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Marijuana Encased in Cement Seized by CBP

07/26/2010

San Diego — U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers at the Otay Mesa port cargo facility stopped a suspected drug smuggler's attempt on Saturday to transport across the border more than 425 pounds of marijuana concealed inside a shipment of concrete lawn furniture.

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Concrete item inspected found to conceal package of marijuana

Officers inspected the tractor-trailer and its contents of several pallets loaded with concrete furniture after it entered the port from Mexico at around 12:15 p.m.

A narcotic detector dog alerted to the trailer, which led officers to investigate further. Officers broke into a section of the concrete furniture and discovered a package of marijuana. After a complete inspection, officers removed 122 packages valued at almost \$213,000 encased inside the items.

Andy Brinton, acting director of field operations in San Diego CBP said, "Drug smugglers continue to be more desperate and deceptive in their attempts to bring illicit drugs into our country for sale within our communities. This seizure demonstrates our officers' ability to stop these drugs at the ports while maintaining the flow of legitimate commerce."

CBP seized the tractor-trailer and drugs and turned over the suspected smuggler, a 45-year-old Mexican male, to agents of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection is the unified border agency within the Department of Homeland Security charged with the management, control and protection of our nation's borders at and between the official ports of entry. CBP is charged with keeping terrorists and terrorist weapons out of the country while enforcing hundreds of U.S. laws.

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