

Illegal alien poses as border patrol agent

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RALEIGH -- A Fuquay-Varina man has been accused of posing as a Border Patrol agent and promising would-be immigrants false papers to come to the United States, in exchange for thousands of dollars.

Roberto Diosdado-Star, 35, a Mexican citizen illegally in the United States, was picked up by federal agents last week at a Raleigh home where he was staying. In a brief court appearance Wednesday in the federal courthouse in Raleigh, he waived a detention and probable cause hearing. He is formally accused of re-entering the United States after he was deported in 2002.

Federal agents think Diosdado-Star, who uses several other aliases, pretended to be a Border Patrol agent and contacted people south of the border, promising them false immigration papers for fees ranging from \$6,000 to \$18,000, according to an affidavit written by a North Carolina-based Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent.

Federal authorities learned of him after someone called the Border Patrol's internal affairs division in San Antonio.

Diosdado-Star even sent a picture of himself in a Border Patrol uniform to one of his victims, according to the affidavit. The photo allowed agents to pull up a Texas driver's license under the name Roberto Diosdado, and immigration officials came to think he lived in the Fuquay-Varina area.

Diosdado-Star's son, who was at the court hearing, declined to comment, as did the federal public defender assigned to represent him.