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CALIFORNIA WING - CIVIL AIR PATROL
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AUXILIARY
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(Monterey County, California) - - A northern California Wing counterdrug aircrew performed an overflight of Monterey County in Summer 2004 which resulted in the eradication of marijuana with an estimated street value of \$20.3 million.

Law enforcement surveillance after the Civil Air Patrol flight indicated a marijuana garden area in the hills above the Salinas River. It appeared to be tended by several people who were believed to be armed.

A joint operation by forty officers from the Monterey County Sheriff Office, the California Department of Corrections' Salinas Valley Prison's Corrections Emergency Response Team (CERT), and a U.S. Department of Justice's Campaign Against Marijuana Production (CAMP) team raided the site. Shooting was involved during the raid by at least one of the suspects who all fled into the hills. At least ten camps were discovered. 5,911 marijuana plants weighing 2,700 lbs were eradicated and three handguns seized.

Monterey County Deputy Sheriff Garrett Sanders commended the northern California Wing counterdrug staff and its tasked aircrew saying, "The seizure was made possible by the overflight provided by the Civil Air Patrol and their pilots."

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