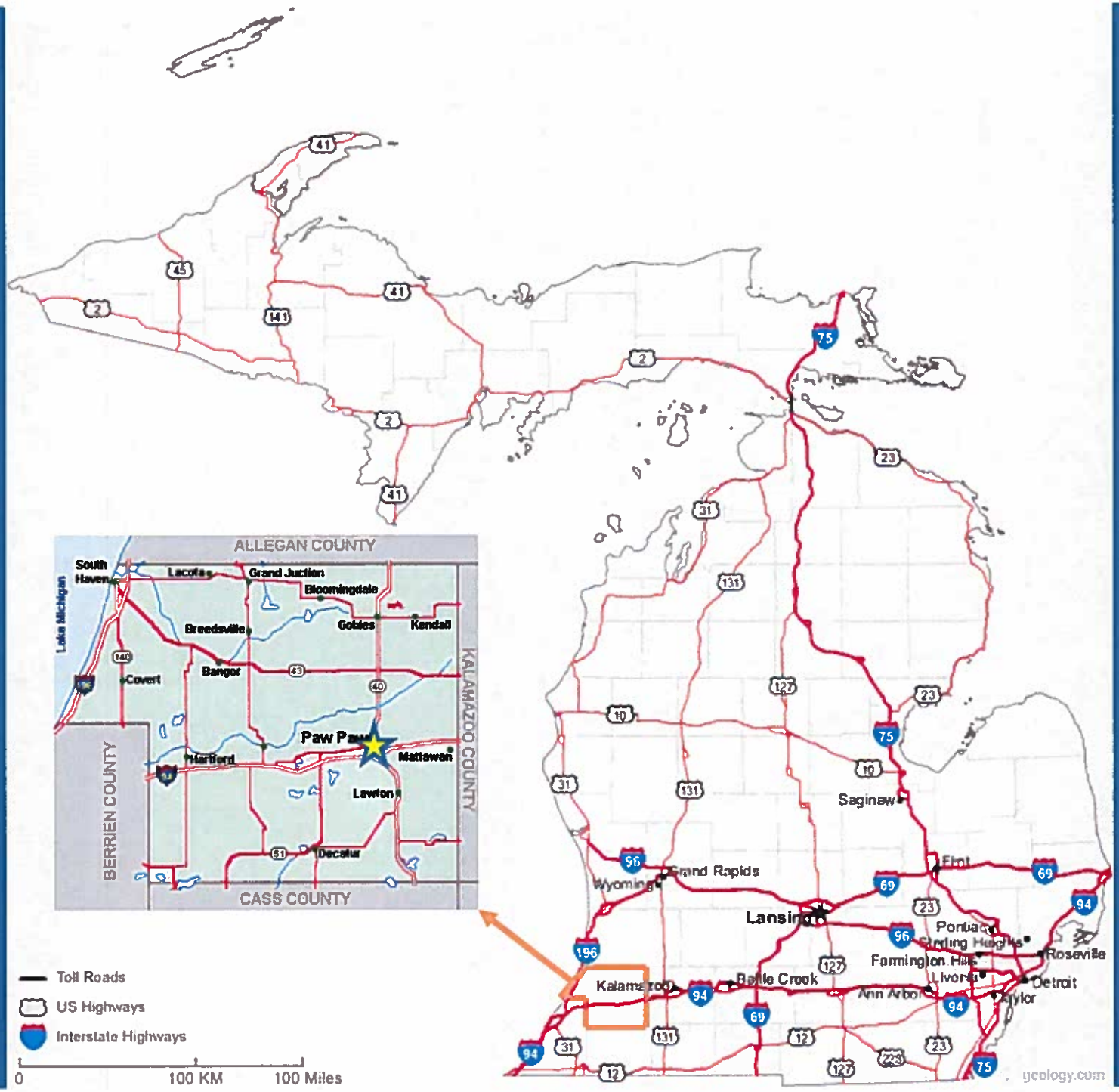
Bulk Currency Forfeiture in Michigan

Van Buren County Prosecutor's Office working in conjunction with the Michigan State Police


