

Ohio State Highway Patrol

Media Release

General Headquarters • Columbus, Ohio



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Patrol seizes 45 kilos of cocaine, valued at \$4.5 million in Preble County traffic stop

DAYTON – Two men were arraigned this morning in the Preble County Court on felony drug charges after Ohio State Highway Patrol troopers seized 45 kilos of cocaine, valued at \$4.5 million, during a traffic stop Friday on Interstate 70 in Preble County.

Oscar Santos-Argueta, 34, of Dallas, TX, and Jose Antonio Dominguez-Melendez, 43, of Guadalupe, Calif., were each charged with possession of cocaine, a second-degree felony, and possession of criminal tools, a fifth-degree felony.

Troopers stopped a 1999 Freightliner tractor pulling a 1999 Dorsey trailer, both with Texas registration, for a marked lanes violation, on eastbound Interstate 70 near milepost 7 at approximately 1:50 p.m. Friday. Troopers observed criminal indicators and a Patrol drug-sniffing canine alerted to the vehicle. A probable cause search revealed two boxes, concealed in a shipment of lettuce, which contained 45 kilos of cocaine.

The suspects were incarcerated in the Preble County Jail. If convicted, they could face up to 9 years in prison and a \$17,500 fine.

In 2008, the Patrol seized more than 5.2 million grams of illegal narcotics valued at approximately \$47.6 million.

Photos of the seized drugs can be downloaded from www.statepatrol.ohio.gov.

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