

Corrections officials seize contraband shipment

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BALTIMORE_Maryland corrections officials have seized a large shipment of contraband intended for a prison in Baltimore.

The box was smuggled in with a food delivery and included 26 cell phones, 26 chargers and two SIM cards _ along with marijuana, tobacco and alcohol.

Intelligence officers with the Division of Correction had gotten a tip that the contraband was on its way to the Metropolitan Transition Center. The box was seized Thursday after a food service worker noticed it and saw that an inmate was acting suspiciously.

The minimum-security Transition Center is the former Maryland state penitentiary and is the oldest operating prison in the western hemisphere. It houses about 1,500 inmates, most of them near the end of their sentences.

Cell phones have been a persistent problem in Maryland prisons.

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