ALLEGAN COUNTY
South Haven
Lacotas
Grand Junction
Bloomingdale
Breedsville
Gobles
Kendall
Bangor
Covert
Lake Michigan
Paw Paw
Hartford
Mattawan
Lawton
Decatur
BERRIEN COUNTY
KALAMAZOO COUNTY
CASS COUNTY
Saginaw
Grand Rapids
Wyoming
Flint
Lansing
Pontiac
Sterling Heights
Roseville
Farmington Hills
Livonia
Detroit
Taylor
Battle Creek
Kalamazoo
Ann Arbor
Toll Roads
US Highways
Interstate Highways
0
100 KM
100 Miles
geology.com

Definitions

- Bulk Currency= seizure of currency over $50,000.00
- Bulk Drug Seizure= seizure of drugs over one kilogram
- D.T.O.=Drug Trafficking Organization

Michigan State Police Seizures from 2007-2016

- Bulk currency seized without drugs present totals $3,028,155.00.
- 91.3 kilograms (200.86 pounds) of cocaine
- 20.7 kilograms (45.5 pounds) of heroin
- $43,285.00 of currency seized in conjunction with bulk drug seizure.
- NOTE: $33,550.00 of $43,285.00 was seized from one stop, balance is spread out over remainder of 10 year period.

Bulk Drugs

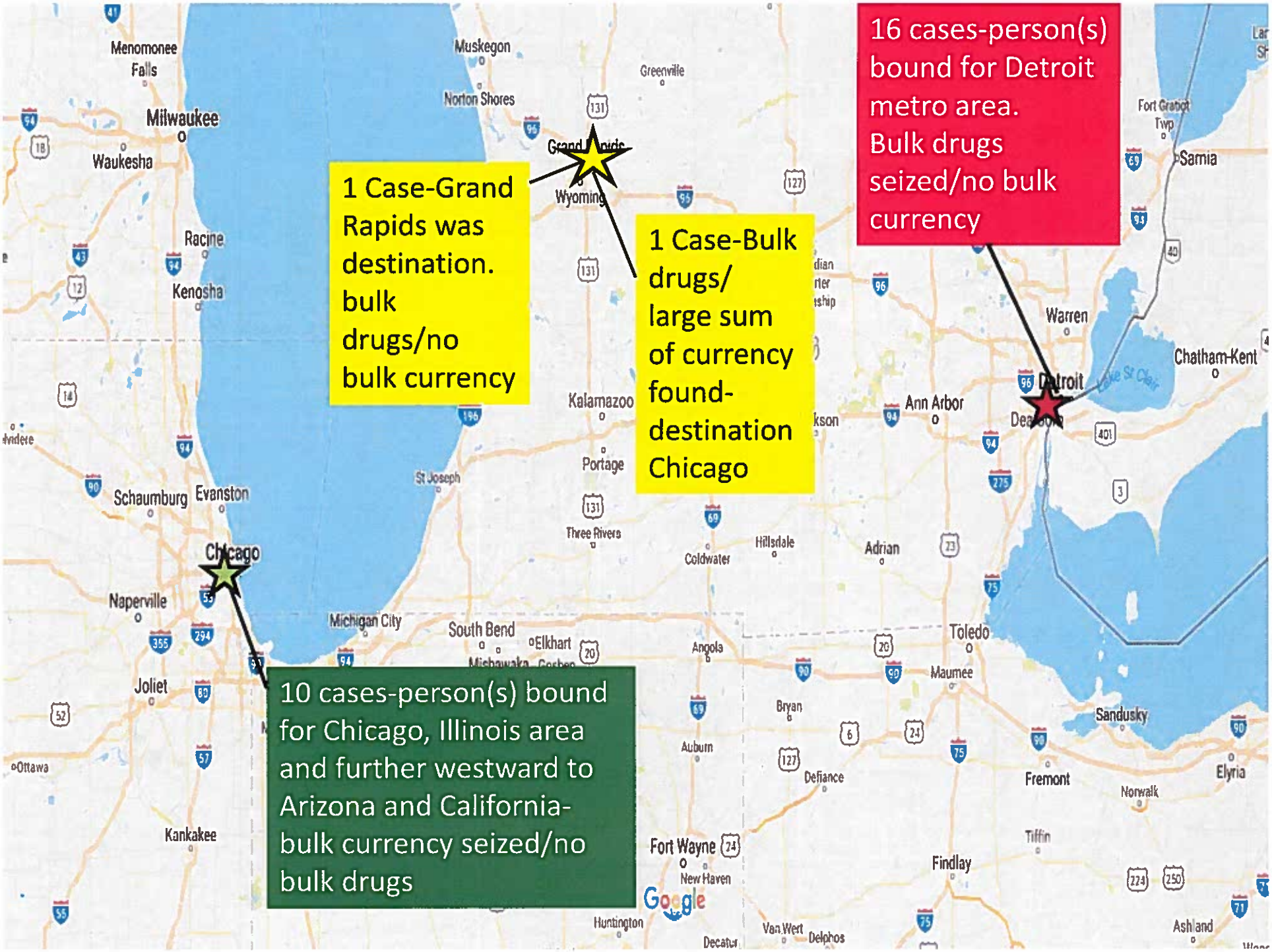
- Drugs, such as heroin, cocaine, and methamphetamine, typically originate in SW United States and Mexico
- Drugs travel from this "source point" to secondary distribution hubs, then to destination city
- Chicago, Illinois, is closest secondary distribution hub for Michigan
- *Note*-Other drugs, such as ecstasy and marihuana may originate in Canada

