



# VENTURA COUNTY SHERIFF

## MEDIA RELEASE

BOB BROOKS, Sheriff

*web site: [www.vcsd.org](http://www.vcsd.org)*

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***Nature of Incident:*** Marijuana Eradication

***Location:*** Hill Canyon, off of Rancho Conejo Road, Thousand Oaks

***Date & Time:*** Friday, July 15, 2005

***Unit Responsible:*** Sheriff's Narcotics Bureau, Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), and Conejo Open Space Conservation Agency Park Rangers

***Description:*** Beginning early this morning, a team of Sheriff's deputies (from Narcotics, K9, Intelligence, Air Unit, and Patrol), along with DEA agents and Conejo Open Space Conservation Agency park rangers, raided a marijuana cultivation located in Hill Canyon, Thousand Oaks. Approximately 40 personnel were involved in the eradication effort.

Hill Canyon is off of Rancho Conejo Road, between the Arroyo Villa Apartments complex and the Baxter Pharmaceutical campus. This marijuana grow has been under surveillance for about 2 months, and is a location that was raided two years ago, yielding 760 plants but no arrests.

Today's action yielded a seizure of almost 800 plants, and the arrest of one of two suspected caretakers of the cultivation. The suspect under arrest was found in possession of a loaded shotgun. The second suspect is still at large, and a search is continuing.

The estimated street value of today's seizure is at least \$1.6 million, based on a pound of product per plant, and a street price of \$2,000-3,000 per pound. Most of the plants found today were 5-7 feet tall.

***(S)uspect; City of Residence; Age***

Servondo Ponce Villa; unknown address in the Los Angeles area; 22 years old (DOB 1/28/83)

***Follow-up Contact:*** Eric Nishimoto, Public Information Officer, (805) 654-2382

***Date of Release:*** 7/15/03

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*Approved by:* \_\_\_\_\_