

Media Release

Yavapai County Sheriff's Office

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Patrol Deputy's Traffic Stop leads to seizure of 23 pounds of Marijuana and a Firearm – 2 suspects in-custody

On January 25, 2016, 25-year-old James Sanchez and 25-year-old Isidro Arriaga were arrested for charges including Transportation of Marijuana for Sale, Weapons Misconduct-Possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony offense, Possession of a Narcotic Drug and Possession of Paraphernalia. Both are from Texas and each remains in-custody on a \$65,000 bond.



Sanchez

Arriaga



One of the suitcases seized



'Candy' sample

Background – On January 25, 2016, around 5:30 PM, a YCSO deputy stopped a black 4-door 2015 model year Toyota Corolla for several moving violations while driving east on I40 in Ashfork, Arizona. Sanchez was the driver with Arriaga the front seat passenger. While conversing with the occupants, the deputy detected numerous signs of deception as both appeared more nervous than the innocent motoring public. The occupants were unable to answer basic questions that two passengers sharing a destination would commonly know and the deputy suspected the two may be transporting drug contraband.

After Sanchez declined a consent to search request from the deputy, a Chino Valley Police K9 Unit was asked to assist. During an exterior sniff of the vehicle, the K9 officer observed a positive alert from his dog along the driver's side of the Toyota sedan. When the deputy entered the vehicle to check for the source of the odor, he found a marijuana cigarette and vaping pens emitting an odor of marijuana in the center console. Inside the trunk, the deputy located 2 suitcases which each contained several 1 pound sealed packages of marijuana. A total of 23 packages were seized. A backpack stored nearby was found to hold hashish, a loaded firearm, and numerous marijuana edibles including brownies, cookies and hard candies. Interviews of both suspects were conducted and the investigation into this drug transportation operation is ongoing.

YCSO greatly appreciates the assistance of the Chino Valley Police Department's K9 officer and his 'partner.'

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

www.ycsoaz.gov