Bulk Currency

- Currency from proceeds of drug sales is packaged in destination city
- Currency then transported from destination city to secondary distribution hub or to "source point" of drugs
- Currency is then transferred to drug cartels as payment for original drug shipment

In Re: $180,975.00

- 478 Mich 444
  - *Held:* Currency may be forfeited based on expert testimony regarding drug trafficking and trends utilized by drug traffickers. *Id* at 467
  - Supreme Court agreed with trial court's conclusion that large amounts of money travel westbound without drugs and large amounts of drugs travel eastbound without money. *Id* at 468.


16 cases-person(s) bound for Detroit metro area. Bulk drugs seized/no bulk currency
1 Case-Grand Rapids was destination. bulk drugs/no bulk currency
1 Case-Bulk drugs/ large sum of currency found- destination Chicago
10 cases-person(s) bound for Chicago, Illinois area and further westward to Arizona and California- bulk currency seized/no bulk drugs
Menomonee Falls
Milwaukee
Waukesha
Racine
Kenosha
Muskegon
Norton Shores
Greenville
Wyoming
Kalamazoo
Portage
St Joseph
Three Rivers
Coldwater
Hillsdale
Adrian
Ann Arbor
Warren
Detroit
Dearborn
Fort Gratiot Twp
Sarnia
Chatham-Kent
Lake St Clair
Schaumburg
Evanston
Chicago
Naperville
Joliet
Ottawa
Kankakee
Michigan City
South Bend
Elkhart
Angola
Auburn
Fort Wayne
New Haven
Huntington
Decatur
Van Wert
Delphos
Bryan
Defiance
Toledo
Maumee
Sandusky
Fremont
Norwalk
Elyria
Tiffin
Findlay
Ashland
Google

Case Examples

- Case of John Slate-50-28-07
  - Stopped EB I-94 in a.m.-claimed to be heading to Detroit for several days.
  - Stopped same date in p.m. headed WB
  - K-9 sniff indicated odor of narcotics
  - Search of vehicle yielded $349,716.00 in natural voids in rear of vehicle

Case Examples

- Jose Ponce/Armando Irra-50-267-08
  - Traffic Stop on EB Interstate 94
  - Bound for Detroit, MI
  - Vehicle searched and two aftermarket hidden compartments located
  - One Kilo of Heroin seized/no bulk currency
  - Capricornio is a direct link to Sinaloa Cartel

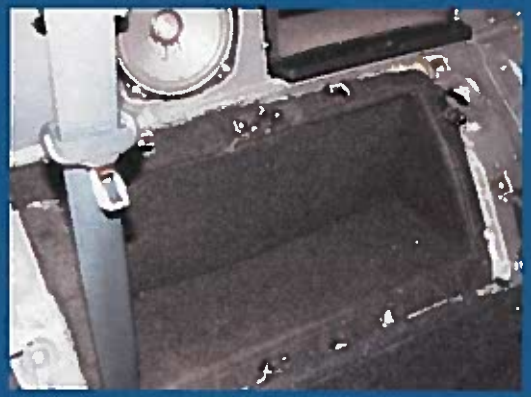
Case Examples

- Case of Amber Kingsley/Brandi Davis-50-394-08
  - Traffic stop of vehicle driven by Amber Kingsley on EB Interstate 94
  - Bound for Detroit, Michigan
  - Search of vehicle found sophisticated hidden compartment
  - 26.4 kilograms of cocaine seized
  - Small amount of currency located, also seized, later determined to be Ms. Kingsley's payment for transporting the drugs
  - Case lead to large federal indictment-later connected to drug kingpin El Chapo Guzman

