



News Release

STATE OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Fast Action BY DOC Intelligence Unit and Contract Food Worker
Leads to Major Contraband Interdiction
At Metropolitan Transition Center in Baltimore**

TOWSON, MD (May 15, 2009)---An observant food service contract worker and Division of Correction Intelligence staff teamed—up to thwart the delivery of a large amount of contraband into the Metropolitan Transition Center in Baltimore on Thursday.

DOC Intelligence officers had received information that a shipment containing cell phones, drugs, and other contraband was due to arrive at the former State Pen yesterday. While unloading a delivery truck, a worker from Canteen Food Services noticed a suspicious package inside a box. When an inmate handling the box began acting suspiciously, the contract worker notified correctional staff and intelligence officers, who were anticipating the arrival of contraband based upon tips and information gathered inside the prison.

The carton contained the following contraband:

26 cell phones	15 bags of tobacco
26 chargers	12 bottles of alcohol
2 bags of marijuana	2 sim cards

DPSCS has undertaken a major contraband interdiction effort, stepping-up intelligence-gathering and working with law enforcement like never before. The result has been a 75% reduction in serious weapons assaults in the DOC since 2006, and a 32% reduction in serious inmate-on-staff assaults. The Department has been confiscating cell phones at a record pace, and employs the first K9s in the nation specifically trained to detect cell phones in prison.

The DPSCS Internal Investigative Unit is now handling the case.

---photos below---

Large Contraband Seizure at MTC in Baltimore 5/14

