



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, August 25, 2009

*Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona*

Public Affairs
SANDY RAYNOR
Telephone: (602) 514-7625
Cell: (602) 525-2681

DRUG TRAFFICKER SENTENCED TO 5 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR MARIJUANA SMUGGLING

Phoenix – Sandra Lynn Stratton, 43, of Puerto Peñasco, Sonora, Mexico, was sentenced yesterday afternoon to five years in federal prison by U.S. District Judge Frederick J. Martone. Stratton pleaded guilty on June 9, 2009, to attempting to import 250.22 kilograms (approximately 551.64 pounds) of marijuana into the U.S.

On February 16, 2009, Stratton and two co-defendants entered the U.S. from Mexico through the San Luis Port of Entry near Yuma, Ariz. Stratton was the driver of a pick-up truck pulling a travel trailer when she was referred to secondary inspection. During further inspection, a narcotics detection dog alerted to a vent near the bedroom of the trailer. A false compartment was located under the bed of the trailer where a total of 25 packages of marijuana were found with a total weight of 250.22 kilograms.

Stratton admitted that she knew the trailer contained marijuana. She also admitted that she had previously delivered narcotics in the same trailer to another address in Arizona. Stratton's co-defendants also pleaded guilty to charges of illegal importation of marijuana and are set for sentencing before Judge Martone on October 13, 2009.

The investigation was conducted by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and U.S. Customs and Border Protection. The prosecution was handled by Bret Alexander with the U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Arizona, Yuma.

CASE NUMBER: CR-09-00273-PHX-FJM
RELEASE NUMBER: 2009-270(Stratton)

###

For more information on the U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Arizona, visit <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/az/>