Case Examples

- Case of Patrick Austin-51-1340-09
  - Stopped on Interstate 94 at 1:15a.m.
  - Claimed to be a commercial car hauler
  - Traveling from Detroit area to California
  - Two vehicles located with aftermarket hidden compartments
  - Search of vehicles in an enclosed car hauler yielded $1,004,804.00 in currency
  - No drugs of any kind located during search

Case Examples-Patrick Austin



Case Examples-Patrick Austin

Case Examples

- Case of Mario Alfaro-Flores-50-397-09
  - Stopped on EB Interstate 94
  - Bound for Detroit, MI
  - K-9 indicated for odor of narcotics
  - Search of vehicle yielded 3 kilograms of cocaine hidden in a shoe box behind driver's seat
  - No bulk Currency located
- Case of Galdino Rico-50-334-10
  - Stopped on WB Interstate 94
  - Bound for Hammond, IN
  - Vehicle searched and $150,000.00 in currency was located in a black duffle bag
  - K-9 indicated for presence of narcotics
  - No bulk drugs located

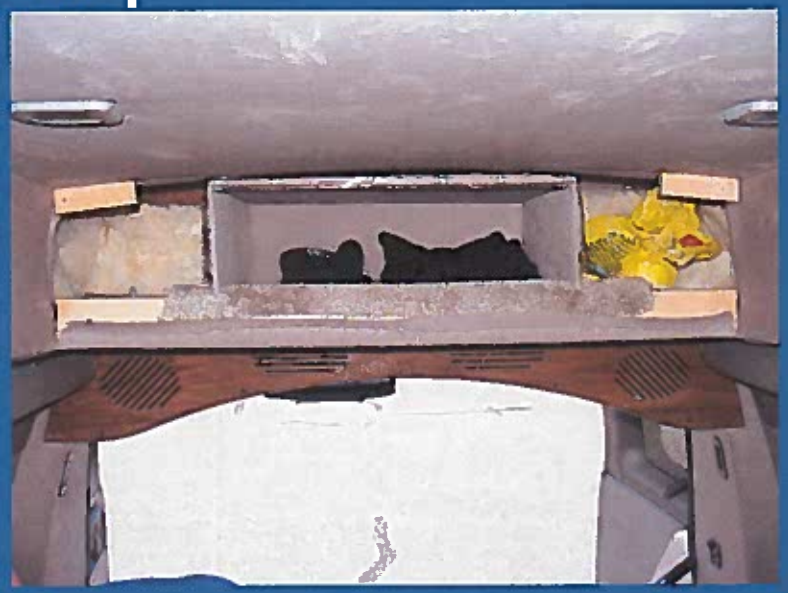
Case Examples-Patrick Austin Part II

- April 28, 2011-96-06746-IHP
  - Stopped by Indiana Highway Patrol on EB I-80
  - Heading in direction of Detroit metro area
  - Towing an enclosed car hauler, which contained two vehicles
  - A search of those vehicles yielded 35.5 kilograms of cocaine
  - No bulk currency located during search
  - Learned that Patrick Austin tied to large D.T.O.

Patrick Austin Part II

Case Examples

- Case of Kenneth Hammond-50-284-11
  - Stopped on EB Interstate 94
  - Bound for Detroit, MI
  - A search of the vehicle yielded 2 kilograms of heroin contained in a void near an overhead storage bin
  - No bulk currency located



Case Examples

- Case of Kareem Boyles-50-332-11
  - Stopped on EB I-94
  - Bound for Pontiac, MI
  - Search of vehicle yield 1 kilogram of cocaine in Chuggington Train toy box
  - No bulk currency located

Case Examples

- Case of Ebony Adams-50-436-11
  - Stopped on WB Interstate 94
  - Bound for Chicago, IL
  - Search of vehicle yield a sophisticated aftermarket compartment containing $171,045.00
  - No bulk drugs located

