

Five Men Arrested for Marijuana Trafficking

April 26, 2012

On April 12, 2012, five men were arrested after an extended drug trafficking investigation.

The arrests were a culmination of efforts by the Gainesville-Hall County Multi Agency Narcotics Squad (MANS), Hall County Sheriff's Office SWAT Team, Gainesville Police Department Uniform Patrol Division, Hall County Sheriff's Office Uniform Patrol Division, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Administration, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Georgia State Patrol, Georgia State Patrol Aviation Division, and the FBI Safe Streets Task Force.

The case was established as a result of information that was developed by ICE Homeland Security Investigations, and a joint Operation was initiated. During the course of the operation, Agents intercepted a tractor trailer in the 1700 block of Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. in Gainesville.

The truck was found to contain numerous pallets of produce containing peppers, cactus, and cilantro. 106 sealed packages of marijuana were discovered inside several of the pallets, weighing approximately 1,572 pounds, with an approximate street value of \$3,144,000.00.

All five men were arrested without incident and subsequently booked in at the Hall County Jail, charged as follows:

Arrestee #1: Jose Luis Chavez-Morfin, 43, of Duluth, GA

Charges: Trafficking Marijuana, Possession of Marijuana with Intent to Distribute, Immigration Hold

Arrestee #2: Juventino Morfin-Mendoza, 38, of Duluth, GA

Charges: Trafficking Marijuana, Possession of Marijuana with Intent to Distribute, Immigration Hold

Arrestee #3: Jose Macias-Sanchez, 45, of Duluth, GA

Charges: Trafficking Marijuana, Possession of Marijuana with Intent to Distribute, Immigration Hold

Arrestee #4: Marcos Antonio Ortiz-Barajas, 19, Douglasville, GA

Charges: Trafficking Marijuana, Possession of Marijuana with Intent to Distribute, Immigration Hold

Arrestee #5: Calvin Elwood Gearhart, 47, of Wichita, KS

Charges: Trafficking Marijuana, Possession of Marijuana with Intent to Distribute