

Border Patrol agent, brother going to prison

By **CLAY REDDICK**
LAREDO MORNING TIMES

A federal judge sentenced a senior CBP Border Patrol agent and his brother to prison Monday for taking bribes to safeguard drug traffic through the Hebbronville checkpoints.

Former Senior Agent Juan Alfredo Alvarez, 36, and brother Jose Guadalupe Alvarez, 39, pleaded guilty to bribery and drug conspiracy charges in May.

Both men are from Laredo, according to U.S. Attorney Chuck Rosenberg's office.

Prosecutors said Jose Alvarez acted as an intermediary between his brother and members of criminal drug organizations. He negotiated payments and planned the dates drug shipments would be safely passed through the checkpoints.

Juan Alvarez worked as a Border Patrol dog handler in Hebbronville, and he was responsible for checkpoints on Texas Highway 359 and Texas Highway 16.

After they entered guilty pleas in May, the two were ordered to pay back \$1.5 million in bribes.

They accepted the money to guarantee the safe passage of over 33 tons of marijuana between June 2003 and April 2005, prosecutors said.

The federal indictment said the pair smuggled at least one load of marijuana per month through the checkpoints.

Juan Alvarez was sentenced to 240 months in prison for the drug trafficking charge and 180 months for the bribery conviction, both to be served concurrently.

Judge George P. Kazen specifically found that Juan Alvarez violated his oath as a law enforcement officer, prosecutors said.

Jose Alvarez received concurrent sentences of 210 months for the trafficking conviction and 180 months for the bribery conviction.

Juan Alvarez was also fined \$7,500, and Jose Alvarez was fined \$3,500.

Both men also must be supervised for five years following their releases from prison.

(Clay Reddick may be reached at 728 2582 or by e-mail at clay@lmtonline.com)

02/28/2006

[Back](#)