seizures have increased 297 percent in this area alone. Tracking by the INS/BP has discovered indications of increased successful crossings by both alien and drug smugglers. Drug and alien trafficking is expected to increase in the Fabens area as smugglers, who normally use areas closer to the city of El Paso, become more familiar with the Fabens crossing.
(Source: INS/BP El Paso)
- o Violence has recently been directed against INS/BP Agents in El Paso. On December 24, an agent patrolling the river border between El Paso and Juarez, Chihuahua, in his service vehicle was struck with a fist-sized rock hurled through the closed window of the vehicle. The agent required 10 stitches to close the wound in his head. Two days later, another agent patrolling the river area at night near downtown El Paso was shot at with a pellet rifle from the Mexican side of the river. The agent was unharmed but three pellets struck the service vehicle. The next night more pellets were fired, striking the windshield and hood of another service vehicle. Because of Operation "Hold the Line" being conducted by the INS/BP, attacks against agents are expected to escalate,
prompting a proposal by the INS/BP to erect a 3/4-mile reinforced chain link fence on the U.S. side of the river in front of the copper smelter. This is the second proposed barricade in addition to the solid steel wall that is planned to be built in Sunland Park, New Mexico.
(Source: INS/BP El Paso)
- o A cocaine transportation group based in El Paso is smuggling multitonns of cocaine from Juarez in various vehicles through the El Paso ports of entry (POE's) and possibly by backpackers and vehicles through the Anapra and Sunland Park, New Mexico, areas. The cocaine is taken to a stash site in El Paso and amassed into a truckload shipment for further distribution to interior U.S. cities. Shipments are safeguarded by transporters using AK-47 rifles and semiautomatic pistols. Transportation managers use hand-held radios to remain in constant communication with the drug movers.
(Source: DEA El Paso)
- o A transportation group in the Cameron County, Texas, area is moving significant quantities of both marijuana and cocaine from the Rio Grande Valley area to distribution sites in Houston and Chicago. The group lists at least one long-established trafficking organization as one of their customers and usually receives a percentage of the shipment as payment for its transportation services. Crossing points of entry used by the transporters are unknown at this time. Recently, the group was reportedly entrusted to deliver approximately 2,300 kilograms of marijuana to Houston. The group

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normally transport marijuana within private or commercial tractor-trailers hauling legitimate cargo. A different method of operation is used to transport cocaine. The cocaine is delivered by tractor-trailers to a ranch in the Corpus Christi, Texas, area. From the ranch, the cocaine is reportedly placed in a local company's pickups, transported to an unknown airstrip, placed in private aircraft, and flown to the Chicago area. The group is allegedly capable of handling 300 to 600 kilograms of cocaine per month.

(Source: DEA Brownsville)

- o A drug trafficking organization operating out of Phoenix is reportedly responsible for the importation of large quantities of cocaine into Arizona and its distribution throughout the United States. The group had been awaiting a 2- to 3-ton cocaine shipment from Mexico before several key members of the organization were recently arrested. The cocaine was to have been concealed in tractor-trailers transporting shipments of cameras or camera equipment and crossed into the United States via an Arizona POE, possibly Nogales. It is unknown whether the cocaine smuggling operation will continue as planned. The organization has also been known to transport methamphetamine from California to Arizona and has associates in Colorado, Utah, Texas, and Mexico.
(Source: DEA Phoenix)

- o The U.S. Forest Service reported that airdrops may be occurring in the area of Alpine, California, along the Japatul Road in the Cleveland National Forest. Reporting indicated there may be as many as three aircraft involved. No actual airdrops have been observed, but during the past 3 months numerous low-flying

aircraft have been sighted in the area, and it is believed that illegal airdrop activity may be taking place. EPIC has received several reports of possible airdrops occurring in this area over the past 2 years.

