



# State of New Mexico

## *Department of Public Safety*

February 18, 2009

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### **Tax Evaders and Drug Smugglers Caught**

**Gallup**— During the period of February 11<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009, the Motor Transportation Police held a continuous 72 hour commercial motor vehicle tax operation at the Gallup port of entry. The primary focus of this special operation was to assist the Taxation and Revenue Department in detecting motor carriers that were delinquent in paying past due weight distance taxes.

A side benefit was hundreds of pounds of smuggled drugs were discovered. Motor Transportation Division police officers and inspectors have discovered more than 226 pounds of cocaine with an estimated street value of nearly 4.5 million dollars and 515 pounds of pot, with a street value of nearly \$620,000, at the port of entry near Gallup.

On Wednesday February 11<sup>th</sup>, truck driver Carlos Jovel (10/1/1965), of Bloomington CA, was arrested after 64kilos of cocaine was found hidden in the trailer. Two separate loads of marijuana weighing a total of 144 pounds were found. Roy and Lily Warren of Memphis TN were arrested for smuggling 86 pounds of pot. Derrick McCray of Spring Field, CA was busted with 60 pounds of buds.

Early the next morning, 61 pounds of coke were discovered in a truck driven by Guadalupe Cardenas-Romero (12/12/1971), of San Diego CA.

Further cocaine smuggling was stopped on Thursday at 4:30 am when MTD Inspectors discovered 22 pounds of cocaine in the cab of the truck driven by Dion Yves (6/23/1967) of Ontario Canada. Yves was transported to the hospital in Gallup because officers believed he had ingested cocaine.

On Friday February 13<sup>th</sup> 371 pounds of concealed contraband was uncovered. Two loads of marijuana were found in trucks driven by Raymond Jumper of Fishers IN, and Hugo Villanueva of Whittier CA.

Saturday was another big day for cocaine seizures. 164 pounds were seized from the truck driven by two men from California.

All the cocaine loads were arrested and turned over to the DEA for further investigation and charges. The marijuana smugglers were arrested on state charges and were booked into the McKinley County Detention Center. State Police Investigations Bureau agents also assisted in this investigation.

### Operation Statistics

Number of commercial motor vehicles processed:	10,100
Number of weight distance account non-filers:	113
Number of weight distance account zero-filers:	114
Number of motor carriers detained for delinquent taxes owed:	42

Total delinquent weight distance taxes collected:	\$ 5,916.95
Total trip tax collected:	\$23,637.04
Total taxes collected:	\$29,553.99

Total Level 1 safety inspections:	40
Total Level 2 safety inspections:	174
Total Level 3 safety inspections:	229
Total citations issued:	295
Total vehicles out-of -service (safety)	41
Total drivers out-of-service (safety)	31
Total Felony narcotic arrests	11
Total Drug Seizures	8      515.2 lbs Marijuana / 226 lbs Cocaine

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For Further information and interviews contact Major Ron Cordova at (505) 670-4291.