

From: Alex Gerszewski <alex.gerszewski@doc.ok.gov>
Subject: PRESS RELEASE (PHOTO ATTACHED): Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
Contraband Drop Seized at OSP
Date: October 26, 2015 at 3:12:57 PM CDT
To: DOC Media <media@doc.ok.gov>



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 26, 2015

Photo Caption: Unmanned aerial vehicle and contraband found on the grounds of Oklahoma State Penitentiary this morning.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Contraband Drop Seized at Oklahoma State Penitentiary

*Corrections Director Robert Patton Commends
Quick Action of Personnel*

MCALESTER – Oklahoma Department of Corrections Director Robert Patton today commended the staff at the Oklahoma State Penitentiary in McAlester for detaining an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) smuggling contraband over a facility wall.

At approximately 9 a.m. on duty staff noticed a UAV lying upside down on facility grounds. After making contact with the shift supervisor, it had been determined the UAV had hit the razor wire

upon its ascent, causing it to lose control resulting in a crash.

According to security at the facility, the package containing the contraband was suspended under the drone with fishing line. The package contained: two – 12 inch hacksaw blades, a cellphone, a cellphone battery, a hands-free device, two packages of Newport Cigarettes, two packages of Black & Mild cigars, two tubes of super glue, a 5.3 ounce bag containing marijuana, a 0.8 ounce bag containing methamphetamine and a bag containing less than 1 gram of heroin.

Today's attempt to smuggle contraband into a facility via UAV is the first reported incident of its kind in the state.

“I applaud and commend the quick action and diligence on the part of the staff who noticed the UAV that entered the prison grounds,” said Patton. “We are continuing to take a broad approach to increasing awareness in dealing with contraband at all of our facilities statewide. We must maintain vigilance and stay one step ahead of the game in terms of the technology being used in and around facilities. Nothing is off the table when we are talking about the safety of the public, staff and offenders being housed in our facilities.”

Director Patton continued to say the DOC is aware of similar incidences in other states and has been directing training staff and security personnel at facilities to stay attentive for more attempts to use flying aircraft to smuggle contraband into facilities.

The UAV has been turned over to the DOC's Office of the Inspector General for further investigation.

###

Media Contacts:

Terri Watkins Communications Director

terri.watkins@doc.ok.gov

(405) 425-2565

(405) 306-9014

Alex Gerszewski Public Information Officer

alex.gerszewski@doc.ok.gov

(405) 419-8634

(405) 255-8409