



U. S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service

*Laredo Sector Headquarters
Intelligence Unit
207 W. Del Mar Blvd.
Laredo, Texas, 78045*

February 13, 2002

MEMORANDUM FOR JOHN MONTOYA
CHIEF PATROL AGENT
LAREDO SECTOR BORDER PATROL

FROM: MICHAEL GAMBALE
BORDER PATROL AGENT
LAREDO SECTOR INTELLIGENCE UNIT

SUBJECT: AVIAN SYSTEM DEMONSTRATION

On February 7th and 8th of this year, the U.S. Border Patrol in Laredo, Texas received a demonstration on the Advanced Vehicle Interrogation And Notification (AVIAN) system, and tested it for operational efficiency. The system includes 4 seismic sensors and a computer monitor. It works by sensing shock waves generated by the beating heart of hidden people.

On the aforementioned dates, about 70 trucks were randomly inspected at the IH-35 checkpoint, Mile Marker 15. On February 7th, 2002, at about 10:00 PM we began non-intrusive inspections of the tractor-trailers. Each inspection takes between 1 and 3 minutes to perform. The fifth vehicle that we checked had an indication consistent with multiple heartbeats in the cabin of the truck. A search of the vehicle revealed 8 illegal immigrants. The driver was arrested and the case was referred to the Assistant US Attorney's Office for prosecution. That evening we inspected about 15 more trucks, but none of these tested positive.

On February 8th, at about 10:30 AM we resumed the random inspections. At about 11:45 AM we received a positive indication on another tractor-trailer. Once again, the indications were highest in the cab of the truck. Agents searched the vehicle and found a family of 4 illegal immigrants under the bed. We checked several more vehicles before stopping for the day, and none of these had positive indications.