

U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service
U.S. Border Patrol - Tucson Sector
1970 West Ajo Way
Tucson, Arizona 85713



NEWS RELEASE

November 29, 2002

Border Patrol stops reckless drug smuggler

TUCSON, Ariz.- Friday, 11/29/02, at approximately 10:15 a.m., a silver Mitsubishi Montero was reported to be traveling recklessly through ranches near the border in Douglas, AZ.

The driver, with blatant disregard for public safety, broke through ranch fences in an attempt to reach highway 80. Nearby Border Patrol Agents immediately responded to the area and were successfully able to intercept the vehicle and prevent the driver from reaching the highway or cause any further property damage.

The driver, a man described to be of Hispanic origin and in his early twenties, jumped from the vehicle and evaded apprehension by running into Mexico. The 2001 Mitsubishi Montero, bearing license stolen plates from a Ford F-150 truck in Phoenix, Ariz., was discovered to have been reported stolen from Las Vegas, Nev. Upon search of the vehicle, Border Patrol Agents discovered 41 bundles of marijuana totaling 781.95 pounds. The marijuana is estimated to be worth more than \$625,000.

Narcotic smugglers often attempt to circumvent authorities by driving into the United States illegally. Tucson Sector Border Patrol seized more than \$167,000,000 worth of marijuana last year and Douglas Border Patrol confiscated roughly 20,000 pounds of that total. So far, Douglas Border Patrol agents have been responsible for the seizure of almost 1, 400 pounds of marijuana this fiscal year.

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