

Former prison guard pleads guilty to drug charge

TECUMSEH, Neb. (AP) - A former guard accused of smuggling synthetic marijuana into a Nebraska prison has pleaded guilty.

Johnson County District Court records say 54-year-old Richard Fries, of Lincoln, entered the plea Monday to attempted delivery of a controlled substance. Prosecutors lowered the charge and dropped a second charge in return. His sentencing is scheduled for Feb. 25.

Authorities say Fries and 33-year-old Ryan Tokar were charged after Tokar took K2 into the Tecumseh prison in October last year but couldn't deliver it because he no longer had access to the inmate customer's housing unit. A court document says Fries and Tokar discussed the situation and later Fries, who had the necessary access, took the K2 and left it for the inmate in a trash can in the inmate's unit.

Tokar has pleaded not guilty to a conspiracy charge and is awaiting trial.

Associated Press