



## EL PASO INTELLIGENCE CENTER

### DOMESTIC DRUG MOVEMENT TEAM BULLETIN EB07-51

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**Toys Used to Smuggle Drugs**

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**October 5, 2007**

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On October 4, 2007, Australian Customs and the Australian Federal Police, in Sidney, Australia, seized a Mr. Potato Head, a popular children's toy, containing almost 300 grams of ecstasy. According



to the Customs Officers at Sydney International Mail Center, when they opened the back panel on the Mr. Potato Head, which was designed to hold extra toy accessories, they discovered a small taped bag containing the ecstasy tablets.

In July 2007, an action toy with 50 grams of cocaine was discovered by the Sydney Australia Post Office personnel. The parcel was believed to have been mailed by an Irish-based organized crime group with connections in Sydney, Australia. According to Australian Federal Police, it is not unusual for organized crime syndicates to use toys or the mail system to transport drugs.

*Photographs and article courtesy of Joint media release of the Australian Customs and Australian Federal Police, Customs and AFP Media, Sydney Australia.*



In the United States, toys have also been used to conceal drugs. On October 26, 2006, DEA along with state and local police officers of Greeley, Colorado, confiscated 45 pounds of high quality ICE methamphetamine along with a Tickle Me Elmo doll stuffed with four pounds of

methamphetamine. According to U. S. Attorney Troy Eid, “drug traffickers will use anything, including children’s toys, to hide their illegal drugs from authorities.”

*Photographs and article courtesy of DEA Webster media release.*

As the holiday season approaches, the volume of mail will increase and popular toys will become more lucrative for concealing contraband.

Any questions or comments in reference to this report can be directed to the EPIC Research and Analysis Section, Fraudulent Documents-Tactical Bulletins Unit, IA Mary E. Campbell, (915) 760-2241, or Unit Chief Nancy Thompson at (915) 760-2105.

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