



NEWS RELEASE

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I-19 Checkpoint Still Providing Results

TUCSON, Ariz. — Since Friday, the United States Border Patrol checkpoint on I-19 has resulted in several narcotics seizures and recovery a semi-automatic handgun.

Friday evening (11/22), a Peterbilt tractor-trailer approached the checkpoint and the driver became very nervous when asked for his immigration documents. Furthermore, the driver could not produce a manifest for his cargo. The truck was sent to the secondary inspection area where a Border Patrol canine alerted to the presence of contraband in the trailer. A search revealed 2,022.46 pounds of marijuana hidden under cardboard. The driver, a legal resident alien, was arrested by the agents at the scene without further incident.

Saturday (11/23), two United States Citizens were arrested and a loaded .380 semi-automatic handgun and 15 units of injectable Sostolin, an illegal steroid, were recovered after a canine alerted to the presence of contraband in a vehicle at the primary inspection point.

Sunday (11/24), a Ford truck approached the checkpoint and the driver appeared very nervous when asked to state his citizenship. At the same time, the canine at primary inspection alerted to the presence of contraband. The Border Patrol canine appeared to show great interest near the gas tank. A further search revealed 10 separate bundles hidden inside the gas tank containing a total of 80.95 pounds of marijuana. The driver, a legal resident alien, was arrested without incident.

Monday (11/25), as a Toyota Camry approached the checkpoint, a canine alerted to the presence of contraband. A subsequent search revealed 9 bundles of marijuana totaling 28.3 pounds hidden under the rear seat and inside the backrest of the rear seat. The driver, a Mexican Citizen with a Border Crossing Card, was arrested without incident.

Marijuana seized weighed 2132.71 pounds, and was worth \$1,706,168.00. Illegal steroids seized was valued at \$1,200.

Checkpoint operations have also resulted in 424 illegal immigrant arrests since Nov. 1, 2002.

~ **USBP** ~