

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office
Joe Arpaio, Sheriff
News Brief

**MARICOPA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
SEIZES 7,500 POUNDS OF MARIJUANA**

**Drug Smugglers Continue to Flee Into the Desert
Abandoning Drugs**

Arpaio Considers Utilizing His Air Posse

November 29, 2011

(Maricopa County) Over the past ten days, deputies with the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office have seized approximately 7,500 pounds of marijuana within Maricopa County. In most of these seizures deputies have discovered the abandoned marijuana hidden in the desert, or in an abandoned vehicle.

On Saturday deputies patrolling in an area near Interstate 8 discovered an abandoned vehicle. Further investigation of the vehicle led to the discovery of approximately 1,500 pounds of bundled marijuana hidden in a nearby wash.

On Monday deputies patrolling along Highway 238 discovered a stolen Chevrolet Tahoe that had been covered with a tarp. Upon entry into the vehicle, approximately 1,000 pounds of marijuana was concealed inside.

The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office has already seized well over 30,000 pounds of marijuana so far this year.

Sheriff Arpaio said "This seems to be the normal method of operation for these smugglers, abandoning the marijuana, and fleeing into the nearby desert. I am looking at utilizing my Air Posse to help my deputies locate those who run into the desert and hide."

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED PHOTOS OF THE DRUGS SEIZED DURING THE PAST THREE DAYS