

# Supply Chain Security in a Post 9/11 Environment



# Air Container Search Procedures

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# Methodology

- Standardize your approach
- Train and retrain your staff
- Keep it simple
- Have a process in place to provide extra screening for all CLC's (customer loaded cans)
- Use a known shipper approach with any CLC's



# Use a 7-point approach

- Similar to a sea container, or dry van search use a 7-point style inspection
- Top / Bottom
- Left side / Right side
- Back
- Front
- Interior



# LD-3 Container

- These are the standard, and are found all around the world
- The aluminum version is more prevalent
- All sides, top and bottom can be modified to contain contraband
- Be conscious of the canvas door also
- Exam can be as simple as tapping on the container



# LD-3 Container

- In this case, the bottom support structure is hollow and has been used to conceal contraband
- This is a little more difficult to detect and will require drilling into the hollow space or
- The use of NOI (non intrusive inspection) equipment such as a pallet x-ray machine or the Buster





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# LD-3 continued

- Same thought, different application
- This attempt at smuggling narcotics into the US utilized the space around the support structure, not the support itself



# Aluminum containers

- Two very simple methods of examining this style of container are utilized
- Neither require tools and can be performed by all staff
- One, simply tap on all sides. The thin sheets of aluminum will be flexible and produce a loud sound
- Two, push the container. They are not very heavy and when empty can be lifted and pushed across the floor



# Aluminum containers

- This attempt at smuggling had such a heavy load in the false roof that a frame of 2x4's was created to support the weight
- Containers can also be checked from the inside
- Most will have some type of metal cross members to support the roof
- These should be seen. A flat sheet with no support from the inside should be inspected further





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# Aluminum containers

- Here is an example of no interior roof support
- A hinged sheet of aluminum was installed to facilitate the reuse of this container
- When loaded this container will have both no overt support for the roof, and will be heavier than normal





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# Metal shipping pallet

- Be alert for changes in pallets appearance
- Altered ID numbers
- Grinded off and re-etched
- Painted over
- Removed completely



# Metal shipping pallet

- Be alert for suspicious repairs
- Overly thick (double sheet)
- Fresh welds
- New rivets
- Odd screws or non standard repair hardware





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# Metal shipping pallet

- Here contraband was secreted close to the center to avoid detection by drilling around the edge
- When empty, these pallets should flex and not be rigid
- Beware of new riveting all around





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# Check the Cargo Net

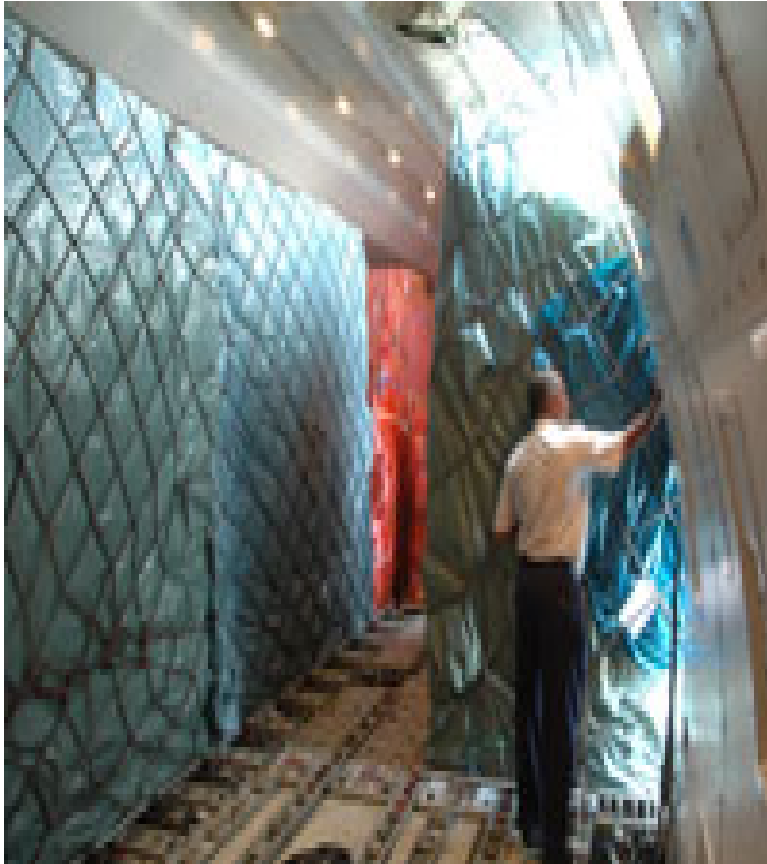
- Be aware that this item has been used to secrete contraband
- Do Not cut or alter the rope used to construct the net
- You and your staff will be able to discern altered netting
- It will be stiff, non flexible.
- Just “not right”
- Often they are left unsecured and are easily removed from the airport to be tampered with





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# False roof

- Visual inspection can be as effective as mechanical inspection
- This container had a false roof made evident by a uniform row of non standard repair hardware around the top/sides
- Repairs are often made. Have your staff become aware of the normal hardware used to repair aluminum containers





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# False roof

- Support structure was not evident in this case as well
- Also mustard and ground hot chili pepper was used to mask the odor of narcotics
- Have your staff use all their senses when examining for contraband