(Source: U.S. Forest Service)

- o Large ships carrying illegal Chinese immigrants have not recently been detected arriving on U.S. shores. Officials of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) say the absence of the large vessels is a result of tougher enforcement and horror stories trickling back to China about the fates of the smuggler ships. INS officials are not sure whether the overall number of illegal Chinese immigrants is down or if Asian smuggling organizations are rerouting their customers, many of whom pay up to \$30,000 for an opportunity to live in the United States. Information indicates that illegal Chinese immigrants were crossing from Mexico after landing in Honduras and elsewhere in Central America. Also, Chinese are making their way to Puerto Rico after landing in the Dominican Republic. Once in Puerto Rico, they can board flights for the U.S. mainland without undergoing immigration inspection.

(Source: USCG Alameda)

Mexico and Central America

- o In an apparent response to the rebellion in the State of Chiapas in southern Mexico, the Mexican Army will increase its presence near the South Texas border with Mexico. The Mexican newspaper, [redacted] reported on January 4 that the military buildup along the border is an effort to interdict weapons smuggled into Mexico from the United States. In addition to the increased military presence, Mexican customs personnel at interior

Mexico checkpoints have been instructed to confiscate any item heading for southern Mexico which could be used by the rebel [redacted] up. Items noted for possible confiscation include medical supplies, communications equipment, and communications-related spare parts. Indications are that the Nuevo Laredo, Nuevo Leon, area and possibly the entire Mexican border will be patrolled by Army units for the duration of the uprising in Chiapas. A significant presence of the Mexican military along the border may also have an impact on smuggling of drugs and aliens into the United States. (Source: INS/BP Laredo)

- o A drug transportation group in Mexicali, Baja California Norte, has recently taken control of several tons of cocaine belonging to the [redacted] organization, and will attempt to smuggle 300-kilogram loads through rural areas of the California border. The [redacted] organization has acquired land in Mexico adjoining the U.S. border near Jacumba, California, an area that has had a recent increase in cross-border activity. (Source: DEA Calexico)

- o An organization based in Tala, Jalisco, is smuggling cocaine, marijuana, and heroin into the United States by land and sea. The group operates cocaine and heroin labs in San Juan de los Arcos, Jalisco. The drugs are smuggled by vessel from Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, to the California coast, or by land conveyances through California POE's. The organization, operated primarily by Mexican nationals living in the United States, has distributors in Chicago, Indianapolis, Houston, Sacramento, and locations throughout southern California. (Source: DEA Sacramento)

- o Tijuana-based drug trafficking organizations such as the [redacted] organizations, as well as others, reportedly own and operate various car dealerships and auto repair shops as fronts for drug smuggling. The [redacted] organization reportedly owns a repair shop which builds hidden compartments inside the driveshafts of vehicles. Up to 10 kilograms of drugs can fit inside the driveshaft without hindering the operation of the vehicle. (Source: DEA San Diego)

- o The [redacted] transportation group, associated with the [redacted] organization, is reportedly in control of 12 tons of cocaine in Mexicali, Baja California Norte, and may have also recently received a very large shipment of cocaine in Ensenada, Baja California Norte, which it is planning to smuggle through the San Ysidro, California, POE. (Source: DEA Calexico and San Diego)

- o An airdrop of approximately 10 bundles was conducted from a Cessna Conquest 441 over mountainous terrain near Chacalapa, Oaxaca, Mexico, during the evening of December 15. The aircraft made three passes flying at a low altitude. Ground personnel with vehicles were able to retrieve part of the load; however, some of the bales burst upon impact. The Cessna involved is believed to be the same aircraft that successfully landed and offloaded in the State of Guerrero, Mexico, on December 5. (Source: DEA Mexico City)

- o On December 19, a twin-engine, low-wing aircraft airdropped approximately 15 bundles during three low-level passes over Rio Lacantun, Chiapas, near the Mexico/Guatemala border. The airdrop

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site was marked with flashing strobe lights by the trafficker ground crew. Individuals in two small boats were observed retrieving the floating bundles and a truck on the riverbank was flashing its lights. No arrests or seizures were reported.

