

# Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

## Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: 4/15/11

### **12 MORE ILLEGAL ALIENS JAILED BY SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES IN OPERATION DESERT SKY**

#### **ARPAIO SAYS RESOURCES TO FIGHT ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION WILL SOON MOVE INTO URBAN AREAS**

(Phoenix, AZ) Operation Desert Sky has so far been very successful in arresting illegal aliens, Sheriff Joe Arpaio says. Twelve more were found late last night and taken into custody.

"The people in the business of human and drug smuggling are brazen criminals," Arpaio says. "They may keep coming but we keep finding and arresting them," Arpaio said today.

Operation Desert Sky, launched earlier this month by Sheriff Arpaio, has already netted 206 arrests, 169 of whom or 82% are suspected illegal aliens.

Late yesterday, the Sheriff's Human Smuggling deputies developed information on a case which led to the arrests of 12 people. All admitted to being transported here illegally. The driver of the van told detectives he has made several human transport runs lately and even admitted he was arrested in 2009 for human smuggling.

Operation Desert Sky, which uses posse aircraft for surveillance and ground units for capture, has also been successful in the apprehension of drugs and drug traffickers.

Over 3000 pounds of marijuana has been seized so far and 24 suspected illegal aliens were arrested and charged with drug smuggling.

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Illegal aliens living and working in the cities will not be exempt from the crack down on illegal immigration, Sheriff Arpaio says. “Operation Desert Sky will conclude at the end of April. At that time, these resources will move into the urban areas to begin our 19<sup>th</sup> crime suppression operation,” Arpaio says. END

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