



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
Department of Homeland Security

Washington, DC 20528 / www.oig.dhs.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, December 19, 2012

For Information Contact:
Public Affairs (202) 254-4100

OIG Agents Smash Rogue Police Anti-Drug Unit

Special Agents from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Office of Inspector General (OIG), have smashed a rogue police “anti-drug task force” in South Texas.

Working undercover and in conjunction with the Federal Bureau of Investigation Border Corruption Task Force, OIG agents on Dec. 12 helped to apprehend four police officers assigned to the Panama Unit, an anti-drug unit of the Hidalgo County (TX) Sheriff’s Office. OIG agents determined the police officers were accepting bribes in return for safe passage for Mexican drug runners and were also skimming off quantities of illicit drugs to sell.

Arrestees included Alexis Espinoza, an investigator with the Mission (TX) Police Department, who was assigned as a task force officer to Homeland Security Investigations in McAllen, TX.

After a post-arrest interview by agents of OIG and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Office of Professional Responsibility, Espinoza was charged with Possession of a Controlled Substance, Conspiracy to Possess a Controlled Substance and Aiding & Abetting.

Similar charges were brought against fellow Panama Unit members Jonathan Trevino, a Mission Police Department investigator, and Fabian Rodriguez and Gerardo Duran, both investigators with the Hidalgo County Sheriff’s Office.

###