

Ohio State Highway Patrol

Media Release

General Headquarters • Columbus, Ohio



For Immediate Release: August 3, 2009
Contact: Lt. Tony Bradshaw (614) 752-2792

Patrol seizes 150 pounds of marijuana, valued at more than \$340,000, in Preble County traffic stop

DAYTON – A Greensburg, Pa. man will be arraigned today in Preble County Court on felony drug charges after Ohio State Highway Patrol troopers seized 150 pounds of marijuana, valued at more than \$340,000, during a traffic stop Saturday on Interstate 70 in Preble County.

James R. Santopietro, 28, was charged with possession of marijuana, a second-degree felony, and possession of criminal tools, a fifth-degree felony.

Troopers stopped a 2004 Ford F-150, with Pennsylvania registration, for a following too closely violation, on I-70 near milepost 7 at approximately 12:10 p.m. Saturday. Troopers observed criminal indicators and a Patrol drug-sniffing canine alerted to the vehicle. A probable cause search revealed 150 pounds of marijuana.

The suspect was incarcerated in the Preble County Jail. If convicted, he could face up to nine years in prison and a \$17,500 fine.

Through June 2009, the Patrol seized more than 260,000 grams illegal narcotics valued at nearly \$8.8 million. In 2008, the Patrol seized more than 5.2 million grams of illegal narcotics valued at approximately \$47.6 million.

#

Note to editors: Want to receive our media releases via email? Send your name, phone number, email, media affiliation and work address to wwwohp@dps.state.oh.us

09-071