(Source: DEA Mexico City)

- o Late reporting indicated that an abandoned Cessna 206B had crashed near Pachuca, Hidalgo, Mexico, in mid-November. The aircraft was in the area trying to locate a safe storage area for a large load of cocaine being transported by a tractor-trailer from Tapachula, Chiapas. The cocaine was to be taken north from Pachuca to Tijuana, Baja California.
(Source: DEA Mexico City)

- o Since 1991, the Leeward Islands, which include the United States and British Virgin Islands, Anguilla, Antigua, Barbua, St. Kitts-Nevis, Montserrat, Guadeloupe, Dominica, and the Dutch/French Island of St. Martin in the Eastern Caribbean, have experienced dramatic increases in drug smuggling activity. From 1991 to 1992, seizures of cocaine and marijuana in the Leeward Islands increased 2,000 percent, and this trend continued in 1993. As of December 9, 1993, cocaine seizures totaled 3,072 kilograms and marijuana seizures totaled 19,423 kilograms. Throughout the entire Caribbean, only Puerto Rico has had more cocaine seized in 1993 than that seized in the Leeward Islands.

(Source: DEA Headquarters)

- o During the last quarter of 1993, airdrops were down slightly in the Bahamas, but up by about the same margin in the Eastern Caribbean. Airdrop activity in the Bahamas remained concentrated along the southern edge of the Bahamas near Cuban

territorial waters. In the Eastern Caribbean, airdrop activity shifted slightly westward with approximately two-thirds of the drops occurring in the Puerto Rico/Virgin Islands area. The average cocaine load size for airdrops in the Caribbean and the Bahamas during the quarter was over 500 kilograms.

(Source: EPIC)

- o Recent intelligence indicated that one Colombian cocaine trafficking group, the [REDACTED] family, is in the process of selling all aircraft they are associated with or secretly own to the [REDACTED]. The traffickers reportedly do not want anything more to do with aircraft because of the pressure being put on air smuggling activities by DEA in the United States, Colombia, and Mexico. In mid-December DEA Fort Lauderdale seized a Gates Learjet 36A at the Hollywood-Fort Lauderdale International Airport in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The aircraft was owned by [REDACTED] which is reportedly controlled by [REDACTED].

The aircraft, valued at approximately \$3 million, was equipped with extensive avionics. Additionally, traffickers are finding it more difficult to acquire and utilize aircraft because of increased radar assets targeting Colombia.

(Source: DEA Bogota)

United States and Canada

- o According to DEA San Diego, a heroin trafficking organization in San Diego is dealing kilogram quantities of Mexican black tar heroin on a weekly basis. The heroin is transported from Caborca, Sonora, to Tijuana, Baja California Norte, and smuggled into the United States through the San Ysidro, California, Port of Entry (POE). Drivers are recruited in Caborca and instructed to drive passenger vehicles to an unknown stash house in San Diego County where the drug is further distributed.
(Source: DEA San Diego)

On November 19, the U.S. Customs Service (USCS) arrested a North Fort Myers couple on a 12-count indictment for cocaine smuggling, and seized an estimated \$7 million in real estate, aircraft, vehicles, and construction equipment. The seized assets were acquired with profits from cocaine smuggling from Colombia to the west coast of Florida by aircraft. It is believed that between 1987 and 1992 approximately 4,000 kilograms of cocaine were smuggled into the United States during various trafficking ventures, including flights directly into a private airpark in North Fort Myers. The real estate, including the primary residence and four pieces of property located in Fort Myers and Marathon, Florida, is valued at \$5 million. Other items seized include 8 aircraft with a combined value of \$515,000, 10 aircraft hangars at an airpark valued at \$554,000, a boat valued at \$50,000, 7 construction vehicles including a fuel tanker truck, and 12 miscellaneous vehicles.
(Source: USCS Sarasota)

