

INFORMATION RELEASE



Office of the Director

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT
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ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE DISCOVER ILLEGAL DRUGS

LITTLE ROCK (5-14) Officers from the Arkansas Highway Police (AHP) Division of the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) uncovered a significant shipment of illegal drugs in a commercial motor vehicle along Interstate 40 this week, according to AHP Chief Ron Burks.

While conducting a vehicle safety inspection on Thursday, May 13, 2010, at the Lehi Highway Police Station in Crittenden County, officers discovered approximately 65 pounds of marijuana and a large quantity of prescription pills. The drugs, with an estimated street value of \$120,000, were discovered in the rear of the truck tractor.

The driver was identified as Mario W. Watson, 36, of Germantown, Tennessee. It is believed the truck was traveling from Texas to Tennessee with a cargo of auto parts and related products. Watson was arrested for possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver and is being held at the Crittenden County Jail while awaiting arraignment in the Crittenden County Circuit Court.

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