# Riveted interior false roof

- Note, no support
- Also, unusual corner angle supports
- Non standard riveting





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# Wooden Pallets

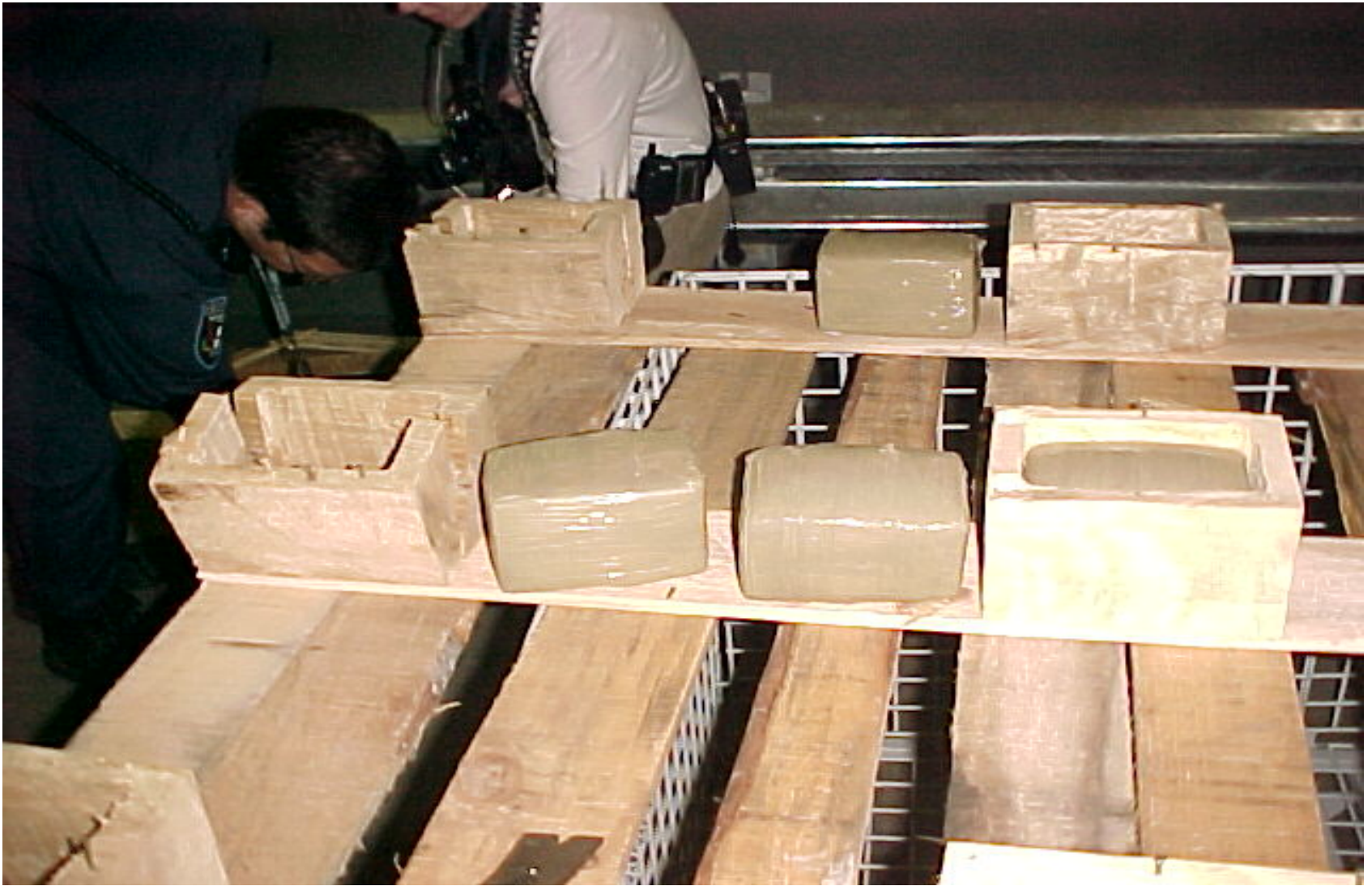
- Keep in mind that the air cargo container may be a wooden pallet
- Pallets provide large areas for the secretion of contraband
- Drilling is not the only method of detection
- Use caution and do not undermine the strength of the pallet





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# Wooden Pallets

- Pallets are shrink wrapped and loaded onto some cargo aircraft as is
- Treat the pallet as the container and exam accordingly
- Here drilling was done to reveal narcotics
- Use caution with your drill as some contrabands may react differently to being pierced





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# Crates as containers

- As with the pallets, the air cargo container may not be the standard shipping container, it may be a crate
- This presents new challenges in detecting contraband
- Most crates do not have a “door” and if opened may not be easily repacked
- NOI (non intrusive inspection), x-ray would be an effective method of exam that will maintain the structural integrity of the “container” while providing a quality exam





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# Crates as containers

- In this case, the contraband was concealed by heavy, fragile sheets of glass
- X-ray is very effective here. Most examiners would be hesitant to remove the delicate cargo to check underneath
- Removal of the side of the crate is an option, be sure to repack the crate in a secure manner to withstand the rigors of cargo routing





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# Another crate as a container

- Be aware of spacing in the crate construction that can facilitate the placing of contraband within the legitimate cargo
- Here an unlabeled carton was stuffed into the crate to appear as a part of the shipment



# Check the door

- Here the canvas door is supported by hollow aluminum beams that also act as locking devices for the container
- Be aware that this area has been used to secrete contraband





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# U.S. Customs and Border Protection



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