Case Examples

- Pedro Galindo/Luis Galindo-50-481-11
  - Stopped on EB Interstate 94
  - Bound for Detroit
  - Search of vehicle yielded 5 Kilograms of Cocaine contained in a large cereal box in the cargo area.
  - No bulk currency was located

Case Examples

- Case of Raphael Garibay/Hugo Palicios-Rodriguez-50-505-11
  - Stopped on EB Interstate 94
  - Bound for Detroit, MI
  - A search of the vehicle yielded a grocery bag containing several pairs of men's shoes.
  - Troopers discovered 2.5 kilograms of heroin molded into soles and heels of shoes
  - No bulk currency located

Case Examples

- Case of Onyango Culp-50-509-11
  - Stopped on EB Interstate 94
  - Bound for Detroit, MI
  - A search of the vehicle yielded an aftermarket compartment containing 2 kilograms of heroin and 2 kilograms of cocaine
  - No bulk currency located

Case Examples

- Case of Andrew Chiles/Denise Holmes/Lantz Howard-50-375-12
  - Stopped on WB Interstate 94
  - Bound for Chicago, IL
  - A search of the vehicle yielded an aftermarket compartment containing $174,020.00
  - No bulk drugs located

Case Examples

- Case of Irvin Nora-50-643-12
  - Stopped on EB Interstate 94
  - Bound for Detroit, MI
  - A search of the vehicle yield an aftermarket compartment containing 6 kilograms of heroin
  - No bulk currency located

Case Examples

- Case of Jose Vargas-Cruz-50-430-13
  - Stopped on WB Interstate 94
  - Bound for Chicago, Illinois
  - A search of the vehicle yield $69,470.00 in bulk currency located in the B-pillar.
  - No bulk drugs located.

Case Examples

- Case of Israel Bugarin/Eliseo Rivera-Diaz-50-464-13
  - Stopped on WB Interstate 94
  - Bound for California
  - A search of the vehicle yielded $180,425.00 in bulk currency hidden in a natural void in the quarter panel
  - No bulk drugs located

Case Examples

- Case of Derek Goins/Jermain Thomas/Antoinette Wallace-50-466-13
  - Stopped on EB Interstate 94
  - Bound for Detroit, MI
  - A search of the vehicle yielded 1 kilogram of heroin hidden in the spare tire compartment
  - No bulk currency located

Case Examples

- Case of Salvador Reyes-50-536-13
  - Stopped on EB Interstate 94
  - Bound for Detroit, MI
  - A search of the vehicle yielded two aftermarket compartments hidden under the driver's and passenger's seats
  - 2 kilograms of heroin and half a kilogram of cocaine were seized
  - No bulk currency located

Case Examples

- Case of Jesus Martinez-Carrera/Nabil Samman-50-1140-13
  - Stopped on WB Interstate 94
  - Bound for Chicago, Illinois from Grand Rapids, MI
  - A search of the vehicle yielded 3.5 kilograms of cocaine and $33,550.00 in currency concealed in an aftermarket compartment

Case Examples

- Case of Leodan Castillo-50-835-14
  - Stopped on NB I-196
  - Bound for Grand Rapids, MI
  - A search of the vehicle yielded 4 kilograms of cocaine concealed within the spare tire
  - No bulk currency located

Case Examples

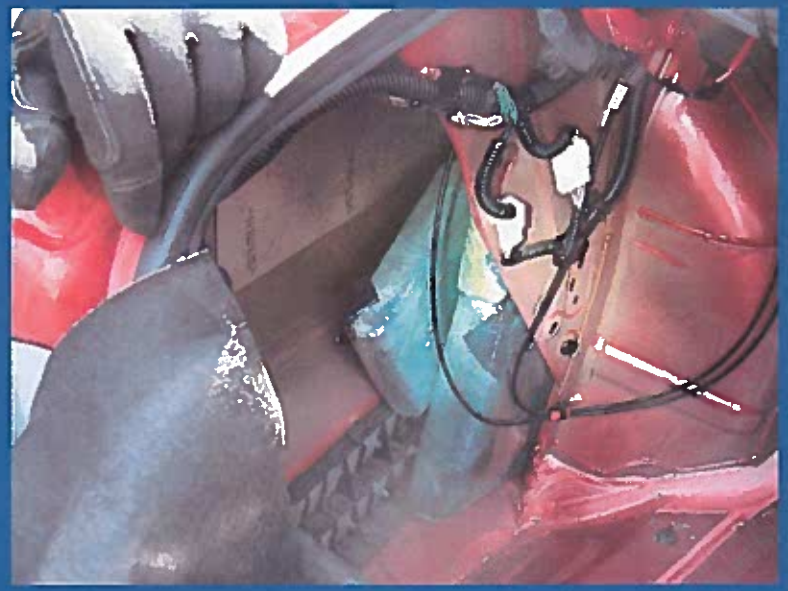
- Case of Willie Pryor/Reginald Thomas-50-992-14
  - Stopped on WB Interstate 94
  - Vehicle is a semi-truck with empty flatbed trailer
  - Bound for Flagstaff, Arizona
  - K-9 indicated on flatbed trailer.
  - An aftermarket compartment was located welded to underside of flatbed trailer containing $258,755.00
  - No bulk drugs located

