Introduction to Spice

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What is “Spice”? 

- Olive-colored plant material, can be laced with synthetic cannabinoid mimicking compounds, most notably “HU-210” and “JWH-018”
- Sold as an all-natural incense
- Sold as early as 2002 in Europe
- “HU-210” hundreds of times more potent than THC (DEA)
Additional Facts

- Currently **Spice** is legal in the US
- It is sold in tobacco shops and over the internet as an “herbal incense”
- Does not show up on a DON urinalysis
- DEA is reviewing the substances in **Spice** products for possible addition to the controlled substances list
Additional Facts (cont.)

- $30-$35 per gram (Compared to marijuana @ $80 for 14 grams)
- There are no set standards to test for the substances in Spice
- Each bag of Spice could contain a different mix of the synthetic chemical substances
- Ingredients list on packages of Spice do not list the synthetic substances (JWH-018, HU-210 etc.)
Additional Facts (cont.)

- 100+ pounds of Spice were seized in January 2009 in Dayton, OH, from a shipment bound for Florida, after testing showed the presence of HU-210 (a Schedule I controlled substance)

- Spice is reported to contain numerous cannabinoid-type substances. Effects of using Spice are similar to marijuana or the chemical THC
The abbreviated chemical names for the substances found in Spice are:

- **HU-210**
  - A Schedule I controlled substance
  - Various studies show it is anywhere from 66-800 times more potent than THC
  - Presence is not detectable with standard Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry

- **JWH-018**
  - Not currently a controlled substance in US
  - Believed to have THC-like effects

- **CP 47,497**
  - Not currently a controlled substance in US
  - 3 to 28 times more potent than THC
  - Used to research effects of THC

- **JWH-073**
  - Not currently a controlled substance
  - THC-like effects probable

- **HU-211**
  - Not currently a controlled substance
  - Studies tentatively show no THC-like effects
  - Field tests for THC will result in a negative result
Common Brand Names

- Silver Spice
- Diamond Spice
- Yukatan Fire Spice
- PEP Spice
- Fire n’ Ice
How is it used?

- Rolled in papers and smoked
- Packed into a blunt
- Hookah pipes
- Inhaled after burning as incense
What does Spice look like?

- Marijuana
- Oregano
Examples of Spice
p.e.p spice
An exotic herbal blend of plant & aromatic extracts.

Ingredients:
Damiana, Wild Lovage, Skullcap, Motherwort, Red Clover, Marshmallow, Blue Lotus, Soybean, Pink Lotus, Dwarf Skullcap, Indian Warrior, Lion’s Tail, Maca Root, White Lotus, Siberian Motherwort, Vanilla & Honey.

Average weight: 1g
Symptoms

- Users of *Spice* have been described as being “sneaky,” “paranoid,” having slurred speech, appearing “high,” have difficulty keeping balance, and “trashing” their rooms.
- Users report feeling lightheaded, drowsy, and happy.
- Consumption of JWH-018 could last as long as 3-5 hours.
Effects

- German reports indicate *Spice* may have adverse effects on the heart, circulation, and the nervous system, and in some cases could cause panic attacks and is potentially addictive.
- There are no long term studies of the use of *Spice*.
Although not illegal...

- Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Japan signed a new Prohibited Substance Instruction which bans the use of alternative drugs (25JUN09)
- Commander, U.S. Air Forces Europe banned use of **Spice** as of January 09
- 15 Sailors from USS George Washington separated for use of **Spice** (July 09)
- SECNAVINST 5300.28d/05Dec05. Prohibits abusing lawful substance (glue, cough syrup)
Banned

- **Spice** is banned in Sweden, Switzerland, South Korea, Chile, Germany and France as of 2009
- The legality of **Spice** is currently under review by Austria, Estonia, Russia, and England
- Ingredients of **Spice** (JWH-018 and others) are illegal in Poland
- Yokosuka Naval Base banned the use in 2008
Experiences at NAS Pensacola

- There have been numerous incidents involving sailors using **Spice (28+)**
- Many sailors have been discharged from the Navy and others were disciplined through the Navy military justice system
- The basis for disciplinary action is SECNAVINST 5300.28D which currently prohibits the use of any substance “with the intent of inducing intoxication, excitement, or stupefaction of the central nervous system…”
NAS Pensacola Initiative

- One particular business was identified as the key source for military personnel using these substances
- An Armed Forces Disciplinary Control Board was held
- The board recommended placing the business off limits; CNRSE agreed with the board’s findings and placed the shop off limits on 9 April 2009
Questions?