

Ex-officer sentenced for selling visa papers

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Author: Janine Zuniga

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A former immigration inspector who stole visa documents that were later sold to undercover agents in Mexico has been sentenced to 10 months in a community halfway house.

Daniel Allen Goodrum, 37, of Chula Vista, also was given three years' probation and ordered to pay a \$600 fine by U.S. District Judge Marilyn Huff.

Goodrum, who has worked at the San Ysidro Port of Entry and the downtown office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, faced a prison sentence of up to five years and a \$250,000 fine.

"Under federal guidelines, it was a fairly standard sentence," Michael Wheat, an assistant U.S. attorney, said yesterday.

Wheat said Goodrum had no prior record.

Goodrum resigned before his June 7 arrest and pleaded guilty four months later to one count of misuse of immigration documents.

In 1997, Goodrum, an immigration inspector for 10 years, stole a variety of visa documents, including alien registration cards, known as green cards; and work authorization cards. They were given to his brother-in-law, who sold them in Mexico, Wheat said. The brother-in-law has not been charged.

An investigation was conducted by the INS Office of the Inspector General after the visas were recovered. It was discovered that 14 documents were missing from an INS safe.

At least some of the visa documents had been taken from drug smugglers before being stolen by Goodrum, Wheat said. All were recovered in Mexico, he said. Some had been sold for \$100 each.

Goodrum is free on \$25,000 bail set after his arrest. He will surrender to police within 30 days, his attorney, Michael Crowley, said yesterday.

Crowley said Goodrum was in "dire financial straits and going through a messy divorce."

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Abstract (Document Summary)

In 1997, [Daniel Allen Goodrum], an immigration inspector for 10 years, stole a variety of visa documents, including alien registration cards, known as green cards; and work authorization cards. They were given to his brother-in-law, who sold them in Mexico, [Michael Wheat] said. The brother-in-law has not been charged.

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