Case Examples

- Case of Charles Brown/Cornelius Patton-50-103-15
  - Stopped on EB Interstate 94
  - Bound for Detroit, MI
  - A search of the vehicle yielded an aftermarket compartment containing 1.9 kilograms of cocaine and a small amount of heroin
  - No bulk currency located

Case Examples

- Case of Alberto Lopez/Luis Ochoa-50-736-15
  - Stopped on EB Interstate 94
  - Bound for Detroit, MI
  - A search of the vehicle yielded 5 kilograms of cocaine concealed in a void in the rear quarter panels
  - No bulk currency located



Case Examples

- Case of George Yellow-Boy-50-937-15
  - Stopped on EB Interstate 94
  - Bound for Detroit, MI
  - A search of the vehicle yielded 3 kilograms of cocaine hidden in a cardboard box on the rear floorboard
  - No bulk currency located

Case Examples

- Case of Aurelio Aguilar-50-423-16
  - Stopped on WB Interstate 94
  - Claimed to be heading to Benton Harbor, MI
  - A search of the vehicle yielded $500,960.00 in currency located in the ceiling of the semi-truck
  - No bulk drugs located

Case Examples

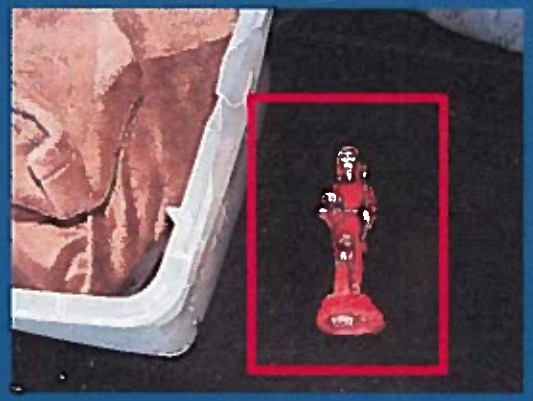
Prop 0001 - Qty: 1 Type: Federal Reserve Note (money) Issue Date: 0000 Maturation Date: 0000
Value: $500,960.00 Recovered Value: $500,960.00 FORFEITURE
Descrp: 14 BUNDLES OF US CURREN[illegible] RUBBER BAND[illegible]D AND PACKAGED WITH SILVER DUCT TAPE. 44 - $5 BILLS, 438 - $10 BILL[illegible] 17793 - $20 BILLS, [illegible]230 - $50 BILLS, 790 - $100 BILLS.
RECEIPT NUMBER: F1245016
Obtained From: W/B I-94 FWY
Van Buren County At or Near: MM-66
LOCATED BEHIND THE SPEAKERS AND BEHIND THE INTERIOR REAR WALL OF THE CAB.

Case Examples

- Case of Victor Araujo-Ramos-50-553-16
  - Stopped on EB Interstate 94
  - Bound for Detroit, MI
  - A search of the vehicle yielded 2 kilograms of heroin and a half a kilogram of methamphetamine hidden in a natural void in the vehicle
  - No bulk currency located

Case Examples

- Case of Jose Benavidez/Ayannah Cleary/Jose Rodriguez-50-736-16
  - Stopped on WB Interstate 94
  - Bound for Chicago, Illinois
  - A search of the vehicle yielded $168,960.00 in bulk currency located in shopping bags in the trunk
  - No bulk drugs located



Conclusions

- Bulk drugs are rarely transported with bulk currency
- Bulk currency is rarely transported with bulk drugs

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