- o An organization is smuggling marijuana from Morelos, Mexico, through South

Texas to Chicago since at least July 1993 when five Chevrolet Celebrities with Illinois plates and false compartments in the trunks were used in a smuggling attempt through the Laredo, Texas, POE. The vehicles crossed within hours or days of each other and were occupied by suspects arranged to look like a family group. In August, similar seizures were made at the Roma and El Paso, Texas, POE's. In September, the group switched from Celebrities to vans, both full size and mini, but continued to use the family group scenario as vehicle occupants. Since early September, seizures possibly related to this organization have occurred at the Laredo and Hidalgo, Texas, POE's and the Falfurrias and Hebronville, Texas, checkpoints. Because of recent seizures, the group can be expected to change to another method of operation.
(Source: EPIC)

- o Activity at crossing points on the Amistad Reservoir south of Comstock, Texas, has increased after approximately 2 years of relative inactivity. It is believed drug smugglers may be staging their operations near Becerro, Coahuila, a small fishing village near Zuberbueller Bend. After crossing, the smugglers proceed north and use either U.S. Highway 90 or the rail line south of Highway 90 to leave the area. Westbound trains are known to stop periodically at a side rail in the area to allow eastbound trains to pass. During these stops illegal aliens and drugs could be loaded on the trains for transport out of the area.
(Source: INS/BP Del Rio)

- o With the North American Free Trade Agreement going into effect in January,

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increased traffic at border crossings is expected, thus increasing the drug smuggling threat. According to the Director of the Arizona Department of Transportation, officials want to develop an unspecified transportation link between the Port of Guaymas, Sonora, and Phoenix. The Port of Guaymas is a known staging area for drugs coming into the United States across the California and Arizona borders. Mexican officials in Sonora also have plans to improve the POE's at Nogales, Sonoyta, and Naco. An average of 700 trucks cross daily at Nogales. Approximately 2 billion pounds of produce are shipped through Nogales annually. This high volume of cross-border movement of produce and truck traffic is expected to increase, allowing traffickers even more opportunities to smuggle drugs.

(Source: EPIC)

- o A group distributing cocaine for the [redacted] in the Los Angeles area, most of whom are in their twenties and thirties, is referred to as [redacted] and is considered the second generation of Cali traffickers. The group has smuggled large quantities of cocaine into the United States in false floors of tractor-trailers and has shown an interest in starting a livestock business in California as a front for their cocaine smuggling. (Source: DEA Sacramento)

- o The use of maritime refrigerated cargo containers to smuggle drugs is not new. However, with the winter season upon us, importation of winter fruit from South America and the Caribbean is flourishing. Due to the perishability of the product and the enormous quantities imported, it is currently an ideal commodity to be linked to drug smuggling. Sporadic reporting to EPIC also suggests the use of the refrigeration unit of reefer containers for the concealment of drugs. (Source: EPIC)

Caribbean, Bahamas, and Gulf of Mexico

- o The most active of the Bahamian smuggling pilots, [redacted] was arrested on November 18 in Nassau, Bahamas, and is being held awaiting a formal extradition request from the U.S. Department of State. DEA Nassau indicated he may have smuggled by aircraft in excess of 10,000 kilograms of cocaine into the Bahamas for export to the United States while working for a multitude of organizations between 1987 and 1992.

(Source: DEA Nassau)

- o On November 27, approximately 136 kilograms of marijuana and a Piper Aztec were seized during a noon raid by the Jamaica Constabulary Force at an airstrip in Clarendon. The seizure of this aircraft was in response to Jamaican law enforcement detection of several private aircraft landing on clandestine airstrips throughout Jamaica at midday and mid-afternoon during the last 2 months. This method of smuggling has emerged as a new trend employed by smuggling organizations in Jamaica.

(Source: DEA Kingston)

Mexico and Central America

- o A Colombian drug trafficker currently serving a sentence for drug trafficking in the Central Penitentiary in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, recently arranged a transshipment of 1,000 kilograms of cocaine from Colombia to Honduras. The shipment of cocaine, wrapped in impermeable bundles, was to depart the island of San Andres via a twin-engine Commander aircraft. The bundles of cocaine were to be dropped into the ocean somewhere between Comacina and Ugi which are located in the Mosquitia Region of Honduras. Unidentified nationals residing in the United States are in charge of the ground transportation

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and the purchase and sale of the cocaine shipment.

