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U.S. Department of Justice
Drug Enforcement Administration
FOI/Records Management Section
8701 Morrisette Drive
Springfield, Virginia 22152

OCT 28 2016

Case Number: 16-00669-F

Subject: Intelligence Products

John Greenewald
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Greenewald:

This letter responds to your Freedom of Information/Privacy Act (FOI/PA) request dated June 13, 2016, addressed to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Freedom of Information/Privacy Act Unit (SARF), requesting information on BUL-064-15-Medical Marijuana Cards used as a Decoy Tactic year 2015.

In our status letter to you, dated October 5, 2016, we informed you that the requested document contains information furnished by the U.S. Customs & Border Protection (CBP). DEA is in the process of consulting with CBP before granting access to the documents in accordance with 28 C.F.R § 16.4 and/or 16.42. The consultation with the CBP has been completed and two (2) pages are being released to you in its entirety.

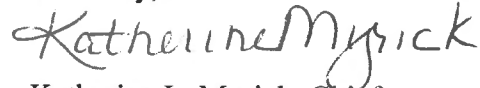
The rules and regulations of the Drug Enforcement Administration applicable to Freedom of Information Act requests are contained in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 28, Part 16, as amended. They are published in the Federal Register and are available for inspection by members of the public.

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 552(c). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

You may contact our FOIA Public Liaison at 202-307-7596 for any further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, Room 2510, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001; e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, you may contact Government Information Specialist Mrs. Wallace at 202-307-4264.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Katherine Myrick". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "K" and "M".

Katherine L. Myrick, Chief
Freedom of Information/Privacy Act Unit
FOI/Records Management Section

Number of pages released: 2



DEA BULLETIN



**Strategic
Intelligence**



(U) Medical Marijuana Cards Used as Decoy Tactic

(U) This DEA Bulletin is based on preliminary reporting and may be subject to updating as additional information becomes available.

DEA-DCT-BUL-064-15

JANUARY 2015

(U) Event

(U//DSEN) Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) reporting reveals a possible emerging trend in trafficking narcotics across the Southwest Border (SWB) through the use of state-approved "medical marijuana"¹ card holders. Single source reporting indicates that Mexico-based drug traffickers use individuals with state-approved medical marijuana cards who drive decoy cars with the smell of marijuana to distract U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) agents, while secondary vehicles concealing large narcotic shipments pass through the port-of-entry or checkpoint unnoticed.

(U) Significance

(U//DSEN) Although the use of decoy vehicles while traveling through SWB checkpoints is a well-known smuggling tactic, the use of medical marijuana card holders represents the possibility of a new trend in vehicle-based trafficking and presents a new challenge for personnel working along the SWB. This trend could be particularly problematic in California, Arizona, and New Mexico given current state regulations authorizing medical marijuana; Texas does not have state-approved medical marijuana.

¹ (U) When the term "medical marijuana" is used in this publication, it is exclusively in reference to state-approved "medical marijuana". Marijuana is a Schedule I substance under the Controlled Substance Act with no accepted medical use in the United States.

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(U) Details

(U//LES) During 2014, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) reporting identified several SWB encounters during which canine drug detection units alerted on vehicles for the possible presence of narcotics; secondary searches of these vehicles ensued only for the individuals who claimed they were medical marijuana patients and presented state-approved medical marijuana cards. During one of these incidents, one gram of marijuana was located, seized, and the individual was released. In two other incidents, no contraband was located but the individuals advised they smoked marijuana; in both instances, the individuals were not detained and were allowed to enter the United States.

(U) This product was prepared by the DEA Strategic Intelligence Section. Comments and questions may be addressed to the Chief, Analysis and Production Section at dea.onsi@usdoj.gov.



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