

Stanislaus County, California
Sheriff's Department
Les Weidman, Sheriff-Coroner

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SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT UNVEILS ONE-OF-A-KIND DRUG DETECTION UNIT

Modesto, Calif.— In front of the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department today, Sheriff Les Weidman and Congressman Dennis Cardoza introduced the first non-military chemical agent detection vehicle in the United States.

The vehicle, which remained concealed behind a four-sided eight-foot high drape set-up, contains technology that can detect chemicals used in the manufacturing of Methamphetamine from up to 1,000 feet away. The unit consists of a sensor, a scanner, a compass, a power supply, and a computer. It uses infrared to "see" chemical clouds. The human eye cannot see the infrared region of the electromagnetic spectrum, but the sensor can.

Similar to how the human eye can see colors in the visible spectrum, the infrared sensor can see colors in the infrared spectrum. Different gasses show up as different colors in this spectrum. For example, acetone might show up as green, freon as pink, a nerve agent as orange, and a blister agent as purple. This is how the infrared sensor identifies different gasses and gives an indication whether or not they are a threat.

Similar devices have been used by the military for years, however, this device is the first of it's kind to be used outside of the military. Consequently, it has been modified for use in a civilian setting. The unit has added the "signatures" of chemical precursors used in the manufacturing of Methamphetamine at a lab site to the original list of chemicals used by the military, which produces a unit capable of being utilized to detect Methamphetamine labs in operation.

The original list of chemicals to be detected by the military application of the unit have remained in the unit, which allows the unit to be used in the event of a catastrophic release of chemical agents either by accident or by a terrorist act. The unit can detect ammonia, hydrogen cyanide, sulfur dioxide, and a host of other chemicals that could be released into the air by an accidental spill or release of commonly transported substances.

With the inclusion of the chemicals used in the production of Methamphetamine to the system, the unit becomes multi-functional for use in the war against Methamphetamine production as well as environmental safety and homeland security.

The detection unit itself is mobile and can be fitted into several modes of transportation. This allows it to be used either in a vehicle or by air. This unit is the only one owned by

a non-military entity in the United States. Hopefully, with the proper utilization and success, it will be the first in a line of such units used by law enforcement agencies throughout the United States in the fight against illegal and dangerous drug labs.

“The central valley is the epicenter for Methamphetamine production”, said Sheriff Les Weidman. “This new technology will allow us to expand our proactive approach to keeping the public safe by eliminating illegal Methamphetamine labs in our area.”

For information regarding this press release please contact Sheriff’s Spokesman Jason Woodman (209) 606-8289.