

# (U) Emerging Trend: Fake Xanax<sup>®</sup> Tablets Containing Cyclopropylfentanyl, Methamphetamine, and FUB-AKB48



DEA  
BULLETIN



(U) This DEA Bulletin is based on preliminary reporting and may be subject to updating as additional information becomes available.

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## (U) Event

(U//DSEN/LES) The increasing demand for opioids in the United States coupled with the availability of fentanyl presents a significant public health risk and negatively impacts officer safety. In 2018, the Arizona High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Counter Narcotics Alliance (CNA) task force seized tablets that appeared to be Xanax<sup>®</sup> but actually contained a combination of cyclopropylfentanyl, methamphetamine, and a synthetic cannabinoid chemical.

## (U) Significance

(U//LES) This is the first seizure reported to the Arizona HIDTA of fake Xanax<sup>®</sup> tablets containing a cyclopropylfentanyl/methamphetamine combination, as well as being the first reported seizure containing a synthetic cannabinoid.

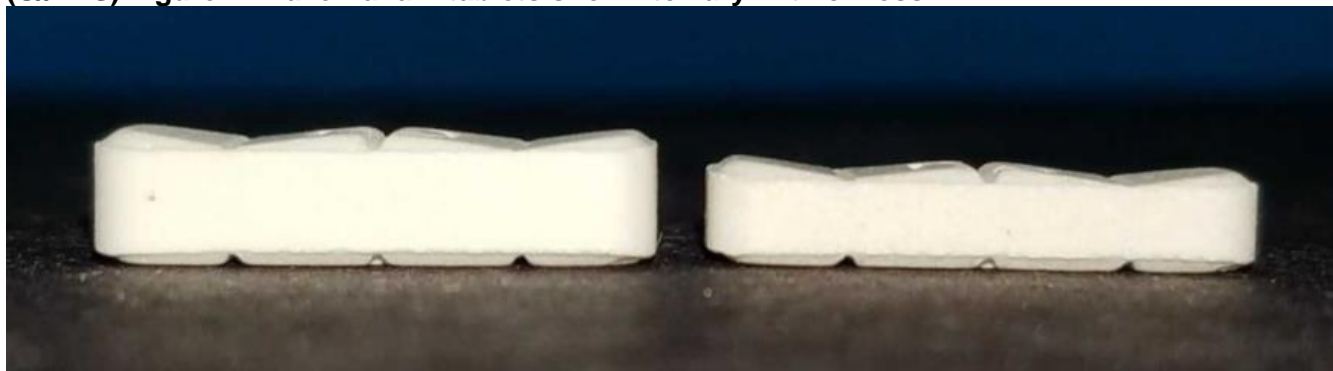
## (U) Details

### (U) Fake Xanax<sup>®</sup> Tablets

(U//LES) An investigation conducted by the Arizona HIDTA CNA task force resulted in the seizure of two plastic bags containing 76 rectangular white tablets imprinted with "XANAX" on one side and the number "2" on the reverse side. The tablet imprints and color were consistent with pharmaceutically manufactured 2 milligram Xanax<sup>®</sup> tablets. Upon closer examination, the tablets varied in thickness and from white to off-white in color. In addition, some of the tablets had an inverted "2" imprinted on the reverse side.

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**(U//LES) Figure 1. Fake Xanax® tablets shown to vary in thickness.**



**Source: Arizona High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area**

(U//LES) On June 1, 2018, the Tucson Police Department crime laboratory analyzed 10 of the tablets from the seizure. Seven of the tablets contained a usable amount of cyclopropylfentanyl (a fentanyl analog); one tablet contained cyclopropylfentanyl and methamphetamine; one tablet contained FUB-AKB48 (a synthetic cannabinoid chemical); and no dangerous drugs were detected in the remaining tablet.

**(U//LES) Figure 2. Fake Xanax® tablets showing inverted “2” imprint.**



**(U) Source: Arizona High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area**

(U//DSEN) As per the Drug Enforcement Administration Fentanyl Signature Profiling Program (FSPP) Report dated July 2018, “. . . a lethal dose of fentanyl is postulated to be about 2 milligrams.”

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U//DSEN: Information marked (U//DSEN) indicates DEA reporting at the Law Enforcement Sensitive (LES) level.

(U) This product was prepared by the DEA Phoenix Field Division. Comments and questions may be addressed to the Chief, Analysis and Production Section at [DEA.IntelligenceProducts@usdoj.gov](mailto:DEA.IntelligenceProducts@usdoj.gov).