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Fort Kent Man Sentenced on Federal Drug Charges

Bangor, Maine: United States Attorney Paula D. Silsby announced that **Chad Marquis**, 31, of Fort Kent, was sentenced on June 24, 2009, in U.S. District Court in Portland, Maine, to 33 months imprisonment, 4 years supervised release, and a fine of \$2,400.00, for conspiracy to import marijuana, and conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute and distribution of marijuana. Marquis pleaded guilty on March 19, 2009.

Court records reveal that between 2000 and May 2007, Marquis had been smuggling marijuana from Canada into the U.S. to sell to his friends. Over time, Marquis increased the amount of marijuana he smuggled, starting with one ounce and working his way up to 35 pounds at a time. In May 2007, Marquis applied for entry to the United States at the Fort Kent Port of Entry. During a primary inspection of Marquis's truck, Customs and Border Protection Officers discovered 7 vacuum-sealed packages containing marijuana that were hidden beneath a camouflage hunting jacket on the floor of the vehicle.

In addition to the marijuana seized at the time of Marquis's arrest, agents also recovered \$74,850 in cash, a 2006 GMC Sierra pickup truck, a set of aftermarket wheels and tires for the pickup, a 2006 Ski-Doo snowmobile, a Bushmaster AR-15 carbine, 440 rounds of .223 ammunition and an Old Town canoe. These items were ordered forfeited to the government in previous court proceedings.

United States Attorney Silsby praised the investigation conducted by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Customs and Border Protection.

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