

China busts smugglers using drones to transport smartphones

Notes & Cues:	<p><b>Article:</b></p> <p>Customs officers in southern China’s technology hub Shenzhen busted a group of criminals using drones to smuggle 500 million yuan (\$79.8 million) worth of smartphones from Hong Kong to Shenzhen, the official Legal Daily reported on Friday.</p> <p>”It’s the first case found in China that drones were being used in cross-border smuggling crimes, ” the Legal Daily reported, citing a news conference held by Shenzhen customs on Thursday.</p> <p>The smugglers usually operated after midnight and only needed seconds to transport small bags holding more than 10 iPhones using the drones, the report quoted customs as saying. The gang could smuggle as many as 15, 000 phones across the border in one night, it said.</p> <p>Regulating the use of drones has become an important task for China, the world’s largest manufacturer of consumer drones.</p> <p>China published strict rules last year to tackle incidents of drones straying into aircraft flight paths, including requiring owners of civilian drones to register craft up to a certain weight under their real names.</p> <p>Shenzhen customs would closely monitor new types of smuggling with high-tech devices and enhance their capability with technical equipment, including drones and high-resolution monitors, to detect smuggling activity.</p>
Summary:	