



CASE#

Location: WASHINGTON COUNTY	
Incident: SEARCH WARRANT	Date of Activity: 03-09-07
Name:	Regarding: NARCOTICS
Code: SUBJECT	Activity: SUPPLEMENT
Officer: OFSTEAD#137/652	Assigned To: WCSO NARCOTICS

On 03-09-07 at approximately 1100 hours Inv Anderson from the Washington County Narcotics Task Force and his K9 partner, Simon, responded to the Woodbury Police Department, Woodbury MN. Inv Anderson and his K9 partner had been requested to conduct a sniff of a vehicle.

Inv Anderson advised that his K9 partner alerted to the vehicle, and upon having his K9 partner sniff the interior of the vehicle, Inv Anderson again advised that his K9 partner alerted to 2 large well sealed boxes in the rear most portion of the vehicle.

I then hid a sample of the controlled substance in a portion of our police department and advised Inv Anderson of the general vicinity of the hide, but provided no further information. Simon immediately went to the area and alerted again, without hesitation.

A search warrant was executed on the vehicle and the 2 large, well sealed, boxes were retrieved and opened. Inside the boxes were found 40 pounds of a controlled substance. Also recovered during the execution of that warrant was a receipt for a storage facility located nearby.

On 03-09-07 at approximately 1230 hours Inv Anderson, his K9 partner Simon, and Sgt Stafford, all from the Washington County Narcotics Task Force, went to the storage facility. There, they obtained consent from the property manager and, subsequently, Inv Anderson and his K9 partner conducted a sniff of the storage facility. At approximately 1245 hours, Sgt Stafford advised that Inv Anderson and his K9 partner had alerted on storage facility which was listed to the suspect. Investigator Anderson advised that he was only given a bank of storage facilities by Sgt Stafford, and was not informed of the exact location of the specific storage facility in question.

At approximately 1500 hours a search warrant was executed on the storage facility. Upon cutting the pad lock belonging to the suspect, the door was opened and investigators located forty-five (45) boxes of a controlled substance inside.

Sounds like a typical K9 sniff right? What makes this particular series of events unusual is that the controlled substance that was alerted to by Simon, was graba. Graba is the dried form of Khat, which is a plant that is native to Eastern Africa and is illegally shipped to the US most commonly by Somalis and Ethiopians. In the fresh Khat form it is a schedule I narcotic (cathine) and when dried it drops to a schedule



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IV (cathinone). Both forms (fresh and dried) produce a stimulant effect on the body and it is in the same family as methamphetamine.

Inv Anderson and K9 partner Simon proved to be an invaluable asset while conducting this investigation. An estimated 1000 lbs of graba, a vehicle and over \$10,000.00 were seized that day. The graba alone has an estimated street value of over \$400,000.00.

Respectfully submitted by:
Sgt Tom Stafford
Washington County Narcotics Task Force Commander