

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

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***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney  
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***For Immediate Release***

**NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY** - April 25, 2011

United States Attorney Laura E. Duffy announced that today Carlos Cunningham, Jr., of Oceanside, California, was sentenced to serve 260 months in federal prison based on his January 2011 guilty plea to conspiracy to distribute over 19,400 pounds of marijuana, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 846 and 841, a ten-year minimum mandatory offense. United States District Court Judge Larry A. Burns also sentenced Cunningham to serve five years of supervised release following his release from prison.

According to court documents, Carlos Cunningham admitted that he drove multiple tractor-trailer loads of marijuana from San Diego, California, to locations in the Central District of California and that he was aware that the bulk marijuana was smuggled into the United States from Mexico through a narcotics tunnel. That tunnel was found by federal law enforcement agents on November 2, 2010. Carlos Cunningham was followed by federal agents from a warehouse located near the San Ysidro, California Port of Entry, the tunnel's exit point, to the Temecula Checkpoint, where he was stopped with approximately 19,400 pounds

of marijuana. When federal agents executed a federal search warrant, they seized an additional 28,782 pounds of marijuana inside the warehouse. Mexican officials reported seizing 9,878 pounds of marijuana at the tunnel's entrance located inside a Tijuana residence.

**DEFENDANT**

**Case Number: 10CR4796LAB**

Carlos Cunningham

**SUMMARY OF CHARGE**

Conspiracy to Distribute Marijuana (Title 21, United States Code, Sections 846 and 841)

**PARTICIPATING AGENCIES**

Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Homeland Security Investigations  
Customs & Border Protection  
Drug Enforcement Administration