

TOP DETECTOR CASE OF THE YEAR
2007

DEPUTY JIM DUVAL AND K9 TYSON
OKALOOSA COUNTY, FL SHERIFF'S OFFICE

On April 2, 2007 at approximately 9:00 PM, Deputy Jim Duval and K9 Tyson were summoned to the corner of Sullivan and Audrey Streets, Ft Walton Beach, FL to perform a narcotic check on a vehicle at the request of the Ft Walton Beach Police Department (FWBPD).

The FWBPD had stopped a white Ford 3 ton work truck with what looked like an industrial vacuum in the bed of the truck. The vacuum consisted of 3 cylinders, approximately 4 feet long by 2 ½ feet in diameter. The cylinders were connected together with pipes and other types of fittings, as well as pumps and electrical switches. The entire apparatus was tied together with a metal frame making it approximately 3 feet wide by 3 feet high by 6 feet deep. In addition, it appeared to have a fresh paint job. The vehicle's driver stated the machinery had recently been refurbished.

After contacting officers on the scene, Deputy Jim Duval and K9 Tyson initiated a walk around, starting at the front of the truck. Tyson showed no alert or indication on the cab, but as soon as he came to the box of the truck, he showed an immediate change in body language, gave good alert and indicated by sitting. Deputy Duval backed off of the truck and informed the Sergeant in charge that Tyson had definitely encountered the odor of narcotics coming from the truck. Based on his K9's indication and alert, officers on the scene had the driver exit the truck and initiated a narcotic investigation.

After a short period of time, Deputy Duval was asked if he could narrow down the source of the odor. The back of the truck was very cramped because of the machinery, but Tyson and Deputy Duval went back to work in an attempt to pinpoint the exact location of the odor.

On command, Tyson started to check the machinery and immediately gave an alert that he was on odor. Because of the tight quarters in the bed of the truck and the piping that connected the cylinders, there was no way Tyson could get any deeper into the apparatus, but he kept working, trying to get to the source of the odor.

At this point, Deputy Duval had to remove Tyson from the truck and tell the investigating officer that Tyson was hitting on odor all over the machinery, but was not able to pinpoint an exact location due to the maze of piping that blocked his passage. Deputy Duval recommended the truck be taken back to the impound yard where a more thorough examination could be performed.

At the impound yard, the machinery was removed from the back of the truck. The end cap of the cylinder located deepest in the apparatus was removed and 52 kilos of cocaine and 360 pounds of marijuana were found packaged inside. The narcotics were wrapped in several layers of plastic and bound in tape. The end cap of another cylinder was removed and an additional 125 pounds of

marijuana was found packaged just like the first find. The final tally was 52 kilos of cocaine and 480 pounds of marijuana, all hidden inside the cylinders inside this vacuum. It is clear that if it were not for K9 Tyson giving the alert and indication on this truck, these narcotics would not have found since a preliminary search of the truck on the roadside showed no indication of any narcotic activity in this truck and the driver was being less than cooperative.