(Source: EPIC)

- o Traffickers in Mexicali, Baja California Norte, continue to smuggle small amounts of cocaine through the Calexico POE in multiple loads of 40 to 50 kilograms. On December 4, USCS Inspectors seized 45 kilograms of cocaine from a passenger vehicle at the Calexico POE, and on December 6, USCS seized 45 kilograms of cocaine from each of three passenger vehicles in just over an hour. The same day, INS/Border Patrol (INS/BP) Agents seized 16 kilograms of cocaine from each of two passenger vehicles at the Palo Verde, California, checkpoint.

(Source: DEA Calexico and EPIC)

- o The Mexican military is supporting counterdrug efforts in northern Sonora. A military helicopter is being used to patrol downtown Nogales, Sonora, and several Mexican military personnel are deployed in Agua Prieta and Naco, Sonora, and at the Benjamin Hill checkpoint where they are arresting as many as 60 suspected drug smugglers daily. Despite the military presence, drug smuggling into Arizona is continuing, particularly into the San Rafael Valley in Arizona from staging areas in Santa Cruz, Sonora.

(Source: USCS Nogales)

- o Several organizations shipping ton quantities of cocaine from the interior of Mexico to Mexicali, Baja California Norte, for eventual shipment into the United States, were recently having problems transiting the San Luis Rio Colorado, Sonora, area. These problems may be related to continuing changes in comandantes, police protection payments required to transit the area, or payments required by the [redacted] organizations, who

allegedly control the San Luis Rio Colorado area.

(Source: DEA Calexico)

- o The former leaders of a Juarez cocaine smuggling group, until recently incarcerated in Amoloya de Juarez maximum security prison in Toluca, Mexico, were transferred under heavy security to a prison in Hermosillo, Sonora, raising speculation that they will soon be released. They were responsible for shipping over 200 tons of cocaine through El Paso, Texas, during 1988 through 1989 (21 tons of which were seized in Sylmar, California, on September 29, 1989) and will apparently renew their activities and manage the Juarez area for the [redacted]

(Source: INS/BP El Paso)

South America

- o The [redacted] uses a distinctive marking to identify maritime containers carrying cocaine for recipients in the United States and Europe. The marking is represented by a flag of three horizontal bands of different colors painted onto the side of the container. The top band is white with a small eagle painted over it. The second band is yellow with the initials "CH.S.J.L." painted on it. The third band consists of red and green vertically painted lines.

(Source: USCG ICC)

- o [redacted] a former associate of [redacted] was shot and killed in Bogota on November 25. He was one of the main witnesses of the Government of Colombia against [redacted] and reportedly a main financier for [redacted]. The shooting may have been ordered by [redacted]. A passenger in the vehicle [redacted] was seriously wounded. Both were known traffickers associated with [redacted]

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members of the [redacted] and were targets of the raids that were conducted against the [redacted] organization in late July.

(Source: DEA Bogota)

- o Intelligence received by Canadian Customs from the United Kingdom reports [redacted]

[redacted]

- o Art work and paintings from around the world are reportedly being used to conceal drug shipments from Colombia. Colombian drug organizations own, or are associated with, international art galleries and businesses. In one instance, art work and/or paintings originating in New York City that would likely not sell are sent to Colombia and then returned to the United States with cocaine loaded into the crates and frames. Furthermore, due to a United States/Colombian bilateral cultural agreement and the delicate nature of the commodity, the USCS is less apt to conduct a destructive examination of the shipments.

(Source: DEA Bogota)

Southeast Asia

- o A number of Nigerians and Americans have been intercepted in Southeast Asia with large quantities of heroin concealed inside leather bags made in Bangkok. It is believed the heroin is placed in the bags at the time of manufacture, leaving no signs of alteration. The bags are taken to Singapore and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, so that couriers' passports do not indicate travel to a source country such as Thailand.

(Source: Canadian Customs)