

Ex-INS inspector denies charges of selling counterfeit documents

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A former inspector for the Immigration and Naturalization Service has been indicted on charges of selling phony documents seized at the border.

Daniel Allen Goodrum, 37, of San Diego, pleaded not guilty yesterday in San Diego's federal court. He has been under investigation since March 1995, when several border-crossers arrested on charges of trying to use fake documents to get into the country accused Goodrum of being the man behind the ring that supplied them with counterfeit papers.

Federal prosecutor Michael Wheat said it has taken four years to investigate the case, which took several unusual turns, including the hiring by the arrested immigrants of their own investigators to videotape an alleged ring member selling fake documents.

Wheat said Goodrum and an accomplice used counterfeit documents that had been seized by inspectors at the border. The documents were stored pending destruction but were removed and sold to would- be border-crossers, Wheat said.

He said Goodrum had access to a safe in which the documents were held and "used his position to steal cards that were confiscated . . . and sell them back on the streets."

Wheat said Goodrum, who could face more than five years in prison if convicted, left the INS after learning that he was under investigation and has since worked as an investigator for immigration attorneys in Chula Vista.

Goodrum could not be reached late yesterday for comment. His attorney, Michael Crowley, said he had not had time to review the case.

Wheat said part of the investigation involved authenticating the videotape made by the border-crossers who accused Goodrum and an accomplice of selling the documents. Wheat said the alleged accomplice has not been charged.

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Abstract (Document Summary)

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