

Media Release

Yavapai County Sheriff's Office

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2 In-Custody Caught Transporting a Complete Marijuana Growing Operation- YCSO K9 Alert leads to 8lbs of Marijuana and 100 Plants

On April 1, 2014, at approximately 7 AM, a YCSO K9 deputy stopped a rental panel truck travelling east on I40 near Seligman due to lane change violations. The cab contained two occupants – the driver, identified as Le Nguyen, 46, along with his passenger and girlfriend, Kathy Nguyen, 42. Both are from San Jose, California. During contact with Le, the deputy developed information the vehicle may contain contraband. Le agreed to a consent search of the cargo area which was nearly full of boxes and void of personal items normally associated with a location move. The deputy deployed his K9 who alerted on the vehicle indicating the presence of a drug odor.



Deputies began searching the cargo area and located 100 marijuana plants (see photo for sample quantity) and over 8lbs of packaged marijuana among boxes of equipment used for an indoor marijuana growing operation. Some of the grow equipment included commercial grade light hoods, special grow lights, fans, insulation, trays and irrigation equipment. The processed marijuana was found inside an ice chest container and sealed inside foam insulation in an apparent attempt to conceal the odor.



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The field investigation concluded that both Le and Kathy were knowingly transporting drugs and supplies that would support a large scale growing operation. Both were booked at the Camp Verde Detention Center on charges including Transportation of Marijuana for Sales, Possession of Marijuana for Sales, and Marijuana Production. Le remains in-custody on a \$50,000 bond. Kathy's bond has been set at \$15,000 and she remains in-custody.

Citizens can contact the Yavapai County Sheriff's Office with information or questions at 928-771-3260 or the YCSO website:

www.ycsoaz.gov