



EL PASO INTELLIGENCE CENTER

CONCEALMENT

TACTICAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN EB11-44

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False Utility Trailer Floor

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June 21, 2011

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Two recent incidents have been reported in Texas involving utility trailers with a false compartment built into the floor of the trailer. In one incident, the compartment was used to smuggle illegal aliens and in the other incident, the compartment contained marijuana.

On June 4, 2011, Robstown, Texas, Police Department officers conducted a traffic stop on a pickup truck hauling an 18-foot trailer. During questioning, officers discovered that the trailer had been used in human smuggling operations. The individuals involved disclosed that the trailer was outfitted with a false bottom that can accommodate up to 14 illegal aliens. After the subjects are loaded, the false bottom is installed, and the trailer is filled with watermelons. A cursory inspection of the vehicle during a routine traffic stop may give the appearance of a legitimate transport of watermelons or other products. In this particular case, aliens were being transported from south Texas to Houston, Texas, after paying \$2,000.00 each. (Information and photos courtesy of the Coastal Bend Joint Operations & Intelligence Center)





In a separate incident, on June 3, 2011, U.S. Border Patrol Agents in Laredo, Texas, seized 302.4 pounds of marijuana at the I-35 Checkpoint. The marijuana was concealed in a false compartment similar to the one described above. (Source: Texas Border Operations Sector Assessment 17 June 2011)



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Questions or comments in reference to this bulletin can be directed to the EPIC Research and Analysis Section, Special Projects Unit, Tactical Bulletins Program, I/A Monika Barnum at 915-760-2747, email: Monika.M.Barnum@usdoj.gov or Unit Chief Morgan Holley at 915-760-2024, email: Morgan.H.Holley@usdoj.gov.

Arthur Doty, Director

Approved By: L. D. Villalobos
Chief, NER

Prepared By: I/A Monika Barnum

EPIC/NERS Tactical Intelligence Bulletins Points-of-Contact

- Intelligence Analyst, DEA, Monika Barnum, (915) 760-2747, monika.m.barnum@usdoj.gov
 - Intelligence Analyst, DEA, Jeff Jasek, (915) 760-2445, jeffrey.g.jasek@usdoj.gov
- US Government Contractor, DEA, Fernando Vega, (915) 760-2748, fernando.r.vega@usdoj.gov

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Mailing Address:

El Paso Intelligence Center
11339 SSG Sims Street
El Paso, Texas 79908-8098
Attn: NERS/Tactical Bulletins