



EL PASO INTELLIGENCE CENTER

TACTICAL BULLETINS TEAM - BULLETIN EB10-24

Cocaine Concealed inside Sealed Tin Cans

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Drugs are disguised and concealed in various items and even shipped via commercial air flights and commercial vessels. The types of concealment are diverse – with drugs being hidden inside of items of clothing, inside the walls of luggage, and inside such items as statues and books. Drugs are even liquified and shipped in wine bottles. The following shows two recent seizures of cocaine concealed in tin cans.

On April 16, 2010, Mexican Custom authorities in Manzanillo, Colima, Mexico, seized 322 kilograms of cocaine from a shipment of tuna cans originating from Guyaquil, Ecuador, and destined for Manzanillo. The shipment, manifested as “tuna in water” arrived from Guyaquil, Ecuador, on the vessel NYK Rosa on March 25 with a final destination of Manzanillo. Inside each sealed tuna can labeled “Tuna Mar Bravo” was the cocaine wrapped in clear plastic. The entire shipment consisted of 40 boxes, each containing 12 large cans of tuna, totaling 596 cans. Drug detection canines alerted to the container located on one of the port’s platforms. When the cans were opened, officers found plastic bags filled with white powder, which tested positive for cocaine. (Source: Semar.gob.mx)



In the previous month, on March 22, 2010, the French Guiana branch of the Direction Interregionale de Police Judiciaire (DIPJ) Antilles-Guyane (Interregional Criminal Investigation Directorate) seized 3.6 kilograms of cocaine at the Cayenne Rochambeau Airport in Matoury, French Guiana. The cocaine, in the form of paste, was concealed inside

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metal tins supposedly containing rum cakes. The nine crimped tin cans were labeled “Borgoe rum cake aged 8 years.” The cocaine paste originated in Suriname and was being shipped to the Netherlands via French Guiana and Paris, France. (Source: Interpol, January 2010)



Any questions or comments in reference to this report can be directed to the EPIC Research and Analysis Section, Special Projects Unit, Tactical Bulletins Team, IA Alex Stefan at (915) 760-2751, or Unit Chief Frank Mallory at (915) 760-2024.

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