



**OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF
BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA**

202 Haywood Street
Asheville, N.C. 28801

Van Duncan, Sheriff

**PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release
August 13, 2009**

Deputies with the Buncombe/Henderson County joint Highway Interdiction Team charged three California men and seized 250 pounds of marijuana Wednesday night during a traffic stop on I-40 in western Buncombe County; the seizure has a street value of \$600,000.

Deputies charged Steven Charles Wilson, 43, of Los Angeles, California with two counts of Trafficking Marijuana and Conspiracy to Traffic in Marijuana. He is currently being held in the Buncombe County Detention Facility under a \$150,000 secured bond. Also charged with Conspiracy to Traffic in Marijuana were Antonio Salas Machado, 44, and Juan Jorge Pineda, 22, both of Downey, California. Both are being held in the Buncombe County Detention Facility under a \$100,000 bond.

The joint task force was created by Buncombe County Sheriff Van Duncan and Henderson County Sheriff Rick Davis in May of this year as a way to curb the transportation of illegal drugs through Buncombe and Henderson County by way of I-40 and I-26.

In June, the team arrested a California man and seized 25 pounds of cocaine with an estimated street value of \$1.2 million dollars from a traffic stop on I-40.

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