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Electronic Leg Bracelet Leads Police to Smugglers of Wings, Weed, into Prison

JACKSON, MS – After Christopher Naje Wilson lobbed modified footballs containing 4 pounds of marijuana, 38 cellphones, and seven pounds of barbecued chicken wings over the 18-foot razor fence of South Mississippi Correctional Institution, he and three friends sped off into the night. The only hitch is, Wilson – who was out on bond on a murder charge – was wearing a court-ordered electronic ankle bracelet. The bracelet, which alerts authorities if disabled, allowed law enforcement to track the smugglers from the prison near Leakesville, MS, back to Richland outside Jackson. Stopping Wilson’s car, which he had stolen, Richland Police found another football in the car containing synthetic marijuana called “spice.” In the Rankin County Jail, the suspects confessed to Mississippi Department of Corrections investigators.

MDOC Investigative Director John Hunt said, “Electronic GPS surveillance technology let us clearly see every movement Wilson made to and from the prison and to within feet of SMCI’s perimeter fence. We also found a receipt in the contraband from the store where some items had been purchased and by whom. And Richland Police found another marijuana football in the car.”

The smuggling happened at 1:30 a.m. on December 7 when Wilson and friends threw 25 packages over SMCI’s fence. When the 7 pounds of chicken wings hit a sensor, Corrections officers rushed to the area and confiscated all 25 packages as well as catching a glimpse of the car.

Richland Police arrested Wilson, 18, along with Fredric James Roberson, 19, and Keshun Chambers, 18. MDOC officials said the trio will be charged with drug possession, trafficking, and introducing illegal contraband into a prison. Further tracking led CID investigators to also arrest Roberson's 22-year-old sister Fredricka Roberson and Fredrikee Gooden, 21, on charges of introducing contraband into a prison. They were jailed in Greene County.

Among the contraband seized, officials found:

1. Four pounds of marijuana
2. 20 pounds of tobacco and rolling papers
3. 38 cellphones, chargers and Bluetooth earbuds
4. An assortment of cigars
5. Over-the-counter cold medications
6. 10 cans of snuff
7. Several packs of cigarettes and lighters
8. 1 scale
9. 1 head scarf
10. 7 pounds of barbequed chicken wings, marinating in a plastic zip-lock bag.

MDOC Commissioner Burl Cain said, "We are continually improving new technology to protect our prisons, but the tragedy in this case is that now four more people are in jail and the inmates connected with the smugglers will lose eligibility for early release – all because they didn't consider that drugs and seven pounds of chicken wings would trip a sensor."

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